



## Let's Walk This Journey Together!

The Cancer Support Center gives strength, guidance and support to anyone living with a cancer diagnosis, as well as to their loved ones.

*We do this as a community-based, volunteer-driven, donor-supported organization.*

*Our programs, resources and services are always delivered by professional therapists, counselors, nutrition educators, and experts.*

*And are provided in a warm, welcoming and nurturing setting at no cost to participants.*

### Board of Directors

The Cancer Support Center's Board of Directors provides guidance and management to The Center through their dedication and commitment.

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#### Vice President

Bob DeChene

#### Secretary

Marilyn Kent Tapajna

#### Treasurer

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D.N.P., M.S.N., R.N.

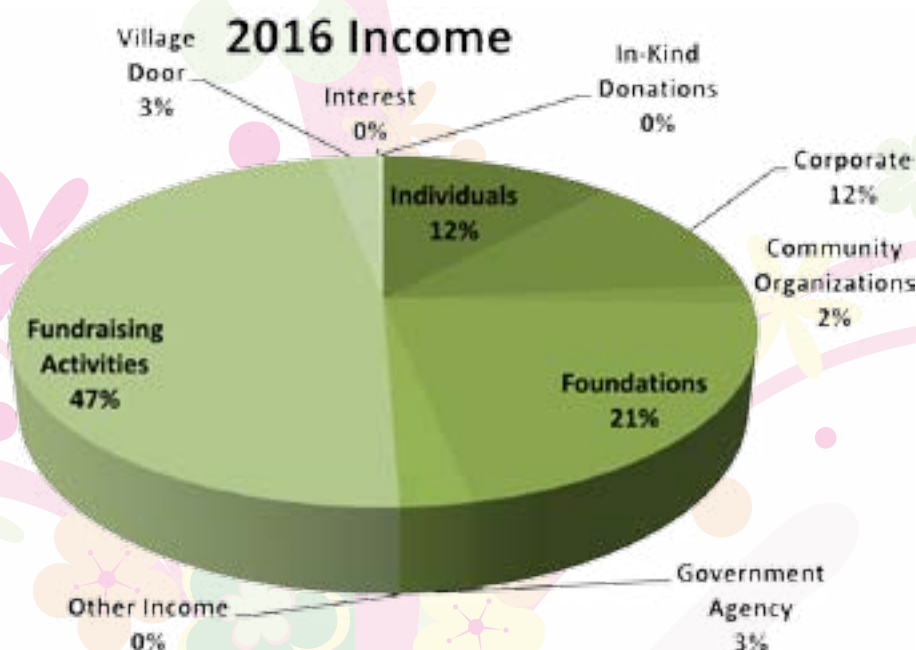
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Executive Director



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[www.cancersupportcenter.org](http://www.cancersupportcenter.org)

Visit Us:



Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together."

-James Cash Penney

Nearly 25 years ago, The Cancer Support Center was "born" because a group of women knew Chicago's south suburbs needed a special place where individuals impacted by cancer could seek emotional support from this disease. When The Center first opened, there were licensed therapists who offered emotional support at no charge for cancer patients. This method of care was well ahead of its time since the connection between mental wellness and physical health had not yet been established.

Since then, The Center has grown, and continues to grow, to provide the most comprehensive services available for cancer survivors and their loved ones. The medical community now encourages what The Center has known for years – that survivors, and their loved ones, require physical and mental health support in order to maintain the strength and hope to fight this battle.

The Center would have never grown to meet the needs of our participants without the support of many individuals, businesses, and civic groups. Through their gifts of time, talent and treasure, The Center has expanded to meet the rising number of people needing support as well as the expansion of service options required to improve the quality of life of survivors. We have accomplished this growth by working together in partnerships with those who are on the cancer journey and those who care for them.

Let's walk this journey together – so that no one has to face cancer alone in fear or isolation and always has this special home away from home, where they can come for help, hope and healing.

The Center remains grateful for all who have been a part of its very own journey of growth.

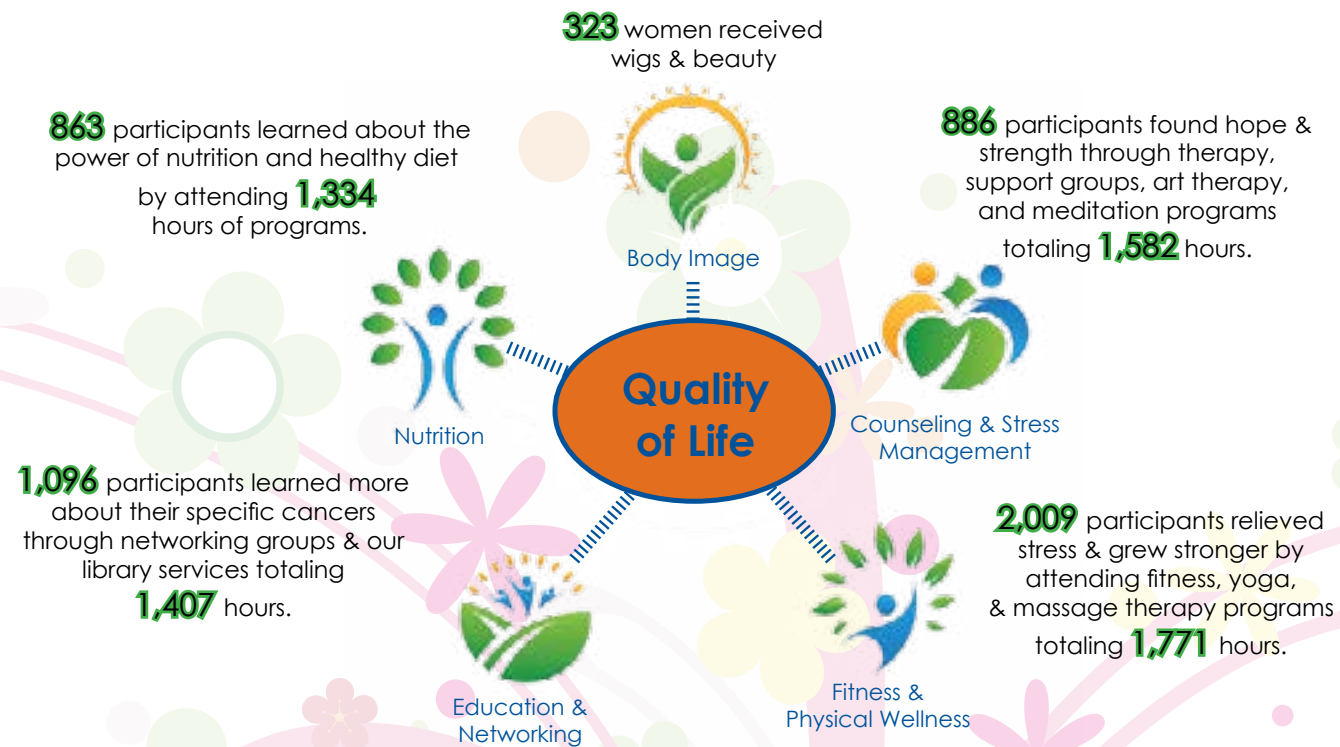
Sue Armato, Executive Director

The  
Year of  
Growth  
2016  
Annual Report

## The Journey Begins Here . . .

At **The Cancer Support Center**, we believe that no one who has cancer or loves someone with cancer should ever have to fight alone, the fear and isolation this disease often creates. We are here to ease the burden of cancer by walking along the side of our participants. Together, participants find inner strength and an ability to better cope as they fight the battle of their lives.

Through our 5 Point Model of programs and services, participants find hope, help and healing.



"I'm glad I'm here. After finishing chemotherapy, I was physically and mentally drained. The Center is filled with nice, kind people. I attend yoga and cooking. I have begun to move more and now I feel much better. I think I am in better shape than before; not just physically, mentally too. Getting out and connecting with others is wonderful, I appreciate everything." **-Tatyana**



"The yoga instructor, Nadine, at The Cancer Support Center inspires me. Yoga helps me balance physically and mentally."

**- Audrey**

**95%**

of **participants** surveyed reported an improved quality of life after attending programs.

## Together, We Make a Difference!

We would not be able to accomplish all that we do without the help of thousands of **friends**. Whether it is volunteering for a special event or representing The Center at an outreach fair, our **volunteers** provide a helping hand to all who are on this journey with us. As for our friends who share their financial resources with us, we are truly in your debt. Your gifts are the lynch pins that allow us to do all that we do for our participants. Only by working in common purpose and with a single focus are we able to ensure that no one is alone while facing cancer.

### Volunteers

Volunteers at The Center are an integral part of our goals and mission. We would be unable to accomplish what we do without over **450** volunteers who generously give more than **8,100** hours of their time each year. Some of the volunteer activities include:

- **1,536** hours at hospital and health care facilities for outreach
- **800** plus hours at our 2 Walks of Hope
- **1,152** hours of administrative assistance
- **4,000** hours at our Village Door, finer things resale boutique store

Our volunteer hours equal **4 full time staff members** – that is **25%** of our current staff. Whether volunteering in our offices, at a hospital or for our special events, we are grateful for the time and commitment of these friends.



I have been a volunteer at The Cancer Support Center for over ten years and each year my passion and yearning to spread the word about The Center gets pumped up. The Center has been a beacon of fire in my heart for years. It is a joy and therapy for me when I tell people about The Center, especially about the free massages. The Cancer Support Center is not just a facility for help and free services, it is heaven on earth.

**-Herb Carrier, CSC Volunteer**

### Donors

The Center does not receive reimbursement for services provided nor does it have any government contracts. The funds for The Center are from individuals, corporations, foundations, special events, friends, and the Village Door. We are maintained and supported by our community. This support comes to us in many generous and meaningful ways:

- **4** Signature Center Events – Gala, Fall & Spring Walks of Hope and a Golf Outing – raised more than **\$360,000**
- **52** Community events were held on The Center's behalf raising **\$202,000**
- **12** Ancillary Board fundraising events raised more than **\$110,000**
- **20** grants were secured by The Center staff totaling \$283,200
- **4,096** individuals gave donations



I support The Center because I want to make sure that it is there for others when and if they need it just like it was here for my friends and family. I make sure my donations are going to a place I believe in and a place where I can see the good work being done. I know of the good work The Center does and want it to be able to continue to expand.

**-Shirley Mueller, CSC Donor**