All the Support We Can Get

"Thank you for everything you've done for our family during this very emotional time for us", said a grateful client. These words can only begin to express the relief felt by our clients and their families as they grapple with the invisible burden of cancer.

Because of your generous support, Cancer Patient Care is able to offer comfort, understanding and hope in addition to the tangible and very real help with the basic needs of life.

These monetary donations ease a variety of situations our clients face. The costs of living continue even when a neighbor or friend is stricken with cancer. We all know of someone who in their suffering and recovery has not been able to work to support themselves. One of the cruelest ironies of illness is when it strikes it often takes away financial support when most needed. This is where you, through your sense of community and your empathy, are invaluable. Through Cancer Patient Care, you can provide necessary services for friends and neighbors who need your help today.

A Living Memorial

Cancer Patient Care has an opportunity for you to honor the memory of a friend or loved one who has lost their battle with cancer.

Make a donation in memory of a loved one and we will send an acknowledgement to the family of the deceased (your name, not the amount of the donation is inscribed). Include the full name of the deceased and the name and address of the family member who is to receive the memorial acknowledgement card. With a memorial of $100.00 your loved one's name will be added to Cancer Patient Care's Permanent Tribute Plaque. Maybe you know a cancer survivor or someone whose courage deserves honoring. What better way than including their names, too?

Also, include your name and address. Your contribution allows Cancer Patient Care to continue to provide the care while waiting for the cure. Your gift will make the difference in the life of a local cancer patient.

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Spokane, WA 99202
www.cancerpatientcare.org
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Caring & Sharing

Cancer Patient Care

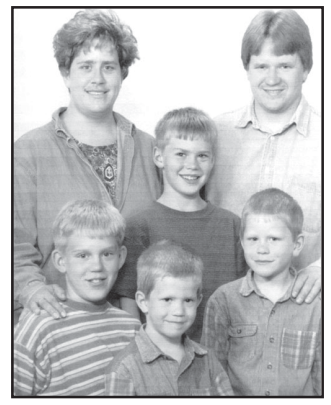
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From Those We Serve

Deb's Story

On January 1, 1999, while showering, I noticed a lump in my neck. I'll never forget the day. What a way to start the New Year!

With spring approaching, my husband and I were working on a new garden, and I noticed my energy level was not what it should be. The lump in my neck was growing. My doctor prescribed me antibiotics, but it did not go away! So I went to an ear, nose and throat specialist, who suggested a biopsy on the lump. The surgery went well, but upon awakening, I was told that the doctors were suspicious of cancer. A week later, I had a follow-up from surgery and was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's acute lymphoblastic lymphoma, an aggressive and fast growing cancer.



Deb and Family

On May 12, I had my first chemotherapy treatment as the biopsy revealed that the cancer had spread to the bone marrow. The chemotherapy treatments lasted for four months, and I was sick for four to five days after each treatment. My oncologist recommended that I call Cancer Patient Care as a resource for services that my family and I might need. Soon after the second treatment, I came down with folliculitis, and my whole scalp broke out in pimples. Not only was I bald, but it gave me acne where I used to have hair. Losing my hair was a traumatic experience, but Cancer Patient Care provided me with wigs, so I didn't need to walk around with no hair.

While I was going through the chemo treatment, I felt nauseous most of the time and was unable to eat at all. I lost 40 pounds during this ordeal, which wasn't all bad. Once again I called the social workers at Cancer Patient Care. They helped me with my inability to eat by offering me food supplements,

"Deb's Story" cont'd on p. 3

Another Great Ride to Survive

Supporters of the 10th Annual Loreen Miller Bike Ride braved the overcast skies and cold weather on Sunday, June 22nd to lend a helping hand to Cancer Patient Care. Peddling through the scenic Greenbluff countryside, participants rode because they wanted to make a difference locally.

Nearly 550 riders and 150 volunteers contributed their time and effort to this event. The first set of riders started the day off at 8:00 AM with the century ride (66.6 miles) followed by the half-century riders (36.4 miles) and then the family riders (15.8 miles). Leslie Mitchell, volunteer, offering food and drinks to the riders said, "This is a great experience to see so many people dedicated to such a great cause."

Last year's leg-cramping hill was back again to challenge the hardiest of cyclists. At the end of the ride, participants were given the opportunity to name the demanding hill. The winner will be announced spring of 2004. Another volunteer, Jenny Wilson, who witnessed this hill said, "I could barely get my car up this, I don't know how they can ride their bikes up it." One of the riders said that he kept the fight against cancer in mind while he powered up the hill.

After the ride, Longhorn BBQ served lunch for the appreciative crowd. Prizes were also handed out to the oldest rider, youngest rider, ten-year riders, the most money brought in by an individual, and by team. Entertainment was provided by Joel Brantley, Barry Watkins and Accordion Joe. The Angus Scott Pipe Band performed as all the names were read from the Honor Banner. MedStar's "Lifebird's" dramatic arrival was just in time for the audience to tour the helicopter.

Numerous individuals who have been involved for a number of years with the bike ride participated to honor loved ones who have battled cancer or are cancer survivors themselves. In addition to the registration fees, many riders enlisted pledge dollars to support their rides. We would like to add an additional thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers, staff members and riders who made the 10th annual bike ride a resounding success. See you all next year!



Cyclists lining up for a great cause!

Mission Statement:
To provide social service support for cancer patients and their families who have limited financial resources.

Your Donations at Work!

Remember: Cancer Patient Care is THE community resource for your neighbors and friends to discover hope, comfort and encouragement during the trial of cancer.

Your dollars buy the following goods and services which otherwise would not be met. Thank you and lets keep the ball rolling.

•Services provided January-June 2003•

Totals

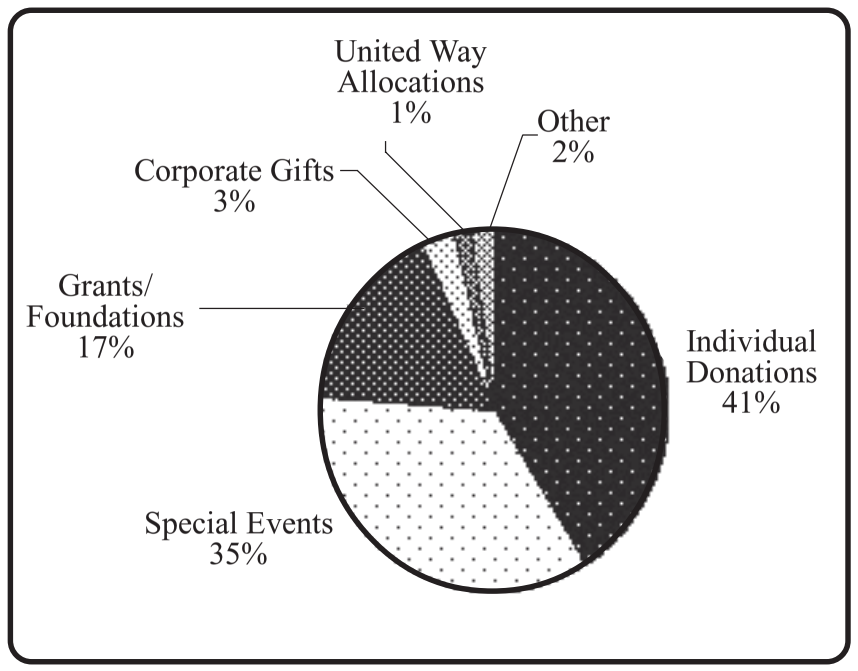
Office visits	384	Wigs loaned	82
Home visits for clients unable to leave	288	Round trip transportation to/from appointments	48
Cases of food supplements dispensed	457	Prescription assistance	261
Home health care equipment loaned	593	Emergency assistance requests filled for groceries and utilities	109
Disposable medical supplies provided	330	Breast cancer screenings	40
Phone contacts with clients and family members	2254		

Total services.....1565

~Thank you for choosing to help~

Cancer Patient Care receives funding from a variety of sources, each essential to the success of our mission. Below is a break down of these sources January through June 2003.

Individual Donations	41.0%
Special Events	35.0%
Grants/Foundations	17.3%
Corporate Gifts	3.2%
United Way Allocations	1.3%
Other	2.2%
	100%



Bridesmaids' Ball



Former bridesmaids strutting their stuff

It was a big fat geek wedding of a party!

Ugly, hideous, revolting, unattractive were all words used to describe Cancer Patient Care's Bridesmaids' Ball, held at the Coeur d' Alene Casino May 25, 2003. These "compliments" were uttered by guests as they admired each others attire.

Corner to corner women in unsightly bridesmaids dresses filled the banquet room of the casino, and even with repulsive dress, some managed to find dates who were in just as dreadful clothing.

Auntie Bijou was the emcee making sure this evening was not a drag with her commentary as contestants paraded down the runway in hopes of being crowned for wearing the ugliest dress, ugliest tux, best dress, bravest couple, and best tux. Making a special appearance was the nationally famous ugly prom dress of Laura Green featured on the Regis and Kelly show.

Along with the runway fashion show, attendees purchased raffle tickets for prizes that were donated by numerous businesses in Spokane.

Although the unusual event was comical in nature, attendees were reminded of the purpose behind the party as former client Victoria shared her heartfelt story.

This surreal event was capped off with an actual wedding ceremony. Tyra and Nick O'Brien exchanged vows as guests showered them with bubbles. Having a ball while raising money for Cancer Patient Care—what could be better?

Make Your Plans for the Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre

Now is the time to order your tickets for Coeur d Alene Summer Theatre. With the CDA Summer Theatre Cooperative Fundraising Program, proceeds from your tickets purchased with this coupon, will directly support our program and services. You ll laugh, you ll cr y, and you ll be helping Inland Northwest cancer patients.

YES! I want to support **Cancer Patient Care** by purchasing _____ tickets @ $28.00 each to the following performance of the Coeur d Alene Summer Theatre s production of Chicago and/or Fiddler on the Roof.

Please circle date:

Fiddler on the Roof: 8/9 8/10* 8/14 8/15 8/16 8/17* 8/21 8/22 8/23

*=Matinee performance Curtain time: 7:30 pm/ Matinee: 2:00 pm

Seating Preference: Orchestra or Balcony

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Make checks payable to: Coeur d Alene Summer Theatre or charge to VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐

Account #: _____ Expiration: _____

Signature: _____

Mail this completed form to:

Coeur d Alene Summer Theatre, PO Box 1119, Coeur d Alene, ID 83816

OR for more information call 1-800-4CDATIX

Bring to the Box Office at NIC Schuler Auditorium during regular office hours.

Cancer Patient Care
Volume 19, No. 3
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Cancer Patient Care



Will Terpening, Board President

A Message From the President

As described elsewhere in this newsletter, we have just recently concluded two successful events for Cancer Patient Care. The first Bridesmaids' Ball was successful and the Loreen Miller Bike Ride was well attended as usual and was enjoyed by everyone who participated. As the chart on Your Donations at Work indicates, we rely heavily on these events and your individual donations to fund our work. Our thanks to all who participated in these events and the many volunteers who made the events possible. Events such as the Loreen Miller Bike Ride would be impossible without the help of our dedicated volunteers. Even though these events were successful in raising funds for the work of Cancer Patient care, we still need your support. This past week as my wife was reading the newspaper, she commented on how many of the obituaries were for people in their forties or younger. Several of these included requests for memorial contributions to Cancer Patient Care. As I recalled our oldest son's best friend who died a few years ago at the age of 22, I was reminded once again that cancer is no respecter of age, race or social status. Please continue to support the work of Cancer Patient Care through your time and money. With your help we can make a difference in the lives of local people when they need it most.

It Isn't Fair!



Heidi Vaughn, Executive Director

These words are very familiar at Cancer Patient Care, and every person who utters them is absolutely correct. Cancer isn't fair. It isn't fair that a loved one is sick. It isn't fair that the treatment makes you feel crummy. It isn't fair that cancer strikes the young, the old, and those in the middle. It isn't fair that the bills keep piling up when you don't have the energy or resources to deal with them. In a few words: It isn't fair.

What is fair, reasonable AND wonderful is that individuals who care enough to send in their financial gift to help. Every dollar sent to Cancer Patient Care stays right here in the Inland Northwest helping to provide the resources for cancer patients and their families. Along with emotional support and medical equipment loans, your donated dollars to Cancer Patient Care pay for the prescriptions, utilities, groceries, food supplements and so much more. Every single donation, large and small, helps your friends and neighbors who are clients of Cancer Patient Care. When research and education have failed, Cancer Patient Care is there helping make life a little more fair because we are here. Thank you for your support of Cancer Patient Care. We are making a difference every day because of your care and concern. Without your financial support we could not provide these needed services to our community.

Services Provided Through Your Generosity

- Emotional support
- Health care equipment from a loan closet
- Food supplements
- Prescription assistance
- Disposable medical supplies
- Educational materials
- Transportation to cancer related appointments
- Emergency assistance for heat, lights, water & groceries
- Breast cancer screening
- Prostheses
- Wigs, Scarves, & Hats

Cancer Patient Care is Your Resource

Did you know that one of Cancer Patient Care's services is breast cancer screenings? This is provided regardless of age, gender or insurance. While reductions in the budget for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention limit state administered programs, such as the Breast and Cervical Health Program, Cancer Patient Care is still able to offer this because of community support.

Women have a better chance at survival if their cancer is diagnosed early, but with these budget cuts low-income women or underinsured women can be at greater risk because they cannot afford the cost of screening.

Many women will need a place to turn for their ongoing preventive health care. Cancer Patient Care is a resource offering mammograms, cone magnifications, and ultrasounds at no cost to the client for those who meet income guidelines. In the last six months Cancer Patient Care has provided these services to 40 women. If you or someone you know needs help, call Cancer Patient Care, at 509-456-0446 for more information.

Wish List:

- Manual wheelchairs (gently used)
- Large paper clips
- Plastic sheet protectors
- New fax machine
- 8.5"x11" copy paper
- Stamps
- Coffee
- 17" or 19" high-resolution color monitor
- Industrial or heavy duty shelving for the Loan Closet
- Scotch tape
- Bottled water
- Multi-fold paper towels

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For a complete list of donors visit our website at
www.cancerpatientcare.org.

A special thanks again to all of those who continue to support Cancer Patient Care!

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What a Great Success!

This year's 3.3 mile Weiler Fun Run was another triumph for over 100 participants. The third annual Weiler Fun Run, in honor of Steve, Dale and Brian Weiler, all who battled cancer, took place on May 17th 2003 at Otis Orchards ElementarySchool.

Patti Weiler found the help she needed at Cancer Patient Care when her husband Brian was diagnosed with colon cancer in September 2000. Since her family received such great support during her husband's battle, she knew to refer her brother-in-law for some additional assistance to Cancer Patient Care when he was also diagnosed with cancer in 2001.

In honor and memory of these great, brave men, and with the help of her two sons, Colby and Shawn, Patti decided to create "The Weiler Fun Run." This year over $1900.00 was raised and all proceeds from this event benefit Cancer Patient Care.

The Otis Orchards SCOPE and a local Girl Scout troop volunteered and made this run possible by giving their time and talents. The Girl Scout troop took part in this event by passing out water to the runners at the various water stations. The SCOPE volunteers provided road support and safety precautions. The run could not have happened without these people.

This is a great example of how the community can support Cancer Patient Care.

Get those running shoes ready for the next Weiler Fun Run, which will be taking place next May. The "Caring and Sharing" newsletter will keep you posted on this and various activities to come.

A Special Thanks

• Gonzaga Prep faculty basketball fundraiser
• Swinging Doors
• Global Credit Union
• Cancer Care Northwest
• Red Lion Bar and Grill
• Weiler Family
• US Bank--Book Fair
• The Mardi Gras Ball

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"Deb's Story" cont'd from page 1

such as Ensure, which tasted great. These supplements helped me maintain my nutritional levels and I went through three to four cans a day. If the social workers had not told me these were available, I would not have known this was an option.

Finally, after all of my treatments, the doctor declared my cancer to be in remission, and I felt relieved to be finished. Unfortunately, that didn't last long. Because of the type of cancer I had, I discovered that I needed a stem cell transplant and that the surgery would be in Seattle.

The next three months were an incredible journey. I endured full body cobalt radiation and the maximum dosage level of chemotherapy. One of the side effects of this treatment is mucusitis, or cold sores covering all the surface of my mouth and esophagus. The sores were so extreme that at one point I couldn't even talk or swallow. These were the darkest days.

I went home in March, but I still had more procedures to go through. I had three injections of brain chemotherapy to destroy any residual cancer cells that had traveled to the brain. This is also when all of my nails began to fall off from the effects of the stem cell transplant chemotherapy.

After that, all the doctor appointments and medical procedures began to wind down. May 30, 2000 was the date of the last bone marrow biopsy, and the day that I knew that this ordeal was finally over! I was able to get back into the normal routine of life.

Throughout my treatment, I was blessed with loving family support and aid from Cancer Patient Care. During this entire experience there were times when I thought about giving up, that it was too hard and I couldn't do it. When I would feel down, my family and friends were always there to cheer me on, and Cancer Patient Care lent a helping hand by paying for our electric bill, prescriptions and grocery vouchers. With all this help, I kept a positive attitude that got me through the worst times. Through the experience with cancer, I have gained strength, courage, and a greater depth of love.

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All proceeds stay in our community!

September 13, 2003

Because all of us have been touched by cancer in some way,
A loved one, a family member, maybe even ourselves.
Honor the memory, pay tribute to the battle,
celebrate the survival.
Ride to support our friends and neighbors
with limited financial resources in their fight against cancer.
Ride for fun! All makes and models welcome!!

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To register, call (509) 456-0446 or visit our website: www.cancerpatientcare.org.

Pre-Registration Price: $20
Registration day of event: $23
(Includes Fun Run, catered barbecue, pin and entertainment)

From:
Westside Motor Sports in Spokane and Easyriders in Post Falls

To:
Q emlin Park, Post Falls, ID

Time
Registration from: 8:00-9:30
Lunch served: upon arrival 12:00-2:00
Entertainment and raffles: 12:00-3:00
(Auction, raffles, door prizes, 50/50)

Lunch
Banquet of ribs, chicken, and salads provided by Rustler s Roost

Entertainment
Papa Glenn and the Border Run Blues Band