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National Brain Tumor Society Honors Seattle-based Chris Elliott Fund as "national voice" for brain cancer patients

Seattle – "In recognition of exceptional and innovative efforts on behalf of brain tumor patients and caregivers," the National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS) awarded Dellann Elliott, president and CEO of the Seattle-based Chris Elliott Fund (CEF), with the Community Leadership Award during the 2011 NBTS Summit Nov. 3 in Philadelphia, Penn., CEF announced today.

This is the first NBTS Summit and included over 200 individuals from the medical, research, and advocacy fields for a 4-day gathering to network, share information, and celebrate recent advances in research and patient education and advocacy.

"We applaud Dellann's outstanding work on much needed community programs and her ongoing efforts as a national voice for the brain tumor cause," state Chris Grundner, director of Community Relations for NBTS.

Grundner added that NBTS presented Elliott with the national Community Leadership Award in recognition, "of her passion and commitment to education, awareness, advocacy, and research with the goal of ending brain cancer."

In her speech before the NBTS Summit assembly, Elliott said that the key to fighting brain cancer is through patient and caregiver education and support. "We can move the dial for a quicker cure of this disease only if patients and caregivers know where to get the best and most advanced treatment," said Elliott, "What good is advanced research if patients and caregivers don't know that they need to have genetic testing of live brain tumor tissue or that they can access clinical trials."

CEF pioneered and designed the integrated patient support program at the Ben & Catherine Ivy Center for Advanced Brain Tumor Treatment at the Swedish Neuroscience Institute in Seattle. The program is recognized as an innovative model for comprehensive patient support and care and is now being replicated across the primary institutes for Swedish Hospital.

Elliott, whose husband Chris died of brain cancer in 2002, focuses on glioblastoma (GBM) – the deadliest form of brain cancer. More than 22,000

ChrisElliottFund™ for Glioblastoma Brain Cancer Research

Americans are diagnosed with a malignant brain cancer every year. It is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths for children under 19. About 60 to 70 percent of these cancers are GBM with a life expectancy after diagnosis of 12 to 14 months.

Glioblastoma is the same type of brain cancer that took the lives of Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy, and most recently, Dr. Bernadine Healey, former director of the National Institutes of Health.

"This type of brain cancer is the death sentence of our time like what HIV was 30 years ago, but it doesn't have to be that way," says Elliott, "the fact that it is incurable today, does not mean that it is not treatable. While HIV is not curable, it is manageable and patients are living longer and healthier lives with aggressive treatment."

About the Chris Elliott Fund
Our goal is to END BRAIN CANCER through patient advocacy, education and research. Dellann and Chris Elliott co-founded CEF 3 weeks before Chris' death in 2002 from brain cancer. CEF is a nationally recognized model for patient advocacy and has invested over $500,000 in support of programs to help patients fight the disease from every angle, including over $1 million to promote cutting-edge brain cancer research. Access to advanced treatments and genetic testing extends lives and leads us closer to a cure.
www.ChrisElliottFund.org

About the National Brain Tumor Society
National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS) is a nonprofit organization committed to finding a cure for brain tumors. We aggressively drive strategic research, advocate for public policies that meet the critical needs of the brain tumor community, and provide patient information. Headquartered in Watertown, Massachusetts, with offices in San Francisco, California and Wilmington, Delaware, we host activities throughout the United States.
www.braintumor.org

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