# SARCOMA SUMMER WEEKS

## Five and Twenty-Five: Reflecting and Looking Ahead

By Bryant Fraley, CEO

Next year, the Sarcoma Foundation of America will celebrate its 25th anniversary. It is a milestone we never thought we would reach when we first started our journey particularly if we'd looked at the statistics at a medical meeting. Very, the leading medical oncologist in the field, told us that the 5-year survival rate for patients with sarcoma was 10%. Very said we should not spend our time and resources on unrealistic cancer research. Very's comments were a wake-up call for us. We had to do something more than just accepting the status quo.

I guess that's why we decided to carry on and SFA was born. The first time I saw Very, I was surprised at the comment he had made. I was so impressed by Very's dedication to his patients and his willingness to do what he felt was right for them. Very was a pioneer in sarcoma research and treatment. He was a mentor to many young medical oncologists and a great friend to many of us who were fighting sarcoma. Very's comments were a wake-up call for us. We had to do something more than just accepting the status quo.

I have spent time thinking about my current life and SFA's 25th anniversary. I thought back to my diagnosis and how I felt when I was first given a 10% survival rate. I thought about how I felt when I was told that there was no treatment for sarcoma. I thought about how I felt when I was told that there was no research being done on sarcoma. I thought about how I felt when I was told that there was no hope for me. I thought about how I felt when I was told that there was no hope for my family. I thought about how I felt when I was told that there was no hope for my friends. I thought about how I felt when I was told that there was no hope for my colleagues. I thought about how I felt when I was told that there was no hope for my patients