Underdog Foundation (a non-profit organization EIN 92-36900079)

1614 Lombardy Circle

Charlotte, NC 28203

December 22, 2023

Dear Friends,

**WE ARE LAUNCHING THE UNDERDOG FOUNDATION TO CARRY ON LIZ BRANCA’S WORK!**

I once heard someone say that Liz didn’t have any friends because everyone she met was her *best friend*. She loved being with kind people, had no tolerance for discrimination of any kind, and had a passion for helping anyone who needed a leg up – *THE UNDERDOG*. She often said, *love isn’t pie…there is plenty for everyone*.

Over the years she took countless people under her large, loving wing. It was just who she was and what she did. It wasn’t necessarily part of her plan, but many of them were struggling to find their way with mental health issues, pursuing a passion for the arts, or dealing with being true to their own identity. Our home became a safe place for many struggling people, and our annual beach trip became a refuge for a few (or sometimes many) young people who needed to be part of a loving family, for even just a week.

Liz’s important work was cut short after a short but fierce battle with cancer in 2022. We feel the impact of her loss every single day. Among those who feel it the most though are the underdogs she supported with love, kindness, understanding, listening, and in many cases financial resources.

In 2023, Liz’s family and friends launched the Underdog Foundation (<underdogejb.org>) as a way to carry forward her legacy and her important work in *mental health, the arts, and LGBTQ+ advocacy*. Maddie and Andrew inherited Liz’s best qualities and are on the front line of carrying on her legacy. She was so proud of how they care for others*. Our motto is BE HAPPY. BE KIND. BE YOU.*

**YOU HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY!**

I am a terrible fundraiser. I don’t like asking people for anything. But Liz would expect all of us to put ourselves in uncomfortable situations when it’s the right thing to do for others. So, here goes… our initial fund-raising goal is $100,000 - bold, ambitious, and unapologetic just like Liz.

The good news is that we’ve raised more than $25,000 toward the goal already thanks in part to Liz’s brothers Tim and Mark. Please join us with a generous donation. Gifts of any size are needed and welcome. We want everyone to have the chance to carry on Liz’s legacy.

*Liz’s Army* – donations of $1 - $1,000 (recurring monthly payments are a great option!)

*Founder* – donations of $15,000+ (one time or multi-year commitment)

*Lead Dog* – donations of $10,000 - $14,999 (one time or multi-year commitment)

*Underdog Champion* – donations of $5,000 – $9,999 (one time or multi-year commitment)

*Friend of Maddie and Andrew* – donations of $1,000 - $4,9999

**HOW TO GIVE**

* Underdogejb.org
* Check mailed to: Underdog Foundation, 1614 Lombardy Circle, Charlotte, NC 28203 (make check payable to Underdog Foundation)
* United Way designation
* Employer matching gift program
* EIN 92-36900079

Our job is to carry forward Liz’s important work. The Underdog Foundation Board’s commitment to you is that we will use the dollars raised to support those organization that are having the biggest impact on the causes Liz cared most about.

BE HAPPY. BE KIND. BE YOU.

Michael Branca

Michael Branca

Underdog Foundation President