



Women's Cancer Task Force

Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

Spring Issue - 2005

Mission Statement: Empowering women, through knowledge and support, to gain optimal health.

Visit www.womenstaskforce.org

Secret Sisters Society LUNCHEON & STYLE SHOW

Exciting plans are taking shape for the 4th Annual **Secret Sisters Society** Luncheon and Style Show, scheduled to take place at the University of Notre Dame's Joyce Convocation Center on Wednesday, September 21, at noon. Once again, this event will celebrate cancer survivorship and raise funds to support the **Secret Sisters'** mammography fund.

As of April 2005, **Secret Sisters'** proceeds have covered the costs of breast screening exams for over 700 women between the ages of 40-49. These are women without health care or those who do not have full insurance coverage. **RiverBend Cancer Services** is the local administrator of Indiana's Breast & Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP). Their staff guides women to the appropriate program to pay for their mammogram and, if additional diagnostic tests or treatments are necessary, after the **Secret Sister** mammogram, these women receive services through BCCP.

The Women's Task Force is sponsored by Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, but the **Secret Sisters'** mammography fund allows women to choose where they will receive their mammogram. This allows women to return to the site of previous mammograms or select the provider most accessible to them, increasing the chances that they will take advantage of the program. The **Secret Sister** program, funded by luncheon proceeds and **Secret Sisters** memberships, is administered through The Foundation of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center.

This year's co-chairs are **Janet Auel** and **Sandy Clauser**, both breast cancer survivors and members of the WTF. They have assembled a steering committee made up of WTF members and community representatives. We are also proud to welcome **Tish Brey** as an honorary co-chair for the event. She joins **Bette Clark**, a breast cancer survivor, who has served as honorary co-chair for

all four of the luncheons. **Tricia Sloma**, WNDU morning co-anchor and **Michael Method, MD**, advisor to the Task Force, will again share responsibilities as co-emcees of the program.

"Save the Date" cards will be in the mail soon and invitations will be mailed mid-August. If you do not receive your card or invitation, please call the Women's Task Force office at (574) 472-6095. Additional information is also available on the WTF website www.womenstaskforce.org.

2ND ANNUAL PAP-A-THON Wednesday, May 25, 2005

The Women's Task Force, working in cooperation with the wonderful staff of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center's Appointment Center, is now scheduling appointments for FREE cervical screenings (pap tests) at five locations on Wednesday, May 25, 2005. Women 18 years and older who are in need of this test may call (574) 247-5400 or (888) 455-4450. This important screening can provide early detection of cervical cancer and of the HPV virus, which, if left untreated, can cause cervical cancer. This year's **PAP-A-THON** is being co-chaired by **Joyce Ladue** and **Sara Neidbalski**.

This community effort has been made possible through grants amounting to \$73,500. Many thanks to our sponsors, **The Florence Carroll Charitable Foundation, Stanley A. & Flora P. Clark Memorial Trust Foundation, The Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, Managed Health Services, Muessel-Ellison Memorial Trust Foundation and Wal-mart**, for making this event possible. In addition, the **South Bend Medical Foundation** is providing their services at a reduced rate to support the WTF's efforts to screen as many women as possible during this one-day, 12-hour event.

PAP-A-THON Sites are:

- Heart City Health Center, Elkhart
- IU South Bend Health & Wellness Center
- Midwifery of Michiana, Mishawaka
- Saint Joseph Health Center, Plymouth
- Saint Joseph Health Center, South Bend

Nearly 150 volunteer physicians, midwives, nurses, interpreters and community members are giving their time to make this event a success. Last August's **PAP-A-THON** screened 243 women at three sites. This year, there are over 700 appointments available and we hope to more than double the number of women served. The WTF wishes to give special recognition to the site coordinators: **Toni Baldwin-Dufour, Carla Bice, Cindy Hart, Tami McNally** and **Patti Nietch**.

Additional information on the **PAP-A-THON** can be found at www.womenstaskforce.org or by calling (574) 472-6095.

NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE TASK FORCE

Five area women have joined the Women's Task Force and were introduced at the May meeting. They are **Susan Coulter, Jeanie Jensen, Barbara Myers, Sara Niedbalski** and **Michelle Oliver**. All are cancer survivors and share in the mission "to empower women through knowledge to gain optimum health" and secure a healthier community for everyone. Their personal experiences, energy and enthusiasm will be put to good use, as the Task Force continues to seek new initiatives, while maintaining those already in place.

We also want to thank departing WTF members **Valerie Cope, Diane Irvin, Cyndi Pilot, Dee Tepe, Terri Thanos, Nancy Foldesi, Judy Morse** for their support and commitment to raising cancer awareness. Many of these women were part of the original Women's Task Force, which was formed in November 2001.

DOMER RUN/WALK FOR AWARENESS

The Notre Dame Recreational Sports Program has selected Saturday, September 24, as the date for the 23rd Annual Domer Run/Walk. Representatives of the WTF, members of the Gyna Girls and Life Goes On support groups and the ND Alumni Association are partnering for this event. The 2005 run will be dedicated to Ovarian & Gynecological Cancer Education & Awareness. The race route winds through the university grounds and concludes with a pancake breakfast.

Local cancer survivors and their friends and families are invited to join Notre Dame students, faculty, staff and alumni for the event. They will be honored before the start of the race, which is dedicated to Barbara Link and all those who have lost their life to this disease.

The WTF website www.womenstaskforce.org will carry more information about the Domer Run/Walk, including how you can make a donation or register for the race.

"GYNA-GIRLS" REPORT

Hats off in appreciation to **Express Press** and WTF member, **Sandy Clauser**, for donating the second printing of the Gyna-Girls bookmarks.

Nancy White and other representatives from around Indiana traveled to Indianapolis recently to meet with Ovar'coming, the Indianapolis gynecological cancer group, to share ideas and resources in their efforts to fight and bring awareness of gynecological cancers.

DID YOU KNOW???

- Five hundred **breast self-exam shower cards** were distributed to all women's dorms on the Notre Dame campus in April. The WTF, ND Alumni Association and the women of Lewis Hall worked on this project.
- WTF and the ND Alumni Association were designated to receive the proceeds from the "**Chicken Run**" held on the campus on April 3, 2005.
- The **Young Survivors** of breast cancer have assembled "hope baskets" for all newly-diagnosed young women.
- **Janet Auel**, WTF member, recently attended **The Conference of Young Survivors of Breast Cancer**, which took place in Philadelphia. She was accompanied by **Donna Ancil, Lisa Lerman** and **Kim Zobrosky**, all members of the YS support group.
- **Bosom Buddies** recently held their annual 5-year cocktail party on May 3rd at Tippecanoe Place, South Bend. This is an annual event for this breast cancer support group and celebrates survivorship. The monthly meetings of Bosom Buddies take place on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Tippecanoe Place at 12:30 p.m.
- **Young Survivors** meet on the 4th Thursday of the month in Pavilion II, 707 East Cedar Street, Suite 405, South Bend.
- **Gyna Girls**, ovarian support group continues to meet the first Monday of each month in suite 405, pavilion II, 707 East Cedar St., South Bend.

**The next meeting of the Women's Task Force
will be Wednesday, June 1, 2005.**

VISION

The Women's Cancer Task Force is made up of women cancer survivors who have come together to raise awareness and develop initiatives regarding women's health issues. Initiatives include recommending and implementing programs that relate to women and cancer, promoting early detection, explaining treatment options, providing supportive care and celebrating survivorship.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.womenstaskforce.org

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