

Gilda Gram

Spring 2019

GILDA'S CLUB SIMCOE MUSKOKA *So that no one faces cancer alone.*TM



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

Volunteers are an essential resource for most charitable organizations. At Gilda's Club Simcoe Muskoka (GCSM) volunteers are real-life superheroes who accomplish remarkable feats with real impact. One such person is Kim Evans-Milak, who has been volunteering at the Clubhouse since 2017.

With an charismatic smile and tireless spirit, she agreed to answer some questions about herself and here role here at Gilda's.

GCSM: Why do you volunteer? What attracted you to our organization?

KEM: I am a retired elementary school teacher and during my career I was blessed to have great volunteers in my classroom who enhanced the services I could provide and became valued members of our school community. I now have time to devote to volunteer work and it was my daughter who suggested Gilda's Club at a Sunday dinner one week. I immediately knew it was the right place as my father had recently passed away from cancer and so had my mother in law. And...there was the memory of Gilda Radner herself. I am old enough to have grown up with her work on SNL, followed her life and achievements and was as saddened by her death. I thought it was pure genius that her husband and friends helped to create a cancer support community in her name.

GCSM: Of what contribution or achievement are you most proud?

KEM: I do a variety of tasks at Gilda's so it is not easy to choose just one contribution. Initially I started out as a greeter working at the reception desk weekly. It did not take long for Susan, Volunteer Coordinator at GCSM, to recognize that my advocacy of arts education could be put to use at Gilda's. As a result of her guidance, I now instruct monthly art workshops for adults in addition to seasonal workshops for children. I have also participated in fundraising and social events such as our recent date night "Table for Two". Staff were very generous in providing an outlet for my creative energies and it was a pleasure to help stage tables, decorate the Community Room and plate dessert for our guests. I'm proud to feel welcomed by staff and members.

GCSM: Does anyone in your life play a role in supporting your involvement?

KEM: Six years ago my colleague and dear friend was diagnosed with cancer and the prognosis was poor...she was only given a few months to live. During her courageous three year battle, I was inspired daily by her incredible strength and spirit. Her family told me that I was very effective in supporting her and helping her to "live" with cancer and appreciate the beauty of the world. During my orientation meeting at GCSM the first thing I was asked was to share was why I had chosen to volunteer. My friend was who I spoke about, as together during her journey, I learned a lot about cancer treatments, how cancer patients feel and the importance of community resources. I hope that I can help others like I helped her.

(Continued on page 3)



FREE CANCER SUPPORT FOR ALL

ALL AGES | ANY CANCER DIAGNOSIS | ALL GENDERS
PATIENTS | FAMILY & FRIENDS



GILDA'S CLUB SIMCOE MUSKOKA - WHAT'S HAPPENING

12th Annual Event

Gilda's Club Simcoe Muskoka

A SUNDAY AFTERNOON... AT THE LAKE

Sunday May 26th, 2019

3pm to 7pm

Let your sparkle shine and join us for an intimate afternoon at the lake featuring live music, fine food & drink, and more... benefiting the cancer support community at Gilda's Club Simcoe Muskoka.

PRESENTED BY



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For further information please contact Cybele Gorrissen at 705-726-5199 ext 227 or to purchase tickets online visit www.gildasclubsimcoemuskoka.org

14TH ANNUAL

GILDA'S CLUB SIMCOE MUSKOKA'S



Red Door Golf Classic



Bear Creek Golf Club

8545 Simcoe Road 56 Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

WEDNESDAY JULY 3, 2019

12:30PM Shotgun Start

\$190 per golfer / \$760 per foursome

FEES INCLUDE:

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



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON THE GREEN!

To register please visit
www.gildasclubsimcoemuskoka.org
or for more information contact:
Cybele Gorrissen #705-726-5199 x 227



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 thanks to the members of the Beyond the Red Door Society:

David Avard & Lesa Bowen
B & I Truck Parts Inc.
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Therese Young

For more information on the Beyond the Red Door Society please contact John Pugsley at 705-726-5199 x 228 or john@gildasclubsimcoemuskoka.org.

April 7-13th, 2019 is National Volunteer Week

A conversation with Kim (continued from page 1)

GCSM: Do you have an anecdote about Gilda's that really moved you?

KEM: One member who has attended many of the art workshops I instruct has told me that I have been able to help her create some wonderful art pieces and that it was very rewarding to her. She had been told by doctors following surgery that she would never be able to access skills related to visual spatial relationships or use the cognitive skills required when experimenting with some of the techniques we have tried. It is heart warming to see her face light up with delight as she tackles a new task and to see her support new participants with words of encouragement when she tells her story. I think it is wonderful that she has been putting all of the artwork she has created during her cancer journey in a special display in her home. It can be quite empowering to create something beautiful from nothing and I look forward to sharing more art experiences with our members.



GCSM: In your opinion, what is the most important work that this organization does?

KEM: I am impressed with the vast array of services that members can access FREE of charge. I really think there is something for everyone and staff are frequently working hard to provide new programmes, support groups, informational lectures and social events.

GCSM: Outside of Gilda's what do you do for fun?

KEM: I love to be active and enjoy biking, running, swimming and paddle boarding. I also enjoy being creative and have been able to devote more time to making pottery. I recently participated as a visiting artist in the Innisfil Studio Tour where I showcased my work. I am currently working on a series of mixed media art pieces which I will display with my pottery in the 2019 fall tour. More travelling is also something that my husband and I are trying to fit into our lives.

With over 110 active volunteers here at the clubhouse, please remember to salute, thank, handshake, write a note...whatever you'd like to do to say **THANK YOU** to our volunteers for all they do!

Support GILDA'S CLUB with a Do It Yourself Fundraiser!

From bake sales and bottle drives, haircuts and bingo nights, to golf tournaments, concerts, garage sales and more, you can turn anything into a fundraiser for Gilda's Club Simcoe Muskoka. We call them **Do It Yourself, or DIY Fundraisers**, and since Gilda's Club does not receive any government funding, the money raised through DIY Fundraisers has a significant impact on meeting our fundraising goal each year.

Planning a DIY Fundraiser to benefit Gilda's Club can be an exciting and rewarding experience to get everyone involved! Whether you are a business looking to align your brand with Gilda's Club Simcoe Muskoka, or a community member or organization who has a fundraising event idea, don't hesitate to contact us. **For more information on how you can get started on your DIY Fundraiser, please contact the Cybele at 705-726-5199 or cybele@gildasclubsimcoemuskoka.org.**



Guys That Give
Barrie



Wild Wing Barrie



Dr. Stacie Weber



Scotia Bank



The Peggy Hill Team &
Todd Piirto, Sales Representative

Save the Date(s): Thursday June 20, 2019 Summer BBQ at the Clubhouse



MEMBERSHIP and REGISTRATION

so that no one faces cancer alone

Membership at Gilda's Club is **FREE**. Completing Membership and Event Registration is required prior to attending any activities (it allows staff to appropriately plan for space and materials).

For anything (*other than support groups*), you can register
Online at www.gildasclubsimcoemuskoka.org

By Email program@gildasclubsimcoemuskoka.org
By Phone 705-726-5199

Or stop in at the Clubhouse and registering in person.

You must be a registered Gilda's Club Member to attend any Support or Networking groups.

To register for a Support or Networking group, email
sara@gildasclubsimcoemuskoka.org or call 705-726-5199 ext. 225.

NEW PROGRAMS:

Men's Cancer Social Circle: Enjoy food and fellowship in this casual space for men either living with a current or past cancer diagnosis. Informally led by male Members of the Simcoe-Muskoka region who have had their own cancer journey.

Young Adult Support: A support group for those ages 18-40 living with a cancer diagnosis (up to 12 months post-treatment). Come express feelings, gain insights, and build mutual support.

Feedback for YAS from our Members: "I needed to know that there were other young people who had cancer, who got it."

CONTACT US



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WWW.GILDASCLUBSIMCOEMUSKOKA.ORG



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