

*Gilda's Club works because of you*

# Gilda's Club

REPORT  
TO THE  
COMMUNITY

N O R T H E R N   N E W   J E R S E Y

The mission of Gilda's Club is to provide a place where men, women, and children living with cancer and their families and friends can join with others to build social and emotional support as an essential complement to medical

care. Free of charge, Gilda's Club – named for Gilda Radner – offers support and networking groups, lectures, workshops, and social events in a non-residential, home-like setting.

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Betsy J. Davison

GILDA'S CLUB  
NORTHERN NEW JERSEY



Betsy J. Davison



Jeffrey Warren

## OUR COMMITMENT to YOU

Each year, approximately 40,000 people in New Jersey are diagnosed with cancer. Even as they focus on the physical components of their disease, many yearn for social and emotional support to help them and their loved ones live with cancer. For them, there is Gilda's Club Northern New Jersey – a place where men, women, and children, along with their families and friends, can connect with others who are in a similar situation.

As you read this report to the community, you'll learn about Gilda's Club and how its blend of structured and unstructured activities has become an essential complement to medical care for nearly 1,000 people, who come to Gilda's Club from throughout New Jersey and nearby New York. Support and networking groups, informative lectures, empowering workshops, and fun-filled social gatherings are the program components that make Gilda's Club work. In 2002, we held 92 New Member Meetings, 26 social events, and 45 lectures and offered 28 different support and networking groups, which met throughout the year. These were all made possible because of you.

Because of you – our volunteers; individual, corporate, and foundation contributors; and community partners – there is a Gilda's Club Northern New Jersey. Your gifts of time, energy, and donations make this special community available to all – and at no cost. Because of you, so many men, women, and children are moving through their cancer experience to a place of understanding. You are integral to this experience.

You are also an indispensable part of our future that is valued by this board and staff. Thank you for entrusting us with your support. We are committed to protecting the integrity of Gilda's Club's mission and its commitment to members. We are also charged with ensuring the program's fiscal stability and strength. In these economic times, which have resulted in a sharp decline in philanthropic support, this has not been an easy task. Our leadership's tremendous energy and experience in community relations and fundraising are assets that will guide us in the future.

We are deeply committed to Gilda's Club, where people can join in a community that is uniquely theirs. We are dedicated to this caring community, whose red door welcomes all people, of all ages, races, and genders, in good times and in bad. Thank you for being an important part of this wonderful community. Gilda's Club works because of you.

BETSY J. DAVISON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JEFFREY WARREN, PRESIDENT

GILDA'S CLUB WORKS...

# SUPPORT *and* NETWORKING

SUPPORT AND NETWORKING GROUPS ENABLE GILDA'S CLUB MEMBERS TO **CONNECT WITH OTHERS** WHO CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY ARE GOING THROUGH, BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN THERE, TOO. FACILITATED BY LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, WELLNESS GROUPS ARE FOR PEOPLE LIVING

WITH CANCER, WHILE FAMILY GROUPS ARE FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. PERSPECTIVES, HELPING HANDS, AND DISCOVERY (*ph&d*®) FAMILY ALUMNI GROUPS ARE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST SOMEONE TO CANCER. MONTHLY NETWORKING GROUPS, FORMED BY A COMMON INTEREST OR TYPE OF CANCER, GIVE MEMBERS **A PLACE TO SHARE** PRACTICAL ADVICE AND TO PROBLEM SOLVE.



*"Walking through the red door is like that part in the movie 'Willie Wonka' when they've survived the terrifying boat ride and entered the chocolate factory – safe, peaceful, with sweets everywhere."*  
– SYLVIA GOSBERG



*... because of you*



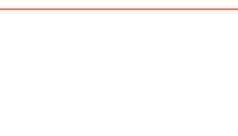
JANUARY

A spectacular performance by Olivia Newton-John raises \$12,000.



FEBRUARY

The Parents of Children Living with Cancer networking group meets for the first time. It is one of eight running at the clubhouse.



MARCH

Tiffany & Co. of Riverside Square Mall hosts a reception to honor our founding donors. The event, which features the South Sea Pearl Collection, raises \$21,100.



APRIL

Fifteen comics perform at our Third Annual LAUGH OFF, a four-week event that is most definitely a laughing matter to the more than 250 people who attend. Congratulations to winner Maureen Langan of New York City.



We could not have done it without our volunteers – who are 140 strong and are feted at a brunch held on April 30.

GILDA'S CLUB WORKS...

# LECTURES *and* WORKSHOPS



LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS OFFER GILDA'S CLUB MEMBERS ACTIVITIES THAT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACQUIRING NEW SKILLS, TOOLS, INFORMATION, AND TECHNIQUES TO LEARN HOW TO **LIVE WITH CANCER.**

SPECIALISTS SHARE THEIR CURRENT FINDINGS ON CANCER, DISCUSS METHODS TO HELP NEGOTIATE THE INSURANCE MAZE, AND OFFER WAYS TO **ENHANCE SELF-UNDERSTANDING** THROUGH CLASSES ON RELAXATION TECHNIQUES, T'AI CHI, MEDITATION, GENTLE YOGA, VISUALIZATION, PAINTING, COOKING, JOURNAL WRITING, AND MORE.

*"As a volunteer you make a difference in someone else's life – and in your own. The feeling is priceless."*

– VICTOR SANSONE



*... because of you*



It's official. The clubhouse marks its second anniversary. The club welcomes 39 new members.

MAY

Founding Board President Deborah Aronson is honored by Gilda's Club founder, Joanna Bull, at the Sports Legends Dinner and Auction, which raises an incredible \$155,000.

Noogieland is visited 72 times by children of all ages who are touched by cancer.

JUNE



More than 100 guests come to celebrate at the Third Annual Gilda's Birthday Party. The evening was supported by the National Association of Social Workers, Bergen Chapter.

Our Living with Cancer in Your 20s and 30s networking group starts, supported by funds from the Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults.

JULY



The clubhouse comes alive at the first Noogieland Carnival, bringing laughter and fun to the more than 100 people in attendance. The event is made possible in part by a gift from The Kaplen Foundation.

GILDA'S CLUB WORKS...

# SOCIALIZATION *and* MORE

6 SOCIAL ACTIVITIES LET GILDA'S CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS GATHER IN WAYS THAT **CELEBRATE LIFE**, SUCH AS POTLUCK DINNERS, JOKEFESTS, AND KARAOKE NIGHTS.



Don Smith/The Record

7 THERE IS ALSO **NOOGIELAND** FOR CHILDREN TOUCHED BY CANCER; TEEN SCENE; FAMILY FOCUS MEETINGS INITIATED BY MEMBERS; TEAM CONVENE STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS' **SUPPORT SYSTEMS**; AND PERSPECTIVES, HELPING HANDS, AND DISCOVERY (*ph&d*®) FOR THOSE LIVING LONG TERM WITH THE CANCER EXPERIENCE.

"Coming to Gilda's Club helped me deal with my mom being sick. It really helps being with other kids who are dealing with the same situation."

- JASON FRAUNBERGER



*... because of you*

AUGUST

Members and volunteers compete for prizes at the Third Annual Member Volunteer Bingo Bonanza.

SEPTEMBER

The Lymphoma Research Foundation hosts "Ask the Doctor About Lymphoma," a lecture delivered by Andrew Pecora, M.D., director and chairman of The Cancer Center at Hackensack University Medical Center.

OCTOBER

Thirty-two members attend the Breast Cancer Update Lecture, co-hosted by Gilda's Club Northern New Jersey and Sisters Network™ Inc., Bergen/Passaic Counties Affiliate Chapter.

NOVEMBER

The Member Art Gala draws more than 100 people to view one-of-a-kind original masterpieces created in Gilda's Club monthly workshops.

DECEMBER

Nearly 200 members, volunteers, and generous contributors ring in the "most wonderful time of the year" at the Holiday Appreciation Brunch, which features the John Harms Performance Company.

The Doll League donates \$20,000 to Gilda's Club Northern New Jersey.



## GILDA'S CLUB WORKS...

... because of you all

Right from the beginning, when Gilda's Club Northern New Jersey was just a vision, it was clear from the outpouring of support that people within our area were searching for a place like Gilda's Club. In this, our first report to the community since our grand opening in 2000, we are pleased to acknowledge all those who have been part of our journey. We are grateful to the many individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations listed below for their generous gifts. Because of you, nearly 1,000 men, women, and children have joined Gilda's Club, coming from all parts of New Jersey and nearby New York. Because of you, they have found a place where they can learn to live with cancer. Because of you, Gilda's Club is here for anyone who needs it – and at no cost.

## LEVELS OF GIVING

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**\$100,000 and Above**

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Richard Kurtz  
Prestige Motors  
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**\$50,000 to \$100,000**

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Lee & Eric\* Langbaum  
Barbara & Norman Seiden  
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**Headliner**  
**\$25,000 to \$50,000**

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Ronni Janoff Weinstein  
Zonta Clubs of Bergen County

**Performer**  
**\$10,000 to \$25,000**

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The Doll League  
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Penni Silver Zola

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**\$5,000 to \$10,000**

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John Dowdy  
Charlotte & Daniel Eth  
Wendy & Robert Federman  
Barbara & Aron Forem  
Arthur & Linda Gabriel  
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Grand Slam Telecom  
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Jewish Community Center of Paramus  
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**\$1,000 to \$5,000**

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Ruth & Louis Aledort  
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## GILDA'S CLUB WORKS...

*... because you give your all*

At Gilda's Club Northern New Jersey there are numerous ways to volunteer – and we are grateful to have experienced the gifts of so many. From facilitating networking groups to cooking a meal to serving on the board to teaching journal writing to playing in Noogieland to chairing a fundraiser – we've been abundantly blessed with an outpouring of time and talent. All of you volunteers make what we do better, by sharing yourselves and your unique perspectives on life and love. Many of you are cancer survivors; others have come to the clubhouse in memory of a loved one; and some have made us a part of their own personal journey in life. However you got here, we are thankful that you have joined us in making every day in the lives of our members a joyful one worth remembering.

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Eloise Monzillo	Teresa Polanco	Shelly Rosenstock	Phyllis Segal	Barbara Sudock	Cheryl L. Walters
Jacquelyn Moots	Carol Portugal	Bobbi Ross	Wendy Segal	Barbara Suess	Donald Wasserman
Grace Morales	Ronnie Powers	Iliana Rothbein	Georgia Shapiro	Donald Suess	Doreen Wasserman
Cathy Moran	Murray Prawer	Sylvia Rothbein	Lee Shapiro	Nancy Suhadolc	Meridith Webber
Rose Lee Morrell	Joy Price	Saranne Rothberg	Janet Sharma	Ed Sweeney	Mary Webster
Joan Murdock	Marlene Prins	Janet Rothman	Linda Shasho	Marilyn Tako	Bernard Weinstein
Rhonda Mustardo	Rinat Prywes	Ann Rothstein	Karen Sheer	Blair Tapper	Eileen Weinstein
Diane Nathans	Ellen Ptalis	Min Sacks	Madeline Sheikowitz	Dori Tapper	Lynn Weksler
Susan Noel	Joan D. Pujol	Victor Sansone	Elizabeth Siegel	Stuart Tapper	Eloise Werlin
Carol Numark	Erica Quinn	Joanne Sanitiglia	Madeline Siegel	Nancy Tenny	Ernest Werlin
Jim O'Brien	Melissa Rabinowitz	Stacie Santos	Michael Siegel	Eileen Tolchinsky	Jing Yang
Janet O'Donnell	Maxine Ramey	Dina Scalero	Nikki Siegel	Harold Tolchinsky	Fay Yeager
Jane O'Grady	Barbara Rappaport	Jack Schatz	Abbye Silva	Lanine Toote	Pat Youghar
Gerri O'Sullivan	Constance Rathbun	Susan Schatz	Freyda Simon	Marilyn Torre	Roseann Zisa
Kim Oliver	Scott Reddin	Rhoda Schermer	Richard Simon	Barbara Trella	Penni S. Zola
Sarah Onello	Nora Reiken	Roberta Schiffer	Dona Singer	Christine Trella	
Janice Onorato	Elaine Reiner	Paula Schiller	Robert Singer	Joe Trella	
Ruth Oppler	Ellen Reinkraut	Phyllis Schleifer	Lynn Skalko	Kathryn Tsemberlis	
Joseph Paci	Helen Rezzonico	Sandra Schmid	Kimberly Smalley	Meryl Velazquez	
Anita Panecki	Rochelle Rice	Nita Schneider	Earlene Smith	Hilda Ventimiglia	
Christina Parmelee	Jeff Rimi	Marilyn Schotz	Judy Solomon	Nina Villanueva	
Kathryn Paul	Rosario Rimi	Sherri Schragar	Roy Spiegel	Jean Villavecchia	

# All about membership

To help Gilda's Club members create and structure their customized membership, club activities are organized into three core components in the Basic III "Plus" program. These components include:

## BASIC I: Support and Networking Groups

Wellness Groups are for those who are living with cancer, and Family Groups are for family and friends. Perspectives, Helping Hands, and Discovery (*ph&d*<sup>®</sup>) Family Alumni Groups are for those who have lost someone to cancer. Groups meet weekly for social and emotional support and are facilitated by licensed mental health professionals.

Networking Groups meet monthly and bring together members with a common interest or type of cancer. Members share practical advice and problem-solve. Networking Groups can include Men's Club, Parenting While Living with Cancer, Lung Cancer, and Complementary and Alternative Medicine

## BASIC II: Lectures and Workshops

Lectures and workshops offer Gilda's Club members activities that provide opportunities for acquiring new skills, tools, information, and techniques to learn how to live with cancer. Specialists share information about nutrition and cancer to financial planning via lectures. They offer ways to enhance self-understanding via workshops on gentle yoga, qi gong, music, healthy cooking, scrapbooking, photography, and more.

## BASIC III: Social Activities

Fellow members, families, and friends gather in Gilda's Club's community room for potluck suppers as well as bingo, karaoke nights, and other gatherings to celebrate life. Having a place to gather with people who have similar experiences builds community.

There are also three supplements to the Basic III, which constitutes the "Plus":

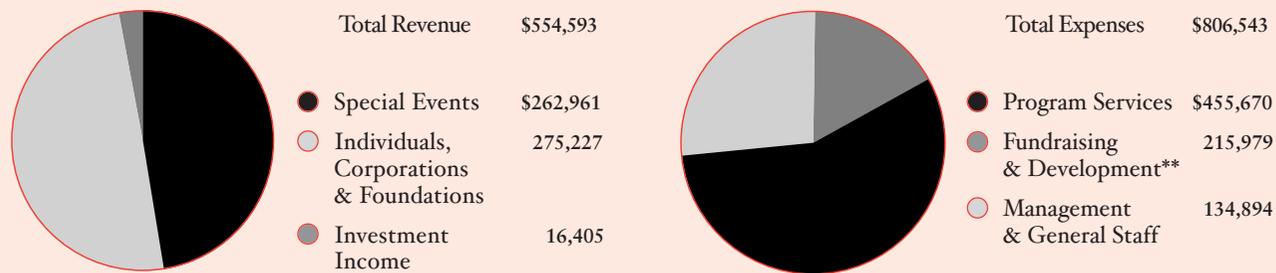
Noogieland is our special playroom and program for children and teens who have been touched by cancer. This includes children who are living with cancer themselves, have family members living with cancer, or have lost someone to cancer. Noogieland is a cheerful and bright playroom where children can play with other children who share their experiences. Children's support groups are offered on a weekly basis, and the children participate in an art-based activity that targets the cancer experience. Teen Scene is a monthly opportunity for teens 13 to 18 years of age to gather together around a structured activity and share their own experiences of having been touched by cancer.

Family Focus is a meeting called for by a member in which he/she invites the people he/she considers family to the clubhouse to gather together and open up a dialogue about the cancer experience. It provides a way to emotionally support each other in living with cancer.

Team Convene is when members invite their support system to the clubhouse to take part in a strategic planning meeting to sort out plans, assign tasks, and problem-solve.

Perspectives, Helping Hands, and Discovery (*ph&d*<sup>®</sup>) offers support for those living long-term with cancer, whether they are living with cancer themselves and are more than one year out of treatment or have lost someone to cancer.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT – YEAR ENDED 12/31/02



\*\* Includes expenses associated with successfully securing public capital expansion and improvement grants for the year 2003.

*This report to the community details donations received through December 31, 2002.*

*These lists have been prepared with great care. However, despite our sincere efforts to avoid omissions or inaccuracies, we know they can occur. If any are noted, we hope you will accept our apology and advise us of the error.*

*Although we are thankful for all the donations we have received, only donations of more than \$1,000 have been included due to space constraints. Honorarium and memorial gifts are listed only if the donor indicated both the individual's first and last name.*

**Michael Harris, M.D.**  
Chairperson

**Kenneth Adler, M.D.**  
**Charles Cathcart, M.D.**  
**Merle McIntosh, M.D.**  
**Mark Pascal, M.D.**  
**Robert Taylor, M.D.**  
**Eloise Werlin, Ph.D.**