

MISSION POSSIBLE

The Dana-Farber Campaign to Conquer Cancer



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James Comer

Patrick Comer Courage Foundation

PO Box 282

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Dear James,

It was seven years ago that Dana-Farber Cancer Institute embarked on its most ambitious fundraising effort yet with Mission Possible: *The Dana-Farber Campaign to Conquer Cancer*. Setting a goal of \$1 billion—the largest ever for a New England hospital—we knew that the Campaign's success would be contingent on the generosity of our community of loyal supporters. It was a great challenge, but we knew that you were always standing beside us, and we are profoundly grateful for your steadfast support for the Institute's lifesaving mission.

Today, I am thrilled to announce that that your incredible generosity has brought the *Mission Possible* Campaign to a record-breaking conclusion, with more than \$1.18 billion raised as of its official close September 30.

This is truly a great moment for the Institute, as your support has helped create a time of unparalleled discovery and progress at Dana-Farber. This fundraising highpoint—which included reaching our \$1 billion goal one year early—can only be attributed to your desire to see us continue to push the boundaries of understanding and treating this terrible disease. And we tapped into that confidence to accomplish a great many things at the Institute during the last seven years.

The Campaign enabled our investigators to make remarkable strides in understanding how cancer is not one disease but many, with subtypes that each have a unique genetic and molecular character. It propelled the development and application of key technologies to fuel cutting-edge research that will provide a scientific basis for effective new treatments. *Mission Possible* also

allowed us to foster “team science,” leading to unprecedented collaborations between Dana-Farber scientists from different disciplines and academia and industry. And it helped build the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care, a state-of-the-art clinical facility that will keep Dana-Farber at the forefront of translational research and compassionate care.

Because of all that was made possible during the Campaign, there is now realistic potential to revolutionize patient care. Personalized medicine—developing a targeted treatment for a patient based on the individual genetics of his or her own tumor—marks a new era for Dana-Farber. It holds more promise to save lives than anything we have ever done before. And, ultimately, that is what this Campaign has always been about: saving lives.

You have known that all along, and we are deeply grateful for your support during the Campaign and for your much-appreciated partnership in the years to come.

I would also like to offer a special thanks to Josh Bekenstein and Larry Lucchino, our valiant trustee co-chairs of the Campaign, who have provided outstanding leadership to spearhead this endeavor and ensure its success.

This is truly a great moment for the Institute. And it is just the beginning. On behalf of the entire team at Dana-Farber and the patients we care for, I thank you for believing that our mission is possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward J. Benz Jr.", written in dark ink.

Edward J. Benz Jr., MD