

Kregg Heenan is a Brentwood native who attended St. Sylvester's Elementary School and Brentwood High School, along with his siblings, Kevin, Keith and Kim (Shanahan). He graduated from Robert Morris University, started a career at PNC Bank, married and had two children. But this unremarkable biography fails to convey the true impact of a life well lived by an extraordinary man, one who consistently exceeds the expectations of his friends and family.

Kregg approaches every part of his life with strength, faith, and optimism. He's resilient in the face of adversity, determined when presented with challenges and willing to work nonstop to carry out his goals.

These traits have long defined him, especially as demonstrated by his extensive community service. But they are even more evident now as he battles Neuroendocrine Carcinoma, that has spread to his liver, and will have to face a major liver surgery in few months, after he goes through 2 more rounds of chemo. Through successive rounds of chemotherapy, he has remained unwavering in his commitment to beat the disease.

What's more, he is handling his illness with grace and humor, prompting more than one person to describe him as a young man (45) with an old soul.

Kregg is well known not only in Brentwood, where he earned recognition for his basketball skills in high school but in his adopted hometown of Erie, where he relocated for work in 2004. With the support of his wife Katie and his sons, Nico, 15, and Gino, 12, Kregg has amassed countless hours of volunteer activities.

He's currently running the Millcreek Youth Athletic Association's (MYAA) basketball program, which serves 1,000 youths in Erie County. He also handles the organization's social media and, in 2016, led an effort to expand MYAA's little league program to include children with physical and developmental challenges.

Kregg has led numerous "Give Back" initiatives in the community, championing efforts to collect food and raise money for local nonprofits.

In addition, he and Katie spent four years as a Billet family, providing housing and support to junior hockey players who have moved away from home to pursue their dreams of playing the game they love. Billets are an integral part of junior ice hockey teams such as the Erie Otters.

An avid runner, Kregg has participated in numerous marathons. While he's paused the marathons, he remains committed to a healthy lifestyle and regular workouts, hitting the gym whenever possible in spite of his illness.

"He amazes me," his wife said. All those who know Kregg will undoubtedly agree: He's simply an astounding guy.