

## GAUCHER DISEASE

**1 in 450**

Have it...

**1 in 15**

Carry it...

**1 in 1**

Should know  
about it.

Type 1 Gaucher disease (pronounced Go-Shay) is the most common Jewish genetic disease, and among the least well known. In fact, it is much more common than Tay-Sachs disease. The symptoms of Gaucher disease are progressive and often debilitating. Symptoms can begin at any age.

Fortunately, Gaucher disease is treatable, and the earlier the diagnosis the better, because irreversible problems or premature death can occur if left untreated. If you or your family members are experiencing any of the following symptoms, ask your doctor if a Gaucher blood test is right for you.

### — GAUCHER DISEASE SIGNS & SYMPTOMS —

- FATIGUE (ANEMIA) • BONE PAIN
- EASY BRUISING AND/OR BLEEDING
- ENLARGED ABDOMEN (SPLEEN AND/OR LIVER)

If you are Jewish and of Eastern European ancestry, and would like more information, call Genzyme Medical Information at 1-800-745-4447 (option 2) or visit [www.genzyme.com](http://www.genzyme.com).

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## Life's challenges translate into a lifetime of giving

Debbie Shapiro, the Metro Atlanta Chamber's 2010 Small Business Person of the Year, integrates giving back into every aspect of her life. Adversity has only strengthened her long-time commitment to helping others.

As a teenager, Debbi, her siblings, and cousins participated in events and open houses at the shelter where her mentally disabled cousin, Charley, worked and played. This experience gave her insights and a sense of responsibility that, at that time, were unusual in the Jewish community where she was born and raised, as well as her larger community.

College presented unique volunteering opportunities that Debbi embraced, including lots of weekends working with children at her synagogue's Sunday school.

In 1982, Debbi married her college sweetheart, Phillip Shapiro. But within the first few years of marriage, Phillip was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Debbi then became involved with the state chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, promoting awareness of MS and raising funds. "Being involved helped me learn more about the illness, as well as support the cause."

Less than a decade later, her father was diagnosed with prostate cancer, her brother admitted to being addicted to drugs, and her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. These events further motivated her to become involved in promotion and fundraising for organizations dealing with the illnesses and issues affecting her family. To this day, she provides financial support to both her brother and organizations that address drug addiction.

In 1993, Debbi and Jon Henderson started Henderson Shapiro, a marketing support firm in Roswell. The hallmark of their third year in business was bringing on Jill Peck; an associate at the time, she was slated to become a partner. After only a few years of the trio working

together, Jon was diagnosed with colon cancer and, within six months, had to leave the business. Now, in addition to a sick husband, father, and mother and a brother addicted to drugs, she had to face losing her business partner. "Jon was amazing, and I truly miss him," Debbi said. "I know he would be thrilled to see what Jill and I have created and how the business has grown to 23 employees."

Jill and Debbi became business partners, and giving back to all of the institutions, associations, and organizations impacting family and friends was clearly part of their plan. "I remember how inspiring it was to hear Debbi's idea about forming an outreach committee within our company," Jill said. "Debbi and I took great pleasure in helping each team member identify the charities



Debbi Shapiro

of their choice and creating a company matching program to encourage giving." In addition, the company has semi-annual charity events, and community projects are important team-building activities. Such workplace initiatives are just a few of the reasons Henderson Shapiro was named to *Working Mother* magazine's 25 Best Small Companies list.

"By supporting these causes, I am supporting my family and friends in a close and personal way," Debbi said. "But not all of my projects are specific to my family and friends. For instance, being a founding member of my synagogue, Geshar L'Torah, is sincerely for the greater good of others. And having a Jewish business partner allowed me to secure help from Jill, as well as my Henderson Shapiro team."

"I hope that being aware of what is needed and giving to others is instilled not just in my child, but in the children I have regular contact with," she added.

Part of the Henderson Shapiro succession plan includes creating a foundation. Debbi and Jill hope it will become part of their legacy not only to their own children, Sam and Carly, but to others as well.