A Heartfelt Thank You

Dear Gilda’s Club community members,

By now, most of you have received word that I have resigned from serving as executive director of Gilda’s Club Twin Cities.

Please know this is one of the most difficult decisions I have ever made in my career. It was such an honor and a privilege to walk side-by-side with our member community, donors and volunteers – with all the people who “get it.” There is a spirit like no other in this clubhouse, spirit that fills the crevasses with a renewed sense of hope, love and the promise of community.

Gilda’s Club is at a critical point in becoming a financially sustainable organization, and your ongoing support is vital to ensure we never have to turn anyone away. Even though I am leaving to take a position at another Twin Cities nonprofit organization, I will continue to be involved as a donor and volunteer because I know how important Gilda’s Club is for this community.

My last request as Gilda’s Club Twin Cities’ executive director is to invite you to continue giving your time, talent and treasures. Your support changes lives more than words can ever express. Thank you!

Prior to my resignation, I wrote the following article and I still want to share it with you because it expresses so much of what I have come to appreciate about this special place.

I look forward to staying connected to Gilda’s Club.

On May 10, we experienced one of the most powerful and moving programs ever presented at our annual Imagine a Place Breakfast. We heard stories of resilience and support. We witnessed moving artistic expressions of what community creates. And we were shown living proof of why Gilda’s Club Twin Cities (GCTC) is a critical component in our “culture of care.”

Thanks to so many, we hit our goal.

A huge and heartfelt thank-you to:

• Dr. Nancy Hutchison of Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute/AllinaHealth for speaking so eloquently about the culture of care and how treating cancer requires more than one resource—it takes a team.

• Chris Cowan, for sharing his ongoing promise to his wife, Joan, to make something positive from their family’s experience of living with cancer and loss.

• Marie Durbin for sharing her amazing story as a 20-month pancreatic cancer survivor.

• The LISTEN Project performers, for their artful expression of cancer stories through music, dance and voice.

Not only did the breakfast bring together nearly 900 individuals (360 first-time attendees!), we also met our ambitious fundraising goal: $300,000! Woot! Woot!

Thank you to all who are helping Gilda’s Club respond to the explosive growth in the number of individuals coming through our red doors for social and emotional cancer support. YOU are the reason we are able to ensure that no one has to face cancer alone!

Because of your participation, your voice and your financial stewardship, Gilda’s Club is able to reach outside the walls of the clubhouse to share the good news: THERE IS a warm and welcoming place where anyone dealing with cancer can come to learn, to thrive, to engage and connect with others who “get it”—all under one roof.
Word is out: GCTC is award-winning!

Who could ask for more?! It just so happens WE HAVE MORE exciting news to share: On May 18th, Gilda’s Club Twin Cities was awarded the **TwinWest Chamber of Commerce 2017 Community Builder Award**.

As I say so often: Gilda’s Club is built by the community, for the community and sustained by the community. This award is truly a testament to how we are fulfilling our mission— together. We are so grateful to the TwinWest Chamber for this wonderful recognition.

What’s next?

Gilda’s Club continues to gain momentum since opening three years ago and we are strategically and thoughtfully thinking about what’s next. One exciting initiative ahead of us right now is the launch of new collaborations with partners in the medical and business communities. We’ve heard repeatedly from leaders in these sectors that there is a lot of interest in and energy to collaborate on comprehensive programs that promote health and well-being, and even reduce costs in medical care and support. As a worldwide leader in the field of cancer support, Gilda’s Club offers our partners programs and activities that cultivate wellness in everyday life; we’re excited to extend that support to meet people where they live AND work.

To launch these new collaborations with the medical and business communities, we are planning two luncheons in downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. I am convinced Gilda’s Club can help improve overall wellness in our community and in our workplaces. If you are interested in a “seat at the table” or want to bring a group of colleagues to one of our luncheons, please contact Community Relations and Marketing Director, Laurie.Walker@GildasClubTwinCities.org, 952-767-7626.

Wishing you a warm and enjoyable summer.

With warmth and gratitude,

Contact Dan at 952-767-7620 or Dan.Narr@GildasClubTwinCities.org.

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**Honors and Tributes**

**April-May 2017**

All of Gilda’s Club Twin Cities’ programs are free. One means of keeping our program free is through the generosity of our members, family and friends. The gifts below were made in honor, memory or celebration of loved ones.

**In Celebration of:**
- Cindy Breen
- John Capecci
- Gabe Ceman
- Allison DeCamillis
- Nick Degen
- Marie Durbin
- Jill Eckhoff
- Nancy Franzcyk
- Renée Garpestad
- Gary Gottschalk
- Jerry Hammann
- Glenda Hawkins
- Nancy Hutchison
- Stacy K
- Jane Kempf
- Rick Kleven
- Lai Maccarone
- Ehren McGeehan
- Gloria Murman
- Carrie Puterbaugh
- Cheryl Schissel
- Eva Stevens
- Ryan Sweeney and Beth Walker
- Laurie Walker

**In Honor of:**
- Gabe Ceman
- Barbara Cunningham
- Marie Durbin
- Patti Engler
- Renée Garpestad
- Jane Kempf
- Wendy Petersen
- Jack and Susan Pratt
- Annette Sadler
- Susan Schwie
- Laurie Walker
- William Yaeger
- My father

**In Memory of:**
- Jan Lubov Arnold
- Steve Ashcroft
- Bootsie
- Peggy Dutkiewicz
- Bob Eichenlaub
- Michael Fritts
- Janet Moore Ferrazzo
- Tim Gutzmann and Zachary Caruso
- Jackie Gilfillian
- Jason Greenslit
- Janet Kinzler
- Laura Libertus
- Kathi Martinson
- Rick MacKrell
- William Munsell
- Jack and Sue Pratt
- Jack Pratt
- Sandy Preston
- Mary D Quinn
- Rick Sebenaler, Bob Janorschke, Micky Josten & Valerie Waller
- Grandpa Schaeppi, Grandpa Stanislawski, and Karl Bremer
- My father and his father
- Our dear sister
- My father

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Please join us for a farewell reception for Dan, Thursday, June 29 from 4:30-6:30pm at Gilda’s Club Twin Cities, 10560 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN