

WHAT MATTERS TO MEN

# BEST LIFE

**Congratulations** to the winner of the first annual Hero Dad contest...



## Mike McCreesh

Nominated by: Dana McCreesh



The McCreesh Family: (left to right) Kira, Mike, Brent, Madison, wife Dana and family pets Jake and Rockstar

*"A man who will do whatever it takes not just for his own family, but for others as well. It is a dad who will find peace in the midst of adversity... who never takes his eyes off the big picture, his whole family, each day. A man who inspires others to hug their own children and to be glad for what they have." – Mike McCreesh's wife, Dana*

In 2004, Mike and his wife Dana who was pregnant with the couple's third child, received news that their two-year old son Brent was suffering from Neuroblastoma, stage IV, a rare disease that affects 600 children nationwide each year. Immediately, Brent had to endure six rounds of chemotherapy, two stem cell transplants, three weeks of radiation, twelve surgeries, and countless blood transfusions and hospital stays. It was then that Mike McCreesh began the fight of his life-- to save

Brent while continuing to focus on his pregnant wife, his four-year-old daughter Madison, and his demanding career.

During this time, Mike created [TeamBrent](#) to raise awareness and support in the fight against childhood cancer. Mike joined forces with the St. Baldrick's Foundation, an international organization that raises funds by having participants shave their heads in exchange for donations, and the PanMass Challenge, the nation's original fundraising bike-a-thon. To date, Mike and TeamBrent have shaved more than 500 heads, biked hundreds of miles and have raised more than 1.2 million dollars in the fight against childhood cancer.

This summer, TeamBrent will travel 192 miles over the course of two days, throughout 46 Massachusetts towns in an effort to raise more than \$300,000. Most recently, Mike completed the Boston Marathon in less than four hours and raised nearly \$14,000 for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Children's Hospital Boston.

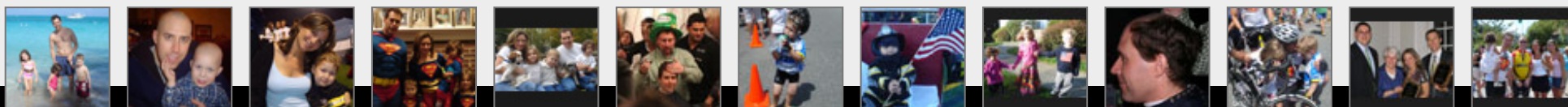
Today, Brent is cancer free after 15 months of treatment.

"I am both honored and humbled to be selected as Best Life's first-ever Hero Dad," says McCreesh. "Our lives changed dramatically when Brent was diagnosed, but at the same time it gave us a certain perspective on life. My only hope is that this honor will further raise awareness and attention for other families going through a similar situation. They are not alone."

Mike is a COO at Goldman Sachs and resides in Southport, Connecticut with his wife Dana and their three children Madison, Brent, and Kira.

Mike's full story will appear in the September issue of Best Life magazine.

WATCH VIDEO



## More Fatherhood Articles on **BESTLIFE**

- [What Is a Father?](#)

Fatherhood isn't a cookie cutter experience, as these four modern-day fathers explain in these inspiring, personal tales.

- [What Is A Father: The Hero Figure](#)

Aaron Mankin, 25, Marine, Purple Heart recipient, father of one.

- [What Is A Father: The Caregiver](#)

John Casey, 43, stay-at-home dad, adoptive father of two, natural father of one

- [What Is A Father: The Mortal Man](#)

J. Allan Hobson, 73, Harvard professor, father of five, ages 11 to 45

## RUNNERS UP



### Cary Levy

Nominated by: Beth Levy

*"A man who is so selfless that he puts his family first and foremost, no matter what the circumstance, as he juggles a variety of responsibilities. It is a dad who is not afraid to be with his newborn baby ALONE out of the house, while holding a pink floral diaper bag!" – Cary Levy's wife, Beth*

Cary Levy's first child Emmie was born lifeless after his wife, Beth, experienced placenta abruption during her delivery. Emmie was immediately admitted into the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and put on life support. The Levy's were thrown into a critical medical situation without the proper tools to clearly understand the NICU process—what it meant for Emmie and for their future. Emmie was released within seven days but the emergency delivery triggered Beth's diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder and post-partum depression. For the next six months, Cary raised Emmie --on his own-- and was instrumental in helping his wife understand and fight her post-partum depression. To ensure that other families never have to face the stress, fear and confusion that they endured, Cary created the Tender Loving Care Foundation ([www.tenderlc.com](http://www.tenderlc.com)). The organization aims to provide families with educational and professional resources to better understand the NICU process.

Cary is a commodities trader and resides in Woodbury, New York with his wife Beth and their two children, Emmie and Ryan.



### Robert Pedersen

Nominated by: Angela Pedersen

*"Endless strength and dedication in a fight that most fathers quit because 'The System' is so brutal. Holding it together emotionally in the toughest moments when his son cries because he doesn't want to leave daddy. Possessing the ability to make his kids laugh and smile in the most difficult situations." – Robert Pedersen's wife, Angela*

Michigan's custody laws give Robert Pedersen just 6-8 days per month with his two children from a previous marriage. Driven by the painful separation from his family, Robert created the website A Child's Right ([www.achildsright.net](http://www.achildsright.net)) -- proactively advocating EQUAL parenting rights by BOTH fit parents. Robert also volunteers his time to numerous children rights' organizations while maintaining a political stance with representatives across the state and at the federal level. This August, Robert will bike 600 miles from Lansing, MI to Washington, D.C. to help raise awareness and generate mass media attention in support of equal parenting rights.

Robert is a pharmaceutical sales representative and resides in Battle Creek, Michigan with his wife, Angela. He has two children, Katlyn and Ethan.

Congratulations to all of the amazing fathers who were nominated:

Rick Crozier  
Jorge Arguello  
Michael Johns  
Ron Erickson  
Troy StClair  
Rob Bronner  
Blake Miller  
Gil Standley  
Brian Carnes  
Tom Williams  
Doug York  
Peter Macera  
Chris Sienkiewicz  
Michael Doyle  
Lance Tracy  
Mike McCreesh  
Robert Harrison  
Tami Bourquin  
Rah'd LeTang  
Brandon White  
Jim Myers  
CHRISTOPHER DOMBROWSKI  
Salvador A. Godinez  
Adam Herrera  
eric sciocluna  
Sherman Cole  
Franklin Sales  
David L. Lewis  
ronald burtsell  
Danny Tucker  
Paul Baffes  
george jakins  
Dean Tong  
Jason Newberry  
Porter Hollywood Jr.  
Ken Stross  
Jeff Oligny  
Dave Martin  
Mike Stephens  
Robert Allen

Monsiue Figueroa  
Carl Simard  
Alex Licon  
Paul Zimmerman  
Lee Huss  
Craig Lobajeski  
Ron Richardson  
Charles Pope, III  
Anthony Munoz  
fred josey  
Christopher Gomez  
Martin Gallegos  
Thomas E. Goodfellow  
Scott Martini  
Elias Martinez  
BRIAN L. KLEIN  
Frank Wenzel  
Shanon Greer  
LARRY CHADWICK  
Donnie Whitehead  
Graham Salemme  
JOS DEES  
Robert Sanders  
Paul LaBeau  
Alex Estes  
Dominique Lewis  
Cory Goleman  
Casey Crews  
Dan Aubuchon  
Keith Knapp  
John Farrell  
Mike Crouse  
Clinton Cooper  
Tim Miller  
Jason Lee Ashcraft  
ELI OLIVAS  
Donny Nordhues  
Jeffrey Grace  
Dominick Russo  
Alan Keystone

William Downer  
Carlos Becerril SR  
Jennifer Newman  
Michael Khalife  
Guadalup Diaz  
Michael Argent  
Steven Cooper  
Gordon Segal  
David Anderson  
John Courts  
John Reid  
Doug Van Dyke  
Gary Roberts  
Larry Hirshon  
Brian Lees  
Shaun Hudson  
Clay Humphries  
Sergio Romo  
Tim Braun  
William Matthers  
jean-christophe  
william burt  
Anthony Francisco  
Chad Cory  
ABRAHAM GARCIA  
Carl Morin  
Bill Farrell  
John Bond  
Donald Polk  
Matt Wagner  
Brad Mauro  
David Hitchcock  
dunbar cornelle  
Paul David Scott  
Jeff Ruffin  
Mario I. Elias  
Ken Johnson  
Grant Edgson  
jamil ford  
Robert Pedersen

James W. Lutz  
ANDY WILSON  
FRED BERMEA JR  
Rick Penney  
Brian Holtzhafer  
Brian Ecker  
Albert Swanson  
Tariq Saleem Ziyad  
Don malone  
Robert Maloney  
Bodie Spangler  
Douglas Colbert  
John F McElligott  
Jack Tabler  
Marcel Miller  
Corey R Davis  
Theodore Harvill  
David L Mitchell  
andre smith  
Danny Levy  
Dennis Rogers  
rob mingus  
Charles Corson  
Steve Messiter  
Peter Robertson  
Kyle Nordfors  
Robert Mingus  
Ron Worth  
Michael Moniz  
David A. Garcia  
Dan Durand  
Cameron Devey  
Tim Blount  
Robert Pedersen  
juan estrada  
Bob Malark  
Robert Pedersen  
John Desrosiers  
William Cody Bateman  
John McGuigan

John McGuigan  
Matt Erskine  
SGT Harold Moody Jr  
Dan Durand  
Gary Bailey  
Wayne  
Abraham Brooks  
Mark London  
Dan Durand  
Johnny Warren  
Greg Zimmerman  
Arthur Samson  
Jeff Hurst  
MichaelScot Evans  
Mike McLaughlin  
darryl riddle  
Billy Bookmyer  
scott evans  
Gregg Picard  
Noel Gardner  
Wesley Woods  
Derrick L. Camack Sr.  
EDWARD M. STANLEY  
Jonathan Rudasill  
Bruce Dutton  
David Jones  
DAVID MATTHEWS  
Ted Robinson  
Rodney Harrell  
James Clapper  
Tim Frost  
Vaughn Mason  
Ray Solone  
Douglas Phillips  
Christopher Williams  
Marcus B. Wolfe  
Scott Graber  
Chris Perdieu  
Anthony Montalvo

Greg Guldner  
Carl Deering  
Ted Price  
Darryl Riddle  
Jim Brown  
Bobby A. Kelly Jr.  
Chris Powell  
Carl Chadwick  
Dave Wingfield  
Jose Teixeira  
Alroy Gibson  
kellie lineberry  
RAMSEY WILLIAMS  
Cary Levy  
Edward M. Keeler  
Andre Brown, Sr  
Royal Mattoon  
John McElligott  
Roger Cervantes  
John Korsedal Jr  
Charles Shoemaker  
Michael Aguirre  
Mark Dye  
David White  
David Howard Browne  
Glenn Moramarco  
William C. McGann  
James Bradley  
Matt Griffin  
Mark Alan Havas  
ELLY SOPHIER  
Christopher Jackson  
CURTIS SLY  
Mervin Gourgues  
Andre Leron Smith  
kelly haux  
Chris Lebresco  
DJ Penrod  
Jim Banks  
Kevin Braswell



No Purchase Necessary to Enter or Win. A purchase will not improve your chances of winning. Void where prohibited. Contest begins April 17, 2007 12:01 am est and ends May 18, 2007 11:59 pm est. Must be at least 18 years of age to enter. Winner will be announced on or around May 25th. [Click here](#) for official rules.

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