Did you know?

All money received by Cancer Patient Care remains in the Inland Northwest to help ease the invisible financial and emotional burden cancer patients and their families bear as they struggle with life threatening illness. Cancer Patient Care is not federally funded, nor reimbursed for the care or assistance provided. We receive some financial support from United Way, and depend upon gifts, memorials, donations, grants and monies raised from special events. Your monetary contributions are needed to continue the vital work of Cancer Patient Care.

* $25 will purchase 1 1/2 cases of nutritional food supplements for someone who can't eat solid food.
* $30 pays for round trip transportation for a cancer patient too ill to drive.
* $50 will purchase one grocery voucher for a family affected by cancer.
* $100 will pay for emergency assistance for a cancer patient and their family.

Wish List:

8 1/2" x 11" copy paper,
Scissors, Stamps, Scotch tape,
Glue sticks, Flip chart easel,
paper, White address labels
(5960 Laser), Turbans for
clients, Wheelchairs, Electric
hospital beds-Invicare style,
Blue copy paper 8 1/2" x 11",
HP 4L printer cartridge,
White-out,
Hi-Liters (especially pink),
Notepads 81/2" x 11"
6' ladder
Display wall unit for brochures
Kleenex and toilet paper
Birthday and sympathy cards

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Caring & Sharing

509-456-0446 1507 East Sprague Avenue, Spokane, WA 99202 www.cancerpatientcare.org

From Those We Serve

Pat's Story

At sixty-two years of age, I enjoy my retirement and keep active with my garden and my pets. One day I noticed some telltale brown stains on my pants. Fifteen years past menopause, I thought this was unusual. With my background as a retired registered nurse, I knew I needed to visit my doctor to ask for a biopsy. I'd been on replacement hormone therapy for fifteen years and thought I should check into this. My doctor referred me to a gynecologist for a uterine biopsy. The tests were positive for uterine changes but not positive for cancer, so the doctor said I could wait to see what happened, no real danger at this point. My little inner voice told me "Don't wait!" so I asked to schedule a complete hysterectomy. Because of my age, this was not a big concern. I was prepared for 'routine' surgery.

There were complications with the basic surgery and the doctor said there was a chance of malignancy of one of the ovaries. Since it was removed in the very early stages, there wasn't a lot to worry about according to my doctor. All the cancer had probably been removed with the surgery. On the follow up visit, the doctor still tried to assure me that there was no reason to be concerned, but I asked to be referred to an oncologist anyway. When I called to make the appointment, I was surprised that they strongly recommended that I bring a family member with me. Not having any family close, I brought a friend and I am so glad that I did. Even though I am a self-sufficient woman, being single all my life, I wasn't prepared for what they were going to tell me.

"Pat's Story cont'd on p. 4"



Clients enjoy the festive atmosphere at the Shilo Inn.

Client Holiday Dinner

The bountiful, sharing spirit of the holidays was alive and well at the Client Holiday Dinner for Cancer Patient Care's clients and families. The dinner took place on December 2, at the Shilo Inn with one hundred and twenty-five people in attendance. A traditional holiday dinner with all the trimmings was served from donations given by local businesses and volunteers. Turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy along with a sumptuous variety of side dishes made up the feast, complete with pumpkin pie!

A crew of volunteers made the event possible by helping with contacting local businesses for donations of food, picking up and delivering, preparing the meal and serving the dinner. Members of Daybreak Rotary, employees of The Principal Financial Group and the STAR Touring & Riding Motorcycle Club and many others gave of their time to make it happen. Shadle Park High School's Jazz Choir and Accordion Joe provided entertainment that had toes tapping. The evening was complete with a visit from Santa, himself. We are grateful to our wonderful volunteers, aged five to seventy-five years, who made magic that evening for some very special people, the clients and families of Cancer Patient Care.

Holiday Dinner Story cont'd on p. 3"

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

Cancer Patient Care
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A Message From the President

I hope that you and your loved ones had a delightful holiday season and a successful start to the New Year. As Heidi states in her column "Day by Day, Throughout the Year," 2003 promises to be a challenging year for Cancer Patient Care. With the economy still in the doldrums, the need for our services continues to increase while the resources to fulfill that mission continue to grow scarce. Almost all charitable organizations are experiencing a decrease in donations and Cancer Patient Care is no exception. We will need your help even more than ever in the coming year. If you are one of our outstanding volunteers, please continue to help. As detailed in our last newsletter, a number of establishments around Spokane are displaying a Cancer Patient Care Honor Banner and hosting special events to raise money for Cancer Patient Care. Please patronize these businesses that are supporting us. If your long range financial planning includes an element of "planned giving" please keep Cancer Patient Care in mind. We are most grateful for your past support and look forward to working with you in the coming year to continue our mission that is so important to those who need help the most.

Day by Day, Throughout the Year



Heidi Vaughn, Executive Director

In the year 2002, Cancer Patient Care served 2,693 cancer patients and family members. Two thousand six hundred ninety-three of your friends and neighbors were directly touched by your generosity, love and kindness. How did we impact their lives? By providing emotional support when their world had been turned upside down. By keeping the heat on, food on the table, and paying for much needed medication. By providing transportation to cancer related medical appointments and providing life sustaining nutritional food supplements. By providing over 700 pieces of medical equipment to those who needed a little extra help. But most of all we impacted these lives by being here. Thank you for making Cancer Patient Care possible.

Volunteers, as well as financial support, ensure that Cancer Patient Care is able to have the impact on our community that it does. Our volunteers are the greatest! We had close to 300 volunteers who donated over 6000 hours of time in 2002. This equaled over $91,000 of donated labor. Thank you!

The year 2003 promises to be one of great challenges and joys. One of the greatest challenges we face is funding our mission. One of the greatest joys to come is helping our friends and neighbors in their time of need. Thank you again for your support.

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- Transportation to cancer related appointments
- Emergency assistance for heat, lights, water. & groceries
- Breast cancer screening
- Prostheses
- Wigs, Scarves, & Hats
- Educational materials

Dinner Among Friends

If you missed the first Annual Dinner Among Friends, you won't want to miss it next time! This dinner and cabaret fundraising event for Cancer Patient Care, held on November 16, 2002 featured entertainment by the Spokane Theatrical Group, directed by Troy Nickerson. Our host, Molly Allen, kept the evening lively with her distinctive charm and humor. Guests enjoyed bidding on live and silent auction items, and winning door prizes. Over $5,700 was raised for the benefit of Cancer Patient Care's clients and their families. Charley's Catering prepared the mouth-watering dinner hors d'oeuvres and Center Pointe was the location. Special thanks to Michelle Holland, Troy Nickerson, Molly Allen, The Spokane Theatrical Group and all of the generous businesses and individuals who offered gifts and services to make our auction such a great success!



Troy Nickerson and Molly Allen enchant the audience.

Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre



Stay tuned for information regarding how you can enjoy hot, live theatre and support Cancer Patient Care at the same time. With the Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre Co-operative Fundraising Program, proceeds from your ticket purchased through Cancer Patient Care for Fiddler on the Roof and Chicago will directly support our program and services. Show dates are as follows:

Chicago: July 5 & 6 (matinee), July 10-13 (matinee) and July 17-19.

Fiddler on the Roof: August 9 & 10 (matinee), August 14-17 (matinee) and August 21-23. Complete ticket purchase information will be in our next newsletter.

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2003 Calendar of Events

* Mostly Merlot Winemakers Dinner, Saturday, April 4 at the Spokane Club, Reservations $100

* 3rd Annual Weiler Memorial Fun Run, Saturday, May 17th

* The Bridesmaids Ball, Saturday, May 24 at the Coeur d'Alene Casino
Tickets $35 for singles, $50 for pair

* 10th Annual Loreen Miller Bike Ride, Sunday, June 22nd

* 2nd Annual Bikers & Blues Motorcycle Run, Saturday, September 13th

"Client Holiday Dinner cont'd."

From one of our guests:

"My husband and I were honored to be invited to the Cancer Patient Care Client Christmas Party. We enjoyed getting acquainted with a friendly couple at our table and appreciated their cheerful manner. Not until she and I were in the buffet line did she reveal that her husband was fighting a courageous battle against cancer.

I also met two ladies who confided to me their stories. One, wearing a turban, had completed the most trying part of her treatment, while the other had twice been through the same treatment and likewise suffered the loss of hair. Fortunately, her condition was improving.

My husband and I have been touched by the selfless, generous efforts of the staff at Cancer Patient Care. With limited funds, they are living out a heartfelt mission of concerned benevolence that reaches deeply into the community, responding to many needs and concerns of those afflicted with cancer. We feel it is a privilege to be a small part of the support base of this organization."

Thank You

Cancer Patient Care would like to specially thank:

•Tim O'Doherty for hosting Cancer Patient Care night at O'Doherty's Irish Grille on January 10, 2003. This Honor Banner event raised over $500 for cancer patients and their families!

• Scottie Black for hosting and presenting the 7th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Show on Thursday, January 23, 2003. Scottie, along with emcees Miss Mylar Black and Kaitlyn Beringer raised over $1300 to promote women's breast cancer screenings through Cancer Patient Care.

Dance City Benefit Ball for Cancer Patient Care



Mar. 21, 2003
Friday, 8-10:30 PM—
Doors open at 7:30

$10 per person gets you in the door to enjoy live music, hors d'oeuvres and show routines. Get your dancing shoes out and be ready to shake a leg!

Tickets can be purchased at Dance City, 506 1/2 W. Sprague or at Cancer Patient Care.

For more information call 838-4214.

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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Cars for Charity

Cars for Charity 928-1900 Spokane, WA

Did you know that Cars for Charity is a different way to give to Cancer Patient Care? Selling a used car can sometimes be more trouble than it's worth. That's when Cars for Charity can help you make a positive difference in our community. By donating your unwanted vehicle, you can help provide essential services for cancer patients and their families right here in the Inland Northwest.

Cars for Charity was established in 1996 as collaboration between 14 United Way of Spokane County member agencies and Pull & Save Auto Parts. Cars for Charity was created to provide an avenue for people to dispose of unneeded vehicles while giving them the opportunity to support services that strengthen our local community.

All vehicle donations are tax deductible. Donors are provided with a copy of the vehicle's Blue Book listing. Since tax situations vary, consult your tax advisor for information regarding deductions.

Cars for Charity will accept any complete vehicle (it does not have to run but must include all major parts, i.e. no missing wheels, doors, etc.).

For more information call : 928-1900

Your donations at work!

During the calendar year 2002, Cancer Patient Care touched the lives of over 2,693 cancer patients, caregivers and family members with nowhere else to turn. A total of 14,881 units of service were delivered last year, including those listed below:

Services provided Totals for 2002

Office visits	562
Home visits for clients unable to leave	527
Cases of food supplements dispensed	885
Home healthcare equipment loaned	702
Disposable medical supplies provided	342
Phone contacts with clients and family members	3,370
Wigs loaned	117
Roundtrip transportation to/from appointment	235
Prescription assistance	244
Emergency assistance requests filled	134
Breast cancer screenings	71

"Pat's Story cont'd from page 1

During this visit I learned that there was no way I would escape chemotherapy treatment. The cancer had spread during surgery. The oncologist needed to confer with the pathologist to determine the extent of my upcoming treatment. Once I got past the initial denial and anger, I knew I would have to make my own plans.

With my family being far away and living alone, I knew I would need more than the telephone support they gave. So, I asked at the doctor's office about where to get extra help. They referred me to an ovarian cancer survivor who helped me through the initial hair loss and offered moral support. I knew of Cancer Patient Care's services from a neighbor who had had cancer and received help when she needed it. Living on a fixed income, I thought I might qualify, too. I called and made an appointment with a social worker and was surprised to find out about all the services available. He helped me make plans to survive my sickness. I knew I would need help paying for prescriptions and with nutritional food supplements. When my hair fell out, I visited Cancer Patient Care to choose from the wigs, hats and scarves that are available. I asked my social worker how many I was allowed to borrow and was surprised when he told me I could take as many as I needed. During the summer, the scarves are more comfortable than wigs when it's hot.

Once chemotherapy was over and I was on my way to recovery, I was surprised and pleased to hear from my social worker at Cancer Patient Care. He wanted to check on my progress and find out how I was doing. Even at Christmas I was remembered through the Tree of Sharing program and Cancer Patient Care. The new, warm robe I received was truly appreciated, and so was being remembered.

Today I am through my treatment and go in for blood tests every three months to monitor my progress. My life has returned to as normal as can be, although now I have curly hair since it has grown back. This is the one "perk" from treatment. Through this experience, I have had to face my own mortality and vulnerability. Living on my own, I got through it with the support of those around me and with help from Cancer Patient Care. I think of myself as a survivor but not cured; only time can tell. Now it's my turn to give to those who are facing what I went through.

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Thank you to Foundation Northwest and the Florence Wasmer Fund for Children and Families. Cancer Patient Care has received a grant for $5,000 in support of our patient assistance fund. This grant provides financial support for the ongoing services of Cancer Patient Care.

Foundation Northwest — The Community Foundation