

gilda gram

SPRING 2017

CANCER SUPPORT BLOOMS

2017 marks our 7th anniversary year as a cancer support community. Having first opened our doors in May of 2010, it is hard to believe where the time has gone. I recall vividly the frantic push to wrap up construction, waiting on final coats of paint to dry, unpacking furniture, hanging pictures, and putting that first pot of coffee on in the kitchen. The community had greatly anticipated our opening. For months I had received calls and inquiries as the newly hired Program Director, wondering if we were finally offering our program of support. On a sunny May morning, our Red Door opened and cancer support came to our community. In an instant, on day one, people walked through our door seeking support in living with cancer in their lives. In that same day, in that same instant, we were a cancer support community.

We have thrived in the seven years since; there has been no looking back. Having welcomed 170 members our first year we have grown tremendously providing support to over 2000 individuals alone in 2016. The faces of cancer support have and continue to be both many and varied. Cancer does not discriminate whose life it touches. The journeys of each are as unique as their needs for support, a fact readily apparent when we look at the diverse participation across our program in 2016. With our having held over 174 support groups, 123 educational lectures, 53 healthy lifestyle workshops, and 159 social activities last year, this serves as but a small snapshot of how busy our Clubhouse has become over the past seven years.

We continue to see a strong participation of children, youth and families across our program of support, men and women alike. We are proud to share in the journeys of those living with cancer. We accompany them throughout their entire journey, from time of diagnosis through to living well beyond cancer and in bereavement, and for both those diagnosed with cancer as well as their family and friends. We stand with and for those in our community who are not only living with cancer in their lives, but increasingly are also facing the realities of struggling to pay bills, experiencing challenges related to food insecurity and housing instability. In coming through the Red Door, we remain ever committed to our living vision so that no one faces cancer alone.

Great growth brings with it its own unique set of challenges. As excited and committed as the larger community was to bring Gilda's Club Simcoe Muskoka and a cancer support community to the lives and homes of its very own, our sustainability is contingent on their continued generosity. Our vision, so that no one faces cancer alone, is shared by our many friends and neighbours, local businesses and community groups. We exist only because of your generosity. We are sustainable only with your ongoing partnership.

As we cut the ribbon on our new Gilda's Courtyard of Hope this Spring, we celebrate what has been cultivated these last seven years in the way of cancer support and bloom with the promise of what is to come for 2017 and beyond.

Yours in cancer support,

Kristen Dawson
CEO & Program Director



**TAKE
ON** CANCER
TOGETHER
JOIN . GIVE . ACT .



**Cancer Support for the Whole Family, the Whole Time.
So That No One Faces Cancer Alone.™**

SAVE THE DATE!

10th

Anniversary!

Lakeside Party

Sunday, May 28th, 2017

3:00 - 7:00 pm



AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC, FINE FOOD AND DRINK
BENEFITING THE CANCER SUPPORT PROGRAM AT
GILDA'S CLUB SIMCOE MUSKOKA.

FOR INFORMATION ON SPONSORSHIP OR TO PURCHASE
TICKETS, PLEASE CONTACT KATHERINE SPEIRS AT 705-726-5199 OR
KATHERINE@GILDASCLUBSIMCOEMUSKOKA.ORG

12th Annual

Gilda's Club Red Door Golf Classic

Presented by



Thursday, July 6th, 2017

Bear Creek Golf Club

12:30 pm Shotgun Start

4 Person Scramble

\$190 per golfer / \$760 per foursome

Early Bird Special:
Register before June 2nd and
be entered into a draw
to win a great prize!



Fees Include:

- 18 Holes of Great Golf
- Lunch & Dinner
- Power Cart
- Welcome Gift
- Prizes for skill & blind luck
- Live & Silent Auction

For additional information, sponsorship, or
volunteer opportunities, please contact:

Katherine Speirs (705) 726-5199 or
katherine@gildasclubsimcoemuskoka.org



BEYOND THE RED DOOR SOCIETY

The Beyond the Red Door Society is made up of an outstanding group of donors who have made a long term financial commitment to Gilda's Club Simcoe Muskoka. Their support will help us to ensure that no one faces cancer alone, both now and in the future!

Our Sincere Appreciation to the Members of the Red Door Society

Andrew, Thompson and Associates Ltd.

Margaret Arland

David Avard & Lesa Bowen

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For more information on the Beyond the Red Door Society please contact
Katherine Speirs at 705-726-5199 x 227 or katherine@gildasclubsimcoemuskoka.org.

Do What you Love and Raise Funds for GILDA'S CLUB

Do you have a passion for making a difference and having fun while doing it? Whether you are planning a bake sale, dress down day at the office, golf tournament, concert or garage sale, almost anything you can think of can be a fundraiser in support of Gilda's Club Simcoe Muskoka. Planning a DIY Fundraiser to benefit Gilda's Club can be a fun and rewarding experience for you, your family, colleagues and friends! **For more information on how you can get started on your DIY Fundraiser, please contact Anne Naumyk at 705-726-5199 x 228 or anne@gildasclubsimcoemuskoka.org.**



Thanks to some of our recent DIY-ers!

Liberty Tax Services * High Tech Tint Plus * SportsClips Barrie * Molded Plastic Consultants * Hamilton Tours Ltd. * Hudson's Bay - RioCan Georgian Mall * Barrie Olive Oil Company * Flying Monkeys Craft Brewery * J'Adore Fine Cheese & Chocolate * Moxie's Grill & Bar * Wild Wing South & West Barrie * TLC Bistro & Café

Celebrating 150 Years of Ontario

On Tuesday, January 31st, Gilda's Club Simcoe Muskoka was pleased to host the Ontario150 Community Capital Program grant announcement with Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, MPP for Barrie Ann Hoggarth, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Gilda's Club Simcoe Muskoka is grateful to have been selected as a recipient of an Ontario150 Community Capital Grant. The Clubhouse is the hub through which we are able to provide our program of cancer support, free of charge, to all in our community whose lives have been touched by cancer. With the awarding of this generous grant are we able to address some urgent physical building needs around our Clubhouse. This grant will cover these burdensome expenses and allow Gilda's Club Simcoe Muskoka to remain focused in delivering on its vision, ensuring no faces cancer alone.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: SUE MITCHELL

I originally became a member of Gilda's Club just over 4 years ago. Our family was going through a difficult time as my 29 year old daughter-in-law had been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour. I reached out to Gilda's Club for guidance on how to deal with her diagnosis, and how I could best help my son and grandson. Unfortunately, we lost Erin in 2013. From that experience I knew that I needed to be a part of Gilda's Club in a different way, and decided to become a volunteer.

As a volunteer you have the chance to make a real difference in your community, and the opportunities are endless here at Gilda's Club. My position as a Greeter gives me the chance to interact with an individual or their family when they come through the Red Door. I have had so many great experiences, and have made some truly wonderful connections with people along the way.

I will never forget my first Greeter shift at Gilda's. A gentleman came into the Clubhouse for the first time, and shared that his daughter had been diagnosed with cancer and was ill. I gave him a tour, talked to him about what Gilda's Club could offer, and we chatted over a cup of coffee about our relatable experiences. This is just one of many stories I have to share, and just one of the many reasons I come back to Gilda's almost weekly: so I can help the members through their journey with cancer, whatever that may be. My hope is to brighten their day, even if just for a few moments.

I love working alongside the amazing staff at Gilda's Club, who inspire me every day for all that they do. Gilda's Club has made my experience as a volunteer greater than I could have imagined!



For more information on volunteering please see our website www.gildasclubsimcoemuskoka.org or contact Susan Haiplik at 705-726-5199 x 230 susan@gildasclubsimcoemuskoka.org.

Gilda's Givers: A Monthly Giving Club



At Gilda's Club, our goal is to change the cancer experience for anyone whose life has been touched by cancer. By joining our **Gilda's Givers Monthly Giving Club**, you are helping to ensure no man, woman, child or teen has to face cancer alone in your community.

A regular donation can make a lasting difference over time. From educational lectures and interactive workshops, to intimate support groups and lively social activities, your gift allows us to continue to provide our innovative program of cancer support free of charge for all those who have been impacted with cancer in our community.

How much can you donate each month? Any amount you want! \$10, \$20, \$50 or \$100, and anywhere in-between or more! Every dollar counts!

Become a Gilda's Giver today! Visit www.gildasclubsimcoemuskoka.org to join, or call Anne Naumyk at 705-726-5199 to learn more!

CONTACT US



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Charitable Registration # 87366 4205RR0001

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.GILDASCLUBSIMCOEMUSKOKA.ORG

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