

Clubhouse News



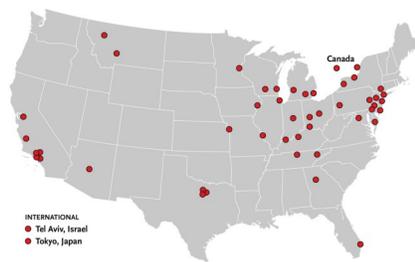
Libby Utter
Executive Director

Stronger together as a community

You may have heard me say about Gilda's Club Twin Cities that we are "small and mighty," or that "we get a lot done with a little." While both statements remain true, one of the underlying

reasons that we are able to serve so many members who need social and emotional support is that we are a part of something bigger than ourselves. Gilda's Club Twin Cities (GCTC) is a proud affiliate of the worldwide Cancer Support Community (CSC), a global network of hope for all who are impacted by cancer.

I have recently returned from a week in Indianapolis where I got to experience the power of being a part of this incredible organization. At the Cancer Support Community Affiliate Leadership Conference (ALC), more than 250 CEOs, Executive Directors and other CSC/Gilda's Club leaders from across North America convened to share best practices, learn from each other and from professionals in the nonprofit field, the medical community and the government. Topics included advocacy, research, fundraising, programming...there was something for everyone...our days were quite full!



Worldwide Affiliate Network
Gilda's Club and Cancer Support Community

One of the core values of GCTC is the belief that collective wisdom enriches a community as a whole. While I know this happens in our weekly support groups and other programs, it was also evident at the ALC. As a newcomer, I was embraced, guided, challenged and lifted up by my colleagues from across the country. I learned much from the conference itself, and so much more from the attendees. I left feeling incredibly motivated and powerful, knowing that GCTC has the support of this established network. I am strengthened knowing that we can draw from the vast experience of my colleagues – learning from their successes and failures.

At every turn, I know that we have resources that aren't typically available to such a nascent nonprofit. Because of our

affiliation with Cancer Support Community, we are able to offer evidence-based programming with five core program components – support, education, healthy lifestyle, social connections and information & referral. We affiliates are stronger together and able to provide the best for our members who need us.

Our mission at Gilda's Club Twin Cities is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. Through our comprehensive five part program of support at the Clubhouse, in greater Minnesota through outreach and education, or by modeling collaboration with other affiliates and with our nonprofit partners here in the Twin Cities, we know the power of working together for a common goal. We are stronger together as one community united to serve everyone impacted by cancer, so that no one faces cancer alone.

Sincerely,

Executive Director of Gilda's Club Twin Cities
Contact Libby at Libby.Utter@GildasClubTwinCities.org

Have you checked your mailbox today?

"Gilda's Club taught me that living with cancer is not a choice, how you live with it is."

That's the theme of a series of letters you will be receiving over the next few months. We are thrilled to share the stories of three GCTC members with you, including Trish, Matt, and Susan! These stories will be mailed to your door (through the generous pro-bono support of Polaris Direct), so keep an eye out! **Or read Trish's story today by clicking here.**



Trish and her family



Matt



Susan