



IMPACT REPORT

2016: A Look Back



"My goal is to help as many as I can!"

Michael's Master Plan

When Michael decided a few months before his death that his "Master Plan" would be to donate his body to cancer research, none of us could have imagined how important his plan would become. His decision to let researchers study his tissue after death is exactly what is needed to understand why survival rates for children diagnosed with brain cancer have stagnated. Science desperately needs more post-mortem tissue, and more children and families need to be given the chance to make the decision Michael made.

In 2016, Michael's "Master Plan" became the master plan of Swiftly. We raised over \$325,000 to fund a Swiftly-led initiative at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. A protocol will be created to allow families to make this exceptional decision...a decision that is not just life-giving for science, but can also be consoling for the family who must face the devastating loss of a child. The protocol will be developed and refined in Philadelphia, and then in 2018, will be introduced to 10 other children's hospitals.



Get Benched

Throughout the summer months, hundreds of people from California to Georgia and Canada to Guatemala got benched! They found a bench, paused from their daily routine, and opened their hearts to those children who are living with cancer and the families and health professionals who care for them. Many believe prayer to be the world's greatest wireless connection!



AFP Youth in Philanthropy Award

At a May luncheon held at the Chicago Hilton, the Association of Fundraising Professionals presented Swiftly its Youth in Philanthropy Award for 2016. On the dais with some of Chicago's most noted philanthropists, Swiftly board members, David and Colin, graciously accepted the honor and spoke to the crowd of 800 attendees about the need for funding pediatric cancer research.



On the Hill

Swiftly representatives, ranging in age from 14 to 21, spent a summer day on Capitol Hill visiting the offices of three members of Congress and a Senator to discuss the importance of passing the Race for Kids Act and 21st Century Cures Act. Lobbying done by articulate, passionate young people often gets noticed in our nation's capitol. Congress passed the 21st Century Cures Act on December 7, 2016 boosting research and easing drug approvals.



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Partnerships

Two foundations that we have gotten to know, that have staff and advisory boards well beyond the expertise of Swifty, are Alex's Lemonade Stand and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Both do exceptional work and in 2017, we will be looking for ways to collaborate on medulloblastoma research and tissue donation initiatives.



Still Benched

When we offer our love and compassion to another in need, the lives we most often wind up changing are our own. We become entangled in the story and struggle of another, and as a result, our story becomes transformed. It is obvious why the pediatric cancer community needs you, but you will never know how you might need them. This summer, Swifty will again invite you to "Get Benched."



Public Charity

Due to the success of our fundraising efforts over our first three years, Swifty has applied to the IRS to change its tax-exempt status from a private foundation to a public charity. This will allow Swifty to receive gifts from corporate matching programs and donor advised funds.

Tissue Donation



Swifty will continue to make Michael's Master Plan its priority. For the past few months, Swifty has been in dialogue with Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago. Plans are being developed for a new full-time position at Lurie, a Tissue Donation Navigator. Work is still in progress, but if successful, this full-time staff position will become a novel approach to tissue donation at Lurie and throughout the Midwest. It is an initiative that can complement the post-mortem tissue donation work of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. In the coming years, these Swifty-led initiatives will teach the research community much about the best ways to approach post-mortem tissue collection.

