FDIC News

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Employee Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2021

CFC Face of Change: Stephanie and Blair Lorek Raise Money to Find a Cure for Spastic Paraplegia

By STEPHANIE LOREK
Capital Markets Policy Analyst, RMS

As part of 2021's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), Stephanie Lorek of the Division of Risk Management Supervision (RMS) gives her personal perspective on what the CFC means to her and her daughter and why they feel empowered to "be the face of change." If you would like to bring attention to a CFC cause or charity through a FDICNews story, please email Inam Hyder, OCOM at ihyder@FDIC.gov.

The CFC is important to me because it allows my daughter Blair and I to raise money for the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation (SPF) (CFC #12554). SPF is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funds in the search to cure two rare diseases, Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia and Primary Lateral Sclerosis (HSP and PLS, respectively).

HSP and PLS are neurological disorders that affect what medical professionals call our "voluntary muscles" – the ones we consciously move for acts like grabbing, holding, moving, and walking. The primary indication is difficulty in walking due to muscle weakness and tightness in the legs. Since these disorders are progressive, degeneration occurs over time and the severity of the symptoms tends to worsen. People with either of these disorders can lose function of their upper and lower bodies and even their ability to speak.

My daughter Blair suffers from HSP. At only three-and-a-half years of age, she cannot stand or walk independently. She may never walk unassisted, and even if at some point in the future her muscles are able to support her, the ability to walk may be lost by then. A cure is becoming more possible each day and we are at a crucial turning point for genetic research. Since Blair is so young, there is a chance that a cure or treatment could be developed in her lifetime.

It's also possible that advances made studying these diseases could be applied to cure or treat other genetic diseases.

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The SPF is an entirely volunteer organization and 95% of funds go directly to research. Since both HSP and PLS are rare disorders, they do not receive much attention or funding from the medical research community. This is why donating to SPF through the CFC is so important to us.

Stephanie Lorek's CFC charity is the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation (CFC #12554).

Blair Lorek, Daughter of Stephanie Lorek, Capital Markets, Policy Analyst, RMS

CFC Face of Change: Cassandra Ashe Donates Time and Money in the Fight against Breast Cancer

By Cassandra Ashe
Digital Information Specialist, OCOM

As part of 2021's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), Cassandra Ashe of our Office of Communications (OCOM) gives her personal perspective on what the CFC means to her and why she feels empowered to "be the face of change":

I contributed to the CFC for more than 20 years. My parents raised me to help those struggling or who are less fortunate than myself and the CFC makes me feel like I am making a difference in the lives of others. While my tenure as a federal employee extends almost two decades, in the last 13 years my CFC donations have become much more personal. In those years, I lost three lifelong girlfriends to breast cancer. It came upon them suddenly and I never imagined that the last conversation I had with each of them would be my last one. I must admit that losing these three ladies at such a young age (all under 50 years of age) took a substantial emotional toll on me. However, it also made me a more aware and informed person, empowered as an advocate against this deadly disease. I make my CFC donations of time and money to help others, particularly the organizations working to advance the fight against breast cancer.

I want to highlight the important work the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation (CFC #10615) and the Breast Cancer African American, Sisters Network (CFC #10756) have done in the fight against breast cancer. While I have made reoccurring donations to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation in the last ten years, I recently learned of the Breast Cancer African American, Sisters Network and started donating to them this year. Their specific mission is to increase local and national attention to the devastating impact that breast cancer has in the African American community.

In previous years, I did the Susan G. Komen 3-Day Breast Cancer Walk, walking 33 miles with hundreds of other

Cassandra Ashe, Digital Information Specialist, OCOM

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participants. The entire experience was life-changing. I met so many wonderful people throughout the walk, talked with survivors whose stories left me with both happy and sad tears along the way. We all walked, laughed, cried, and slept at the campsite overnight in tents. The entire event was worth every ache, blister, and pain I endured. The catharsis helped me in my own way to honor the memories of my dear friends who lost their battle to breast cancer.

While I haven't "walked" at an event in the last few years, I continue to sign up as a volunteer and will continue to use the CFC and my own indefatigable will in the fight against breast cancer.

Cassandra Ashe's CFC charities are the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation (CFC #10615) and the Breast Cancer African American, Sisters Network (CFC #10756).

MOVING ON

Name: Pamela Nelson

Most recent position: Counsel

Division: Legal Division (Labor Employment Administrative Section)

Location: Headquarters - VA Square

When and where joined the FDIC: I joined the FDIC in 1985 as a paralegal in the Bankruptcy Unit, and soon after transitioned to the Professional Liability Section. During my time as a paralegal, in 1987, I attended George Mason School of Law while continuing to work full-time and raising two boys, while my military spouse was stationed in Germany. My first office was in the New York Avenue building where we had a connecting ramp to the 550 Building.

After receiving my J.D degree in 1991, I became an FDIC attorney in 1992 in the Corporate Affairs Section (CAS) and have spent my entire attorney career doing the work I love to do - litigating cases before Administrative Judges and in several district courts, and details in other parts of the Agency.

Career Highlights:

Garnishments:

In my early years in CAS, one of my many responsibilities was processing garnishments, including bankruptcy, child support and alimony payments, and the collection of delinquent taxes (for the IRS) for the entire Corporation. After the Division of Administration was decentralized, I designed training for the CAS paralegals and transitioned the processing of the garnishment matters to the CAS paralegal in the Regions while I continued to handle the Headquarters' garnishment matters.

Oversight Manager:

In February 1996, Chairman Helfer directed the General Counsel to have CAS assist the Office of Equal Opportunity (now OMWI) in analyzing and eliminating the backlog of more than 300 discrimination cases. I was selected to be the first Oversight Manager to manage these cases which included "conflict cases" i.e. cases filed directly against the OEO - and I continued in this role for several year to 2005. I successfully managed and disposed of many of these cases through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of Controller of the Currency (OCC). This was a rewarding leadership and managerial role for me, hiring counselors and investigators, monitoring and paying the contractors, processing the discrimination complaints, and representing the Legal Division at the Chairman's Operating Committee meetings.

Detail to Community Affairs:

In 2005, I began a detail to the business side of the Agency to the Community Affairs Section and assisted with the marketing and launch of the "Direct Deposit" initiative collaboratively with the Department of Treasury – an initiative to encourage people getting government benefits to have their checks deposited directly to a bank account instead of receiving a paper check. This was soon after Hurricane Katrina and many people had not received their paper Social Security checks and other benefits because they did not have bank accounts. During this detail, I also assisted with the successful launch of "Moneywise in the Military" to support military families with financial education, in partnership with a media personality and a PBS broadcasting station, and in conjunction with this effort, led a team in organizing a national conference of 100+ military banks to emphasize offering short term loan products to military personnel. In this detail I also organized Money Smart training events and taught financial literacy.

Pamela Nelson

Law Clerks Program:

Another very rewarding experience was managing the Summer Law Clerks program for several years, reviewing numerous applications, and recommending selections. It is still exciting to see law clerks I selected that are now managers at the Agency.

Retirement Date: September 30, 2021

Plans for retirement: Relax and enjoy the fruits of my labor. I also sit on the board of a few nonprofit organizations and will spend more time assisting them.

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Comments and thoughts: I have worked alongside some of the best colleagues at the FDIC, especially in LEAS, and will miss the camaraderie. This is an exciting time to be an employee of the Agency and I know I leave it in good hands.

Name: Christine Griffin

Most recent position: Senior Administrative Specialist

Division: Legal Division

Location: Headquarters (Washington, D.C.)

When and where joined the FDIC: I joined the FDIC on August 17, 1986, as an Administrative Assistant in the Administration Unit of the Legal Division.

Other experience: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation - October 3, 1982 to August 16, 1986.

Career Highlights: Getting the opportunity to work in the Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations from 12/15/2002 – 2/2/2008 as an Office Staff Assistant where I worked with a great staff of Special Agents on investigation matters and worked on the OIG Hotline responding to allegations of suspected fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement.

Retirement Date: November 30, 2021

Plans for retirement:

- Live each day like it's the last day of my life.
- Hang out with my family.
- Find a body of water where I can stick my feet in the sand, soak up the sunlight and enjoy the peacefulness of the beach as often as possible.
- Wait patiently for the hubby to retire so that we can travel to all of the NFL football stadiums and watch games of each of the 32 NFL football teams.

Comments and thoughts: It's been a long, but good, ride. I have enjoyed my time here at the FDIC and have met some amazing people, most who I can call friends.

Christine Griffin

Name: Jerry Lopez

Most recent position: Senior Financial Management Analyst

Division: Division of Resolutions and Receiverships, Business Operations Support (BOS) – Financial Processing

Location: Dallas, TX

When and where joined the FDIC: I joined the FDIC on November 28, 1983 after the failure of the First National Bank of Midland.

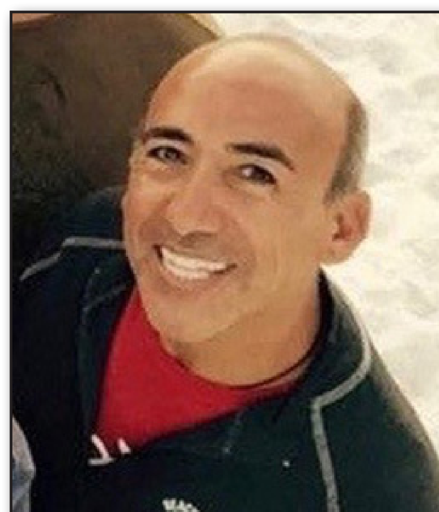
Career Highlights: Within one week of starting in the Midland, Texas office, my supervisor was let go, so I immediately became the Team Lead. This eventually led to becoming the Unit Chief of System Control and Verification. For the first 12.5 years of my tenure as a Liquidation Grade (LG), I assisted in starting up the San Antonio and Hartford consolidated offices working on accounting and conversion functions. I also completed a one-year stint with Internal Review. After that, I moved to Dallas in 1996 for a permanent position, becoming instrumental in the startup of the Dallas consolidation field office and have lived in Dallas ever since.

I was influential on the 4C creation and performed service at bank closings from 2007-2010. I was also part of a team of five that ran Market Street Mortgage in Clearwater Beach, Florida. I ended up being the last to leave after 12 months.

Retirement Date: November 20, 2021

Plans for retirement: Travel, volunteer (feeding the homeless with Taste of Hope, keeping up the gardens as part of the Friends of Kiest Park, to name a few activities), sleep in, and spend more time in my flower garden and yard. I also plan on many road trips to see family and friends and to cross some things off my bucket list – taking up golf, having piano lessons. I see lots of planes, trains, and automobiles in my future!

Comments and thoughts: I leave with tons of experiences, memories, and lots of stories! I will dearly miss my FDIC family. Many times, we were thrown together through closings, moves, projects, and other significant events and tasks. As for advice, I say never



Jerry Lopez

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regret a day in your life – good days give happiness, bad days give experience, worst days give lessons, and the best days give memories! I greatly appreciated all of my mentors and peers that helped create the person I am today. Thank you for a wonderful nearly 38 years!

Name: Linda Abood

Most recent position: Chief, Business Intelligence Services Section (BISS)

Division: CIOO

Location: Headquarters (VASQ)

When and where joined the FDIC: I joined the Resolution Trust Corporation in March 1991. I had been working as an IT consultant and my boss was leaving to join the RTC. I asked, what's RTC? When the RTC sunset, I moved to the FDIC.

Other experience: I only had one job after college before joining the RTC/FDIC. After I graduated from the University of Maryland in 1986 with a degree in finance and economics, I joined an IT consulting firm as I had a job on campus as a student COBOL programmer. I finished my MBA (also from Maryland) and got married in 1990 and then joined the RTC in 1991. My whole career in information technology was not planned, but it worked out okay!

Career Highlights:

- Had the chance to provide IT services and applications to multiple business divisions and offices; some of the applications I worked on are still in operation!
- Developing and delivering the first iterations of FDIC's Electronic Deposit Insurance Estimator (EDIE) and FDICconnect
- Received FDIC Chairman's Excellence Team Award (FDICconnect) in 2003
- Became a member of the Workplace Excellence Council
- Stood up the CIOO's Security and Enterprise Architecture Technical Advisory Board (SEATAB) that governs enterprise architecture and is responsible for establishing and approving technical standards and guidance
- Worked on the most recent CIOO reorganization effort, assisting with change management
- Served as a master of ceremonies and host for multiple All Hands Meetings and holiday celebrations, delivering presentations and somewhat infamous Top Ten Lists

Retirement Date: October 29, 2021

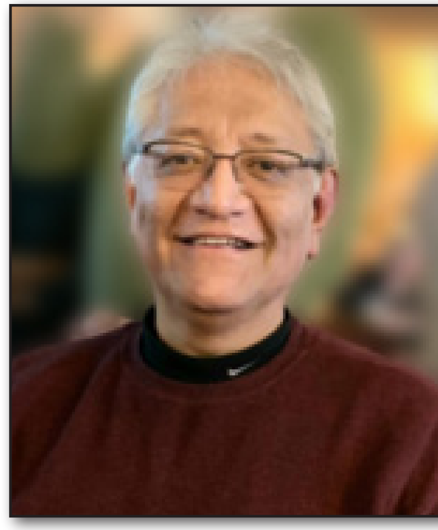
Plans for retirement:

I love to read and have multiple books lining my home library shelves waiting for me. I am a devoted Maryland Terps fan and season ticket holder for football and basketball. My husband Frank and I hope there is travel to another championship in our future. I plan on continuing volunteer work. There are multiple possibilities out there!

Linda Abood

Comments and thoughts: I met and worked with so many smart and talented people over my 30 years with RTC/FDIC. The famous Peter Drucker quote - "Culture eats strategy for breakfast" – resonated with me. I always tried to keep culture at the forefront and worked to make the FDIC and CIOO a more collaborative organization. People matter – managers need to keep that in mind and make the workplace enjoyable while delivering on the FDIC's mission. Last but not least, "fear the turtle!"

Santiago L. Granja
Former Senior Review Examiner
Division of Risk Management Supervision - Headquarters (Washington, D.C.)



Santiago "Santi" Granja was a loving son, brother, husband, father, and friend.

Born in Quito, Ecuador to Emma Lucrecia Perez Granja and Jose Eduardo Granja on January 30, 1960.

When Santi was just a toddler, his mother went to America to make a better life for her children. Catalina, "Cati", as the older sister, became his acting mommy, learning how to deal with the stubbornness that he showed even back then. Later, she was his protector as they emigrated to St. Louis, Missouri without knowing the language or understanding the customs. With her support, the reunion with both his parents, and the love of the cherished Sanchez family, Santi was able to flourish into the well-educated, water polo playing man that he became, although he continued to secretly rely on Cati as his emotional anchor.

He graduated from University City High School in 1977 and continued his education, with a bachelors in History from Drake University and went on to receive his MBA at Georgia Southern. Santi joined the FDIC in 1988, and after a few years earned his commission as a Bank Examiner. He left the FDIC in 1994 to work in the private banking sector but returned in 2006 and eventually became the Senior Risk Examiner in the South Florida office. Santi continued with his education and earned a Leadership Certificate from the Wharton School of Business and completed the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at the University of Pennsylvania in 2017. Santiago achieved his goal of becoming a Grade 15 Examiner in July 2021 when he was promoted to Senior Review Examiner in the Risk Management and Applications Section in the FDIC's Washington office.

Santi married Marta de Quesada on September 11, 1999 and joined the existing family of Alexandra "Ali" and Stanley "Cito" Szybinski. Emily Maria was born on January 17, 2001 and Natalie Maria followed 3 years later on January 20, 2004. As families sometimes do, Marta and Santi parted after 10 years, but both continue to be good friends and very supportive of all the children.

Santi and Trish met playing water polo in 1998. There was a close friendship with the entire team that continues today. Santi and Trish met up again in 2009 while each was going through difficult times in their lives. Their previous friendship slowly evolved and they married on August 11, 2012, expanding the family to include Kayla and Joseph Sylvester.

Santi's love for all his children, biological and by marriage, has been the main focus of his life. His love and his support have carried each and every one of them though the many phases of their lives. In return, all the children carry his love and the values he has instilled on them, most importantly the love of family and the value of education.

Santiago's FDIC colleagues in RMS had much to say about his life and work:

Rae-Ann Miller, Senior Deputy Director, RMS, writes "I am so sorry for your loss. Santiago was a great examiner and we were thrilled to have him join us in DC. He will be missed."

Fu-Jan Huang, Examination Specialist, RMS, writes "My deepest condolences for your family's loss. I previously worked with Santiago in Miami. While I haven't seen him in a few year, I can always recall his positive energy that lightened the day. He was helpful in my professional development and I appreciated his guidance over the years. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers."

Patricia "Patti" Colohan, Associate Director, Risk Management Examinations Branch, writes "I am deeply sorry for your loss. Santiago just started working with us in Washington but we will miss him very much. You are in my thoughts and prayers."

Natalia Olivier, Review Examiner, RMS, writes "My condolences to Santiago's family and friends. I just met Santi (virtually) through work, but had a chance to chat with him at length a couple of times, and I could tell that he was just a really nice and genuine person. The pictures posted are beautiful, and thank you for sharing those. He will be greatly missed by his FDIC family as well."

Deona Payne, Assistant Regional Director, RMS, writes "I met Santiago after I transferred to the Hollywood Field Office. He was always so welcoming and fun to be around. He was an exceptionally skilled and serious examiner, but also knew when we all needed a good laugh. You will be missed my friend. To a life well lived!"

David Petty, Examiner, RMS, writes "I've known Santiago on and off for over 30 years. I met him on day one of our careers with the FDIC at orientation. He was a devoted employee and a good friend. Very smart, witty, courteous, and fair minded. Although, I didn't see him often over the years, he was always friendly and interested in me when we met again. Condolences to his family. He will surely be missed by many."

Georgette Counts (Retired) writes "Trish, Natalie, Emily - you have my deepest sympathy on the devastating loss of Santiago. He talked with me often, in the field office, always speaking of his love for each of you and his heartfelt love for Catalina. He was always showing me pictures of your trips. Natalie & Emily, your dad loved you dearly. He lives in you and his presence will always be with you. Santiago always had the sweetest smile on his face talking about how proud he was of his children. The last time I saw Santi was when I ran into him, Trish & Natalie in

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Lucky's Market. Our conversation was brief; I wish I would have made that conversation last longer. You all will remain in my prayers. Please read Deuteronomy 5:16."

Bill Ferrero (Retired) writes "My condolences to Santiago's family and friends. I laughed to myself reading of his stubbornness in his obituary. It took me back to the occasions when I would walk over to his "cube" with the intent of getting a report he was finalizing. After some small talk, usually about music, I would offer a completion date. More often than not, he would look at me over the top of his glasses, give me a mischievous grin and tell me that good things take time. At that moment I knew we would get the report when he was ready to hand over his report, and I would retreat to my desk. Santiago was a great colleague. He had strong technical skills, asked the hard questions at difficult meetings and made me laugh. Oh yeah, he drove me a little crazy too. I will miss him. May his memory be a blessing. Rest In Peace Santiago."