



The Belinda Sue Fund

for Ovarian Cancer Awareness & Research

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2012

Off to a Great Start

We are pleased to be sending you the premiere issue of the Belinda Sue Fund Newsletter which will be circulated on a quarterly basis. We hope you will find the newsletter informative. The Belinda Sue Fund, Inc. has gotten off to a great start in raising monies to increase awareness of Ovarian Cancer and to identify a better screening tool for this deadly disease. A very special thanks goes out to those of you who have donated. Through March 2012 we have received over \$27,000 in donations. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 by the end of the year and we can do that with your continued support. If you would like to donate, please visit our website: 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
c/o Thomas S. Nantais
2350 Galaxy Way
Lake Orion, MI 48360

Billboard Campaign

We are very excited to announce that in May/June of this year we are placing a billboard on I-75 to help raise awareness of Ovarian Cancer. The billboard will be located on the west side of I-75 just south of 9 Mile Road. It will be facing southeast and readily visible to traffic heading northbound. Our goal is to have billboards run a few times throughout the year with plans to have another billboard campaign during Ovarian Cancer Awareness month, which is in September.

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 Caroline Nantais, daughter of Belinda.

Caroline, age 26, was diagnosed with having a mutation of the BRCA 1 gene (i.e. **BR**east **C**ancer susceptibility gene **1**). She inherited the mutated gene from her mother who tested positive for it following her diagnosis of Ovarian Cancer. In normal cells BRCA 1 helps to ensure the stability of the cell's DNA and helps to prevent uncontrolled cell growth. Mutation of this gene (and the BRCA 2 gene) has been linked to the development of hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer.

Caroline will be closely monitored for development of Breast and Ovarian Cancer with frequent mammograms, ultrasounds when necessary, pelvic exams and testing for the cancer antigen CA-125. While it may seem alarming that she is a BRCA-1 carrier, it puts Caroline at an advantage. She can take proactive measures to (1) help mitigate her chances of actually developing either Breast or Ovarian Cancer and (2) catch the cancer in its very early stages, thereby decreasing her mortality risk with proper treatment.

Caroline has a very positive outlook and is armed with the tools necessary to successfully face any challenges she may encounter. She also has the constant support of loved ones all around her. We also would like to congratulate Caroline on the impending birth of a baby girl in August 2012!

Did You Know?

- Of those women diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer, approximately 10% are under age 40
- Ovarian Cancer is the deadliest gynecologic cancer
- Women under age 40 who are diagnosed with Breast or Ovarian Cancer are more likely to have a mutated BRCA 1 or BRCA 2 gene

SAVE-THE-DATE

June 9, 2012 *The Belinda Sue Fund Inaugural Gala*
The Henry, Dearborn, MI

Sept 30, 2012 *The Belinda Sue Fund Zoo Walk*
for Ovarian Cancer
The Detroit Zoo

More information will be available on our website:

www.belindasuefund.org