

WORDS OF HOPE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR CANCER PATIENTS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

Gems of Hope Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing hope to cancer patients and their families.

THE MEANING OF HOPE

Allison Maze, a student at Xavier High School, knows the meaning of hope. She wrote an article about Gems of Hope in her school newspaper that stated: "Hope helps us look to a brighter tomorrow. Hope calms our fears and gives us peace. Sometimes others reach out to us and give us hope and encouragement when we need it." Allison described exactly what our organization tries to accomplish in the lives of others everyday. As an organization founded on hope,

we are excited about the new ventures and opportunities presented to us daily. Our new office space in Mercy Medical Center has helped us become increasingly organized and efficient. We are now in the midst of launching a special line of our inspirational cards that will be sold on our website. As you read this newsletter, you will find that Gems of Hope is working hard to become a visible organization in our community. We are striving to get the word out to all cancer patients

that people do care.

I am continually amazed by the energy and enthusiasm demonstrated by our volunteers who come together to bring hope and inspiration to cancer patients and their families. The momentum at Gems of Hope is not slowing down. So hop aboard and enjoy the ride with us!

Cindy Sale
Co-Director

Gems of Hope Director Honored

Sheila Harman, founder and co-director of Gems for Hope, was one of 53 women in the community honored at the 25th Anniversary Tribute to Women of Achievement on October 3, 2006.



Founders and co-directors of Gems of Hope
Beth Hammell, Sheila Harman, and Cindy Sale.

Sheila was nominated for her work in founding Gems of Hope.

This event, sponsored by Waypoint Services to Women, Children and Families, recognizes women for significant accomplishments in business, churches, civic groups and personal lives.

Sheila thanks co-directors Cindy Sale and Beth Hammell and the hundreds of volunteers who worked to make Gems of Hope a reality.

We Thank . . .

The Cedar Rapids Gazette and their Partners for Charity Program. This program allows an advertiser to pick a partner to sponsor for a full page ad in the Gazette.

Siegel's Jewelry and Loan, Inc. for picking Gems of Hope as their partner for Charity. Our ad ran side-by-side with Siegel's on October 5, 2006.

Blaire Thorson for agreeing to be our model for the advertisement.

Delta Delta Delta Sorority at Coe College who sold Gems of Hope products at Coe's Parents Weekend, November 4, 2006. We appreciate their willingness to get involved in our organization.

Gems of Hope Inc. Directors
Cindy Sale, Beth Hammell, Sheila Harman
Officers
President: June Rainbow
Vice President: Judy Armon
Secretary: Lynn Widen
Treasurer: Julie Elias

Contact Us
www.gemsofhopenet.org
or
Gems of Hope Inc, PO Box 11264
Cedar Rapids, IA
52410-1264

Planning for the Future

The directors and officers of Gems of Hope have elected to establish an endowment fund within the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. This gives the community another avenue through which individuals may donate to our mission of "bringing hope to cancer patients and their families." This fund will also allow Gems of Hope to expand our services to the community.

Donors to the Gems of Hope Endowment Fund may be eligible to receive a tax credit through the state approved "Endow Iowa" program." Please go to www.iowalifechanging.com/endowiowa for more information.

Especially for You® – Women’s Race Against Breast Cancer

One hundred and fifty “Gems”, ranging in age from 4 to 81, were among the 9,360 participants October 8 in the 2006 Especially for You® Women’s Race Against Breast Cancer sponsored by Mercy Medical Center. The \$170,000 raised will go provide free mammograms and other breast-care services for area women in need.



Just some of the Gems of Hope team members at the 2006 Especially for You® Women’s Race Against Breast Cancer

On-line Shopping Coming Soon

Have you wanted to share a Gem of Hope with someone who needs a little encouragement, but weren’t able to visit one of our retail outlets? We have designed a special collection of “Gifts of Hope” cards with earrings or serenity circles available for purchase through our website, www.gemsofhopenet.org. Simply click on “Order” to place your order.

New Gems of Hope Webpage for Children and Teens

The Gems of Hope website, www.gemsofhopenet.org will soon include a page providing support and encouragement to children and teens. When completed, the site will include a listing of resources, and links to chat rooms and other websites relating to youth who are coping with cancer.

Gems of Hope Office Hours

Mon. 1–4 p.m.
Weds. 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Thurs. 1–4 p.m.

Check out books from the Hope Library.

Schedule a presentation and workshop for your organization.

The office is located in the Mercy Medical Center within the American Cancer Society office.

“What About Us?”

When someone a child loves undergoes treatment for cancer, that child often needs help coping. Gems of Hope has designed a program for children ages 5-12 called, “What About Us?” to provide that help and support.

Classes will be held at St. Luke’s Schwartz Center February 5 and 12, 2007, from 5 - 7 p.m. Dinner will be provided. The classes are free, however pre-registration is required.

To register email gemsofhope3@aol.com or call 393-8671. Early registration is encouraged as class size is limited.

Fall Open Houses Held

Gems of Hope held an open house for the Mercy Medical Center staff and Oncology Associates staff on October 9, 2006. A similar open house was held for St. Luke’s Hospital medical staff and Iowa Blood and Cancer Care staff on November 7. Volunteers demonstrated card-making and beading. Samples of the Hope Library books were also on display.

The purpose of the two open houses was to familiarize hospital staff with the monthly workshops held by Gems of Hope at the two hospitals so they can encourage patients to participate.

Upcoming Events

- October 25—Mercy Hospice at Prairiewoods Retreat Center
- November 6—Junior Women’s Club, West Des Moines, Iowa
- December 8—Linn County Physician’s Christmas Dinner
- January 20—Anamosa PEO
- February 10— Delta Kappa Gamma

Beading Workshops

At Beads & Beyond
4333 Czech Lane NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
 Sunday, Nov. 12, 1-3 pm
 Sunday, Dec. 10, 1-3 pm
 Sunday, Jan. 14, 1-3 pm

At Mercy Medical Center
Hall Radiation
Conference Room
 Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6:30-8 pm
 Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6:30-8 pm

At St. Luke’s
Nassif Heart Center
Third Floor, Room 2
 Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6:30-8 pm

Card-making Workshops

At Stampin’ & Scrappin’ Pad
1107—7th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302
(in the Marion Square)
 Monday, Nov. 6, 6-9 pm
 Monday, Dec. 4, 6-9 pm
 Monday, Jan. 8, 6-9 pm

At St. Luke’s
Nassif Heart Center
Third Floor, Room 2
 Tuesday, Nov. 14 6:30-8 pm
 Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6:30-8 pm

At Mercy Medical Center
Hall Radiation
Conference Room
 Tuesday, Dec. 12 6:30–8 PM

Workshops provide social interaction and a supportive network for cancer patients and their loved ones.

Everyone is welcome!
 Join us!