



News Release

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Inspiring Cancer Survivor Teri Griege Awarded for Incredible Fundraising Efforts for Powered by Hope

ATLANTA —

Teri Griege was given just five years to live when she was diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer in 2009.

But she has overcome these tremendous odds — enduring a daily fight against cancer, competing in endurance events around the world, and building a team of cyclists who have raised nearly \$750,000 for the charity Pedal the Cause. Today, Griege was honored with the 2017 Cash, Sweat and Tears Award for her inspirational fundraising efforts.

The award annually honors an extraordinary volunteer who has taken on physical challenges or overcome tremendous obstacles to conduct peer-to-peer fundraising for charity. Griege received the award during a ceremony in Atlanta at the annual conference of the Peer-to-Peer Professional Forum.

Peer-to-peer fundraising is the practice of having a nonprofit's supporters reach out to their friends, family members, and colleagues for donations often through participation in walks and rides. Collectively, the 30-largest peer-to-peer fundraising campaigns raised more than \$1.53 billion for U.S. charities in 2016.

“Teri believes that even in the most trying and difficult circumstances — whether they be physical, mental or emotional — we can push through and overcome,” said Carrie Sweigart, chief operations officer for Pedal the Cause. “As she continues her battle against this terrible disease, we promise to continue ours in hopes of one day creating a world that is cancer free.”

Griege, an avid endurance athlete, received her diagnosis two weeks after completing an Ironman Triathlon event.

“I couldn’t believe it,” she said. “In a blink of an eye and a snap of a finger, my life was turned upside down.”

But even as she fought her cancer, Grieger said she was determined to compete in Ironman events and use her love of competing to help raise money for and awareness about colon cancer.

Since then, Grieger has competed in the 2011 Kona Ironman, ran five of the top marathons around the world, and rode more than 350 miles in Pedal the Cause — all while undergoing chemotherapy. Along the way, she has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars — and inspired others to do the same.

As she prepared to accept the Cash, Sweat and Tears Award, Grieger said it is important for people to find causes they care about and dedicate themselves to those causes.

“Everybody has a story. My story happens to be about cancer. But everybody has their own story,” she said. “I don’t think there’s anything wrong with using your story for good.”

“Teri’s amazing spirit and resolve exemplify what peer-to-peer fundraising is all about,” said David Hessekiel, the Peer-to-Peer Professional Forum’s founder and president. “She shows us what is possible when you are determined to make a difference — and we are honored to be able to present her with this award.”

As the winner of the Cash, Sweat & Tears Award, Grieger gets a \$1,000 check from award sponsor Blackbaud, a trophy, a customized commemorative t-shirt from Boundless and a collection of footwear and apparel from New Balance.

About the Peer-to-Peer Professional Forum

The Peer-to-Peer Professional Forum supports professionals who manage peer-to-peer fundraising events at nonprofits around the world. It offers a growing array of conferences, webinars, research, white papers, and case studies that aim to help these professionals gain knowledge and insights that help them become more effective fundraisers.

About the Cash, Sweat & Tears Award

The Cash, Sweat & Tears award honors the passion of the nonprofit world’s most extraordinary volunteers — the people who take on physical challenges or overcome tremendous obstacles raise money from their friends, family, and colleagues for U.S. charities.

Each year, the Peer-to-Peer Professional Forum invites the organizers of athletic fundraising programs in the United States to nominate one inspiring participant for the award. The nomination period opens each November and the winners are announced at the Peer-to-Peer Professional Forum's annual conference.

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