



## A LETTER FROM THE FOUNDERS

Dear Friends:

“Your life can change in an instant.” We didn’t understand the meaning of this phrase until it happened to us- the moment we lost our beloved brother and fiancé, Michael Soussa, to colorectal cancer.

From the first days of his diagnosis, until the end of his valiant struggle three and half years later, Michael’s strength, grace and optimism was an inspiration to us all. Michael passed away at the young age of 33, leaving behind all of those who loved him, along with the possibilities of his future.

Michael’s courage and determination inspired us to form Michael’s Mission. Our mission is to improve the quality of life and treatment options for colorectal cancer patients, particularly young people like Michael. Michael always said that when he got better, he would give back to others diagnosed and living with colorectal cancer. What Michael found most difficult to deal with was the lack of relevant and quality information about the disease, the inability to interact and share experiences with other patients, and the lack of funding for research trials and patient support services. He was also incredibly frustrated with the lack of attention and information regarding the side effects and quality of life issues associated with colorectal cancer—the focus was on treating the disease and not on helping people live their lives. One of our core values - enhancing quality of life – allows us to help patients regain some control in a very uncontrollable situation. Having observed Michael fighting for his life and knowing what was missing to support his struggle, our goals include creating programs and providing services that will help patients and families navigate this difficult journey.

Although Michael never got the opportunity to fulfill his dream of helping others, Michael’s Mission is doing it in his honor, and is celebrating an amazing life tragically cut short. We hope you will join us in the important work we are privileged to do for patients suffering from colorectal cancer, their families and caregivers. On behalf of all of the people who loved Michael and carry his memory in their hearts, we thank you for your support.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Shana".

Scott Soussa & Shana Auerbach  
Co-Founders, Michael’s Mission