

# The Dallas Morning News

## Arts & Life

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### INSPIRING PEOPLE

#### MICHAEL KAHN

Founder of "The Cary Council"

Supporting Southwestern Medical Foundation & UT Southwestern



Michael Kahn could never have dreamed that his mother's valiant, three-year battle against brain cancer would move him to found a group of young Dallas leaders.

But it did.

"I was so grateful – as was my mother – for the exquisite care she received from the UT Southwestern doctors," said Michael. "I wanted to do all that I could to spread the word about this world-class medical center."

And so the idea of The Cary Council was born. Since helping to found The Cary Council in 2015 – and, amazingly, during his mother's illness – Michael has been uniting the next generation of civic leaders who want to have a positive impact on health care in the community. The name of The Cary Council honors Dr. Edward H. Cary (1872-1953), who helped to found Southwestern Medical Foundation and Southwestern Medical College – known today as UT Southwestern.

"The Cary Council is made up of smart, creative thinkers who care," Michael says. "Our goal is to advance the cause of academic medicine, research, and clinical care that will benefit future patients and their families." One way, he says, is to help UT Southwestern attract and retain the world's best doctors and scientists, continuing a history that already includes six Nobel Prize winners.

Substantive events bring this group of young ambassadors together regularly. This fall, The Cary Council hosted a "Learning from Leaders" discussion that focused on the leading research and advances in the care and treatment of the brain being made at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Michael, however, learned essentials from a leader much closer to home – his mother.

"My Mom led by example, living a life of meaning and purpose – celebrating small victories and deeply appreciating the preciousness of each moment. She understood that the most important qualities are ones you cannot measure and quantify with statistics – qualities like faith, love, and especially hope," said Michael. Her hope was rewarded. Months before Beth Kahn passed away in January at age 60, she embraced her first grandchild, William, the son of Michael and his wife, Alex.

"I'm so thankful to the doctors at UT Southwestern," said Michael, "for making that meeting possible."

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