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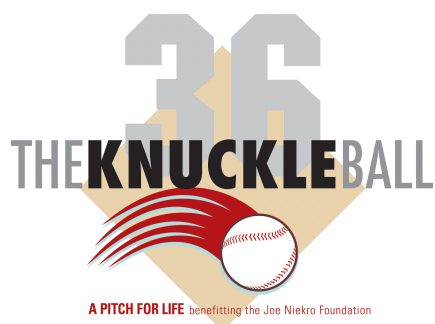


Photo Courtesy of: [The Joe Niekro Foundation](#)

The Knuckle Ball is one of nine signature fundraising events for [The Joe Niekro Foundation](#) that helps raise awareness for brain aneurysm, AVMs and hemorrhagic strokes while supporting patients and families to help fund research efforts to ultimately help find solutions for this disease.

The Joe Niekro Foundation started in 2008 by Natalie Niekro two years after her father's sudden death caused by a brain aneurysm. In her father's namesake, the initiation of this Scottsdale-based foundation was propelled from the lack of public awareness and research about this health issue.

The Joe Niekro Foundation highlights important statistics that help validate the need for awareness and research funding:

- There are six million people in the United States who have un-ruptured brain aneurysm.
- Every 18 minutes an aneurysm ruptures.
- 50 percent of ruptured aneurysm patients will die instantly.
- Of the remaining 50 percent, half with suffer a delayed death and remaining survivors will likely suffer severe brain deficits.
- Brain aneurysms are most prevalent between the ages of 35-60, but occur in three out of 10 children as well.
- As many as one in 15 people will develop a brain aneurysm or AVM.

The Joe Niekro Foundation strives to provide the vital support to those who need it but requires the support of local groups who support the foundation through donations.

The Sixth Annual Knuckle Ball will help bring athletes from across the country together to help support The Joe Niekro Foundation's effort to promote awareness of brain aneurysm, AVM and hemorrhagic stroke and research. The event will take place at the JW Marriott Resort in Phoenix on Oct.17. All proceeds from the evening well benefit neurologic research at the Barrow Neurological Institute.

For more information about how to donate to the organization, learn more about the Knuckle Ball and The Joe Niekro Foundation, visit <http://www.joeniekrofoundation.com/>.