

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

“Voice of the Victims”

www.AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org



Emily's Father's Day One South Bay Family Celebrates a Little Differently by Danielle Green

http://www.lafamily.com/display_article.php?id=507

It was the day after Father's Day, one year ago, when Emily Reinstein discovered her father had cancer. After suffering through more than nine months of testing, Alan Reinstein was finally properly diagnosed with mesothelioma, an asbestos-related lung cancer, and a 10 year old girl saw the innocence of her childhood disappear. Today, Emily is 11 years old and wise beyond her years. Hers is a loud voice of a little girl fighting for her dad.

The intelligence and drive of Emily is apparent, even at her young age. Last month, she won the International Family Film Festival (IFFF) Award for a comedy. The theme of IFFF was One Family, One World, an apt description of the day-to-day life of Emily Reinstein. She is an advocate for the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization, a non-profit created by her admirable mother Linda to bring together the many people out there suffering, either directly or through family relationships, with mesothelioma.

Upon her husband's diagnosis, Linda Reinstein could not idly sit back and watch her husband suffer. Knowing others were suffering similarly and unnecessarily, Linda, along with Doug Larkin, whose father-in-law suffers from mesothelioma, created ADAO. Her goal is to bring a united voice to the victims, so they can receive due compensation and care, and prevent future cases of mesothelioma misdiagnosis.

"Could I just be angry, angry at the medical community and the senators and the companies that killed people with asbestos, sure," Linda said. But anger is not action, and Linda has taken her feelings and applied them to positive efforts with the creation of ADAO.

ADAO now has two national directors, 16 state directors, and continues to grow rapidly, staffed by volunteers who are both victims and relatives of victims.

Linda has traveled to Washington DC on various occasions in an attempt to defeat legislation that would harm those suffering from mesothelioma. During her journey setting up ADAO, Linda has uncovered alarming facts about the use of asbestos in this country, and the lack of regulation. "You probably think asbestos is banned", Linda said. "But the ban was overturned in 1991." Companies today use asbestos in their water pipes, as insulation, and in building materials because it is a very cheap, resilient and reliable resource.

But asbestos is a resource that kills and kills invisibly. Asbestos can't be smelled, tasted, or seen. It travels through the air in tiny particles, and once inhaled, lodges in the lining of the lungs. And there it stays, for up to

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fifty years, impairing breathing, scarring tissue and eventually causing disease. Inhalation of asbestos is permanent and irreversible. Simply walking by a recently demolished building that contains asbestos can be enough to breath in a deadly amount of the mineral.

The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization has helped Linda and Emily tremendously. The creation of a family for mesothelioma victims is something Emily has taken personally. She is sensitive to other children whose parents have cancer and she wants to start a cancer discussion group for children her age. Emily also traveled with her mother to DC to talk with senators about asbestos related legislation. "I want to go too," she said. " I want our senators to know how hard it is for a kid who is just 11."

Today, Alan Reinstein is a living miracle. He had drastic and radical surgery to keep him alive. His left lung, pleura (lining of the chest cavity), pericardium (lining of the heart), and diaphragm were removed, replaced with a Gortex diaphragm. And his is the best case scenario, testament to the deadliness of this horrid and totally preventable disease.

Linda's admirable resilience and her obvious hunger to learn every aspect, angle, and possible path to prevention of mesothelioma is changing the lives of many people. Through ADAO, Linda is educating the medical community about early prevention and fighting for compensation for victims. She has united hundreds of victims across the nation, contacted every US senator, and placed mesothelioma on the forefront of people's minds.

This Father's Day, Emily and Alan will celebrate together. Take a moment to ensure future Fathers Days are celebrated by children with parents suffering from mesothelioma and log onto ADAO's website www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org. Sign their guest book and spread the message. The voice of the victim must be heard.

Danielle Green is an Assistant Editor at Family Magazine Group and a freelance writer.

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