



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.

Gems of Hope: A Message from the President



June Rainbow

As I look back over the past year, I realize just how much activity and energy has been put into this wonderful organization and how many lives have been touched in a very positive way. It warms my heart to see what Gems of Hope Inc. has to offer, as well as what we are each receiving in return from notes and conversations with cancer patients and their families.

A year ago we incorporated as a non-profit company. We are proud to

announce that we received major sponsorships from our two medical facilities – Mercy Medical Center and St. Luke's Hospital. We are gratified that both institutions recognized this opportunity to provide hope and inspiration to all cancer patients who are being treated in Cedar Rapids.

We have had requests from various organizations in other communities asking us to come to their city. We are developing an expansion plan and hope to make our next steps very soon.

We could not have accomplished what we have this past year without

help from our sponsors and our community volunteers. We thank you for your interest and your continued support. Please feel free to contact any of us with any questions you may have.

June Rainbow
President, Gems of Hope, Inc.

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

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

Founded in 2005, Gems of Hope Inc:

- Became a 501(c)3 organization December 23, 2005.
- Established five Hope Libraries for cancer patients and their families, providing them with reading material during chemotherapy.
- Launched our website, www.gemsofhopenet.org with assistance from students and advisors at Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids, IA.
- Hosted a booth at Beyond Rubies in March, 2006.
- Participated in Relay for Life on June 16, at Coe College in Cedar Rapids.

- Created and presented a gift to each cancer survivor who participated in the Survivor Lap at the Relay for Life. The gifts were underwritten by General Mills.
- Provided our inspirational cards for the Linn County Medical Society Holiday dinner.
- Had two of our founders attend a "Meet and Greet" with Sheryl Crow in Cedar Rapids in June, 2006. Gems of Hope cards were presented to Ms. Crow, a cancer survivor. Our cards were custom made and included lyrics from her songs.
- Has hundreds of volunteers participating on a monthly basis in beading and card making.

- Created and distributed over 2700 cards and earrings.
- Continues to make presentations to organizations including PEO groups, Rotary and medical groups.

Coming Up!
Especially for You®
Women's Race
Against Breast Cancer
October 8, 2006

Look for
Gems of Hope Inc. there



Vice President Judy Armon volunteering at Relay for Life, June 17, 2006.

Gems of Hope Inc. Officers
President: June Rainbow
Vice President: Judy Armon
Secretary: Lynn Widen
Treasurer: Julie Elias



Gems of Hope Participates in Relay for Life



Karen Brenneman presents Cancer survivors at Relay for Life with a small gift of encouragement, and a reminder to "Learn from yesterday ~ Live for today ~ Hope for tomorrow ~Celebrate Life!" The gifts were generously underwritten by General Mills.

Gems of Hope Inc. was proud to have three teams participating in the 2006 Relay for Life at Coe College. The event kicked off at 7:00 pm on Friday June 16, and we had participants on the track every hour throughout the night. Danielle Malatek, Miss Iowa Teen USA, made a guest appearance and walked for the Gems of Hope Inc. team. Cancer survivors were honored during a victory lap around the track and received serenity circles made especially for this event by **Gems of Hope Inc.** Our teams raised close to \$7000.00 for the Linn County American Cancer Society.

The top fundraiser for all three teams was Robin Roberts (\$2,080). He received a gourmet dinner for eight. Joyce Sedlacek and Donna Claflin were the other top fundraisers and received gift certificates to Panera Bread. **Gems of Hope Inc.** would like to express our sincere thanks to all those who participated in this year's Relay for Life. See you next year!

Happy Birthday, Gems of Hope!

Gems of Hope Inc. was one year old on July 18! In celebration, we have prepared a limited edition of our inspirational cards. These special cards will include a wild-flower seeded paper cutout (intended to be planted) created by the BloominPaper Company of Colorado. The limited edition cards will be given to oncology patients in July and August.

The owner was so taken with our organization that she donated 200 cutouts. Special thanks to Beth from BloominPaper for getting us started with this new design.

Gems Within the Community

April 24-Kids Count Too Gems of Hope Inc. participated in the Kids Count Too program at Mercy Medical Center April 24. Participants made key chains for their loved ones who have cancer. Additional key chains were made for The Anna Purna G h o s h F o u n d a t i o n (www.apgfoundation.org), which helps local cancer patients pay for prescriptions they can't afford. These will be auctioned off at a fundraiser next fall.

May 4-Tribute to Talent

Tribute to Talent honored all the local medical doctors who retired in the past year. Mercy Medical Center purchased Gems of Hope Inc. earrings and serenity cards for all those in attendance. We appreciate their support and were honored to be part of their special evening.

June 17- Sheryl Crow Concert

Gems of Hope Inc. Directors, Beth Hammell and Sheila Harman, met with Sheryl Crow before her concert in Cedar Rapids June 17. Crow was presented with earrings and cards personally designed for her by Gems volunteers. She was grateful and pledges to continue to be a spokes-person for breast cancer awareness and early detection. She was delightful and sincere and wished Gems of Hope Inc. continued success.



Gems of Hope Inc. Director Sheila Harman and Sheryl Crow, June 17.

Beading Workshops

At Beads & Beyond
4333 Czech Lane NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Sunday, July 23, 1-3 pm
Sunday, August 13, 1-3 pm
Sunday, August 27, 1-3 pm

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

At Mercy Medical Center
Hall Radiation
Conference Room
Tuesday, Sept. 12, 6:30-8 pm

Card-making Workshops

At Stampin' & Scrappin' Pad
1107-7th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302

(in the Marion Square)
Monday, August 7, 6-9 pm
Monday, Sept. 11, 6-9 pm

At St. Luke's
Nassif Heart Center
Third Floor, Room 2
Tuesday, Sept. 12, 7-8:30 pm

At Mercy Medical Center
Hall Radiation
Conference Room
Tuesday, August 8, 6:30-8 pm

Gems of Hope Cards Available September 1 at the following businesses:

Mercy Medical Center Gift Shop
Pizazz Salon and Spa
Broomin Sisters Floral Boutique
Prairiewoods

St. Luke's Women's Health Center
Enzler's Gifts and Leather Goods
Basket Boutique