



TEAM DECC presents: Jessica Allen, City Attorney
Featured Nonprofit: The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) has been very important to me and my family for many years now. Several years ago, my Aunt Alma was diagnosed with cancer, and once it spread to her lymph nodes, her arms and hands became so swollen (like small tree limbs) that she could not use them. LLS provided her with wraps and other therapeutic options that helped manage the swelling so that she could use her arms and hands again. LLS was much more accessible to her than her regular cancer medical providers, and helped pay for these therapies that she so desperately needed. The mission of LLS is also important to me personally because lymphoma killed my Uncle Ken. Ken was a 30-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He had fought in three tours of Vietnam and served in Operation Desert Storm. Although he was injured in combat and earned a Purple Heart, he survived...until 2011, after being diagnosed with leukemia. Ken felt as though he had the flu for a couple of weeks, and finally saw his doctor on a Tuesday afternoon; two days later he was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia; and three days later he died. In memory of my Aunt Alma and my Uncle Ken, I began volunteering with LLS, including participating in a program called Team in Training. LLS's Team in Training prepares ordinary people to complete an endurance event while raising money for LLS. Through this program, I have run a half marathon and completed a 100-mile bike ride; this year my husband completed the ride while I supported the team each week for several months during training rides and helped raise money. I provided food, water and encouragement to those riding, while also fundraising. To date I have raised over \$5,000 for LLS and have volunteered over 1,000 hours.



A picture of me, my husband and my kids at mile 70 of the ride just a few weeks ago.

This week's featured agency: **The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society**



Mission Statement

To cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

LLS exists to find cures and ensure access to treatments for blood cancer patients. We are the voice for all blood cancer patients and we work to ensure access to treatments for all blood cancer patients.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, a 501(c)(3) organization, is the largest not-for-profit health agency dedicated to finding cures and better treatments for people with leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma—collectively known as blood cancers. More than 1 million Americans are currently living with, or in remission from, a blood cancer. Every 3 minutes, someone new is diagnosed with a blood cancer, with more than 155,000 new cases expected this year. Blood cancers are the number three cancer killer, behind cancers of the respiratory and digestive systems, including lung and colon. Every 10 minutes, another child or adult dies from a blood cancer - that's more than 55,000 deaths this year. LLS has one goal: a world without blood cancers. Thanks in part to innovative research funded by LLS, survival rates for many blood cancers have doubled, tripled and even quadrupled since the 1960s. We are making tremendous progress. However, more than a third of patients do not survive five years after their blood cancer diagnosis, and leukemia still causes more deaths than any other cancer among children and young adults under the age of 20. More research is urgently needed. LLS has the size and scope to fund research on a scale that makes progress happen. Since its founding in 1949, LLS



has invested over \$1 billion in research to advance therapies and save lives. Advised by leading biomedical research and clinical experts, LLS identifies and funds the most promising blood cancer research projects found anywhere worldwide. Unlike corporations that invest in drugs offering the best profit potential, LLS funds research based on unmet medical needs of blood cancer patients, without restriction by commercial return, market size or geography. LLS's investment in research has played a critical role in advancing many of today's life-saving therapies, including targeted therapies and immunotherapies.

LLS recognizes that finding cures is not enough; we need to ensure that patients have access to the treatments they need to live longer, better, healthier lives. LLS is dedicated to removing barriers to care. LLS is the voice for blood cancer patients, working with regulatory bodies (i.e., FDA) and state and federal legislatures to drive policies that accelerate the development and approval of innovative treatments and ensure that patients have access to quality, affordable, coordinated care. LLS is the leading source of free blood cancer information, education and support for patients, families and healthcare professionals.

Click [here](#) to learn more about The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.