

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.

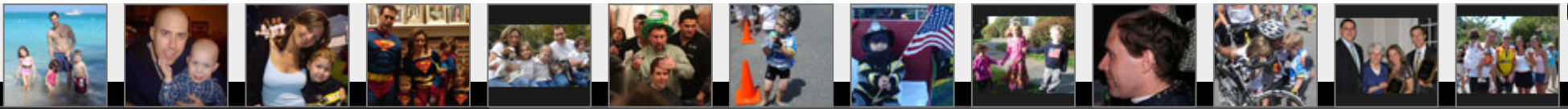
Today, Brent is cancer free after 15 months of treatment.

"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). 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 Penderson

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 Penderson's wife, Angela

Michigan's custody laws give Robert Penderson 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) -- 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	Monsiue Figueroa	William Downer	James W. Lutz	John McGuigan	Greg Guldner
Jorge Arguello	Carl Simard	Carlos Becerill SR	ANDY WILSON	Matt Erskine	Carl Deering
Michael Johns	Alex Licon	Jennifer Newman	FRED BERMEA JR	SGT Harold Moody Jr	Ted Price
Ron Erickson	Paul Zimmerman	Michael Khalife	Rick Penney	Dan Durand	Darryl Riddle
Troy StClair	Lee Huss	Guadalup Diaz	Brian Holtzhafer	Gary Bailey	Jim Brown
Rob Bronner	Craig Lobajeski	Michael Argent	Brian Ecker	Wayne	Bobby A. Kelly Jr.
Blake Miller	Ron Richardson	Steven Cooper	Albert Swanson	Abraham Brooks	Chris Powell
Gil Standley	Charles Pope, III	Gordon Segal	Tariq Saleem Ziyad	Mark London	Carl Chadwick
Brian Carnes	Anthony Munoz	David Anderson	Don malone	Dan Durand	Dave Wingfield
Tom Williams	fred josey	John Courts	Robert Maloney	Johnny Warren	Jose Teixeira
Doug York	Christopher Gomez	John Reid	Bodie Spangler	Greg Zimmerman	Alroy Gibson
Peter Macera	Martin Gallegos	Doug Van Dyke	Douglas Colbert	Arthur Samson	kellie lineberry
Chris Sienkiewicz	Thomas E. Goodfellow	Gary Roberts	John F McElligott	Jeff Hurst	RAMSEY WILLIAMS
Michael Doyle	Scott Martini	Larry Hirshon	Jack Tabler	MichaelScot Evans	Cary Levy
Lance Tracy	Elias Martinez	Brian Lees	Marcel Miller	Mike Mclaughlin	Edward M. Keeler
Mike McCreesh	BRIAN L. KLEIN	Shaun Hudson	Corey R Davis	darryl riddle	Andre Brown, Sr
Robert Harrison	Frank Wenzel	Clay Humphries	Theodore Harvill	Billy Bookmyer	Royal Mattoon
Tami Bourquin	Shanon Greer	Sergio Romo	David L Mitchell	scott evans	John McElligott
Rah'd LeTang	LARRY CHADWICK	Tim Braun	andre smith	Gregg Picard	Roger Cervantes
Brandon White	Donnie Whitehead	William Matthers	Danny Levy	Noel Gardner	John Korsedal Jr
Jim Myers	Graham Salemm	jean-christophe	Dennis Rogers	Wesley Woods	Charles Shoemaker
CHRISTOPHER DOMBROWSKI	JOS DEES	william burt	rob mingus	Derrick L. Camack Sr.	Michael Aguirre
Salvador A. Godinez	Robert Sanders	Anthony Francisco	Charles Corson	EDWARD M. STANLEY	Mark Dye
Adam Herrera	Paul LaBeau	Chad Cory	Steve Messiter	Jonathan Rudasill	David White
eric scicluna	Alex Estes	ABRAHAM GARCIA	Peter Robertson	Bruce Dutton	David Howard Browne
Sherman Cole	Dominique Lewis	Carl Morin	Kyle Nordfors	David Jones	Glenn Moramarco
Franklin Sales	Cory Goleman	Bill Farrell	Robert Mingus	DAVID MATTHEWS	William C. McGann
David L. Lewis	Casey Crews	John Bond	Ron Worth	Ted Robinson	James Bradley
ronald burtsell	Dan Aubuchon	Donald Polk	Michael Moniz	Rodney Harrell	Matt Griffin
Danny Tucker	Keith Knapp	Matt Wagner	David A. Garcia	James Clapper	Mark Alan Havas
Paul Baffes	John Farrell	Brad Mauro	Dan Durand	Tim Frost	ELLY SOPHIER
george jakins	Mike Crouse	David Hitchcock	Cameron Devey	Vaughn Mason	Christopher Jackson
Dean Tong	Clinton Cooper	dunbar cornelle	Tim Blount	Ray Solone	CURTIS SLY
Jason Newberry	Tim Miller	Paul David Scott	Robert Pedersen	Douglas Phillips	Mervin Gourgues

Porter Hollywood Jr.
Ken Stross
Jeff Oligny
Dave Martin
Mike Stephens
Robert Allen

Jason Lee Ashcraft
ELI OLIVAS
Donny Nordhues
Jeffrey Grace
Dominick Russo
Alan Keystone

Jeff Ruffin
Mario I. Elias
Ken Johnson
Grant Edgson
jamil ford
Robert Pedersen

juan estrada
Bob Malark
Robert Pedersen
John Desrosiers
William Cody Bateman
John McGuigan

Christopher Williams
Marcus B. Wolfe
Scott Graber
Chris Perdieu
Anthony Montalvo

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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