



# BEGIN AGAIN FOUNDATION



## MARC AND AUDREY'S STORY

Marc, a PGA TOUR golfer, raced home from the 2015 Masters to find his wife, Audrey, in the ICU fighting for her life. Audrey was dying of Toxic Shock Syndrome, coupled with Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) and Sepsis. Her organs were failing. Lungs filling with fluid. The vibrant mother of two young boys was quickly placed into an induced coma, leaving Marc focused on his wife, with golf and Augusta National no longer a concern. After several tumultuous days in ICU, Audrey returned home to begin the long recovery process with the support of her family and close friends. Audrey now serves as an advocate and voice for Sepsis, ARDS and Toxic Shock Syndrome awareness, while Marc's new perspective on life continues to produce results on and off the course.



## MARC LEISHMAN

Marc was born and raised in Warrnambool, Australia where he later graduated from the Victorian Institute of Sport in 2005. He played one year on the South Korean Circuit before moving to the United States to play professional golf on the PGA TOUR. Marc's first career win came on the Web.com Tour at the 2008 WNB Classic, later followed by a PGA TOUR victory at the 2012 Travelers Championship.

Marc now has five international victories and two PGA TOUR victories, including his most recent win at the 2017 Arnold Palmer Invitational. Marc lives in Virginia Beach with his wife Audrey, two sons and welcoming a baby girl this summer. If he's not on the golf course, you can find Marc drinking a beer behind the barbie, watching cricket or chasing after his two vibrant sons.



## AUDREY LEISHMAN

Audrey was born in Naples, Italy and moved to Virginia Beach at four years old. She graduated from the College of William and Mary in 2005 with a Bachelor's Degree in Government and Psychology. Audrey worked with the Social Security Administration as a Disability Analyst before marrying Marc and raising two children, Harvey Andrew and Oliver Ray, in Virginia Beach.

If Audrey's not managing a household of energetic boys with a baby on the way, cheering on Marc at a tournament, or volunteering in the community, you can find her writing nuggets of truth on her personal blog, [www.psdontusetampons.com](http://www.psdontusetampons.com). Her stories are real, told from the experiences of a mother, wife and friend who wasn't sure she'd live to see tomorrow.

## MEDIA INQUIRIES

For foundation-related media inquiries, please contact

Executive Director Kellie Guthrie at 727.742.5794 or via email [Info@beginagainfoundation.com](mailto:Info@beginagainfoundation.com).



## ABOUT US

Inspired by the family's harrowing experience in April 2015, the Begin Again Foundation was born out of a fiery passion for helping others. The foundation works to bring life's most pressing needs to families experiencing medical and life crises through partnerships with local, regional and international organizations. Currently, the foundation's LEISHLine program provides grants and resources to help families with housing, food, medication, transportation and lodging expenses. With the launch of our new program, Be Healthy. Period., the foundation delivers safe, organic feminine hygiene products to homeless shelters across Virginia Beach in an effort to protect at-risk women from Toxic Shock Syndrome.



**LEISH** *line*

*Be* **HEALTHY. Period.**  
**#PSDontUseTampons**

*“Obviously golf is very important to me,” Leishman continued. “I want to do that well, but the other stuff is more important because it can be taken away from you at any time, without any warning. Living through that makes you appreciate it a lot more.” - MARC LEISHMAN*

## BOARD MEMBERS

Audrey Leishman, *President and Co-Founder*

Marc Leishman, *Vice President and Co-Founder*

William Martin, *Treasurer*

Ronald Kramer, *Secretary*

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# LEISHline

Often times, it's a matter of life and death. We're working to extend a LEISHLine to families in need of medical financial assistance through a strong partnership with Patient Advocate Foundation, Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters and Leila Rose Foundation. Together,

we've established three funds to serve families suffering from various illnesses and challenging life circumstances via our signature grant program, LEISHLine.

## LEISHLine for Sepsis, ARDS and Toxic Shock Syndrome Survivors

*In partnership with Patient Advocate Foundation*

Patients with an Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), Sepsis and/or Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS) physician verified diagnosis are eligible for a one-time \$1,000.00 award to be used for rent, transportation, medication, utility or grocery expenses. Each patient/applicant must provide a documented need for financial assistance based on eligibility guidelines of an annual household income at or below 400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG).

All applicants will be considered on a first come, first serve basis and applications will be reviewed by the Patient Advocate Foundation's team of certified case workers. All funding requests must be made by phone through the Begin Again Foundation Financial Aid Fund phone line.

## DIAL 855-824-7941 TO APPLY

VISIT [BEGINAGAINFOUNDATION.COM/LEISHLINE](http://BEGINAGAINFOUNDATION.COM/LEISHLINE) FOR ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

### OUR PROGRESS

APRIL 2016 - MARCH 2017

28  
SURVIVOR  
GRANTS  
APPROVED

15  
SURVIVOR  
STATES

\$24,000 - \$36,000  
AVERAGE  
HOUSEHOLD  
INCOME

42%  
SURVIVORS  
EMPLOYED

50%  
SURVIVORS  
INSURED





## LEISHline

LEISHLine for CHKD Families

*In partnership with Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters*

Medical care doesn't stop at patient discharge. That's why we've teamed up with Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters (CHKD) in Norfolk, Virginia, to discover some of the greatest family needs outside the hospital walls. We work closely with hospital social workers to identify families experiencing a critical need and provide support in a meaningful way.

The LEISHLine Fund helps families admitted to CHKD who demonstrate a severe hardship. After CHKD social workers conduct an assessment to determine family needs, the fund is utilized as a short-term resource to help families with expenses related to transportation (including bus pass, gas, cab fare), meals, medications, household utilities and more.

Although the actual assistance varies from family to family, the impact is ultimately the same; a grateful family able to make their child's recovery their first priority. In order to realize truly successful outcomes, we must not only treat the child, but the entire family. By covering the cost of a family's basic needs, we can make a huge impact in the lives of these vulnerable families.

### STORIES OF IMPACT

*"When a young patient's complex, critical illnesses involved an extended stay in the hospital, his mother lost her job and was unable to pay rent. The patient's teenage sibling was considering quitting school in order to work and assist with the rent and expenses, so a social worker negotiated with the landlord to pay one month's rent with LEISHLine funds and keep the family in their home."*

- CHKD Social Worker

*"Eight families needed emergency utility assistance due to "cut off" notices. Their children were being discharged and couldn't come home until the utilities were on in the house."*

- CHKD Social Worker

*B*...a new **LEISH** on life.



LEISHLine Australia

*In partnership with Leila Rose Foundation*

Raised on the rolling hills of Warrnambool, Australia, Marc makes his childhood hometown a place he loves to support. We've partnered with an Australia-based charity, Leila Rose Foundation, to distribute \$2,500 grants to help families of children battling rare childhood cancer pay for life's most pressing needs.

With no known cure for the cancer affecting many of these families, Leila Rose Foundation assists families to ensure they have a complete understanding of their child's cancer, the treatment process and available treatment options in addition to the much needed financial support.



*B*...a new **LEISH** on life.



*BE HEALTHY. Period.*  
#PSDontUseTampons

Following Audrey's near-death experience with Toxic Shock Syndrome after tampon use, she developed a fiery passion for women's health and committed to providing access to safe, organic feminine hygiene products to homeless women.

Approximately 423 homeless women are sheltered at any given time in Virginia Beach.\* Women experiencing homelessness are often faced with the choice between finding their next meal or using unsafe, toxic resources during their period.

In a partnership with Period., an organization dedicated to addressing periods in homeless communities across the country, we deliver monthly packages of "Audrey-approved" disposable pads to Virginia Beach homeless shelters along with educational materials to protect women against Toxic Shock Syndrome. One less tampon can truly save a life.

Our monthly packages include:

- (15) 100% Cotton Disposable Pads
- (5) Organic Overnight Pads
- (5) Pantliners

#### VIRGINIA BEACH HOMELESS COMMUNITY STATISTICS

1,371 - Total Population (Men, Women and Children)  
950 - Total # of Population Sheltered  
423 - Total # of Women Sheltered  
5,074 - Total # of Periods Each Year

*\*Based on Union Mission Ministries 2016 statistics*

*B*...a new **LEISH** on life.