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For every person who is diagnosed with cancer, countless family members and friends are touched. And none of them has to face cancer alone.

Gilda's Club Southeastern Wisconsin Media Kit

Gilda's Club Southeastern Wisconsin
4050 N. Oakland Avenue
Shorewood, Wisconsin
414.962.8201
www.gildasclubsewi.org

About Us

Gilda's Club offers cancer support to ***all people with all types of cancer, as well as their family and friends.*** All support services are run by trained and licensed professionals and are provided at NO COST to participants.

What do we do?

We empower people with knowledge

- By providing a safe place where people can learn from the wisdom of others who are also going through the cancer experience.
- Through our educational lectures, workshops and informational meetings for cancer survivors, from initial diagnosis through survivorship, empowering patients and families to make informed health-related decisions.
- By providing resources and referrals to empower individuals to learn how to live with cancer whatever the outcome.

We strengthen people by action

- Through our personalized assessment and support care plan that helps individuals identify their specific needs and outlines specific program activities that address those needs.
- By supporting individuals as they develop the skills and resources needed to play an active role in their cancer care and to live fully with and beyond a cancer diagnosis and embrace a “new normal” throughout their lives.
- By having children participate in our curriculum based Kid Support™ program.
- By offering health and wellness programs, including exercise, nutrition, and stress reduction.

We sustain people by community

- Through our free cancer support and networking groups for individuals and their loved ones who are impacted by cancer.
- By delivering our program where people live, work and worship.
- By collaborating with strategic community partners to deliver our programs throughout Greater Milwaukee into community centers, schools, hospitals and churches.

Mission & Philosophy

The mission of Gilda's Club Southeastern Wisconsin, Inc. is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer in Greater Milwaukee are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by community.

The Gilda's Club philosophy is predicated on the belief that emotional support is as essential as medical care when cancer is in the family. At Gilda's Club, individuals touched by cancer, along with their families and friends learn how to live fully with and beyond a cancer diagnosis. Through a free, accessible, community-based cancer support program, Gilda's Club reaches people affected by cancer where they live work and worship.

Background

1995

The first Gilda's Club was founded in memory of Gilda Radner by her husband Gene Wilder, and Joanna Bull, Gilda's cancer psychotherapist. When Gilda was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, she turned to The Wellness Community. It was her wish that anyone living with cancer could receive this type of support. Wilder and Bull brought her wish to life with Gilda's Club, a free cancer support community.

2004

Gilda's Club Southeastern Wisconsin opens its doors at 4050 N. Oakland Avenue in Shorewood.

2009

Gilda's Club Worldwide and The Wellness Community merge to become the Cancer Support Community, an organization providing psychological and social support through a network of more than 50 affiliate centers and more than 100 satellite locations worldwide.

2010

In July, area flooding damage to the Clubhouse and resulting financial issues bring about the closing of Gilda's Club Southeastern Wisconsin. Weeks later, area businessman Mr. Stanley Kass pledges funds to re-open Gilda's Club under a decentralized cancer support model.

The new program delivers cancer support and education through healthcare providers, schools, places of worship, social service agencies and neighborhood organizations throughout Greater Milwaukee at no charge to participants.

2011

Gilda's Club opens "Living Room" at Harry and Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center, a warm and welcoming environment where individuals living with cancer meet for education, support, and social activities.

Cancer Support Community is now the largest professionally led network of free cancer education and support worldwide and is better equipped to meet the evolving needs of individuals living with cancer, their families and friends, through innovative and comprehensive support services. As part of the Cancer Support Community, Gilda's Club Southeastern Wisconsin makes a difference in the lives of millions who are touched by cancer and ensure that no one has to face cancer alone.

Cancer Support

Visit our website at www.gildasclubsewi.org for more information on program dates and times.

Support Groups – Share and explore the emotional and social issues related to living with cancer. Support groups are facilitated by licensed mental health professionals and include:

Wellness Group – *men and women living with cancer share thoughts, feelings and experiences.*

Family & Friends Group - *Adult family members and friends of those living with cancer share thoughts, feelings and experiences as spouses, adult children and caregivers.*

Parenting through Cancer - *Parents with children and family members or friends in cancer treatment share thoughts, feelings and experiences.*

Kid Support™ - *Children who have a parent, sibling or other family member or friend in cancer treatment make new friends and learn new skills for living with the stresses of cancer in the family.*

Cancer Support in Spanish - *Individuals living with cancer share thoughts, feelings and experiences in Spanish.*

Bereavement Group - *Adults share and learn with others who have experienced the death of a family member or friend to cancer.*

Networking Groups - bring together program participants with interests that may focus around specific cancer diagnoses and related topics.

Breast Cancer Networking - *Women share common issues and experiences, exchange practical information and help resolve issues.*

Gynecologic Cancer Networking - *Women share thoughts, experiences and exchange practical information with others who have experienced gynecological cancer.*

Men's Networking - *Men who are living with cancer, in remission or are cancer survivors exchange information, review resources and help resolve issues.*

Survivorship Networking - *Women and men look at their lives after cancer and discuss experiences related to their cancer journey and explore ways to look at life in new ways.*

Educational Seminars and Workshops - provide opportunities to learn new skills and techniques for living fully with cancer. Topics of general interest, such as cancer prevention, psychological well-being, treatment side effects, lifestyle concerns and communication are presented by subject matter experts.

Healthy Lifestyles - provide opportunities to focus on nutrition, mind-body stress reduction and exercise. Fitness classes like Zumba, yoga or Tai Chi are offered, as well as classes and activities such as meditation, relaxation, beach walks and cooking.

Social Connections – provide opportunities to link with others in the community who share the same experience, and help relieve stresses associated with a cancer diagnosis. Activities such as pot luck gatherings, chocolate tastings, luaus, talent shows and ice cream socials are offered on a monthly basis.

Resources & Referrals - personalized assistance and referral to resources within the community, and a resource library.

Cancer Support Program Partnership Sites

Gilda's Club works in partnership with community organizations to deliver free cancer support to community centers, businesses, hospitals and churches at locations throughout the Greater Milwaukee area.

Current locations include:

Agape Community Center – *Milwaukee Northwest*

- Lectures
- Resource Center

www.agape-center.org

Christ Church – *Mequon*

- Lectures
- Networking

www.christchurchmequon.org

Columbia St. Mary's – *Milwaukee East*

- Collaboration on Survivorship

www.columbia-stmary.org

Froedtert Clinical Cancer Center – *Milwaukee West*

- Kid Support™ for children whose lives are touched by cancer

www.froedtert.com

Hispanic Community Resource Center – *Waukesha*

- Spanish Language Cancer Support

Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center – *Whitefish Bay*

- Art Expressions
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Lectures/Workshops
- Social Connections
- Support Groups

www.jccmilwaukee.org

JCC Rainbow Day Camp – *Fredonia*

- Summer sessions for children and adults

www.jccmilwaukee.org

Kingo Lutheran Church – *Shorewood*

- Healthy Lifestyles
- Social Connections

www.kingo.org

Whole Foods – *Milwaukee East*

- Food for Life™ Educational Workshop

www.wholefoodsmarket.com

Accessing Gilda's Club Groups, Activities & Events

1. Call 414.962.8201 for more information or to schedule a new participant meeting.
2. To register for a group or activity, call 414.962.8201, ext. 102, email us at info@gildasclubsewi.org or visit our website at www.gildasclubsewi.org.

Hours of Operation

Gilda's Club Southeastern Wisconsin
4050 N. Oakland Avenue
Shorewood, Wisconsin 53211
Tel: 414.962.8201
Fax: 414.962.9470
Email: info@gildasclubsewi.org

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Did you know?

- Gilda's Club Southeastern Wisconsin provides an average of 50 programs each month.
- More than 500 total programs were offered in 2010 with 3,990 individuals participating. This equates to more than 1,200 hours of free programming provided to the community.
- Since opening, Gilda's Club has shared its message of education and hope with more than 20,000 individuals.

As an affiliate of the Cancer Support Community, Gilda's Club Southeastern Wisconsin has the ability to share best practices and continues to provide the best social and emotional support to even more people affected by cancer and advance the 2007 Institute of Medicine report *Cancer Care for the Whole Patient*: that social and emotional support are as important as medical care in the face of a cancer diagnosis.

<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2007/Cancer-Care-for-the-Whole-Patient-Meeting-Psychosocial-Health-Needs.aspx>

The 2007 Institute of Medicine report entitled, "Cancer Care for the Whole Patient: Meeting Psychosocial Health Needs" is a defining affirmation of the work of Gilda's Club.

The report states that today's cancer care does not adequately address the emotional, social, spiritual or financial challenges associated with the disease; that quality psychosocial care is critical in order for patients to have optimal clinical outcomes. Studies show that more than half of cancer patients do not feel they are receiving the psychological support they need.

Gilda's Club addresses social and economic factors that influence health by bringing our programs directly to the underserved through community and neighborhood organizations and by encouraging cancer patients to network with other cancer survivors.

Contact

Gilda's Club Staff

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