

# 'A very modest goal'

By Kristen Lepore ■ Suburban Life Publications correspondent

**W**hen Bartlett resident Charlene McMann-Seaman's husband, Scott Seaman, 48, was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma 12 years ago, she began to raise money in his name.

After sending out letters and pictures to family and friends, she was able to collect thousands of dollars that later helped fund chemotherapy research at Loyola University Medical Center.

"When we got out of the hospital, this was one of the things I wanted to do for him," Charlene said. "I knew what he had went through, and I wanted to put something in his name, so that's really where we got the idea."

In the 12 years since Scott's diagnosis, that mission has resulted in countless fundraisers, thousands of dollars raised for cancer research, and a 2008 Jefferson Award for Charlene.

This year, the couple founded the Chicago Blood Cancer Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to curing lymphoma, leukemia and myeloma cancer. The organization will host Sunday its first event, Out for Blood, a family-friendly bike-riding fundraiser in Evanston where riders can choose from a variety of routes ranging in length from 25 to 100 miles.

As a part of the organization's mission to encourage collaboration in blood cancer research, it's teamed up with three Chicago hospitals: Children's Memorial Hospital, Rush University Medical Center and the Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University. In hopes of creating a legacy for people affected by blood cancer, Charlene plans to dedicate grants in patients'



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**Scott Seaman, who was diagnosed with lymphoma 12 years ago, and his wife, Charlene McMann-Seaman, look at the awards they received at a 2006 Lymphoma Research Foundation dinner. The couple helped form the first Chicago chapter. Since then, the couple founded the Chicago Blood Cancer Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to curing lymphoma, leukemia and myeloma cancer.**

File photo by Steve Bittinger

names, like she once did for her husband. "We have a very modest goal," Scott said. "We want to cure cancer. When you say cancer, of course, you are talking about a couple hundred diseases. ... In the meantime though, we'd like to find better treatments so people can survive."

The good news is efforts such as theirs are working. The five-year relative survival rate for patients with non-Hodgkin lymphoma has increased dramatically from 31 percent in whites in 1960 to '63 to 69 percent for people of all races from 1999 to 2006, according to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

The couple's longtime neighbor, Jamie Fraga, will be participating in the bike ride

## If you go

**WHAT** Out for Blood fundraising bike ride  
**WHEN** Starts at 6 a.m. Sunday, bikers can begin between 9 and 11 a.m.  
**WHERE** Evanston High School, 1600 Dodge Ave.  
**INFO** [chicagobloodcancer.org](http://chicagobloodcancer.org).

## Buy the book

**WHAT** "Battling and Beating Cancer — The Cancer Survival Book"  
**WHERE** [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com), [borders.com](http://borders.com), [xilbris.com](http://xilbris.com) or local bookstore  
**COST** \$16.50 to \$29.99, paperback or hardback



**Every 4 minutes** A person is diagnosed with a blood cancer

**137,260** People in the U.S. who will be diagnosed with blood cancer this year

**54,020** Deaths in the U.S. this year caused by these cancers

**Every 10 minutes** A person dies from a blood cancer

**Third** Most common form of cancer in children is lymphoma

**628,415** People living in the U.S. this year with lymphoma

**153,535** People living with Hodgkin lymphoma

**474,880** People living with non-Hodgkin lymphoma

Source: The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

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