

women who shape the world

These 10 women—including politicians, researchers, CEOs, concerned moms, and more—have proven that one person's actions *can* make a difference in the lives of millions.

Read their stories, see the changes they've jump-started, and be inspired to make an impact of your own.

BY ALICE OGLETHORPE



Seckler won't stop fighting for her son, Charley, now 9

TURNING CASH INTO A CURE

Tracy Seckler

Until five years ago, Seckler felt her life was charmed. "I had an active, happy, and healthy family," she says. But then her son, Charley, was diagnosed

with Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a fatal deteriorating-muscle disease. "Hearing that diagnosis was like being struck by lightning out of a blue sky," she says. As Seckler, 39, researched the possible treatments, she was devastated to discover DMD had no cure. The disease causes children to lose the ability to move every muscle in their bodies, and they ultimately die of heart or respiratory failure. "I kept reading about promising therapies that were in different stages of development but weren't progressing," she says. "Someone needed to ensure that the next steps were taken." So Seckler created Charley's Fund, an organization that raises money to speed up the development of possible DMD treatments.

She began with a letter-writing campaign, and as word spread, the donations grew. The first \$850,000 she raised helped get a drug into clinical trials. The organization has directed a total of \$15 million and

has helped fund 18 different research projects around the world. "I'm in a race against time to get an advanced enough treatment to save my son's life," says Seckler. "I believe Charley is holding on as strongly as he is because he knows a cure is coming."

WHAT SHE WANTS YOU TO KNOW Don't assume other people are handling things. "I thought that if there was a possible cure for DMD, someone would have already discovered it," she says. "But sometimes things haven't happened yet simply because people haven't made them happen."

HER STAY-HEALTHY SECRET Take care of yourself. "Although I have lots of other commitments, I see a therapist once a week," she says. "Spending 50 minutes in a quiet room sorting through my feelings helps reduce my stress."

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