



# **The Belinda Sue Fund®**

## **for Ovarian Cancer Awareness & Research**

### **QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 1, Issue 2**

**July 2012**

#### **Inaugural Gala – A Huge Success!**

The Belinda Sue Fund Inaugural Gala was held on June 9, 2012 at The Henry in Dearborn. The event included both a live and silent auction and live entertainment. Over 200 guests attended and \$40,000 was raised. Tom Nantais, CEO and Founder of The Belinda Sue Fund, presented Dr. Adnan Munkarah, Chairman, Women's Health Services, Henry Ford Medical Group, with the "Making a Difference" award which is given to a worthy individual who is making a difference in the lives of Ovarian Cancer patients. This award will continue to be presented each year at the Gala. With the monies raised at this event along with other contributions, the total donated through June 2012 is over \$80,000. Our goal is to reach \$100,000 by year's end, and with your continued support, we are confident we can surpass this goal. So we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who have supported our cause. For anyone who would like to donate, please visit our website: [www.belindasuefund.org](http://www.belindasuefund.org). You may also send a check or money order made out to "The Belinda Sue Fund" and mail to:

**The Belinda Sue Fund  
PO Box 210159  
Auburn Hills, MI 48321**

*For pictures from the Gala, see page 2*

#### **A Personal Message**

*Each quarter we feature a special message or personal story of someone who is affected by Ovarian Cancer either directly or indirectly. In this issue we highlight the story of Cathy Swain, an Ovarian Cancer Survivor.*

Cathy Swain was diagnosed with Stage IIIc Ovarian Cancer in August 2007 at age 52. She experienced many of the classic symptoms of Ovarian Cancer, such as bloating, burping, and pelvic pain which was initially thought to be gastro-esophageal reflux by her internist. She was placed on Prilosec, which did not relieve her symptoms. A few days after her second visit to her internist, she began to experience shortness of breath and worsening bloating causing her to drive herself to the Emergency Room. It was then she was told, while alone in the ER, that it appeared she had Ovarian Cancer after undergoing an ultrasound and CT scan. About a week later, Cathy underwent surgery where the Stage IIIc diagnosis was confirmed. The cancer had spread to her spleen. She underwent chemotherapy and shortly thereafter had to change oncologists as her doctor was moving out of town.

Over the coming months, Cathy was put on a maintenance drug by a new oncologist. However after seeking another opinion by yet another oncologist (now her current doctor), she was told her cancer had recurred and was wrapped around her colon. She underwent further surgery, requiring a colostomy. She continued chemotherapy treatments in the months that followed after 4 tumors appeared on her lungs. Those tumors were eventually eradicated by chemo, but the cancer had spread to her liver showing multiple tumors. Surgery could not be performed due to the location of the tumors. To date, Cathy has been through over 50 chemo treatments and has had a total of 4 recurrences of the cancer. To complicate Cathy's battle, she had to quit her job as a nurse, go through a very painful divorce, and give away her precious Black Labrador Retriever.

But Cathy continues to fight. She has the wonderful support of her sister, Judy, who quit working to help Cathy, as well as her children, other siblings, and friends. She does not take anything for granted. Cathy enjoys spending time with her beautiful

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## Billboard Campaign

Our billboard campaign is going to continue over the next twelve months. You may have noticed the various billboards that ran in the Detroit Metro area during May & June. We have had such a positive response, and knowing how important it is to raise awareness of this dreaded disease, we will be rotating our billboard in 4 different locations over the next 12 months:

**Location 1, running from 07/09/12 – 10/28/12:**

I-94 just east of Middlebelt Rd. on the south side facing east for westbound traffic to see

**Location 2, running from 10/29/12 – 12/23/12:**

I-96 east of Lamphere (between Southfield and Telegraph) on the north side facing east for westbound traffic to see

**Location 3, running from 12/24/12 – 03/24/13:**

I-75 south of Nine Mile Rd. on the west side facing southeast for northbound traffic to see

**Location 4, running from 03/25/13 – 07/07/13:**

Telegraph Rd. 0.1 mi north of Six Mile Rd. on the west side facing south for northbound traffic to see

*Keep your eyes peeled!!*

*"Message" Continued from page 1*

grandchildren, family, and friends. She, her sister, and a girlfriend are planning a visit to Georgia this summer where she owns property in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Cathy said that she has learned to live with the cancer, and while chemotherapy may be exhausting and keep her down for a few days, she is emphatic when she says that she will not let Ovarian Cancer rob her of living a quality life. So here's to Cathy and her wonderful fighting spirit!

## Zoo Walk – Save the Date!!

**Come join us for our first annual Zoo Walk**

When: Sunday, September 30, 2012 at 9:00am

Where: Detroit Zoo, Royal Oak

This is a non-competitive 1 mile walk and will be a great outing for family and friends.

Please visit our website, [www.belindasuefund.org](http://www.belindasuefund.org) and click on the Events page to register.

## In the Spotlight

We are excited to announce that The Belinda Sue Fund will be featured in the Media!

- **Hour Magazine** will be doing an article about the Belinda Sue Fund. Bindy's husband, Tom, and their daughter, Caroline, have been interviewed. The article will be published in the September issue.
- Dr. Partha Nandi, host of the **"Ask Dr. Nandi"** show, will also be interviewing Tom and Dr. Thomas Buekers, Division Head, Gynecological Oncology, Henry Ford Medical Group, for an upcoming episode to air in September, Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Further details will be available on our website, [www.belindasuefund.org](http://www.belindasuefund.org), with the exact date and time. You can also visit [www.askdrnandi.com](http://www.askdrnandi.com) for more information.

## Did You Know?

- The 5-year survival rate is 66% for those diagnosed in Stage II, but drops to 34% for those women diagnosed in Stage III of the disease\*
- Only about 20% of Ovarian Cancers are found at an early stage\*
- There will be approximately 22,280 new cases of Ovarian Cancer diagnosed in 2012 and approximately 15,500 women will die from Ovarian Cancer this year\*

(\*American Cancer Society)

Dr. Oz (from the **"Dr. Oz"** show) and the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) created a very useful Ovarian Cancer One-Sheet for women to fill out and take to their doctor should they feel they have some of the common signs/symptoms associated with Ovarian Cancer. Visit <http://www.doctoroz.com/videos/ovarian-cancer-one-sheet> to access the form.



The Belinda Sue Fund Board Members



Dr. Munkarah receiving the  
"Making a Difference" Award from Tom Nantais



Caroline Nantais speaking about her mother,  
Belinda Nantais