

Journey of Faith Leads to City of Hope

How a mysterious pain in the neck turned into a race against time for a mother and her family.

It began with a simple case of neck pain after a busy day. But when treatments and medications couldn't keep her "stiff neck" from getting worse, Sandy Boulware "caved in," she says, and went to see a doctor.

An MRI revealed a compound fracture in a bone in her neck, but that just raised more questions. That sort of trauma usually follows an injury, but Sandy hadn't suffered any neck injuries. What else could explain it? The hunt was on.

Then, a bone scan revealed abnormalities in Sandy's ribs, pelvis and bone marrow. Fearing Sandy had leukemia, her doctor contacted City of Hope.

The hunt then moved to our Duarte campus. A bone marrow biopsy showed that Sandy had adeno carcinoma,

which suggested the cancer had spread to her blood and bones from someplace else. It took a CT scan, a sonogram and a team of experts to reveal the culprit: a very small mass on Sandy's right breast. Metastatic breast cancer.

Once the root problem had been identified, doctors had to act quickly: Cancer was destroying the vertebrae in Sandy's neck. If something wasn't done soon, she risked permanent paralysis.

Facing fears with faith

When Jon Boulware told his daughters

If something wasn't done soon, Sandy risked paralysis.



Despite a devastating diagnosis of breast cancer spreading into her bones, Sandy Boulware, her husband Jon and their daughters Rachel (left) and Michelle (right) credit their faith in God and the skilled team at City of Hope for giving them hope and encouragement.

their mother had cancer, Michelle, age 7, asked, "Daddy, is Mommy going to die?"

"I used to think the hardest question I'd ever be asked was, 'Do I look fat in this dress?'" Jon later wrote on the family's blog, "Sandy's Journey of Faith."

But "when your 7-year-old asks [this], you do your best to answer truthfully so her mind doesn't imagine things, but not so truthfully that it scares her.

"The truth of the matter is that you just don't know."

Barely a month after her first MRI, Sandy went into surgery at City of Hope to

remove her damaged vertebra. Dr. Mike Chen, a neurosurgeon at City of Hope, performed a nine hour surgery to install titanium rods and screws to stabilize her neck and support her head.

After a month in a neck brace, Sandy began radiation to remove remaining tumors. She also started a course of medication to strengthen her bones and end the spread of cancer.

While she still receives radiation and a variety of medications today, Sandy and her family are optimistic about the future.

(continued on page 4)

Your gift goes twice as far ... twice as fast!

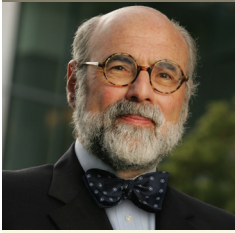
City of Hope and NASCAR driver Greg Biffle have teamed up to share this important message:

For a limited time, a matching grant from the Post-it® brand of 3M will DOUBLE your cancer-fighting gift to

City of Hope!

That means twice the research, twice the innovation and twice the care, speeding help to the children and adults who need it most. Please use the enclosed reply form to give generously today. Thank you.





You are our hero

Michael A. Friedman, M.D.
President and C.E.O.

I want to thank you for your faithful partnership with City of Hope. It is an investment that will definitely pay off, both now and in the future.

The articles in this edition of *HopeCONNECTION* show why. Today, brave patients like Sandy Boulware and Albert Sysavath are beating cancer at City of Hope. Unique programs like The Sheri & Les Biller Patient and Family Resource Center reflect our focus on caring for the whole person, and help family members like young Michelle Boulware cope with the fear and anxiety that come when a loved one has cancer.

Innovative researchers like Dr. Joseph Kim are unlocking the secrets of cancer. Clues they find today may transform how cancer is fought in years to come.

Your generosity and compassion tie all this together. You make all this possible.

Finally, this newsletter also reminds you of the matching grant from the Post-it® brand of 3M. It will match, dollar-for-dollar, any gift you give in response to this issue of *HopeCONNECTION*. I invite you to read and think about all the good your partnership is achieving, and then send a gift today.

Thank you for caring so deeply about others. Your generosity is humbling and inspiring. All of us at City of Hope deeply appreciate your continued support.

Michael A. Friedman

City of Hope: a charity you can rely on

You can trust that your gifts to City of Hope really are fighting cancer

You can't afford to waste a single dollar. It is important to you that the charities you support maintain the highest standards of openness and honesty about how your gifts are used. That just makes sense.

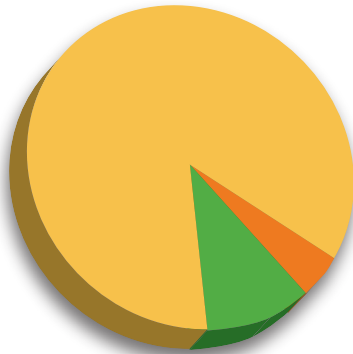
That is why we are so proud to tell you that respected charity watchdog Charity Navigator has once again listed City of Hope among its "10 of the Best Charities Everyone's Heard Of."

When you give to City of Hope, you can be sure your gifts really are helping the fight against cancer, and providing

care for children and adults in need.

As Charity Navigator's independent research shows, more than 81 cents of every dollar you give goes directly to support City of Hope's lifesaving mission. That ratio is one of the best there is for medical charities. That's why City of Hope earned Charity Navigator's four-star rating.

City of Hope: one of America's best cancer hospitals, a world leader in cancer research, and a standard bearer for the responsible use of your gifts. Thank you for your generous partnership.



More than 81 cents of every dollar you give goes directly to support City of Hope's lifesaving mission.

- Program Expenses 81.8%
- Administrative Expenses 13.2%
- Fundraising Expenses 4.9%



Remember City of Hope in your will or living trust, and you will be supporting the fight against cancer and other serious diseases —

for years to come.

For more information, please call 800-232-3314 or e-mail giftplanning@coh.org.



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Asian Americans have best chance of surviving stomach cancer

City of Hope research reveals surprising facts that may help everyone battling gastric cancers

Studies undertaken by City of Hope researchers have uncovered some surprising facts about stomach cancer ... and raised some new questions.

In the largest study ever of racial disparities in stomach cancer, the research team analyzed more than 13,000 cases in Los Angeles County over the last 20 years.

Stomach cancer is one of the most serious forms of cancer. Our researchers found that while

We reviewed every case in the last 20 years.

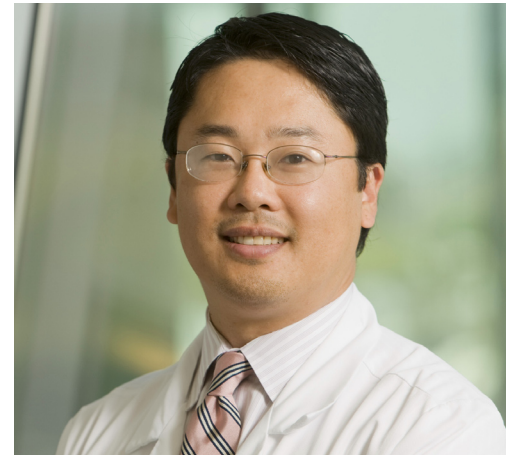
people of Asian descent are more likely to contract stomach cancer, they are also far

more likely to survive it than are Latinos, whites, or African Americans.

“No matter the extent of disease or treatment, Asians did best,” said Joseph Kim, M.D., assistant professor in our department of surgery and senior author of the study.

What’s not clear, however, is *why* patients of Asian descent should survive nearly twice as long as Latinos, the next closest group in five-year survival rates.

“We suspect there may be differences in tumor biology,” Dr. Kim said. Getting to the bottom of that mystery could benefit all stomach cancer patients, regardless of their family background.



A skilled surgeon as well as an innovative researcher, Joseph Kim, M.D., is a living example of City of Hope’s blend of science and patient care. “Dr. Kim is a really good doctor,” says Albert Sysavath (below).

“I didn’t have time to wait”

An internet search for the best cancer hospital led this farm worker and his family right to City of Hope

As a farm worker in the San Joaquin Valley, Albert Sysavath is used to a few aches and pains. But when his stomach hurt so badly he could barely stand, he knew something was wrong.

After three days of tests at a local hospital, his doctor told him the bad news: Albert had severe stomach cancer and needed surgery right away. Without it, he could be dead within six months.

Albert contacted a leading hospital in the Bay Area. He was shocked to be told the soonest possible appointment was two months away.

“I didn’t have time to wait,” Albert says. “My doctor said if my cancer spread, all I could do was sit and wait to die.”

Albert’s son began researching alternatives. His search for the very best stomach cancer experts soon led to Dr. Joseph Kim, M.D., assistant professor in City of Hope’s department of surgery and one of the nation’s leading stomach cancer researchers.

Albert called Dr. Kim directly and explained the situation. Dr. Kim urged him to come to City of Hope right away.



Two years after a devastating diagnosis, Albert Sysavath is enjoying the return to a normal life.

We soon determined Albert would need to have most, or even all, of his cancerous stomach removed. Using a pioneering laparoscopic surgery technique, Dr. Kim could do this using only small incisions instead of major

surgery. That meant far fewer side effects and much faster recovery.

By the end of the eight-hour surgery, Dr. Kim had removed not only Albert’s stomach, but half his pancreas and several inches of intestine as well. Although he stayed at City of Hope for 21 days, Albert reports, “after a week, I was feeling better and better.”

“After a week, I was feeling better and better.”

Several months of chemotherapy followed, but today — despite the massive changes in his body — Albert is optimistic about the future.

“My surgery was two years ago,” he says. “July 7, 2007. I drive my car, my hair is coming back, I know how to eat just a little at a time. I am doing very well.

“With this kind of cancer, it is really hard to tell what will happen,” he continues. “Everyone says I am very lucky. I know I am lucky.”

A child's plea: "Find a cure!"

Michelle Boulware won statewide honors from the California PTA for this essay about her mother Sandy's battle with cancer (see page 1).

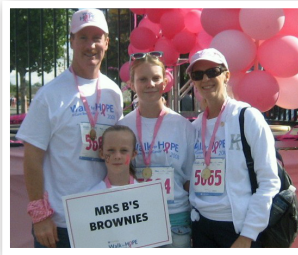
Last year I was told that my mother has cancer. She has gone through a lot, but she is very strong. My mom was having a hurt neck and going to a doctor. She thought she hurt it when we moved. One day me and my sister came home from school and we found out that my mom was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. My sister and I could not believe it.

My mom went to City of Hope and they have helped her a lot. She had tests done and it was true. City of Hope has been good to us, especially my mom's friend, Dr. Laura. My mom really looks up to her, and Dr. Laura has been very good to her. My mom had surgery and Dr. Laura was by her side every step of the way. My mom was in the hospital for five days. My dad did a lot around the house to help us. He is very strong too.

My mom promised me that when she was feeling better she would take me horseback riding. This year we went to

June Lake in our motor home. We went in the lake and my mom swam to the rock and sat on it. It was so cool that she could do that. It was a wow moment. While we were at June Lake, I got my horseback ride with my mom! My family believes in God. We love Him and we know that He is going to heal my family. We pray every night for my mom. She is doing so much better. We know that lots of people are praying for her. Prayer really helps.

Michelle Boulware
Oak Mesa Elementary School
Third Grade



Michelle Boulware (front) won an award for this essay about her mother's battle with cancer.

Journey of Faith Leads to City of Hope

(continued from page 1)

They credit their faith, and the support of family, friends and the community, for helping sustain them through difficult times.

"The doctors and support staff at City of Hope are amazing," says Sandy. "When my husband and I were scared and in shock, the doctors encouraged us and gave us hope. The level of compassion and expertise is beyond anything we have ever encountered. I know that my team of doctors are invested in me and will do all they can to give me good quality of life."

Sandy's complex case shows why your support of City of Hope matters so much. Our innovative, patient-centered approach to diagnosis and treatment was key to solving the mystery at the center of Sandy's fight for life.

Right now, the matching grant from the Post-it® brand of 3M will make your support of City of Hope go TWICE AS FAR. Please take advantage of this opportunity by giving generously. Thank you.

DON'T FORGET: The matching grant from the Post-it® brand of 3M DOUBLES your gift!

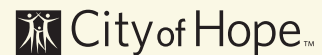
Fill out the form below and return it with your gift right away. Don't delay!



▼ To give a gift to City of Hope, detach this form and return it with your gift to the address below. Thank you! ▼

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