

## Biography and Description of The KPF

Kristine Marie Pettoni was a remarkable woman who exemplified what it meant to overcome adversity and excel as a leader. Her life was full, devoted to friendship, family, and the pursuit of making a lasting mark on her community. Her legacy is her commitment to leadership and her devotion to supporting women (especially mothers) in the workforce.

Kristine's professional accomplishments were exemplary, reflecting her commitment to excellence and her capacity to effect positive change. As a partner at Clarkston Consulting, she expertly led strategic transformation services for global organizations. Her visionary approach and invaluable insights garnered admiration and respect from colleagues and clients alike. Kristine's background as an Industrial Engineer from Georgia Tech shaped her professional achievements and influenced her approach to life. Embracing technology, continuous learning, proactive problem-solving, and efficiency were key tenets of her character. These principles guided her in making a lasting impact, enabling her to overcome challenges with resilience, embrace growth opportunities, and inspire others to reach their full potential.

Kristine's laughter and love for life drew people from all walks of life into her circle of family and friends. She embraced every opportunity to create lasting memories with those she cherished. Her boundless energy and ability to bring people together were the hallmarks of her charismatic personality. Kristine was well known and respected in her local Atlanta and global community.

Beyond her professional and social achievements, Kristine's most significant source of joy was her daughter, Grace Harper Gleason. She took on motherhood with the same level of organization, passion, and crowd-sourcing that she had applied to the rest of her ventures. Kristine continued to find success as a working mom because she believed in the power of research, building skills, and organizing your life while reaching out for the help and support of your community. Kristine found great joy in motherhood and inspired other moms by sharing her experience and knowledge.

In April 2018, Kristine was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. Distressed by this horrible diagnosis, but true to form, she persevered. She decided to break the news to her friends and colleagues by hosting a party and raising money for cancer research. Shortly after, she started an online blog to share her experiences with her cancer treatment journey. She used this medium to share her story, highlight new research and uplift others with her tips and wit. Even during her most difficult days, she continued to use her own experience to mentor others. During this period, Kristine continued to thrive at work (she got a promotion) and be present for her daughter, family, and friends. Cancer was treated as another line item on a spreadsheet to be organized and incorporated into her already busy schedule. Throughout her treatments, she never stopped taking time out for her friends in need or allowing special treatment because of her illness.

In October 2019, Kristine passed away suddenly, leaving her family and community stunned. Within a few months of her passing, their world was shaken again when the Covid 19 pandemic caused worldwide devastation. During this time of isolation and grief, a group of Kristine's friends and family came together and decided to honor the life and legacy of this remarkable woman by creating The Kristine Pettoni Foundation (or for short, The KPF)

Kristine stood for many things but her beliefs in the importance of community, access to education, and supporting women in the workforce ranked towards the top. Instead of focusing on just one of those pillars The KPF decided to stand for them all! What made Kristine special

was the time and energy she devoted to the people who asked for her help. If you came to her with a problem, you left with a solution (and sometimes multiple solutions!). The KPF decided to employ that principle when creating the organization's mission. Instead of spreading resources thin by helping a large group of people, they focused time, energy, and money on creating a life-changing event for a small group of women.

The Kristine Pettoni Foundation helps underserved Atlanta area mothers reenter the workforce and find a career that puts them on the path to financial independence. The Accelerate Program is a web-based curriculum designed to be completed in an asynchronous timeline more responsive to a mom of young children. It combines online training and an in-person mentorship program to help these mothers gain the skills, career counseling, and confidence required to successfully reenter the workforce. The program was designed by a group of professionals who came together to create the 6 core competencies needed to prepare these women to reenter the workforce. The Accelerate Program focuses on Technology, Budgeting and Personal Finance, Resume Building & Social Media Strategies, Job Search & Networking, Interview Skills and Salary Negotiation, Work-Life Balance & Imposter Syndrome. At the completion of this program, the mothers they serve will have the resources and knowledge to successfully navigate their reentry into a sustainable career.

Accelerate graduates are also eligible to apply for the Elevate Financial Grant Program. This initiative awards \$10,000 in financial scholarships annually. Applicants will leverage their new skills to prepare a grant application and present their proposals before a committee. Grant money can be allocated for childcare, continuing education, transportation, housing costs, or other relevant needs that show a lasting and financially beneficial impact on the participant and her family.

The Kristine Pettoni Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of deserving mothers and their families. By creating a moment of impact and a catalyst for positive change, The KPF strives to honor the life and legacy of our namesake and leave our mark on the Atlanta community.