



Valerie Sobel

Founder, The Andre Sobel River of Life Foundation
andrerriveroflife.org

The passion behind the purpose of the Andre Sobel River of Life Foundation stems from Valerie Sobel's own staggering loss. When her teenage son, Andre, was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor, she discovered firsthand the journey of a child's catastrophic illness. She experienced how the emotional, physical and financial demands affect the family of a sick child.

A year after Andre's death, Valerie lost her husband to suicide. Soon she felt an urgency to work with what she had come to know. She had seen parents navigate the impossible balance between being both breadwinners and caregivers and the enormous stress it placed on them. This injustice inspired her to create the Andre Sobel River of Life Foundation. When all other resources are exhausted or unavailable, the foundation pays for rent, mortgages, food, medicine and transportation, enabling parents to remain where they most wish to be, at the bedside of their sick child. Assistance is given within 24 hours of a request by the family's social worker. This precious "gift of time" for parent and child together reflects Sobel's mantra that "Compassion Can't Wait."

Watch by Longines, DolceVita

WOMEN
Who Make A
Difference
AWARD

LONGINES®
