MBCC KICKS OFF OUR 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

How It All Began

Once upon a time, in 1996 to be exact, 350 people attended a fashion show on the grounds of a Kentfield estate. This inaugural Stepping Out event raised over $45,000, included a silent auction of 70 items, and was organized and produced by breast cancer survivors. This event marked the birth of the Marin Breast Cancer Council (first formed as Marin Breast Cancer Committee).

It all began two years earlier in Patti Bryson’s ballet class — a class composed of women with breast health issues. Many of them had modeled in a breast cancer fashion show in San Francisco in 1993, and that experience was the spark which led these women to form a group to raise funds for breast cancer survivors in Marin.

“If anyone had told us when we began to think about this, that we would be going strong ten years later, we wouldn’t have believed it,” says Maria Edelstein. “We were like the little engine that could. When you consider MBCC’s status in the community today, and the numbers of people we have helped, it is phenomenal.”

“It was BB Bernheim who was the key to getting this group together,” says Janice Still, one of the originators. “She produced the San Francisco fashion show for the Breast Cancer Committee.

“The group decided they would use the funds they raised for purposes other than research. “We wanted to give immediate help to women — food, transportation, hospice — nuts and bolts sorts of stuff,” says Patti. The funds from the first Stepping Out fashion show went equally to the American Cancer Society’s Reach to Recovery Program to help women with special needs related to breast cancer, and as seed money for the B.R.E.A.S.T. Center — a medical facility that provides information, support and education to breast cancer patients and to people with breast health concerns.

“During 1995 we met every Friday morning to brainstorm and plan,” Maria recalls. Among those “Founding Mothers” were Kathryn Servino, Joanne Villanova, Chris Ruppe, Bonnie Sauter, Teresa Wooten, and Lynn Bowersock. “Everyone pitched in with anything and everything,” remembers Maria. “We just put our hands, heads and hearts together and gathered many other enthusiastic survivors to work with us and to model at the event.”

Local doctors were among those who encouraged the women to make the event happen. BB recalls, “This was an issue that was close to many. Everybody we approached backed us and supported us.”

From the beginning the group wanted to emphasize several key characteristics: it would be an all volunteer organization to specifically help those in Marin County, it would increase awareness of the huge epidemic that breast cancer had become, its fashion show would be a unique way of supporting women with breast cancer.

The fashion show, which featured women (and later men) of all ages, dramatized that breast cancer was not just a statistic, but these were real people, your neighbors, your friends, your family.

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(continued on page 11)
Golfers Rally 'Round the Tee, Raising Over $25,000 for MBCC!

Building on the momentum of last year’s inaugural fundraiser, the Rally for the Cause Golf Tournament, held on June 23, saw a huge increase in attendance—and dollars raised—when 128 players gathered for a fun and relaxing afternoon at the StoneTree Golf Course in Novato.

Thirty-two foursomes participated in the “scramble” format (for the uninitiated, that’s when everyone in the foursome hits the drive, then they choose the best shot and each player hits from that position). The winning score was 11 under par! There was also an opportunity to win a new car lease or $20,000 by scoring a hole-in-one, but nobody walked away with that one.

Guests munched on hearty hors d’oeuvres served by Elaine Bell Catering and sipped wine provided by Gloria Ferrer Champagne Caves as prizes were awarded for the Men’s Longest Drive, Women’s Longest Drive, Closest to the Hole on a selected par three, and Straightest Drive.

Adding excitement to the afternoon—and money to the coffers—the spirited live auction had bidders vying for everything from restaurant gift certificates to Giants and A’s tickets, and vacations at fabulous resort homes in Tahoe and Mexico.

John Randazzo made his debut as auctioneer and, according to fellow executive committee member Rick Barbaria, “He did a remarkable job. There’s no question that John’s enthusiasm contributed to the success of the live auction.” Tom Yacko, another executive committee member agrees. “He did a great job of getting our guests’ attention, and keeping them interested during the live auction. We couldn’t have done it without him!”

Special thanks to all participants and to the generous sponsors and donors who helped raise over $25,000 for discharge to next year’s grantees.

SAVE THE DATE
You won’t want to miss next year’s event, so mark June 26, 2006 on your calendar for the third annual Rally for the Cause Golf Tournament. We’ll tee off at the beautiful new Sonoma Golf Club, home of the PGA Champions Tour Charles Schwab Cup. For a preview go to www.sonomagolfclub.com.

MBCC WANTS YOU!
As an all-volunteer organization, we welcome your participation. We have unlimited opportunities for you to get involved with whatever amount of time your schedule permits—from just a few hours to heading up a committee. Volunteering for MBCC is fun, gratifying, and you’ll make friends for life. Call 415-455-5882 or email info@marinbccc.org.

How To Apply For a Grant From MBCC
The MBCC grant proposal period begins December 1. Grant proposals must relate solely to breast cancer and may address education, outreach, screening, complementary therapies, psycho-spiritual support, or a combination of these.

MBCC will consider applications from not-for-profit individuals or organizations. No funding is available for the direct cost of medical treatment or research. In addition, no funds may be used for any lobbying efforts or for any political expenditure.

Proposals must follow the application format, contain all information requested, and include ten collated copies.

Applications can be printed from the website, www.marinbccc.org/grants.htm, or you can request an application by calling (415)455-5882, or by writing to the Grants Committee. Completed applications must be postmarked by February 10.

Mail to: Grants Committee Marin Breast Cancer Council P.O. Box 511 Kentfield, CA 94914

The Grants Committee, consisting of four community health leaders and four MBCC Executive Board members, reviews and recommends to the Executive Board the list of grant applications for funding. The Executive Board makes final approval.

Grant funds are awarded April 1 for a 12-month fiscal year ending March 31. Applications generally range from $5,000 to $35,000 with most averaging $10,000 to $15,000. All applicants will be notified of the disposition of their proposals.
Stepping Out
To Celebrate Life
2005

10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA FUNDRAISER

Cheers, laughter and rousing applause mingled with music, fashion and dance at Marin Breast Cancer Council’s 2005 Stepping Out to Celebrate Life. Attended by 710 guests on September 10th at the Marin Center, this year’s 10th annual event captivated even those who have been attending for years. Simple elegance was the theme of the black and white night, accented by splashes of hot pink placed strategically throughout the scene.

Although the essence of “Celebrating Life” is looking towards the future with dignity and hope, the past was not forgotten; program covers from Stepping Out’s inception in 1996 through 2005 were enlarged and displayed in the entrance and throughout the live and silent auction areas. For many who have watched this show grow over the years, it was a wonderful trip down memory lane.

The silent and live auctions offered treasures of all varieties, from generous dining gift certificates and bottles of wine to vacations in such enticing places as Cabo San Lucas, Hawaii, the Caribbean, France, San Diego and Tahoe. After an elegant meal of Alaskan halibut or beef filet prepared by Elaine Bell Catering, those in the mood for more celebrating danced to the music of Rex Allen’s Big Band.

It was Stepping Out’s signature fashion show, this year featuring 33 breast cancer survivor models, which again lifted the hearts and spirits of those who shared this special evening. Fashions from fun to formal took center stage as these women and one male model strutted their stuff, proving to themselves, their loved ones and the audience at large that “celebrating life” is the only way to go!

Doctors Speak Out About Stepping Out

“I enjoy the fundraiser Stepping Out every year. I have been fortunate enough to actually attend all ten of the events and it is my favorite event of the year. I especially enjoyed the fashion show, and the Lady in Red number was awesome! Thanks again for including me.”

– Dr. Alison Smith

“Stepping Out fills me up with great energy that lasts the whole year long. It’s like a circle; you give your energy to your patients and this evening gives it back.”

– Dr. Francine Halberg

“Stepping Out was a true celebration of life. That is part of the healing process with cancer, whether one is cured or not. It was a wonderful event to behold.”

– Dr. David Lakes

“There is something magical about being able to celebrate these courageous women and their journey through breast cancer. It is so moving and inspiring to see my own patients proudly walking down the runway after having seen them for several months or years through the ups and downs of breast cancer treatment.”

– Dr. Tantcredi D’Amore

“I love to attend Stepping Out because it’s an opportunity to see our patients from a completely different perspective. Watching these courageous women strut their stuff in the face of cancer is inspiring and empowering. Without a doubt, this is my favorite event of the year.”

– Dr. Jennifer Lucas

Singer, recording artist and Stepping Out model Linda Imperial performed her original song “Brand New Day.”

Anna Scheidegger modeled an elegant gown and evening coat by designer Helen Lyall of Vallejo.

Susan Dotto and Kathryn Denker modeled gold and white outfits from West Coast Leather.

Maria Cuento Leonocicz in a Calvin Klein sweater & camisole from Macy’s.

Steve Voight was MBCC’s fourth male model in as many years.

Save the date for next year’s Stepping Out: September 30, 2006

See page 10 for a list of Stepping Out Sponsors & Donors.
Deutsch Bank Alex. Brown, Jackson’s, and Wine, Women & Song were generous Rally Title Sponsors, and were honored at center court for their continuing support of Rally and MBCC. This year’s Rally was dedicated to both Sandy Trues, retiring Coordinator of the Marin General Hospital B.R.E.A.S.T. Center, as well as to all of the medical caregivers who so selflessly serve our community.

Following the morning tournament, over two hundred convivial guests relaxed at courtside with sparkling wine donated by Gloria Ferrer Champagne Caves. A surprise donation was presented to MBCC at center court by Maria Castellucci, in memory of her aunt, Maria, her sister Angela, and their young friends, heeding the call to action, held a backyard barbeque in the late spring with live music and food to raise money for breast cancer.

Local tennis professionals Helle Sparre Viragh and Carrie Zarraonandia teamed with the two top tennis tournament winners, Linda Roland and Connie Chapman, for an exciting pro-am tennis exhibition. A sumptuous lunch by Elaine Bell Catering followed, while guests enjoyed a fashion show of tennis and golf attire courtesy of Net Works and Link Works. As the day’s activities came to an end, many guests lingered to enjoy the warm fall afternoon.

“Year after year I am astounded at the enthusiasm and excitement our guests bring to Rally for the Cause,” says Wendy Barbara of the Rally Executive Committee. “Each person is there for very different reasons, but breast cancer is somewhere at their core. As they stream out of the gates at the end of the day, you sense that their collective energy on Rally day was less about tennis, and much more about a celebration of life!”

“Every year we are amazed at Rally’s success, and once again this was the case. Without a doubt, we surpassed our expectations and raised over $120,000. Rally is so fortunate to have such a diligent, dedicated, creative group of volunteers who work very hard to make this a memorable day.”

—Sydney Randazzo

RALLY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rally For The Cause Tennis Tournament Sponsors and Donors

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Rally For The Cause Tennis Tournament Sponsors and Donors

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Inga & Demetrio Lazzarini
Vickie Less
Jill Lecce
Tony Levy
Martha Lewis
Nin Lewis
Erica Warren & William Long
Jackie Mackoff
(continued on page 8)
This year, 116 volunteers donated their time to MBCC's 3 fundraisers, contributing to each event's huge success.

Joan Gosliner *  
Phyllis Evans *  
Maria Eriksson  
Elberta Eriksson  
Marianne Davies *  
Kathleen Burns  
Barbara Burke-Heaton *  
Terry Nevin  
Lori Lowrance  
Jeanne Capurro  
Susan Belling

MBCC STEPPING OUT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Jeanette Vonier *  
Lanny Udell  
Scott Thompson  
Corrine Szarvas-Kidd *  
Carol Shagoury-Harper  
Eve Nelson  
Kathy Niggeman *  
Eve Nelson  
Amy Monteleone *  
Tina Mohn *  
Terri Mayers  
Krista Martin *  
Jeanne Capurro, MBCC Board member agrees. “It was great exci ting things I have ever done – it was a fabulous experience”

Committee member, says she was honored to play with legends Martina and Tracy and to bring the winning team, Tracy Austin’s team, back again.” He adds, “We established the harbor Point Charitable Foundation together with the Harbor Point Tennis Club support The Tennis Classics. “I’m very pleased with the event, it was wonderful,” says Bob Kaliski, CFO of The Foundation. “The players enjoyed it, the fans enjoyed it. Rosie is working to get Chris Everett and Martina here next year, and to bring the winning team, Tracy Austin’s team, back again.” He adds, “We established the HPCF this year so we could support worthwhile causes in the Bay Area and our community.”

Sponsors of a certain level were able to play tennis with both the big name pros and our local pros. Vicki Kryzanowski, a Rally for the cause Tennis event sponsor and Rally Executive Committee member, says she was honored to play with legends Tracy Austin and Martina Navratilova. “It’s one of the most exciting things I have ever done – it was a fabulous experience to play with world class players!”

Jeanne Capurro, MBCC Board member agrees. “It was great fun to see people know you play with people you usually watch on TV.” She recalls that Sunday was warm and sunny. “I loved the weekend, and plan to go again next year. It’s a spectacular event to bring to Marin – now these pros are in our own Bay Area and our community.”

MBCC STEPPING OUT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Jane Liston  
Yvonne Lane Interiors, LLC  
Lisa Levine  
Carol Shagoury-Harper  
Susan Orma  
Kathy Niggeman *  
Eve Nelson  
Amy Monteleone *  
Tina Mohn *  
Terri Mayers  
Krista Martin *  
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Susan Grear *  
Judy Hallgren  
Carol Hall  
Kathleen Kilkeroy *  
Jeanette Vonier *  
Patti Liman  
Krista Martin *  
Teri Maver  
Andrea Murdock  
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