

Dear Friends of Tommy Detesco:

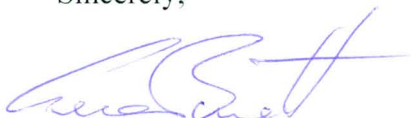
On behalf of the Cleveland Clinic Brain Tumor and Neuro-Oncology Center, I would like to thank you for your interest in the Tommy Detesco Fund for Adolescents and Young Adults. I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Tommy Detesco for the first time in 2001 and served as a member of his treatment team for seven years. During that time I came to know Tommy very well and learned what a truly special individual he was. Despite facing a multitude of difficult treatments, Tommy's attitude was always positive. He never let his condition define who he was or interfere with what he wanted to do. His bravery and love of life were truly an inspiration to us all.

We are honored to be selected by the Detesco Family as the recipient of gifts donated to the Tommy Fund. Focusing support on adolescents and young adults with brain tumors is indeed very important, as they experience higher rates of cancer than young children, often have delayed diagnosis, have the lowest likelihood of participating in clinical trials and their tumors can be more difficult to treat, given their genetic makeup. Combine these disease-related challenges of with the many social challenges of these formative years and one can see the real need for support.

The Tommy Fund will support adolescents and young adults with brain tumors in several ways. First of all, it will provide the resources necessary to test new brain cancer drugs and determine which drugs work best in which particular patients (clinical trials). It will also support laboratory work to gain further knowledge of the underlying molecular, chemical and biological mechanisms behind adolescent brain tumors so new, better treatments can be developed. Finally, the funds will provide social support services to help this unique and traditionally underserved group of cancer patients.

Again, thank you for your interest in this noble cause and for keeping the wonderful legacy of Tommy Detesco alive. We will continue to work with determination each day to improve the lives of adolescents and young adults with brain tumors, as we develop new treatments in search of tomorrow's cure.

Sincerely,



Gene Barnett, M.D.
Professor and Director, Brain Tumor and Neuro-Oncology Center