



cancer CAREpoint

Counseling • Assistance • Resources • Education

Personalized support services for anyone in Silicon Valley whose life is touched by cancer

Spring 2015

“Very special things happen here”

If you major in economics and statistics in college, you're showing at an early age a predilection for complicated, detail work. That fondness for complexity has come in handy for Sheryl Brown who was recently promoted to Director of Operations at Cancer CAREpoint. She's the behind-the-scenes wizard who juggles scheduling and logistics for the dozens of programs offered every month at the Resource Center.

But Sheryl brings more than administrative skills to her position – she also can offer the perspective of a three time cancer survivor who has gone from an initial diagnosis of “one year left to live” to 20 years of being cancer free.

“I don't talk frequently about my cancer experience to our clients because our conversations should be about them, not about us,” Sheryl explained, “but I find it can be helpful if someone is feeling hopeless about a stage 4 diagnosis. I can tell them from personal experience that you just don't know what will happen.”



Sheryl was born and raised in Iowa until her family moved to the Bay Area when she was a teen. She's been married to her high school sweetheart for 40 years and they raised two boys in their Mountain View home.

Her oldest son was just two years old when she was diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma and received a grim prognosis. Fortunately, the doctors were wrong and the cancer went into spontaneous remission for eight years until it reoccurred as a base of skull tumor. After that was successfully treated, several years passed until a lingering backache was found to be stage 4 lymphoma in her bones. That was two decades ago.

During these health scares, Sheryl was busy raising her family and serving as a caregiver of her dad after he suffered a major stroke. The wonderful hospice care he received from Pathways inspired her to volunteer for that organization and she went on to become its volunteer manager for seven years.

Sheryl heard about Cancer CAREpoint in 2012 and volunteered to help it get on its feet. Soon she was working as a part-time volunteer coordinator and then a full time program manager. She is incredibly proud of the growth of Cancer CAREpoint.

“In March 2013 we offered 11 programs. In March 2015, we had 57,” she said. “It is amazing what we have been able to accomplish.”

“We have a wonderful team of staff, volunteers and donors who were willing to change and adapt with us on our journey,” she said. “Very special things happen here and I consider it a tremendous gift to be able to be part of it.”

Double your donation during SV Gives!

The 1440 Foundation has committed up to \$10,000 as a matching grant for donations made to Cancer CAREpoint on May 5 as part of the second annual SV Gives regional day of giving. Just go to svgives.razoo.com at any time on May 5 to make your donation and help us make the match.

You are invited! Join us when Cancer CAREpoint hosts an SV Gives kick-off party at the Resource Center on Monday, May 4, 6-7:30 p.m. Please RSVP to megan@cancercarepoint.org or 408.402.6285 by May 1.

silicon valley
gives



OUR COMMUNITY CARES



Members of the **Lions Club of Los Gatos** enjoyed an evening tour of the Cancer CAREpoint Resource Center after Board President Allison Jones Thomson and Executive Director Rob Tufel presented information at a club meeting in March.

Thank you to **Sandra Rasmussen** and the congregation of **Evergreen Presbyterian Church** in San Jose for donating its holiday collection to Cancer CAREpoint.



Cancer CAREpoint partnered with the **American Cancer Society (ACS)** on two events held at the Resource Center on March 28 – a presentation on nutrition for members of the ACS **Healthy Young Attitude** group for young adult cancer patients and a celebration for cancer survivors in anticipation of upcoming Relay for Life events.

Project Chemo Crochet is the latest effort to provide cancer patients with warmth and comfort during their treatments. Knitted and crocheted hats have been donated by the **Yarn Spinners** of the **San Jose Elks**, and a crochet class at the Cancer CAREpoint Resource Center is helping new and experienced volunteers learn to make blanket squares. Volunteers, including a team from **Xilinx**, also continue to make blanket bundles for chemo patients.



Future events benefit Cancer CAREpoint

◆ **Shake Rock Roll**, a fun afternoon of cocktails, music and bunco, on Sunday, April 26, at the GlassHouse in downtown San Jose supported by media partners KBAY and Mix 106.5. Learn more and purchase tickets at shakerockroll.com.

◆ Silicon Valley **Open Studio** artists **Noreen Christopher, Jeanette Turkus** and **Julia Watson** will donate part of their sales May 16-17 to Cancer CAREpoint. For hours and a map to the artists, visit svos.org.

◆ **Golf Tournament** on Monday, June 1, at the beautiful and challenging Boulder Ridge Golf Course. For information, visit cancercarepoint.org.

◆ **Sports Day for Kids** with cancer, Saturday, May 9, 2-4 p.m. at San Jose State University. Families are invited to join Wipeout Cancer and Cancer CAREpoint for a fun, non-competitive afternoon of sporting activities with the Spartan football team for kids living with cancer and their siblings. Register by May 5 – learn more at wipeout-cancer.org/sports-day-for-kids. The event is free for participants.

Save the date! **Wipeout Cancer** is back on July 25. Check wipeout-cancer.org for more information.



A "Cancer Education Day" for employees of **KLA-Tencor** included presentations by Cancer CAREpoint nutritionist Nancy Birang on the importance of nutritious eating during cancer treatment and Executive Director Rob Tufel on the benefits of support services to cancer patients and their families.



Cancer CAREpoint received a \$3,000 donation from the **Women's Division of the Jewish Federation** of Silicon Valley resulting from its showing of "No Evidence of Disease," an inspiring film about gynecological cancers. Key organizers of the event included, from left, **Michelle Nathanson, Alyssia Berkowitz, Carol Pliner** and **Arielle Hendel** with Cancer CAREpoint Executive Director Rob Tufel.



Lotus Boutique, a new store in downtown Los Gatos, hosted a "Fund A Cause" sale in early March to benefit Cancer CAREpoint. Special thanks to store owner **Jackie Rodney**, pictured far right, and staffer **Sari Libbin**, pictured center, with Megan Kennedy of Cancer CAREpoint, for putting together this opportunity. Also thank you to **Daniel Millar** of **Loma Prieta Winery** who donated wine and **Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce** Executive Director **Zack Marks** for his continued support.



AI Orozco Fine Woodworking did some fine work indeed on a custom mobile wig display unit for the Cancer CAREpoint Wig Bank. AI delivered the unit to a delighted **Donna Spagna**, chief volunteer for the Wig Bank. The unit, which can showcase up to 50 different wigs and then be tucked easily into a closet for storage, was funded by a grant from the **Rotary Club of San Jose**.