

Turning Grief Into Passion... Lexi's Beyond The Grief Mission

By: Chris Bentley- WidowWise June 2023 Newsletter



**“Fourteen year-old Lexi Schnur may be our best ambassador,”
said Chris Bentley, founder and CEO of Wings for Widows.
“She is certainly our youngest.”**

Lexi's father, Dave, died in July 2021 after a 19-month battle with cancer. Lexi told her mother, Meredith, and sister, Samantham that she wanted to help fundraise to honor her father. There was only one problem: she didn't know who to fundraise for.

It seems that Lexi, at just 13, was born to become a tour de force when she began raising funds the year her father passed. There were several organizations that had played major roles in her family's life, including [Camp Harlam](#), dedicated to the spiritual, physical, social and emotional well-being of children, while building lifelong relationships between friends, and [The Paps Corp](#), one of the largest all-volunteer fundraising organizations in South Florida dedicated to supporting research for all types of cancer at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. And there was the [Comfort Zone Camp](#), a nonprofit bereavement organization that transforms the lives of children who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, primary caregiver, or significant person.

Lexi chose The Paps Corp for a middle-school project, and her family focused on Comfort Zone Camp. Dave's employer raised funds for Camp Harlam. Lexi raised about \$5,500 for

The Paps Corp and the Comfort Zone Camp fundraiser raised about \$8,000. Lexi learned quite a lot through this experience.

The activity diverted her attention from loss and grief to fundraising and making a difference. Lexi felt great about honoring her father with the furious fundraising, but wanted a longer-term project. Her search led her to reach out to Wings for Widows in early November 2022.

"Lexi's first email to us brought me to tears," Bentley continues. "She was searching for an organization to support to continue to honor her dad. Her story broke my heart. I was both honored and humbled that Lexi was considering Wings for Widows." About a week later, Lexi had made her choice. She would launch the [Beyond the Grief Mission](#) to support Wings for Widows.



By March 2023, Lexi's BTGM was operational. The sole mission of BTGM is to fundraise for Wings for Widows using an army of youth ambassadors with a heart for the mission. The first campaign was a tee-shirt drive that raised over \$2,200. Since then, Lexi's BTGM and youth ambassadors have raised over \$4,400 to date with many more campaigns on the horizon.

What started out as a middle-school project in New Jersey is growing into a national movement. "We are so excited about what Lexi is doing, which goes well beyond Wings for Widows," says Bentley. "Lexi and her fellow ambassadors' support is helping widowed men and women and their families in crisis around the country."

Keep your eye out for Lexi Schnur. An extraordinary young lady doing extraordinary things.