



adding tomorrows and living today

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (cff.org) is the world's leader in the search for a cure for cystic fibrosis—a life-threatening genetic disease that affects 30,000 children and adults in the United States and 70,000 people worldwide. A donor-supported nonprofit organization, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation funds more cystic fibrosis research than any other organization, and nearly every cystic fibrosis (CF) drug available today was made possible because of foundation support. Based in Bethesda, Maryland, the CF Foundation also supports and accredits a national care center network that has been recognized by the National Institutes of Health as a model of care for a chronic disease.

photos by tate carlson



Adam Barvels

Adam Barvels

**Pricing Director,
Robins Kaplan LLP**

Around his friends and family, Barvels is usually the one telling the joke—or even the subject of it. “I’m serious about life, but I don’t take myself too seriously,” he says. One thing he does take seriously is supporting the fight against cystic fibrosis. Always looking for ways to give back, Barvels has called upon his family, friends, and colleagues to join him in supporting the CF Foundation. Also passionate about mentorship and education, he volunteers as a mentor for

students through Best-Prep and the Everybody Wins Minnesota Reading Program. “Participating in these programs over the years has been an extremely rewarding experience for me,” he adds.

Corey Falls

**Business Development
Executive, Mytech Partners**

For Falls, growing up in a small town helped instill values, work ethic, and interpersonal skills that he’s found essential to his career. While confidence has served him well in the business field, Falls is the first to admit that

he’s always looking for opportunities to improve his abilities and skills. As a member of the Twin Cities Finest, he hopes to help the CF Foundation continue to search for a cure for the life-threatening genetic disease, and “have a positive impact on the community.” Falls also spends time serving on the board of Avenues for Homeless Youth.

Sally Mollman

**Senior Account Executive,
Weber Shandwick**

“Work hard and be nice to people.” That’s the motto that Mollman tries to live by. When she’s not working,



Corey Falls

TWIN CITIES FINEST • SPONSORED CONTENT

scuba diving, or gardening, you can find her rallying her co-workers to step away from the office and volunteer around the Twin Cities with her. For Mollman, the mission of the CF Foundation is personal as one of her best friends has been living with cystic fibrosis. “I am constantly inspired by her glowing attitude and approach to everything life throws at her,” Mollman

says. “I am happy to support a foundation that works to help people like her.”

Jeremy Larson

**Community Manager,
Sharper Management**

Throughout his life, Larson has been drawn to people who will stop at nothing to make a difference in other people’s lives. “I have been fortunate to come across quite a few of these ▶



Sally Mollman

▶ What is cystic fibrosis?

Cystic fibrosis is a rare, genetic, life-shortening disease that affects multiple organs in the body and makes breathing difficult. It is primarily a lung disease caused by a defective gene that makes the body produce thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and leads to life-threatening lung infections. Some people with the disease say it’s like breathing through a narrow straw. Over 10 million Americans are symptomless carriers of the defective cystic fibrosis gene, and about 1,000 new cases of are diagnosed each year.

▶ Working for a cure

Today, there is no cure for cystic fibrosis. But the CF Foundation is determined to change

that. The CF Foundation’s mission is to find a cure for cystic fibrosis and to improve the quality of life for people living with the disease. To do this, the foundation funds life-saving research and works to provide access to quality care and effective therapies for people with cystic fibrosis. Through its work, the Foundation has helped create a state-of-the-art model for cystic fibrosis care and funded groundbreaking research.

In 1955, when the foundation was founded, children with cystic fibrosis rarely lived long enough to attend elementary school. Through the CF Foundation’s efforts, the life expectancy of a child with cystic fibrosis has doubled in the last 30 years—and research to find a cure is more promising than ever before.

Today, the median predicted age of survival is more than 40 years old, and people with cystic fibrosis are achieving milestones like attending college, getting married, and having children—goals that used to seem impossible.

▶ The Twin Cities Finest

Each year, the CF Foundation selects a group of successful professionals and young philanthropists across Minnesota to take part in the Twin Cities Finest. Honorees are those who best represent the future of the Twin Cities in their career and in the community, and are recognized for their professional accomplishments, their commitment to giving back, and their fundraising efforts for the CF Foundation.

by the numbers



MORE THAN
30,000

Estimated number of people with CF in the US.



MORE THAN
70,000

Estimated number of people with CF worldwide.



\$100 M

raised in 2016 by CF Foundation staff and volunteers.



124
CYSTIC FIBROSIS CARE CENTERS

and 52 affiliate programs nationwide, including 110 programs for treating adults with CF.



51

Number of clinical trials last year, with even more projected in 2017.



Jeremy Larson



Anton Newman

game-changing individuals, and the desire to help and keep up with them is what drives me,” he explains. As a supporter of the CF Foundation, Larson has become one of those “game changers” he humbly looks up to. Cystic fibrosis has also become a cause near to his heart as he has watched a close friend live with the disease.

Elton Garananga
IT Senior Audit Project Manager/Leader, Wells Fargo Bank

For Garananga, waking up each morning with another chance to make his life what he wants it to be “catapults [him] into positive action.” After hearing the stories of those affected by cystic fibrosis, he felt called to

action. In addition to supporting the CF Foundation, Garananga volunteers with People Serving People, Urban Ventures, and the National Association of Black Accountants where he helps “inspire new diverse talent so they know anything is possible despite their background or how others judge them.”



Cory Johnson

Cory Johnson
Account Executive, Minnesota Twins

When Johnson isn’t at the ballpark (for either work or just to catch a game), he’s generally on the lake or hiking the trails. “My biggest source of inspiration is nature,” he says. “Whether I’m looking for ideas, or I just need a getaway, I step out to clear my head and get focused again.” In addition to volunteering with the American Heart Association and teaching kids about baseball through the Twins Community Fund, Johnson is excited to support the CF Foundation so he can “be a part of the solution moving forward.”



Elton Garananga

Anton Newman
Partner and Real Estate Agent, Simply Sold

For Newman, finding a cure for cystic fibrosis weighs heavy on his heart. His daughter, Bailey, was born with cystic fibrosis in July 2016. “Our world was shaken and flipped upside down,” he says. After finding a strong support system for families dealing with cystic fibrosis within the community, Newman and his wife, Kelli, have joined the cause and have been fundraising ever since. “We’re buoyed in our faith that a cure will one day be found to help keep Bailey and others affected by cystic fibrosis healthy and living full and productive lives.”

Jay Reimers
Vice President of Business Development, Hays Companies of Minneapolis
Reimers is a devoted husband, great friend, intent

listener and incredibly thoughtful. However, even more important than that, Reimers has joined the fight against cystic fibrosis in honor of his friends and family members battling the rare, genetic disease. “[The cause] is near and dear to my heart,” he says. Reimers draws his inspiration from others’ stories about giving back. “That inspires me to be a better person, and reminds me to get involved with organizations like the CF Foundation—and help people when I have the chance.”



Jay Reimers

Olivia Weidner
Recruiter Supportive Living Solutions

Devoting her time to the field of social services, Weidner feels lucky to work for an organization that helps improve the quality of life for the people in her community. “Waking up every morning know-



Olivia Weidner

ing the work I do makes a difference in someone’s life gives me purpose, motivation, and inspiration,” she says. After researching cystic fibrosis and talking to families affected by the disease, Weidner hopes she can someday say she had a small role in finding a cure. “I have been heartbroken by some of the stories [from those dealing with cystic fibrosis], but filled with deep and immense hope by the progress that the CF Foundation is making towards a cure,” she adds.

Shawn Wermerskirchen
Financial Planner, Charterpoint Wealth Strategies

Although Wermerskirchen is a financial planner, that doesn’t mean he’s only focused on the numbers. What he loves most is being able to help his clients find ways to meet their financial goals and have a lasting impact. “Knowing I have an impact on [peoples’] lives and watching their business and personal lives blossom is a feeling that is hard to describe,” he explains. Wermerskirchen became familiar with cystic

fibrosis through one of his clients. “I know the struggle they endure every day and this is my opportunity to give back and make a difference,” he says.

Angie Sherer
Mortgage Consultant, LeaderOne Financial Corporation

Adventurous and fiercely competitive, Sherer often



Angie Sherer

draws her inspiration from her mother. “I try to emulate [her] kindness and wit while maintaining a personal drive to succeed,” she says. With a passion for using her talents and time to help those in need, Sherer volunteers with Eastside Neighborhood Services, Brooklyn Park Youth Athletics, and Backpack Project MN. And now a part of the Twin Cities



Shawn Wermerskirchen

“It’s always been important to me that I show my kids at a young age how to be patient, loving, and kind.”

Tanya Reimann

Finest group, Sherer says she’s become more aware of those in her life affected by cystic fibrosis. “I’m grateful I now have a platform to bring awareness and donations to help people dealing with the disease,” she says.

Kristine Konrad
Promotion Coordinator,
YA Engage

Kristine Konrad has a thing for making impossible things possible. That’s just one reason why she’s gotten behind the mission to find a cure for cystic fibrosis. “Cystic fibrosis is a devastating

genetic disease, and there is no cure,” she says. “Children are given a life expectancy into their 30s or 40s—and I want to help improve their lives. I have the chance.” Where does Konrad draw her inspiration from? As a dance teacher, Konrad is inspired by her students who she says have “endless amounts of courage, kindness, and passion.”

Dr. Tyler Hanson
Owner/Operator, Northern
Chiropractic and Wellness
As a doctor, Hanson knows how important it is for

people to get the health care they need. With a passion for serving others, Hanson hopes to help others learn to lead healthier lives for both themselves and their families. Hanson also knows the daily struggles people go through when dealing with cystic fibrosis. Having lived with someone battling the disease, Hanson saw the challenges and adaptations it takes when someone is directly impacted by cystic fibrosis. “If I can help in any way, it’s worthwhile,” he adds.

Katie Newgard
Product Director, Optum
In addition to her affection for travel and adventure, Newgard is passionate about improving health care, and making a positive impact on the lives of those struggling with health issues. After meeting people who have lived with cystic fibrosis for years and hearing about

their challenges, Newgard felt an urge to get involved with the CF Foundation. “This disease shortens lives and makes everyday living more challenging with each year that passes,” she says. Newgard hopes to see the CF Foundation put an end to cystic fibrosis so those affected can find hope and freedom from their disease.

Michelle Monson Klisanich
Financial Planner,
Thrivent Financial

Klisanich has wanted to be a financial planner since she was 13 years old because of her desire to “educate and empower others,” she says. In addition to helping her clients plan for things like retirement, she also gets to help them fulfill their charitable giving goals. “It aligns so well with my passion to give back,” she adds. What inspires her to give back? Klisanich says she grew up watching those close to her dedicate their time, energy, and resources to helping people in need. Following in their footsteps, she

strives to incorporate giving back into both her personal and professional life, to organizations like Second Harvest Heartland and the CF Foundation.

Jeff Sklar
Project Manager, NMC
Exteriors & Remodeling
In his professional life, Sklar prides himself on being a



Katie Newgard



Jeff Sklar



Rick Gmitro

detail-oriented, organized, and knowledgeable project manager who is committed to his clients. But even outside of his career, Sklar uses his talents to help those who need it most, including those who are living with cystic fibrosis. “It’s important for me to be involved with an organization that truly impacts the lives of people living with a chronic disease,” he says. “The CF Foundation improves life for those affected with the disease and their families—and is making a difference today.”

Rick Gmitro
Owner, Flow Event Group
& 42 Foto

When Gmitro was introduced to the CF Foundation, he saw that it was making a tangible difference for people dealing with cystic fibrosis. It is a small disease but Rick shares that “this Foundation alone has been why so many strides have been made improving the lives of those affected by it” he explains. Because of that, lending his support to the fight against cystic

fibrosis was a no brainer. Gmitro also volunteers his time and resources to support organizations like the Young Professionals, Can Do Canines, Bash4Guild, American Lung Association, Make A Wish Foundation, United Way, and Hearts & Hammers.

Tanya Reimann
Senior Finance Manager,
Boston Scientific

Reimann is the mother of twins, which undoubtedly keeps her busy. But beyond helping them with homework and tucking them into bed at night, Reimann wants to show her kids how to give back. “It’s always been important to me that I show my kids at a young age how to be patient, loving, and kind citizens that help others less fortunate,” she explains. In fact, she’s already gotten them involved with her events and fundraising for the CF Foundation. “I feel blessed to have my health and have

watched family members struggle with diseases, so anything I can do to help others suffer less and find a cure is important to me,” she adds.

Laura Fitzgibbons
Business Development
Associate, Waterstone
Mortgage Corporation

For Fitzgibbons, losing her mother at five years old to breast cancer has helped motivate her to give back and make a positive impact on her community. “Raising funds or promoting education and awareness for various charitable causes is part of my fundamental makeup,” she says. In addition to supporting the CF Foundation, Fitzgibbons also volunteers with Bright Pink—an organization that focuses on a proactive approach to breast and ovarian cancer, rather than being reactive. “After losing my mother, I want to empower other young women to take



Tanya Reimann

“We’re buoyed in our faith that a cure will one day be found to help keep Bailey and others affected by cystic fibrosis healthy and living full and productive lives.”

Anton Newman



Laura Fitzgibbons



Kristine Konrad



Tyler Hanson

by the numbers

 **\$121 M**

issued in laboratory and clinical research awards in 2016.

 **11**

FDA approved therapies.

 **1.9 M**
TOTAL YEARLY VISITORS TO CFF.ORG

4,800+ average users per day

 **70**

Number of chapters and field offices in the United States.

 **MORE THAN 69,000**

messages sent by volunteers to legislative decision makers across the country.



Courtney Anderson

action regarding their health so we don't suffer the same fate as our mothers and grandmothers."

Courtney Anderson
Manager of Inside Sales and Customer Service, PlatinumCode

If you know Anderson, you wouldn't be surprised if she was multi-tasking, or heading off to her next activity. A go-getter by nature, Anderson says she works best when she has multiple things going on at once. "I love to stay busy and active and have community around me," she adds. One of the things she has made a priority to support is the CF Foundation. Anderson learned about cystic fibrosis from a college friend who was living with the disease. "I will always remember when she described the intense steps she took every day to stay healthy."

Whitney Windmiller
Wealth Management Advisor, Merrill Lynch

Her joy for life flows through to her work in the community. Windmiller is inspired by the opportunity to help and support others. As a member of the Junior League of Minneapolis, she volunteers her time and advocacy efforts toward eliminating many of the underlying causes of the achievement gap. Windmiller is also a proud supporter of the CF Foundation. "I see the impact cystic fibrosis has on those diagnosed and their families," she says. "I want to help raise awareness and funds to support the Foundation's research for more advanced treatments—and to ultimately find a cure."

Amanda Wyszynski
Sr. Training Consultant, RBC Wealth Management

As a training consultant, it seems only natural that Wyszynski would have a passion for learning. "I believe knowledge is power,"

she says. With that in mind, Wyszynski has made it her personal mission to help find a cure for cystic fibrosis. But Wyszynski also feels this on a personal level, as she's seen her eight-year-old niece, Celia, battle the disease day after day. "Her spirit, strong will, wit, and independence truly amaze me," she says. "She inspires me every day." ▴



Amanda Wyszynski

Whitney Windmiller

Twin Cities Finest 5th Annual Awards Celebration

OCTOBER 5TH

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Twin Cities Finest program honors the area's most accomplished men and women. These outstanding professionals are selected to be a Twin Cities Finest based on their involvement in their local communities and successes as a professional. Each Finest commits to raising \$5,000 or more for the

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation during a 20-week development program. Join the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as we celebrate the accomplishments of Twin Cities' most outstanding men and women on October 5, 2017 at the Profile Event Center! The event will feature live music, delicious food and cocktails.

Visit www.twincitiesfinest.org for more details, sponsorship opportunities and tickets!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR

RBC Wealth Management



Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 23, 2017
CF Cycle for Life

Minnetonka Orchards
Minnetonka, MN

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017
Climb for a Cure

Target Field
Minneapolis, MN

OCTOBER 5, 2017
Twin Cities Finest

Profile Event Center
Minneapolis, MN

NOVEMBER 18, 2017
Breath of Life Gala

Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
Minneapolis, MN

HAIR AND MAKE-UP BY SIMONSON'S SALON & SPA



Angie Strickland | Angie, a senior-level stylist at Simonson's Salon and Spa, began her career in the beauty industry in 2007. Her favorite part about being a stylist is bringing the goals of her clients to life and seeing them leave happy.



Cindy Severns | Cindy, a senior-level aesthetician at Simonson's Salon and Spa, has helped her clients put their best face forward for more than a decade. She's dedicated to staying ahead of the latest trends to keep clients looking and feeling their best.



Jessica Savoren | With over 15 years of experience, Jessica is a master-level stylist and precision haircutting & stylist educator at Simonson's Salon and Spa. She's passionate about enhancing her client's natural beauty with a hairstyle that fits their everyday lifestyle.