

***Becky Hendrickson Van Keulen Class of 2003***  
***Jonathan Van Keulen Class of 2003***  
***Ephrata Alumni Association Noted Alumni***



During their days at Ephrata High School Becky Hendrickson and Jonathan Van Keulen were a couple and would eventually marry in 2004, get an education, and start a family.

One of their high school friends was Brad Tubbs. If these friends could have seen into the future, they would have discovered that life would throw the young couple a curve ball and their friend Brad would be there to support them.

In June 2014 Jonathan was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer. The couple's two-year journey with the disease is very inspiring. They discovered that in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity and their opportunity was to help others.

After graduating Ephrata High School, Becky and Jonathan:

- Attended college with Becky graduating from Washington State University with a degree in Interior Design and Jonathan graduating from Eastern Washington University with interest as a personal finance banker.
- Began careers with Becky working as a designer and marketing manager and Jonathan working for Washington Trust. Along the way welcomed two sons to family.
- Received news of Jonathan's cancer and began treatment; soon realized that it would be beneficial to patients if the oncology wards in Spokane were upgraded.
- Formed Cancer Can't with the assistance of friend Brad. Sixteen oncology patient rooms were updated with \$100,000 of new furniture, paint, beds, and refrigerators.
- Discovered, after Jonathan went into remission, that \$10,000 worth of unused cancer drugs remained, but the law prevented the drugs from being re-cycled.
- Championed, along with Tubbs, the Washington State Cancer Can't Charitable Pharmacy Act which allows unused medication to be donated and reused by qualified patients at a lower cost.
- Confronted Jonathan's return of cancer during the legislative campaign. He died shortly after the drug bill was signed. His legacy will be carried on as Becky continues to serve as the Board President ***and Co-founder*** of Cancer Can't, the Executive Director of the Charitable Pharmacy Group and as a loving mother to their sons.

Johnathan D. Van Keulen 1984 – 2016



**Mission** Help people fighting cancer in the Inland Northwest by improving their daily lives and circumstances.

**What We Do** Cancer Can't is a 501c3 non-profit organization located in the Inland Northwest serving Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. Our foundation is operated by a mostly volunteer group of community members.

Our organization was started by Jonathan Van Keulen, a husband, father, and local businessman. He decided to not dwell on everything

cancer was taking from him, but focus on how he can help others who may find themselves in a similar circumstance. In 2016 Jonathan lost his battle to cancer, so we continue to follow in his footsteps.

In 2016, we set out to help oncology patients have better access to high cost medications by creating a Charitable Pharmacy program in Washington State which allows unused medication to be reused at a lower cost. We have passed a law called the Cancer Can't Charitable Pharmacy Act. This year we are still working on this program and working to develop new programs to serve patients in our community with the following projects:

- THE NEXT, a sponsor based mentorship program for oncology patients and families
- A transportation program to provide assistance to cancer patients for treatment and doctors' appointments
- An education program for those newly diagnosed to discuss medical insurance, social security, and other financial components
- An oncology triage program that allows oncology patients needing emergency services or hospital admittance to by-pass the emergency room and be treated in an oncology specific triage facility located within the hospital.

## The Cancer Can't Charitable Pharmacy Act can, and should, be enacted by the Washington Legislature.

The legislation is the brainchild of Jonathan and Becky Van Keulen, who founded a non-profit corporation to fight the disease after Jonathan was diagnosed with a form of bone cancer — osteosarcoma — normally found only in children.

Perhaps because of his past experience as committee fundraising chair for the American Heart Association, Jonathan and Becky have organized an impressive list of sponsors that has raised enough money to update 16 oncology patient rooms at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center.

The also rallied Rep. Kevin Parker behind what has become HB2458, legislation for which he is the lead sponsor. Fellow Spokane Reps. Marcus Riccelli and Jeff Holy are also sponsors.

The bill, HB2458, won unanimous approval from the House Health Care and Wellness Committee Friday morning, and moves on to the Rules Committee with a note from Parker that this is No.1 legislative priority.

Washington is among a minority of states that do not have charitable pharmacies, which allow the use of drugs that were prescribed but never used, as long as they were properly stored.

Jonathan has 26 unused doses of a drug that helps restore white blood cell count after chemotherapy. His treatment had started with a more expensive medicine his insurance company cut off. But when

the cheaper drug proved ineffective, he and his doctor convinced the insurer to cover the cost of the original, more expensive prescription.

Jonathan's unused medicine is worth \$10,000. Rather than discard the drug, they researched ways it might be recycled, and came upon the concept of charitable pharmacies, which can receive drugs from individuals, and make them available to uninsured or under-insured patients.

Three years ago, the Legislature passed SB5148, which authorized pharmacies, clinics and other health care providers — even drug makers — to donate medicines to pharmacies for distribution to poor patients at no cost. But donations by individuals were not allowed.

Besides setting conditions like acceptable expiration dates, record-keeping and income guidelines for recipients, the earlier legislation also protects participating pharmacies from criminal or civil charges as long as they act in good faith to comply.

Parker says pharmaceutical companies, the most likely opponents of this bill, were neutral in their testimony. With health care providers with bigger stocks of unused medicine already able to donate their leftovers, it makes little sense to stop individuals from adding their inventories to the supply — if they took proper care.

There are not, hopefully, too many home refrigerators in Washington cooling \$10,000 worth of medicine.

SB5148 passed overwhelmingly in 2013 but, so far, Parker's bill has no companion in the Senate, and he has not confirmed a Senate sponsor for his bill. It should have 49.

Enactment would be a victory of the Van Keulens, Cancer Can't, and all Washingtonians who cannot afford the drugs they need.

### **Donations of Unused Prescription Drugs to the Underinsured Now Allowed in Washington State, Through in Part to First Year Davis Wright Tremaine Associate.**

First-year DWT associate Bradley Tubbs, (**Ephrata High School Class of 2003**) working pro bono, has helped draft and pass a new Washington state law that allows people with unused prescription drugs to donate them to the underinsured. The bill passed both houses of the state legislature without an opposing vote and was signed by Governor Jay Inslee last month.

Bradley is an M&A lawyer with no particular interest in health care or lobbying. But he got involved in the issue through a high school friend, Jonathan Van Keulen, who was diagnosed a couple years ago with a rare form of childhood cancer and given only a few months to live. The friend was lucky enough to go into remission, but not before he and his wife, Becky, decided they wanted to help enhance the two main oncology wards in Spokane, where he was treated.

Bradley helped the couple form a 501(c)(3) called Cancer Can't, which raised over \$100,000 to update the wards with new furniture, paint, beds, and refrigerators.

Next, the team turned to the issue of drugs. Once in remission, Jonathan found he had \$10K worth of unused, unneeded cancer drugs in his possession. But Washington law did not allow him to do anything with them. "There are so many people who can't afford treatment," says Bradley. "This just seemed wrong."

Numerous other states have Charitable Pharmacy Acts, which allow donation of unused prescription drugs under varying conditions. The team set about trying to get such a law passed in Washington. "I reached out to a couple of representatives from Eastern Washington," says Bradley. "Kevin Parker, a Republican from Spokane, ended up championing the bill and taking it to the House Wellness Committee." Bradley assisted the staff with drafting.

Seven months later, the bill became law, overcoming opposition from three major pharmaceutical companies. It allows anyone licensed to practice medicine or pharmacy to receive and redistribute donated drugs to qualified patients.

"The state has tried to pass similar legislation on two different occasions within the last 20 years and has rejected it," says Bradley, "so this marks a significant positive turn in state policy which bodes well for future related initiatives."

Now comes another challenge: implementation. "Five states have passed similar laws but don't have an active program," says Bradley. "No one's taken it from being allowed to actually doing it. We're very cognizant of that and making sure we're following up. The American Cancer Society has pledged to support the implementation and several pharmacy associations in the state are working with us."

Sadly, Jonathan's cancer returned during the legislative campaign. He lived to see the bill he generously championed signed into law, but passed away shortly after.



We have passed both House Bill 2468 and House Bill 1765 to effectively create a donation medication program in the state of Washington. Because oncology drugs are on average \$10,000 per month, we felt tackling the medication needs of patients was a huge accomplishment toward helping their daily lives. This program is a work in progress.

Since passing these laws, Cancer Can't has launched a second nonprofit called The Charitable Pharmacy Group. The nonprofit will run and create the donation

drug program in our state. This program will allow patients to donate back unused and unexpired medications to participating pharmacies throughout the state. If there is a patient who cannot afford their medication, and we have it available through donation, they can access that medication free of charge. Check out the website at <http://www.donatedrugs.com/>

Cancer Can't raised enough money to update 16 oncology rooms at Sacred Heart. An average patient spends approximately four days in one of the oncology rooms, but some patients may stay upwards of 50 consecutive nights. These rooms were originally designed to treat patients by administering

chemotherapy, stem cell transplants and other important medical surgeries and treatments. One significant thing these rooms were not designed for was to promote patient healing and well-being.

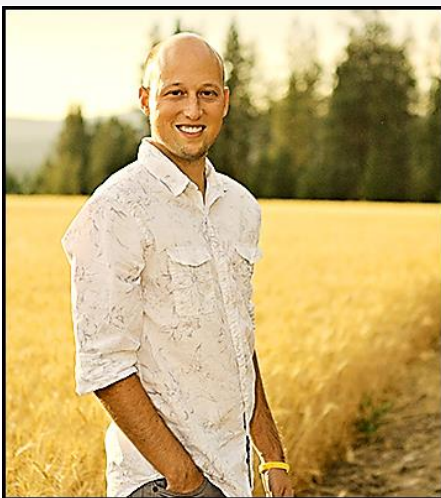
Due to extensive research and a more recent emphasis on optimal healing environments for hospital patients, Cancer Can't will be updating the oncology floor at Sacred Heart to promote a more healing and positive patient atmosphere. Each room will be equipped with a mini-refrigerator, a microwave, a medical grade recliner and healing nature-based artwork. These much-needed updates will help foster control for patients, promote social support and provide access to more soothing and calming artwork surroundings.

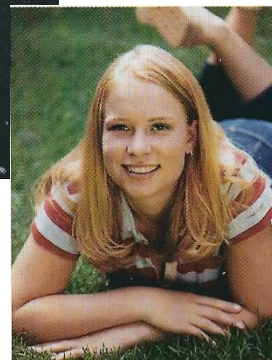
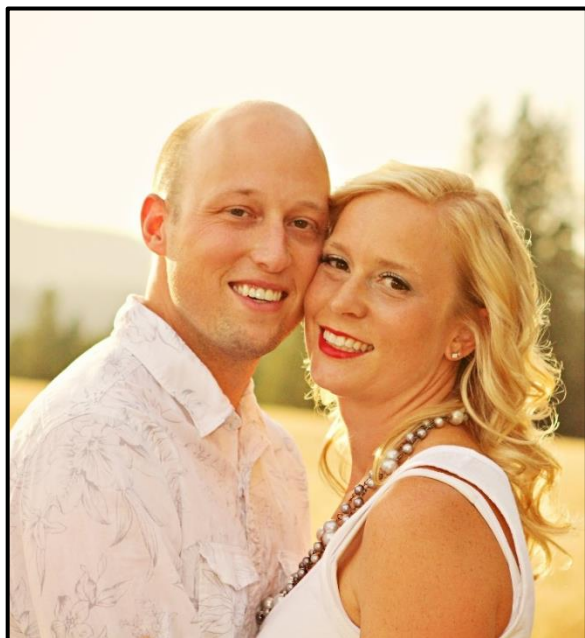
By the end of 2015 Cancer Can't has finalized the design selections with the beautification committee at Sacred Heart. Purchases and updates will be taking place in 2016.

Project Update, March 2016 - Cancer Can't has purchased and delivered all the refrigerators and microwaves for the rooms. Providence is working on updating the electrical system to hold the additional power draw that will be required to run these appliances. Once this update is finished, each room will be supplied with a new microwave and mini fridge.

As of this week, each room should now have its own recliner sleeper that would allow patient's guests to be able to stay with the patient comfortably. Thank you to Kurshaws furniture for helping us with this awesome furniture.

Craig Goodwin Photography has finished editing all of his donated photos. We signed off on the proofs and the art work is now in the printing phase. We should have them within the next 6 weeks along with all new room sponsor signs. Providence is going to work room by room to update paint and include built-ins for the microwave and fridge. This process should be underway as we speak.





### **VAN KEULEN, Jonathan**

Jonathan D. Van Keulen, 31, died April 4, 2016 at his home in Spokane. Jonathan left behind a legacy that will be carried on by his wife, Becky, two young sons, and an expansive group of loved ones.

Jonathan was born October 1, 1984, in Moses Lake, WA to Dede Hanson and John Van Keulen. He was diagnosed with cancer in June 2014. Jonathan and Becky founded Cancer Can't to support patients in the Inland Northwest. The foundation funded oncology room upgrades at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and passed legislation to create a charitable pharmacy program which will provide patients access to needed medication.

A memorial was held Saturday, April 16, 5 p.m., at Life Center Church in Spokane. Donations can be made at [www.cancercant.com](http://www.cancercant.com) or mailed to 1614 Canyon Woods Ln., Spokane, WA 9922.