

## Maire Caitlin Kent 1989 - 2013



Maire, at 24-years, was an extraordinary young lady described best as an articulate, witty, extremely intelligent firecracker, never afraid to speak her mind. Most importantly, Maire was kind and friendly to all. If you were meeting her for the first time, she made you feel like you were friends for years. If you were her friend, she always made you feel like you were her best friend.



Maire's cancer fight began in November 2012. After having flu-like symptoms, Maire checked into the University of Michigan Health System. Her doctor, Monika Leja, a specialist in Cardio Oncology, diagnosed her with Cardiac Sarcoma. Maire had to make a decision - let the raging tumor in her heart take her life in the short, next three weeks or wage an all out war to fight. Anyone



who knew Maire would know that she was going to fight, and fight she did for the next eleven months. Never complaining, never asking why me, but always dedicated to the cause of defeating the devastating disease.

### Maire Kent Memorial Fund for Cardiac Tumor Research

The special Maire Kent Memorial Fund for Cardiac Tumor Research has been set up in Maire's memory with the goal of raising research dollars that can be used by the University of Michigan Frankel Cardiovascular Center to new ways of treating and studying cardiovascular diseases in Michigan and throughout the nation.



**University of Michigan  
Samuel and Jean Frankel  
Cardiovascular Center**

Malignant cardiac tumors are a rare and deadly cancer primarily affecting young adults in the prime of their lives. Cardiac sarcomas make up the majority of malignant cardiac tumors. Other malignant cardiac tumors include lymphoma, paragangliomas, and the spread of other cancers to the heart. A patient's average life span from the time of diagnosis is only 9 to 12 months. Little is known about these tumors. Current chemotherapy agents are often not effective. Surgery prolongs life but does not cure this devastating disease.

Research into cardiac tumors is needed but funding is scarce because of their rarity. However, much can be learned from these tumors, not only about sarcoma, but other cancers. Because of their location, malignant heart tumors grow at a much more rapid rate than other cancers in the body. Their behavior depends on which chamber of the heart they grow from. No one understands the genetics or molecular biology of heart tumors and this could be a rare opportunity to learn about personalized cancer therapy. Please consider donating to this fund.

Your donations will fund:

1. A national cardiac tumor database so the behavior of this cancer can be understood
2. A multidisciplinary, multi-institutional cardiac tumor board where experts in the field come together monthly and exchange ideas
3. Targeted genetic research to unravel the cause of cardiac sarcoma.
4. Understanding which factors influence the growth of abnormal cells in the heart and cause the cells to mutate
5. Medical and Surgical Research Trials to cure cardiac tumors

Please donate and help cure this deadly disease! Working together we can make a difference!



<http://victors.us/mairekent>