



2007 WELLNESS AUXILIARY

Come join the Auxiliary for their 2009 event "Bet On Wellness," a casino themed evening on Friday, October 9 at Medinah Country Club. For more details about the event and the Auxiliary, contact Jenny Welsh at 847-909-3996.

Wellness Place Auxiliary Celebrates 10 Years

TEN YEARS AGO, Barrington-area cancer survivors Linda Murphy and Myrna Porter had an idea to create an environment that would provide much needed support for all who are impacted by cancer. Turning their idea into a reality was the challenge. The determined women looked to their friends for help, and the Wellness Place Auxiliary was created.

It began optimistically with six women over coffee and grew in spades from there. Individuals from the greater Barrington area trumpeted the cause and banded together to raise money and awareness for support and education. After many months, constant networking, and late nights, they were rewarded. In September 2000, Wellness Place, Cancer Education and Support, opened its doors with its vibrant, not-for-profit organization.

Over the years, hundreds of women have served on the Auxiliary, often joining because they, or someone they knew, had been impacted by cancer. It was time to make a difference for others. On the 10th anniversary, the group of volunteers has raised more than \$1.7 million for the programs and services at Wellness Place.

The Auxiliary has helped in other intangible ways such as participating in Relay for Life, the Fourth of July parades, and other community events and Wellness Place functions. "Raising awareness and connecting members of the community to Wellness Place has always been an important part of the Auxiliary's role," said Chrissy Tilles, Wellness Place board chairwoman and former Auxiliary member. "So many individuals have learned about Wellness Place through a current or former Auxiliary member."

In addition to fundraising and awareness, the Auxiliary was instrumental in helping with the start up of the children's programs at Wellness Place by collecting donations and supplies and setting up the children's area. "Our child and teen programs have become a core service for our organization,"

Wellness Place is a community-based cancer education and support center in Inverness serving those diagnosed with cancer, their family, friends, and caregivers. Services and programs are at no charge to participants and empower people to live the fullest life possible while living with cancer. Professionals provide counseling and support as participants learn to manage emotional and physical responses; sort through treatment options and side effects; formulate questions for doctors; and communicate matters to family members and employers. The privately funded not-for-profit organization serves 60 communities in the northwest suburbs of Cook County, and parts of McHenry, Lake, and Kane counties. For a complete listing of Wellness Place programs and services, visit www.wellnessplace.org, or call 847-221-2400.

said Pam Reiss, executive director at Wellness Place. "In 2007 we placed a renewed emphasis on this area due to demand within the community. Unfortunately, we have seen an increasing number of children dealing with cancer, whether their own or with a family member. Helping families cope and get vital support and information at no charge, during this difficult time is extremely important to our mission and we are grateful for all the Auxiliary efforts."

Interest in the Wellness Place Auxiliary remains high. This year's member open house brought in a cadre of new members with fresh ideas that will help move the Auxiliary forward and keep them going for another 10 years. With the current economic climate, participants are relying more than ever on Wellness Place to help them manage during this time and the Auxiliary plans to be there supporting Wellness Place's initiatives all the way. 