



Marcella Schankweiler, JD, LLM
Founder & Chief Executive Office
For Pete's Sake Cancer Respite Foundation

Marci Schankweiler is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of For Pete's Sake Cancer Respite Foundation (FPS), a 501(c)(3) non-profit that provides respite vacations and related emotional, psycho-social and spiritual support to adult cancer patients and their loved ones. FPS was founded after Marci lost her husband, Pete, to testicular cancer at the tender age of 30. She knows the cancer battle intimately, and as a caregiver, she has a unique perspective on what adult patients and their loved ones experience in their journey.

FPS has helped over 8,000 people since 2000, and Marci's background as a former tax attorney gives her a unique view of the non-profit landscape.

With almost two decades of experience working with adult cancer patients and their caregivers, Marci has been honored for her work and advocacy for young families facing cancer. Both the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University Fox Chase Cancer Center have recognized Marci for her efforts in the cancer field, and in 2014 Marci was honored with the coveted Chase Award from Fox Chase Cancer Center. Recently she was featured on a Comcast Newsmakers national segment, talking about the impact of respite on one's emotional health during cancer, and the positive outcomes associated with the FPS respite vacation program.

Marci was selected as one of thirty finalists nationwide among 7,000 applicants in the MLB/People "All Stars Among Us" contest and represented the Philadelphia Phillies in Anaheim in 2010. She received the most prestigious alumnae award, the Signum Fidei Medal, from LaSalle University, and was inducted into the Hall of Fame of both Mount Saint Joseph Academy and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Doylestown, PA. In addition, she received the Distinguished Catholic School Graduate Award from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Marci was also chosen as a Women of Distinction by the Philadelphia Business Journal and selected by SmartCEO Magazine for the Brava Award. Last spring, Marci was chosen as the Woman of Excellence from the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Montgomery County.

Marci's efforts have been recognized nationally in *Family Circle*, *Redbook*, *Real Woman Online*, *Cancer Today*, *LIVESTRONG* and locally in *The Philadelphia Business Journal*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and other regional media outlets. She was awarded the distinguished honor of being one of the *Top 75 Living Philadelphians* by *The Daily News*, Philadelphia Eagles and Dunkin Donuts and was a *Hometown Hero* chosen by PECO Energy Company. Marci's passion for inspiring others and her experiences in building a sustainable non-profit organization has made her a requested speaker for business, healthcare organizations, retreats and civil organizations. (<https://pauseonpurpose.com/>)

Prior to launching a career in non-profit, Marci was a litigator and tax attorney in Philadelphia, PA. She also was an adjunct professor in the Communications Department of LaSalle University, Philadelphia, PA and taught business law at The College of New Jersey. Marci is an alumna of Mt. St. Joseph Academy and pursued a teaching degree in Mathematics from LaSalle University. She attended Temple University School of Law and completed her law degree in 1995. She later received an LLM in Taxation in May, 1998, also from Temple University School of Law.

In addition to her role in FPS, Marci holds numerous volunteer leadership positions and volunteers on several local boards. She started her board service on the local and later national board for Real Alternatives, on the Alumnae Board and later President Search Committee for LaSalle University, the Public Information Board for Doylestown Township, the Finance Committee and Home and School Association for her parish/school and the Advisory Board for Girard Partners. Currently, Marci sits on the Univest Foundation Board, the President's Council at LaSalle University and the Advisory Board for the Greater Montgomery Chamber of Commerce. She also is a member of Philadelphia's Forum for Executive Women.

In her free time, Marci enjoys coaching CYO basketball and volleyball, co-chairing the annual St. Helena basketball tournament, volunteering for Girl Scouts and being active in her children's school. Her favorite pastime is to gather on the beach in Sea Isle City with her family, celebrating the beauty and journey of life! You may even catch her behind the counter waiting on customers at her family's bakery, Maryann Pastry Shoppe, in Sea Isle, or perhaps even decorating a cake! She enjoys life and cherishes each new day!