HORIZONS OF HOPE

MEET KELLY TURNER, SBTF PRESIDENT: OUR SPRING 2020 VOICE OF HOPE

Visioning the Future
To begin the new decade and to lead us into our 25th year, SBTF has a new president. SBTF began 25 years ago as an effort started by a couple for their son who was diagnosed with a brain tumor. SBTF has grown to become an amazing resource and a significant brain tumor research grant funding engine. “Now we want to double SBTF’s annual revenue to amplify our impact,” Turner says.
“Now that my two children have reached a certain age, I can devote the time I want to the role,” Kelly says. “I come at this presidency from a numbers place,” she says. With her engineering degree as proof, she describes herself as a nerd at heart, and she leverages her skillsets to strike a balance between seeing through both the emotional lens and the business lens. “Part of what differentiates SBTF is the personal touch and heartfelt connection between our board/volunteers and our SBTF extended family. At the same time, we must be good stewards of moving our needle forward with research dollars.”

**Full Circle**
Kelly found SBTF through an online search in 2007 when her mother was diagnosed with a brain tumor. She emailed the then-President asking if SBTF might provide any resources, insight or hope. He invited her to the upcoming Race for Research. “The race was something positive and meaningful we could do immediately,” she said. “We rallied the troops and raised $16,000 that first race.” But to her surprise, the SBTF President tracked her down at the race, hugged her and cried with her. “That personal connection and caring hooked me to the SBTF family,” she reflects, “and I’m still here, now in that role.”

Kelly continued her involvement building a community for the race teams, creating traditions and connections that foster bonding and support year after year. “I want each team to know they are heard and seen,” she shares.

**Purpose & Passion**
SBTF's core values are Support, Hope & Courage. “We are excited to honor that with our scholarship fund for young adults whose parents or siblings have brain tumors,” Kelly says. “So many essays from applicants say they are inspired to go into the medical field because of their family's journey.”

“We are also energizing fresh ways to connect to revenue streams, including corporate matching gifts and sustaining gifts. As well as engaging younger generations.”

“Yes, we may each lose some battles along the way,” Kelly says, “but together we are so much stronger and we can win this war.”

*Thank you, Kelly, for inspiring us as one of our Voices of Hope. Please join us in supporting critically important research advancing treatment of brain tumors: SBTF.org*