

## 'Maire's Journey': Cancer victim's dying wish comes closer to fulfillment in CNY



Maire Kent's dying wish was to travel the world and raise awareness of sarcoma cancer. ([facebook.com/mairesjourneytothesea](https://www.facebook.com/mairesjourneytothesea))



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on July 18, 2014 at 10:13 AM, updated July 18, 2014 at 10:29 AM

When a Michigan woman was diagnosed with cardiac sarcoma, it was the beginning of a journey. And though the brave Maire (pronounced "Mary") Kent lost her battle on September 27, 2013, her mission continues on today.

Kent's dying wish was to travel the world, calling more attention to the disease that took her life and so many others. She chose to be cremated and have her ashes put in a boat that would travel from Lake Michigan to the Atlantic Ocean, spreading awareness along its path.

Producer-director Keith Famie has been chronicling her story for an upcoming documentary, and the project comes closer to fulfillment in the Syracuse area this weekend.

A small sailboat, crafted by a blind carpenter, was launched from Cross Village, Mich. on July 12. The three-foot pine boat carries Kent's ashes, photos of sarcoma cancer victims, a GPS device and a stirring message:

"My name is Maire; I died of cardiac sarcoma cancer. My ashes are enclosed in this boat and I am on my way to the ocean. If you find me, please set me back on my path. I will bless you from Heaven. If I have reached the ocean, please let my brothers and sister know. You can reach them through my Facebook page '**Maire's Journey.**'"



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'Maire's Journey' is a documentary following a little boat's trip from Michigan to the Atlantic Ocean to raise awareness for sarcoma cancer.

[facebook.com/mairesjourneytothesea](https://facebook.com/mairesjourneytothesea)

Famie, a 10-time Emmy Award winner, is filming "Maire's Journey" on its way to New Jersey and eventually the ocean. The boat is expected to pass through Central New York this weekend as it continues traveling east.

Filming continues through July. Pictures will be posted on social media along the way at [facebook.com/mairesjourneytothesea](https://facebook.com/mairesjourneytothesea).

The documentary aims to catch people's reactions to the little watercraft and whether they'll help it reach the ocean. Produced by Gilda's Club Metro Detroit, the film also hopes to raise global awareness of soft tissue sarcomas, which the Mayo Clinic describes as cancerous tumors that originate in soft tissues such as muscle, fat, blood vessels and nerves.



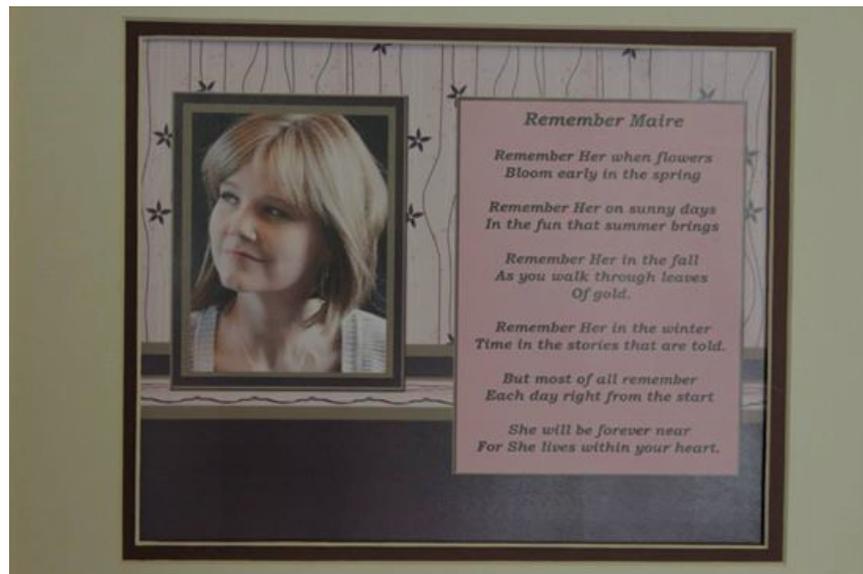
"Unfortunately, more than 14,000 people are diagnosed with sarcoma and nearly 6,000 patients pass away from this rare cancer each year," Dr. Bert E. Thomas, CEO of Sarcoma Foundation of America, said in a press release. "Sharing Maire's story with the world serves not only as a

powerful tribute to her, but shines a light on this often forgotten cancer, helping to raise awareness for the thousands of patients like Maire who are in their own fight against sarcoma."



The University of Michigan has set up the Maire Kent Memorial Fund for Sarcoma and Cardiac Tumor Research, and supporters are invited to donate at [mairesjourney.com](http://mairesjourney.com).

The film, produced by Gilda's Club Metro Detroit, also aims to help raise money for cancer-stricken families, including Maire's nine siblings, when completed.



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