



Strive to Survive

From survivorship to leadership and everything in between!

How do you engage and mobilize 200 high school students toward a specific cause? Ask Preble High School teacher Nick Nesvacil. He's writing the book on it.

His triumph over tragedy story began while the Denmark, Wis. native was a sophomore at St. Norbert College. A sudden onset of blurred vision and headaches led to a brain tumor diagnosis. And because of the location of the tumor, the prognosis for recovery was slim. Even worse, doctors told Nesvacil that aside from the tumor's aggressiveness, he also suffered a stroke and a meningital infection during his initial surgery that would kill him if the cancer didn't.

"In effect, they told me if the brain cancer didn't kill me, something else would," Nesvacil said.

His family sought a second opinion and located a neurosurgeon specializing in his particular kind of cancer. Based on the MRI, and the surgeon's past success, Nesvacil's chances of survival with surgery increased to 50-50. "After a 7 ½ hour surgery the surgeon came running up and hugged my siblings and dad,

saying 'I got it! I got it!'," said Nesvacil. "I ended up having a stroke in my first surgery that caused a lazy eye and short-term memory loss. But with chemo therapy and radiation, neuro, occupational, speech and physical therapy, I made my way back."

It's his personal story that helps Nesvacil connect with the more than 200 students and staff members that now make up **STING CANCER** — the Preble High School student organization that works to reduce the effects of cancer and to offer support to families that face it.

Six years ago, Nesvacil initiated the organization with 20 members. It has grown to about 215 members and 12 advisers, and is believed to be the largest and only student-organized cancer awareness group in the nation.

Through Nick's journey he has met many wonderful people and feels he has learned many of life's most valuable lessons. Over the last 10 years Nick has had the opportunity to speak at schools, businesses, fundraising events and anywhere people want to hear inspiration about what it means to **SURVIVE**.



Contact Nick to speak at your event and all he asks for is a donation of your choice to the Sting Cancer Team.

Topics Nick will speak on range from survivorship to leadership and everything in between.

Contact

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