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## **Los Angeles Electeds Turn Out to Support L.A. Beats Cancer**

### **-Young Santa Monica Widower Starts Charity After Wife Dies From Breast Cancer-**

LOS ANGELES -- Three months after giving birth to the young couple's first child, Liz Smagala Tate went to the hospital to check on her lingering cough. The visit would change the 38-year-old's life.

Within hours, doctors told Liz the devastating news: She had stage four triple negative breast cancer. She left the hospital in a haze, only to find her car towed.

Yet hardship wasn't new to Liz. An American immigrant, whose family was chased out of Poland for fighting the communists during Solidarity, Liz and her family came to this country with just the clothes on their backs and \$20, rolled up and hidden in a pen.

Growing up poor in Sacramento, Liz endured a childhood on welfare. Against all odds, she went on to become a successful Los Angeles attorney.

This story is about Liz's legacy, her defiance against the fiercest of enemies -- cancer --, but most importantly, love. Her love of her husband, and son Lucas, who was only 16 months old when she died in the summer of 2014, 13 months after her diagnosis.

Knowing that she faced long odds, Liz wrote letters and filmed messages for her beloved Lucas so he could have vivid memories of her fierce love to him. Phil still posts messages on his late wife's Facebook page, sharing Lucas' childhood accomplishments.

While she fought her those brave months, Liz began raising money for breast cancer research, launching a fundraising effort on her birthday. Her husband Phil has continued that effort and taken it to the next level, launching L.A. Beats Cancer ([www.labeatscancer.org](http://www.labeatscancer.org)), a charity raising money to fight breast cancer.

On Monday, August 17, L.A. Beats Cancer will hold its first annual fundraiser. Phil and friends intend to raise \$100,000 to support critical UCLA Santa Monica Breast Center research that saves lives.

“Hundreds of dollars alone can mean hours of research and necessary lab equipment that create the moments that save lives... like Liz’s,” said Phil, president and founder.

The charity will launch on what would have been Liz's 40th birthday, at Hyde lounge on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood – the space was generously donated by SBE. In addition to raising \$100,000, the event will include an auction and will honor Liz as a mother, wife, friend, attorney, supporter of the Polish American community and fighter.

With the support of honorary hosts Mayor Eric Garcetti, Assembly member Richard Bloom, Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell, Councilmember Mike Bonin and a dozen more of the city’s top elected officials and leading companies, the fun-filled evening is expected to include more than 400 participants, including supporters, donors, corporate partners, officials and families touched by cancer. Through a celebration of life, they will raise funds to sustain life itself.

While heartbreaking and painful, Phil wants to share his family's story, of love against all odds.

If you would like to interview Phil about Liz, his family and the new charity, contact:

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