

A Special Tribute:

Boston Medical Center and the Stowe Weekend of Hope

Bob David – April 2016

Cancer patients and survivors from Boston Medical Center continue to attend and benefit from the Stowe Weekend of Hope. Boston is a major hub for medical care, education and research with topnotch medical schools and cutting edge medical facilities. Since its inception 20 years ago, BMC has steadily enhanced its capacity to offer “exceptional care, without exception.”

In 2008, a nurse who ran the Ovarian Cancer Mind/Body Support Group, organized the first trip to Vermont, for the Stowe Weekend of Hope. Everyone loved it, and some of those women continue to attend to this day. Every year the number of participants grows, with approximately 250 BMC survivors and guests among the crowd of partakers at this year’s event!

As a safety-net hospital, BMC receives many patients short on

resources, options and opportunities. This makes going to Stowe and attending the Weekend of Hope all the more a special occasion for our survivors who make the trip. For many, this is a rare chance to get out of the city.

“Because of the health fair they have, the relaxation, clean air, no sirens...”

“It helps me relax my body, my spirit, my mind and keep me away from getting stressed.”

“As a caregiver for my 93-yr-old mom, it is the only time I can get away yearly.”

Of course, once out of the city, newcomers are especially moved by the beautiful environment, the welcoming friendliness of the locals, the depth of the programming, and the encouragement and connections felt with other survivors.

“It’s helpful to know the fears you experienced and continue to

experience are common to most survivors. [The Weekend of Hope] was a very educational and a truly positive experience to go through with my husband.”

“There were things I hadn’t gotten answers on before about my type of cancer.” “We’re treated with the utmost respect wherever we went.”

“I so enjoyed the first trip. It was informative, simple, and joyful. My partner was able to understand more about cancer—caregiving support, etc. So it was good for both of us.”

“It is such a wonderful time meeting new people and catching up with others you have met before. Vermont is such a beautiful state—just to see all the natural beauty is breathtaking. And the knowledge that you gain is priceless.”

There are many to thank for making the Weekend of Hope such an amazing experience for ALL

attendees and especially for bringing light into the lives of so many BMC survivors. For the past three years, Jeff Gallahue, cancer survivor, founder of the organization We Beat Cancer, and Weekend of Hope Keynote Speaker in 2014 has directed his organization to donate a grand sum of money to cover the major expenses of BMC’s large-scale participation in the Weekend of Hope. They cover all costs for two 54-seat buses that bring almost half of our people up to Stowe and the back home to Boston; gas cards for the 50 people driving their cars up; the big Friday night dinner for all BMC folks; and the cost of the rooms for survivors returning for their 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 8th time! We can never thank you enough, Jeff!

I would also like to thank the staff and volunteers of the Stowe Weekend of Hope. They are some

of the most patient people on the planet who work tirelessly for months overseeing every detail to make the Weekend of Hope the incredible success that it is every year. Accommodating BMC and its ranging assortment of needs is no small task. Sparing you the details, I’ll tell you that for about 6 or 7 weeks before the event, communication goes back and forth almost daily by email or phone hammering out arrangements. No matter how prepared we are, new things always come up, but with a rapport developed over several years now, we’re ready for whatever happens.

Thank you so much to everyone for all you do, for extending yourselves over and over again, for never missing a beat, forever keeping an even keel, and for always being a total delight to work with!

We love you!



REMEMBERING...

We remember the friends we have lost since we last met.

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|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Darleen Bonislaawski | Susan Gagne | Deborah McGill |
| Robin Bray | Mimi Gutchell | Carol McLaughlin |
| Gretchen Breese | Debra Herrera | Betsy O'toole |
| Jennie Cline | Gary Hine | Jan Ronan |
| Susan Coffey | Kathleen Kelly | Eva Suler |
| Barabara Damon Day | Lisa Kirchner | Diane Van Duesan |
| John Des Roches | Melissa Loftus | Joey Von Iderstein |
| Tina Duca | Zissa Macdonald | Margaret Winchester |
| Kay Ellis | Elaine Martin | Michael Yuscavitch |

LOOKING FOR PLACES TO EAT AND SHOP DURING THE WEEKEND?

Be sure to patronize the businesses participating in the Green Ribbon Campaign. These generous local businesses donate 10% of their sales to the Stowe Weekend of Hope – their donation is absolutely critical to the SWOH’s success! There’s a variety of dining and shopping to meet all tastes and budgets. We strongly encourage all participants to show support and gratitude to these generous local businesses. Look for the Green Ribbon Signs outside shops and restaurants. A complete list of participating businesses is on page 11. Thank you!

SPOTLIGHT ON KOMEN

The Vermont-New Hampshire Affiliate of Susan G. Komen® is dedicated to fighting breast cancer at every front. Up to 75 percent of the Affiliate’s net proceeds goes toward funding grants to local hospitals and community organizations that provide breast health education and breast cancer screening and treatment programs for medically underserved women. The remaining net income (a minimum of 25 percent) supports the national Komen Grants Program, which funds groundbreaking breast cancer research, meritorious awards and educational and scientific programs around the world.

The Komen Vermont-New Hampshire Affiliate’s services area covers all of Vermont and New Hampshire. Thanks to the thousands of people who participant in the Susan G. Komen Vermont Race for the Cure® and the Susan G. Komen New Hampshire Race for the Cure held in Portsmouth and other Affiliate events each year, dedicated corporate partners and generous donors, Komen Vermont-New Hampshire is playing a vital role in fighting breast cancer in our community.

Join us for one of our upcoming events:

- May 7, 2016 New Hampshire Race for the Cure- 9:00am at Strawberry Banke Museum, Portsmouth, NH
- July 23, 2016 Vermont Race for the Cure – 8:30am at Riley Rink at Hunter Park in Manchester, Vermont- 5k walk and run, and 10k run
- September 17, 2016- New Hampshire Ride for the Cure - 9:00am at Fox State Forest, Hillsborough, NH
- October 10, 2016 – Vermont Ride for the Cure – 9:00am at Green Mountain Horse Association, South Woodstock, VT



www.komenvtnh.org

A Celebration of Faith

at the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe (JCOGS) (located directly across the street from the Stoweflake Resort.)

Jewish Kabbalat Shabbat services

Friday, April 29, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a participatory Jewish service, as we weave themes of survival and hope into our musical service.

Yizkor Jewish Memorial Service and Torah Study

Saturday, April 30, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Come and join us for a yizkor memorial service on Saturday, April 30, the final day of Passover. As is the custom at this season, we will remember those who have passed way, including at the hand of cancer. Then stay for a Torah study at 10:30 a.m. on the origins and meanings of this Yizkor memorial practice of ritually remembering the beloved departed four times a year.

WEST BRANCH GALLERY & SCULPTURE PARK

Friday-Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Drop in anytime during the weekend for a "Curator's Tour" of the new exhibition, "Flight: Explorations in Movement, Migration, and Freedom". Learn about the artwork on display, from participating Syrian refugee artists, regional artists, and Stowe student artists, or choose to sit and be immersed in a serene, peaceful environment.

Help Support the Stowe Weekend of Hope by Subscribing to Cancer Today Magazine

The Stowe Weekend of Hope will receive 30 % of the cost of subscriptions when purchased through a dedicated subscription page. Please visit www.stowehope.org for the link to this page.

Cancer Today empowers patients, survivors and caregivers with reliable, reader-friendly reporting on the latest advances in cancer research, inspiring articles about cancer survivors, guidance on being an active partner in one's treatment and more. Sample articles from the latest issue available online at www.cancertodaymag.org

