

GILDA'S CLUB SEATTLE IS NOW CANCER PATHWAYS

Dear Friends:

I learned about Gilda's Club when I saw an article about the opening of the first Clubhouse in NYC. I had read Gilda Radner's book, It's Always Something, and I felt like she was talking to me. My mother had cancer during a time when everyone whispered the word. We were not allowed to talk about it. I always remember the feelings of fear and isolation and I knew I wanted something different for my family and for all families.

I knew this region needed Gilda's Club. I spent four long years raising money and telling people what Gilda's Club was all about. My dream became a community dream and with the help of many dedicated volunteers, donors and supporters, we opened the doors to our beautiful Clubhouse on Capitol Hill in 2001. Fifteen years later, we have touched the lives of more than 200,000 people living with cancer. Gilda's Club Seattle has helped men, women and children through education, support, classes, social events, family programs, summer camps, education in the high schools, teen writing contests, lectures, hospital partnerships, workplace programs and so much more.

In 2009, The Wellness Communities and Gilda's Club Worldwide formed a new national organization called Cancer Support Community (CSC), trademarking the name Gilda in relation to cancer support. The CSC charges Gilda's Club Seattle a fee to license the name, as well as additional fees for their programs with no benefits to us.

While CSC is an admirable organization, the time has come for us to move forward to keep our organization and our funds local by changing our name and becoming independent.

So, Gilda's Club Seattle is changing its name to **Cancer Pathways**. It is not a decision we made lightly, but we made it so we can continue to offer our programs to our entire state and beyond. This region is unique and we have always been independent in our programming. This change will give us the flexibility to continue to expand and create new and innovative programming that is our own, while keeping the funds we raise local. We made this decision for our members, for our community and for you.

I assure you that even though we cannot keep our name, Gilda will always be in our hearts. We vow to honor her legacy in our programs, in our laughter and in our mission. Gilda was and always will be my inspiration and she will always be part of who we are.

We will move forward with pride in our accomplishments and the knowledge that we will continue to serve thousands of people living with cancer in our state and beyond. Change is hard but we are excited about the future. Our mission, our philosophy and our spirit will not change and Gilda Radner's legacy will continue to be honored.

Thank you so much for your loyal support. Come join us as we embark on this most important goal of making sure no one ever has to face cancer alone, we will face it together—as **Cancer Pathways**. We are on your path with you.

Sincerely,

Anna Gottlieb
Founder and Executive Director