



milesformeso

PRESENTED BY



SIMMONS HANLY CONROY
A NATIONAL LAW FIRM

GOING THE DISTANCE FOR PATIENTS & FAMILIES





Simmons Hanly Conroy clients Julie and Mary Jane celebrate finishing in the top three places of their Age Groups in the 2011 Alton Miles for Meso 5K Race. Julie, of St. Louis, and Mary Jane, of Ohio, were diagnosed with peritoneal mesothelioma.

As of 2018, Julie and Mary Jane were both 12+ year survivors. Mary Jane recently passed away, but not from mesothelioma.

Going the Distance

The first Miles for Meso race took place in 2009 thirty minutes outside of St. Louis in Alton, Illinois. Simmons Hanly Conroy Chairman John Simmons organized the event as a way to give back to his clients and their families who were fighting mesothelioma. During the raceday ceremony, St. Louis resident and mesothelioma survivor Julie Gundlach shared her survival story with attendees. She'd been diagnosed with mesothelioma and given six to 12 months to live.

“There is nothing so devastating as to be told to put your affairs in order,” Julie, a then 38-year-old mother, told the crowd of 300 runners and walkers. “Yet, three years later, I am still here.”

Twelve Years Running in 2020

For the past twelve Miles for Meso races, Julie has stood on the stage and shared her story, inspiring attendees before their run with her courage and fighting spirit.

“Miles for Meso means that somebody has my back,” she said. “And somebody is amplifying my voice against the use of asbestos and the industry of corporate greed.”

Running Nationwide

This year, the Alton race returns as a virtual race. In addition, other Miles for Meso races are happening in Washington and Ohio to raise funds for a cure and awareness of asbestos.

Every year, 40,000 Americans die from asbestos-related diseases – many of them from mesothelioma. Asbestos exposure could have been prevented. Companies knew about the dangers as early as the 1930s but used the deadly carcinogen anyway.

Miles for Meso, nationally presented by Simmons Hanly Conroy, is dedicated to amplifying the voices of people whose lives have been devastated by this disease. When you register for a Miles for Meso race, you are becoming part of something bigger. You're telling mesothelioma patients like Julie and the families who've lost loved ones to mesothelioma that they are not alone.

Thank you for joining Julie. Thank you for going the distance.

Join the fight at www.milesformeso.org.



Taking the Fight to the Streets

Miles for Meso is a family-friendly race and fun run/walk designed to raise awareness and financial support for mesothelioma, a rare cancer caused by asbestos exposure. The first race took place in 2009 as a way to celebrate National Mesothelioma Awareness Day on Sept. 26.

Miles for Meso has grown exponentially in the last decade. Initially started by Simmons Hanly Conroy, a national mesothelioma firm, as a way to give back to its clients, Miles for Meso quickly spread. Races have taken place from Virginia to Washington state to Florida, Ohio, Texas and Pennsylvania and many places in between.

Through Simmons Hanly Conroy's support as the national presenting sponsor, Miles for Meso races have cumulatively donated more than \$750,000 to mesothelioma research and awareness. Organizations that have received funds are the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation, the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization, and PENN Medicine's Mesothelioma Program.



"Miles for Meso means hope. It means hope that at some point all the fundraising and all the awareness is going to result in effective treatments of the disease and hopefully someday a cure."

~Joyce Larson, wife of mesothelioma victim
Simmons Hanly Conroy client

Bringing Communities Together Nationwide.

Miles for Meso provides a way for communities to support patients and families who've been devastated by asbestos-related diseases like mesothelioma and show they are not alone in their fight.

Since 2009, races have taken place in 11 states across the country and raised more than \$750,000 for research and awareness. Below are a few notable races.



The Alton Miles for Meso 5K Race & 3K Fun Run/Walk

Alton, Illinois | 2009 to present | Organized by Simmons Hanly Conroy

The flagship race takes place in September at the national headquarters of Simmons Hanly Conroy. Race day festivities include a vendor fair, children's activities, cash prizes to the top finishers and age group prizes. This race has raised \$330,000 over the years and has benefited either the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization or the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation.



The Wishing Well Miles for Meso 8K

Boca Raton, Florida | 2010 – 2012 | Organized by Meso Warrior Larry Davis

Larry Davis was a life-long runner who was diagnosed with mesothelioma. His dedication to organizing the Wishing Well Miles for Meso 8K race in his home town of Boca Raton, Florida has made a lasting impact on the Miles for Meso community. Larry passed away in 2012, but not before raising more than \$100,000 through his Miles for Meso race for the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation.



Bruce A. Waite Miles for Meso 5K Run/Walk

Ontario, Ohio | 2011 – present | Organized by Jill and Nancy Waite

The Bruce A. Waite Miles for Meso race honors the life and legacy of Bruce A. Waite, a teacher at Mansfield Senior and avid runner for more than 30 years. Bruce was diagnosed with mesothelioma in 2002 and died in 2003. His daughter Jill and wife Nancy have organized the Ohio race to benefit the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation since 2011. To date, it's raised more than \$93,000.



The Miles for Meso WA Memorial 5K Run/Walk

Federal Way, Washington | 2011 – present | Organized by Diana Stewart, Patricia Dyhrman and Pat Hatley and the Federal Way Community Center

The WA Memorial 5K Miles for Meso race was started by three wives, Patricia Dyhrman, Pat Hatley and Diana Stewart, who lost their husbands, Dick, Bud and Bob, to mesothelioma. The men were well-known in the Federal Way community for volunteering their time to local youth. Their wives, in partnership with the city's community center, decided hosting a race would be the best way to honor their memory. To date, they have raised more than \$136,560 for the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation.



The John Cunningham Miles for Meso 5K

Doylestown, Pennsylvania | 2017- 2018 | Organized by Joan Cunningham

Joan and John Cunningham first met while running a 5K. Decades later, after John passed away from mesothelioma, Joan decided to host a Miles for Meso race as a way to keep their love, which started on a racetrack, alive. Her race benefits mesothelioma research at Penn Medicine's Mesothelioma Translational Center of Excellence and has raised more than \$20,000.



“Why would a law firm want to donate money to a research program and eventually find a cure for a disease that they litigate? I think it just speaks that they go beyond that. They believe in the human spirit.”

~**Mary Hesdorffer**, Acting Executive Director of the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation

Committed to a Cure

Chairman John Simmons started Simmons Hanly Conroy in 1999 because he believed he could provide a higher level of legal help to asbestos victims by combining legal expertise with service-minded values.

Today, led by a management team who shares those values, the firm has become a national leader in the courtroom and a top supporter of the mesothelioma community and the medical institutions working toward a cure.

It is our hope that someday Simmons Hanly Conroy won't have any more clients diagnosed with mesothelioma and that this rare, preventable disease will become a thing of the past.

Until then, we will continue to partner with treatment specialists, research institutions and advocates on behalf of our clients to fight against this devastating cancer.

We fulfill this promise as the national presenting sponsor of Miles for Meso, as the longest consecutive supporter of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization, and as one of the largest cumulative donors to the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation.

To date, the firm has donated more than \$20 million and counting to cancer research, including a \$10.2 million pledge to help build the Simmons Cancer Institute at Southern Illinois University.





Giving Victims a Voice

Victims of mesothelioma and asbestos exposure deserve a voice in the American legal system. The firm's experienced attorneys and dedicated staff of more than 250 professionals have helped thousands of people injured by corporate wrongdoing enforce their legal rights.

As a nationwide law firm that represents people on a contingency basis, we are able to help asbestos victims during the most difficult time of their lives at no cost to them. There is no cost to file a lawsuit, and we only get paid if we get results.

We employ more than 60 attorneys who only represent mesothelioma and asbestos-related cases. Their focused practices give them an in-depth understanding of the complex issues surrounding our clients' cases. No matter who you are, we will give you the respect and personal consideration you deserve.

We are passionate about improving the lives of people harmed by mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases and their families. We will fight for you in the courtroom and support the search for a cure and a national asbestos ban.

This is our mission. This is our common cause.



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U.S. Steel settles \$250 million asbestos verdict



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Learn more at www.simmonsfirm.com/about-us/giving-back

“While asbestos-related diseases continue to take the lives of 10,000 Americans each year, the time is now to increase efforts in education, research and care.”

— **John Simmons**

Chairman Simmons Hanly Conroy
National Presenting Sponsor of Miles for Meso races

Learn more: 1-866-468-8631

Nationwide with offices in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, St. Louis and Alton.