



## SARCOMA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

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## OCTOBER 19TH 5K RUN TO BENEFIT SARCOMA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

*Five-year survivor organizes event to raise funds, awareness*

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PLANTATION, FLORIDA (August 19, 2008) – Plantation’s Central Park will be the site of a 5K Run/Walk on October 19 to benefit the Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA). The event is being organized by Mike Mandell, the Florida State Chapter Leader of SFA, whose own battle against angiosarcoma inspired him to help find a cure for this rare and often deadly form of cancer.

Mandell’s story is typical of sarcoma patients. About five years ago, he noticed a red bump at the end of his nose. After treating it with over-the-counter medications for about two weeks with no change, Mandell went to see a dermatologist. That appointment was the first step in a long, challenging road through chemotherapy, surgery and radiation, a battle that ultimately saved his life. Now close to the five-year survival mark, he realizes he’s one of the fortunate ones to have had success in fighting the disease, which led him to step into a leadership role in SFA’s volunteer network.

“In just a few short months, I have already spoken with people around the state who are either fighting the battle against sarcoma, or who have lost a friend or loved one to this deadly disease,” Mandell said. “I realized not only how fortunate I am to have survived, but how important it is to help those who are or will be stricken.”

### **About The Race**

The October 19 SFA 5K race will offer medals for men and women in five age categories, as well as a free Kids’ Fun Run for children under age 5. All participants will receive a t-shirt, giveaway bag and healthy breakfast snacks after the race, and are eligible for a post-race raffle featuring prizes from community merchants. Registration is \$20 in advance at [www.splitsecondtiming.com](http://www.splitsecondtiming.com), and \$25 on the day of the race.

Mandell, a married father of two sons who frequently coaches youth teams, is a strong supporter of community fitness. “Our goal is to bring a wide range of people to our event, both walkers and runners, for a great morning

in support of activity and health,” he said.

## **About Sarcoma**

Sarcoma is a rare cancer that appears in a variety of tissue structures, including nerves, muscles, joints and bone collectively referred to as the body’s connective tissue. Sarcoma arises in a variety of tissue structures, including nerves, muscles, joints, bone, and blood vessels. Most frequently, sarcomas are found in the limbs, where the majority of the body’s connective tissue resides. Tumors are often hidden deep in the body, making it difficult for an early diagnosis. When diagnosed, tumors are frequently too large to provide hope of a cure.

- Sarcoma affects more than 50,000 Americans, with more than 10,000 new cases diagnosed every year.
- Between 15- 20 percent of all childhood cancers are diagnosed as sarcoma.
- Sarcoma is curable in about 15 to 20 percent of all cases by surgery alone.
- Surgery, in combination with chemotherapy and/or radiation, results in a cure rate of some 50 – 55 percent.

Sadly, about half of all sarcomas are totally resistant to any medical approach. The disease receives little attention or funding, as most cancer research dollars are earmarked for study of the most common forms of the disease. Further, there are very few oncologists who focus on researching or treating sarcoma.

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### ***Quick Facts About Sarcoma***

Sarcoma is a rare cancer in adults (1 percent of all adult cancers) but rather prevalent in children (about 20 percent of all childhood cancers). At any one time, 50,000 patients and their families are struggling with sarcoma. Every year, about 10,000 new cases are diagnosed, and about 5,000 people die from sarcoma.

### ***About the Sarcoma Foundation of America***

The Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA), a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit charitable organization, is an advocate for increased research to find new and better therapies with which to treat patients with sarcoma. SFA raises its own funds to provide research grants to sarcoma researchers. SFA also interacts with public, private for-profit, and private non-profit organizations to raise awareness of the treatment needs of sarcoma patients. For more information, please visit [www.curesarcoma.org](http://www.curesarcoma.org).