

Member Spotlight:

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Tom Carleton

Executive Director



Tell me a little about your agency, yourself, your career, and your current position.



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The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society exists to cure leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma & Hodgkin's Disease and improve the quality of life of our patients and their families. We work to assure patients have access to quality affordable care while funding cutting edge research. We offer support services to patients and their families and advocate on their behalf. Over the last five years, LLS helped advance 75% of the almost 100 FDA-approved blood cancer treatment options.

As LLS staff, we know all too well how pediatric blood cancer affects the lives of young patients and their families. Treatments are harsh and outdated, and the long-term effects of current therapies can create severe life-threatening complications, which is why LLS is investing over \$100 million over the next 5 years in pediatric blood cancer care and research. The project is called the Children's Initiative.

My career began in foodservice. I was very fortunate in 2006 to be able to choose something that I wanted to do VS having to do. I started as our Light the Night Director, was promoted to Special Events Director, left the organization for 6 months and returned as the Sr. Manager of Man & Woman of the Year. 6 years ago I earn the Executive Director role. I love the work this organization is doing! Our current territory encompasses Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus and the state of Kentucky.

Personally, I love my University of Cincinnati! It is the place life delivered everything that I enjoy today! My friends, my wife, my education and preparation for life. I owe everything I have in this happy life to my best friend and wife, Chris. We love to hike, travel and walk our dogs Enzo and Logan. Spending time with our friends is always at the top of our list. I am also an avid cyclist.

How long have you been a LC member and what prompted you to join?

I have been an LC member for 1 year. I felt like having a support system of colleagues that face the same challenges would be extremely valuable. It has absolutely worked out that way. LC also does a great of presenting development and educational opportunities. We are all in this together even though our organizations have different focuses.

How has membership in Leadership Council been of value to you?

My Leaders Circle team that meets monthly is great! Leadership can have moments of isolation. It is great to have colleagues that share in that experience. Those conversations are invaluable.

What is the best leadership advice you have received or given?

If you build a team that cares deeply for one another, debates respectfully and professionally, collaborates post debate and trusts one another even when it seems risky, you will be successful. Full disclosure. Trusting when it seems risky is a core value for my wife's company. I try to recreate the wheel!

Has your agency developed any notable partnerships, initiatives, and/or collaborations with other organizations (for profit or not for profit) to further your agencies work?

Too many to name! We work with all of the patient service based local organizations. We believe if there is an expert, let's partner with them in the name of the patient. Cancer Support Community, Cancer Family Care and all

of our healthcare partners to name a few.

Please feel free to share any additional information, announcements, or news with the Leadership Council community.

If anyone has a connection to our organization or is passionate about being on the frontline of curing cancer with an organization that is tackling the toughest research projects and patient issues, please reach out to me. Our volunteers and volunteer leadership are extremely important to the success of our organization.