

The Devils' Advocate

www.TheRedDevilsMD.org

Spring 2015

The Red Devils Supporting Breast Cancer Families

The Devils' Advocate is a publication of The Red Devils, Inc.

Our Mission:

The Red Devils mission is to fund support services that improve the quality of life for breast cancer patients and their families.

What's in a Name?

The Red Devils name was inspired by Katherine Russell Rich, author of *The Red Devil – to Hell with Cancer and Back*, which opens a window into the heart of a woman whose life with cancer was marked with courage, grace, and humor. In 2002, Jessica Cowling and Ginny Schardt formed a team called The Red Devils to walk in the Race for the Cure. The name has been ours ever since. "The Red Devil" is a nickname for the chemotherapy drug, Adriamycin, often used to treat breast cancer.

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To volunteer, please contact us at 410-323-0135 or info@the-red-devils.org

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TheRedDevilsMD



Running with The Devils

By Meredith Lidard Kleeman

Walk or run to benefit one! More than just a clever rhyme, it's the theme of this year's 13th Annual Running with The Devils 5K.

The Red Devils provides funding for services to help more than 700 breast cancer patients annually, and aims to increase that number to 800 in 2015. Help make an immediate impact on the lives of these patients and their families by becoming one of the 800 supporting one of our 800 in The Red Devils' 13th Annual Running with The Devils 5K on Sunday, June 14 at Goucher College in Towson, Md.



Each participant's fundraising efforts will support treatment services for one breast cancer patient. The money you raise will provide funding for treatment transportation, family support such as meals and groceries, housecleaning and childcare, as well as medical services and additional assistance to improve their quality of life as they undergo treatment. This event is the largest fundraiser for The Red Devils, and aims to raise \$100,000 to invest in families throughout the state. This year, The Red Devils plans to provide an average of \$325 in quality-of-life-assistance per patient.

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Benefit One...

Dear Devils' Advocates,

Thank you for your swift and generous responses to our year-end requests for financial support. We always have known we enjoy a special relationship with our donors, but your gifts on #GivingTuesday and contributions to the Horns of Hope Challenge truly exceeded our expectations, and made an immediate difference in the lives of Maryland families living with breast cancer.

Throughout the fall, we asked you to help us win \$15,000 in matching grant funds from The David and Barbara Hirschhorn Foundation. Nearly 150 of you stepped forward with new or additional donations totaling \$22,882. Because of thousands of you voting last September for the Overcomer video in the Medline Pink Glove Dance competition, GBMC won top honors; our patients were the beneficiaries of the \$10,000 grand prize the hospital directed our way. Finally, in a single day, Tuesday, December 3rd, 60 of you answered the #GivingTuesday call, raising \$9,000. Taken together, your individual contributions and efforts made the burdens of breast cancer a little lighter for at least 200 families. Thank you!

As we set our sights on this year's Running with The Devils, we are turning to you once again to walk or run to benefit one of the 800 families we will touch this year. Women like Erica McCray, whose story we share in this issue, face the disease with all the strength they can muster. They can't always succeed alone. Every time one of you steps up for one of them, hope grows. Make plans to be one of the 800 with us at Goucher College on June 14. If a prior commitment keeps you away, register as a virtual participant. We will count you in.

Know that because of your investments in our mission last year, nearly 700 patients were able to enter or remain in treatment. Giving them hope is the impact you have on their journey.

With sincere gratitude,

Christopher S. Schardt
Board President

Janice L. Wilson
Executive Director



If you would like to activate your belief in our mission by lending your expertise, please contact us. We welcome:

- Volunteers to assist us with important projects in our office
- Skilled marketing, event planning, photography, legal, and research professionals available for pro bono service
- Community organizers to enter our Ambassador program and help raise funds and friends

Interested? Please call us at 410.323.0135 or send an email to info@the-red-devils.org



Don't think you'll get the trade-in value you deserve?

Consider donating your car to The Red Devils. We offer a free, convenient service for converting that extra car, truck, or RV into a tax deductible donation benefiting The Red Devils. You can donate online (click the "Donate" tab and scroll down to "Donate Your Car") or call 877-999-8322 to make your donation. After your car is sold, you'll receive the appropriate tax documentation and breast cancer families will get the support they need.

Running with The Devils

continued from front cover

This family- and pet-friendly 5K run and one-mile walk kicks off with a high-energy warm-up routine to get hearts pumping and tails wagging. Walk, run or ride (strollers encouraged!) to the finish line, where kids, adults, and pets can treat themselves to refreshments, games, and activities in the Event Village. Don't miss the always-popular Kidz Korner, where kids of all ages can compete in games of skill and chance (and everyone walks away a winner!). Balloon and caricature artists will be on hand to create one-of-a-kind creations for little ones to take home.



cause. My family has been touched by breast cancer so we know how important it is to have the kind of support The Red Devils offers. We contribute and raise what we can because of that.”

Connect with your inner devil and don horns, tails, or anything red for a chance to win the best team spirit award. Awards will be handed out in a variety of categories, including top finishers by age, most money raised, largest team, and the team with the most spirit. It's not too early to start designing your team's attention-getting t-shirt!



Running with The Devils participants will directly benefit one of the Maryland families turning to The Red Devils to ease the burdens of breast cancer. Help The Red Devils fill the Goucher College course with 800 runners and walkers, each committed to benefiting one breast cancer patient. Team registration is also available. Recruit friends, family, and coworkers to start a team to run or walk, or help an existing team meet their fundraising goal.

Participants can also pay tribute to someone special by purchasing a Horns of Hope Homage sign that will be displayed along the Goucher College course route. For an additional \$25 donation, event participants can dedicate their journey to a loved one, and take their special tribute home with them.

If you can't make it to this year's event, consider making a donation to support an individual participant or team. Or sign up to become a virtual registrant as an individual or team member and get a Running with The Devils 5K t-shirt.

Visit www.runningwiththedevils.kintera.org for registration and donation details, as well as tips on how to meet your fundraising goals. This event is now pet-friendly! Leashed, well-behaved dogs are welcome (please bring your own pick-up bags). The registration fee is \$35; online registration ends June 9. The on-site registration fee is \$40. Sponsorship packages are also available; visit the event website for more details.



Be sure to stop by the Big Tent raffle, where you can win baskets featuring local dining packages, family-friendly activities and goodies, and treats and gift certificates to pamper your favorite four-legged friend.

The fun and festive atmosphere of this event brings many participants back year after year. Christine Scott's family has been running with The Devils for eight years. "We've been coming to this event since 2007 and look forward to it every year," she says. "We especially like the family-friendly atmosphere, and we love the



Will Your Employer Match Your Gift?

Double your donation with an employer match! Many employers will match charitable gifts made by their employees. To find out whether or not your employer will match your donation to The Red Devils, visit our website, www.TheRedDevilsMD.org, click the "Donate" tab and scroll down to "Double Your Donation."

Unbreakable Spirit

On a near-daily basis patients or their family members reach out to The Red Devils in hopes of finding relief from the stresses of, and answers to, their myriad questions about living with breast cancer. Their situations vary – a single mom of three teenagers, trying to make ends meet; the grandmother undergoing chemo and caring for toddler grandchildren; the husband who wants nothing more than for his wife to have “time off” from cancer.

What they have in common is the coordinated care and support coming their way the moment The Red Devils says, “Yes, we can help with that.”

“Never thought it would be me.”

And why would she? Before being diagnosed with breast cancer, Erica McCray was enjoying all the things you would expect for a young adult – spending time with friends, going out, having fun. At 20 years old, she had a clear vision of her future. Erica was studying at Baltimore City Community College in their nursing program, working two jobs, and just starting out living on her own. She was enjoying life and her independence.

One day, out of nowhere, a large lump appeared on her head. Concerned, but certainly not frightened, she went to the emergency room where the medical staff attempted to drain the protrusion but no fluid was to be found. Home she went, because other than the bump on the top of her head, she felt fine. Months later, Erica found herself back in the emergency room with severe back pain. She was diagnosed with sciatica, prescribed drugs to relieve the pain, and sent home.

Erica continued working as best she could, but had to give up her Boston Market job to focus her energies on being a cashier at Wegmans and studying at BCCC. She wrestled with difficult choices – living with



her back pain and working; relieving the pain, but working in a somewhat altered state as a result of the pain meds, or missing work all together. More often than not, she chose work and pain.

On a June evening in 2012, Erica woke in the middle of the night, unable to breathe, she drove herself to Union Memorial Hospital. That was when the CT scan revealed the spots on her rib cage. Later tests would show tumors in her pelvic area, a mass on her right breast, affected lymph nodes, and lesions on her brain. Erica was diagnosed with Stage IV breast cancer.

“I was devastated,” Erica told us. “I would never believe in a million years, would never have thought it would be me. There’s no history of breast cancer in my family. I’m young. It took me a long time to be content with it, but I’m o-kay now.”

With chemotherapy, Erica’s masses shrank; she avoided having to have a mastectomy. However, the cancer spread to one of her hips, deteriorating the ball and socket. Deemed a fall risk by her medical team, Erica’s hip was replaced in 2013.

Awful heavy burdens to carry at 22. But she didn’t bear them alone. “My biggest concern was not being independent. I don’t like feeling like I’m a burden. Moving back home was a tough situation,” she said. As it turned out, her family (mom, dad, and three younger

siblings) was her rock. Her father drove her to appointments whenever he could, and lifted her spirits with, “All you have to do is believe that anything is possible.” Each doted on her in their own way.

Lois Kemple, one of the nurse navigators at Union Memorial Hospital, introduced Erica to The Red Devils. Like so many other patients, Erica would not ask for help, but Lois offered a “gift” not a handout, dinner for two at the Olive Garden. With that, the ice was broken.

“I was living on my own, was sick and was not able to pay my rent. I was on the verge of being backed up on my bills. The Red Devils paid my rent. When I couldn’t afford to put food in my house, they arranged for Moveable Feast to keep me fed. And cars don’t run on water, you know. The gas cards were very helpful!” Erica went on to say, “Just know that it plays on a patient’s heart when we know people are out there who care.”

Erica takes oral chemo drugs on a daily basis and is focused on two goals: She can’t wait to hear her doctors tell her she’s cancer free. Also, she’s eager to return to school to finish her nursing program. She believes she will make an excellent nurse because, “I know what it’s like to be sick, to be in pain, and to need comfort and care. I know I can do that and help others.”

wine women & shoes®

BENEFITING The Red Devils Supporting Breast Cancer Families

Thank you to everyone who made our inaugural Wine Women & Shoes a fabulous success! We were honored to have more than 300 guests join us in supporting Maryland families living with breast cancer. We're looking forward to Wine Women & Shoes becoming an annual pre-Mother's Day tradition. Mark your calendar for 2016's date, May 1st!

An event of this caliber would not be possible without the precious donations of time, talents, and treasures of the following champions of our cause:

Our Honorary Chairs

Bruce Betz, Lori Edwards, Patricia Hargest, Len and Paige Koerner, Dr. Young Lee, Jeanette Partlow, Mary Ann Scully, and Joan Worthington

Our Honorary Hosts

Adele Considine, Barb Hoover, BJ Litz, Brittany Hargest, Chris Alrich, Gail Kaplan, Gina Hirschhorn, Julia Johnson, Kathleen Dagleish, Laura Chasney, Mary Gill, Micheline Arenson, Sue Glick Liebman, Tierny Hoover, and Tricia Love Thomas

Our Planning Committee

Samantha Davis, Mets Feeley, Blake Hargest, Dr. Vicki Lewis, Martha McCracken, Natalie Mindel, Mary Frances Mondo, Natasha Parker, Phyllis Swinton, Joan Worthington, and The Red Devils Board of Directors

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Supporting Breast Cancer Families

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AMBASSADORS

The following individuals volunteer to represent The Red Devils at community events to help raise funds and friends.

If you would like to become an Ambassador, please contact us at 410.323.0135 or info@the-red-devils.org.

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Cameron Powers
Alice Rhodes
Amelia Ryers
Michael Scott
Ruth Stewart
Beth Taub
Diane Tollick

Mark Your Calendars for these Red Hot Events Coming This Year!

- May 3 Wine Women & Shoes at the Grand Lodge in Hunt Valley
- May 12 Funds for Friends at the Greene Turtle in Owings Mills
- June 14 Running with The Devils at Goucher College
- June 21 Ace of Hearts Ride at Chesapeake Harley-Davidson in Darlington
- June 22 Hard Yacht Café's Charity Golf Outing
- Oct. 1 Tee It Up for TA TAs Golf Tournament at Winters Run
- Oct. 7 Bras for the Cause at Union Jack's in Annapolis
- Oct. 23 Bras for a Cause at Ten Oaks Ballroom
- Oct. 24-25 Clays Against Breast Cancer at the Loch Raven Skeet & Trap Center
- TBD Pink Power at Synergy Women's Fitness
- Nov. 7 The Red Devils Bull and Oyster Roast at Columbus Gardens

Visit our [Upcoming Events](#) page for all the details. If you would like to organize a community event to support Maryland breast cancer families, please contact us at 410.323.0135 or send an email to info@the-red-devils.org.