

Planning with **VISION**

How Jared Henigin Found His “Why” for Supporting the Foundation

If you ask Jared Henigin, he'll say his “why” for giving to the Foundation is his 3-year-old son, Jack.

But speak with him a little more and you'll realize that his “why” goes back further in his family. Both Jared and his father were diagnosed with ulcerative colitis (UC) when they were 19. His father missed his entire freshman year and at one point became so sick, he was given his last rites. Years later, Jared was also diagnosed during his freshman year of college—during finals week.

Today, his dad is in remission, and Jared describes himself as “mostly” in remission. Their family history and the fact that Jared must wait to see what the future holds for Jack are what drive him to support the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation's work to find new treatments and cures.

This drive also comes from the community that Jared and his wife, Cady, have found through the Foundation. Before becoming involved with the Foundation, Jared didn't talk about his disease and knew few people who had inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

One day he read an announcement in the *Pittsburgh Business Times* about the incoming board president of the local chapter. Now that he had a name and an organization to contact, he reached out on LinkedIn. That one LinkedIn message led to a coffee meet-up with the incoming president and other Foundation staff and volunteers. Jared learned about the Foundation's resources and soon became involved



Cady, Jack, and Jared Henigin

in local events, like the Take Steps walk, where he was overwhelmed by the sense of community he felt.

“I know the impact IBD can have on your life and your loved ones,” he says. “If you are suffering from the disease, go to a local Foundation event in your area—become a part of that community.”

Since that first cup of coffee, Jared has been volunteering with the Foundation and is now the chapter president. Cady also serves on several volunteer committees and, like Jared, relishes her new community.

How Jared Henigin Found His “Why” (cont.)

In addition to his commitment as a Foundation volunteer, Jared has made a planned gift commitment of part of his estate to the Foundation.

“The Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation has changed my life. I’m more open to talking about my disease and

have learned more about it. We have the potential to make an impact on people who live with IBD and those who will one day be diagnosed with it. I think everyone has a need to give back—to feel fulfilled. It gives me peace in my life.”

IBD Breakthroughs Supported by Planned Gifts

Since our founding in 1967, the Foundation has played a role in every major breakthrough in IBD research. For example, Foundation-sponsored research has led to discoveries in the role that genetics and the human microbiome play in IBD onset and progression. To enable future breakthroughs, our grants and fellowships nurture and enable researchers at every stage of their careers. Last year, more than \$36 million was directed to 200+ research projects, bringing our total investment in research to date to nearly half a billion dollars.

Some of this research is supported by gifts from wills, trusts, beneficiary designations, and other

planned gifts. David Ligerman is one donor whose assistance directly supported these breakthroughs. A retired accountant from South Florida, David was an IBD patient and wanted to make a commitment through his will to “help us find a cure.” After his death in 2021, David, like many others, allowed us to continue our research efforts and advance our mission.

If you would like to learn more about how you can make a planned gift to support the Foundation’s ongoing research, contact Susan Carriker, Senior Director, National Advancement & Planned Giving at 252-597-5085 or scarriker@crohnscolitisfoundation.org.

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A copy of our most recently filed financial report is available from the Charities Registry on the New York State Attorney General's website (www.charitiesnys.com) or, upon request, by contacting the New York State Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005, or us at 733 Third Avenue, Suite 510, New York, NY 10017-3218. You also may obtain information on charitable organizations from the New York State Office of the Attorney General at www.charitiesnys.com or 212-416-8401.