

2022 Christy Foote Fighter Award

Kadie and Steve Jelenchick

Local power couple Kadie and Steve Jelenchick have been chosen as recipients of the 2022 WBCS Christy Foote Fighter Award. Established in 2014, the award recognizes the tireless efforts of individuals or entities to help defeat breast cancer and prostate cancer through research.

Upon their acceptance of the award, Kadie remarked, "To join the distinguished roster of honorees has great meaning for us. Not necessarily for the personal recognition, but knowing our participation and involvement over the years has benefited the organization in an impactful way for a sustained period of time in the hopes of funding much needed cures."

WBCS, Inc. was founded in 1998. Also, in 1998, Kadie enrolled as a freshman at the University of Rochester. There, she earned a Biomedical Engineering degree, with distinction, in 2002. That same year, Kadie matriculated at the University of Houston Law Center, earning a Doctor of Jurisprudence, cum laude, in 2005. Steve received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1998, earning a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Marquette University in 2001.

The adage "three's a charm" might be invoked for the year 1998's significance for the future intersection of the WBCS mission with Kadie and Steve in the year 2009. That year, Kadie readily agreed to take on the invitation and challenge by WBCS to help establish an event to attract support for its research mission by young professionals.

As a co-founder and organizer of what began as Raise a Glass to Hope, and is now the Showhouse preview gala moniker, Kadie and Steve reached out to their extensive networks to engage wide support. Looking back, the couple said of the inaugural event, "It was a fun and successful evening raising money for such an important Milwaukee-based all-volunteer organization grounded in science and research."

Kadie accepted the invitation by WBCS to join its board in 2010 and served until 2018, including taking on the mantle of board chair from 2012-2015. Kadie also co-chaired significant fundraising events to raise awareness and dollars for research, continuing to co-chair Raise a Glass to Hope until 2012 and the WBCS Tee Up for a Cure golf outing from 2015-2017.

Steve is Kadie's full partner in making their philanthropic support of charitable events a success. As a couple, they continue as significant participants of Tee Up for a Cure. Fittingly, the formal CFFA presentation by WBCS to Kadie and Steve will take place at the outing on Monday, August 29, 2022. A Commercial Litigator in his professional life, and sometimes on the course, Steve is a partner at the law firm of Beck, Chaet, Bamberger & Polsky, S.C., where he has been for 19 years.

Opening their "Castle on Newberry" as the 2013 Showhouse for a Cure is a highlight in the annals of WBCS. Steve was Homeowner Liaison that year, guiding much of the process. Kadie reminisced about how they felt opening their home. "Our experience was extremely positive. It allowed us to amplify our support to the organization and the [MCW] Cancer Center in a more personal and meaningful way. The design review board was faithful to its charge in selecting, agreeing, and stewarding an overall design aesthetic that we incorporated into our Eastside home, which we had just recently purchased and still live in today. The added benefit is the friendships we cemented along the way."

Kadie also reflected on that year's "younger crowd" event, from the perspective of having been its 2009 co-founder and co-chair. "We will always remember the Raise a Glass to Hope party that was thrown on Newberry Boulevard, which was quite a spectacle."



Offering some advice to potential Showhouse hosts, she added, "The volunteers and Showhouse operatives always had our best interests in mind. We encourage anyone considering the possibility of making their home the Showhouse to take that chance. As the marquee event for the organization, it is vital to have a Showhouse to get to the cures."

Kadie's philanthropic bent, as is Steve's, is woven into both her private and professional worlds, as she lends her energy and expertise to philanthropic initiatives. She has received many awards to recognize the importance of her involvement.

Kadie was recruited to Milwaukee's lauded Foley & Lardner LLP, as Associate in 2005, becoming Partner in 2015. She is an integral member and Vice-Chair of the Firm's nationally recognized intellectual property litigation practice. In addition, as part of Firm Governance, since 2014 Kadie has been the Firm's Vice-Chair of the National Pro Bono Committee. She commented, "At the executive level, I have the opportunity to directly impact Firm-wide strategy and attorney pro bono engagement with more than 90% of my colleagues across 24 offices participating in efforts to provide meaningful access to quality legal representation for individuals and organizations with limited means."

Kadie and Steve bring time, talent, treasure, heart, and their extensive networks, not only to WBCS, but to countless personal and professional philanthropic efforts. As a couple, and as individuals, they help make possible that which many might easily deem impossible to achieve. Naysayers, stand aside.

For their countless contributions, WBCS, Inc. applauds Kadie and Steve and acknowledges their sustained generosity to advance the WBCS mission and its ability to invest in the science critical to finding cures. WBCS, Inc. is honored to name Kadie and Steve Jelenchick as the organization's 2022 Christy Foote Fighter Awardees. ~