Cancer CAREpoint Raises ONE MILLION DOLLARS for Cancer Patients and their Families

By Dawn Hogh - Deputy Director, and Rob Tufel - Executive Director

Cancer CAREpoint’s Annual Garden Party, celebrating “5 Years of CARE” was a sellout – almost 500 attendees at the beautiful Monte Sereno home of Rocky and Laurie Pimentel.

After early sponsor commitments, Fund a Care and a combination of amazing auction items, generosity of the George family, and a Tiffany & Co. drawing, auctioneer Graham Crow announced that we were short about $13,000 to make it to $1 million. The host Rocky Pimentel raised his paddle to make up the difference. Lew Wolff, part-owner of the Oakland A’s and San Jose Earthquakes, was the VIP speaker at the Sponsor reception and helped with a donation of an opening pitch at an A’s game. The item was hugely popular with the sponsors and eventually went to Rocky Pimentel, host.

“This is an incredible example of the community coming together to support cancer patients and families in Silicon Valley,” said executive director Rob Tufel, who credits the success of the event to the hard work of Sandi Frazer and her committee of volunteers and board chair Corrine Fabie.

More and more individuals are facing the emotional and physical challenges that come with finishing treatment. Cancer CAREpoint has created a variety of programs to support cancer survivors:

• Survivorship Workshop: six week workshop to process the emotional impact of the cancer experience

• Mind & Body Skills Series

• Survivorship: Eating for Health Series

All services are provided at no cost to everyone, no matter where they receive medical care or their cancer type.

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Also speaking at the gala event was Brandi Chastain, World Cup Champion and Olympic Gold Medalist, and Cancer CAREpoint champion, Sandra Rasmussen, who told her personal cancer story and the need for services provided by Cancer CAREpoint.

Paula Ball, auction chair, managed over 100 auction items, including a donation by Travel Advisors of Los Gatos, Soccer World Cup tickets, a Viking European River Cruise, Golden State Warrior tickets, a Tiffany & Co. necklace, and a Hawaiian dream package and a Steph Curry autographed shirt which went for over $2000.

Dignitaries attended included Board of Supervisors Cindy Chavez, Mayor of San Jose Sam Liccardo, Council members Johnny Khamis and Dev Davis, and former San Jose mayor, Chuck Reed, with wife Paula, a Cancer CAREpoint board member, and County Assessor Larry Stone.

Major support also came from South Bay Medical Centers including Stanford Health Care, O’Connor, Good Samaritan, El Camino, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, and Kaiser.

Cancer CAREpoint has served over 5,000 patients and family members since opening their Cancer Resource Center in 2013 and has just released an important, a first ever report, about gaps in care for cancer survivors in Silicon Valley.
The Dream Team Does It Again
By Gay Crawford

Cancer CAREpoint’s 2018 garden party, which this year raised an incredible $1M in celebration of Cancer CAREpoint’s 5 years of care, was planned by a committee of dedicated volunteers, led by Sandi Frazer, Cancer CAREpoint board member and garden party chair for the last two years. Special guests included Brandi Chastain, Olympic Soccer champion and Lew Wolff, part owner of the Oakland A’s and San Jose Earthquakes.

“Affectionately called the Dream Team, the committee has a shared passion for this wonderful organization,” says Frazer, “and always tries to make it fun, including some dinners in the planning cycle, which begins about a year in advance.”

According to Frazer, it’s a group effort. The committee includes veterans and past board chairs such as Allison Jones Thomson and Gay Crawford, and a committed group of volunteers.

Jan Willoughby, board member, has been involved since the first garden party, and has been responsible for finding the last two homes where these successful parties have been held. Jan also takes on the responsibility for catering and feels finding Catering by Five/Hi-Five Pizza and Catering Co. has given the party a reputation for fabulous food.

And what’s a party, without good wine and champagne? Bobbe George, also a veteran from the first Cancer CAREpoint garden party, participates fully and generously, providing champagne, along with her son Bert George of Joseph George Wines in Willow Glen who provides the wine for the event.

Paula Ball, auction chair, donates hundreds of hours to solicit, follow through and even collect auction items, which fill her entire dining room until party day. Everyone solicits auction items, and committee member Barbara Caltagirone, personally sees to a great selection of wines for the auction.

Paula and her team, including new committee member Erin Craig, spend days before and the day of the party starting at 8 AM, to set up for the auction which this year raised over $130,000.

The decor and displays of the party are always outstanding. Erin Baxter, working with Kren Rasmussen of Bloomsters and the party hosts, always creates extraordinary florals for the house and garden. This year Kren personally decorated the wrought iron chandeliers gracing the tent with floral arrangements. Ruth Slynstad also helps on the facility side, this year procuring the band.

Volunteers Sally Jones and Libie Cilker help with signage, graphics and decorative finishing touches, which help tell the Cancer CAREpoint story.

No detail is left to chance, according to a 23-page timeline, outlining everything from moving furniture, setting up the Wi-Fi, and setting out wasp traps (always the job of valued volunteer Paul Gardner).

“The help of DPE—Drummond + Peterson Events - Caterina Peterson and Diane Drummond -and Cancer CAREpoint staff are critical to the success of the event,” says Frazer, who is already lining up her committee and plans for garden party 2019.

For anyone interested in volunteering for the 2019 Garden Party Committee, please contact Dawn Hogh, Cancer CAREpoint Deputy Director at dawn@cancercarepoint.org

For more information about Cancer CAREpoint, please visit us at www.cancercarepoint.org

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