



## M. Patricia Cronin Foundation to Fight Ovarian Cancer, Inc.

### GRANT AWARDS 2008

*The Board of Directors extends our thanks to the Wal-Mart Foundation for a generous grant in support of our outreach to Ovarian Cancer patients and their families.*

**Dana-Farber Cancer Institute:** This \$5,000 grant recognizes Dana-Farber's goal to provide "total patient care." The Cronin Foundation's renewed grant continues funding for the women's cancer support group. 80% of the patients and families who attend are dealing with ovarian cancer, and other families affected by gynecological cancers also participate (since there is a dearth of programs in this area). The grant will provide honoraria for the clinical social worker/facilitator and will fund four educational sessions. The group provides comfortable and therapeutic forums in which women can express their thoughts and feelings, ask important questions, hear valuable information and establish connections with their peers.

**Boston Medical Center:** This \$5,000 grant renews funding for the Mind-Body Support Group for ovarian cancer patients. The grant will support monthly sessions of the support group, guest facilitators lecturing in their fields, travel to a cancer survivor weekend in Stowe, VT, and transportation for participants who could not otherwise attend the group. The group discussed a wide variety of topics last year, including nutrition and therapeutic activities, a went on a retreat and enjoyed a bowling night.

**Cancer Connection:** This \$3,500 grant funds the ongoing ovarian cancer support group, now active for seven years and supported for several years by the Cronin Foundation. The grant will fund the group facilitator, trips to Camp Mak-A-Dream for three survivors and complementary therapies and services. One of the members describes a visit the support group took to an inpatient hospice for an orientation:

*It seems contradictory to keep one's attitude positive while also preparing oneself for death, but the visit to the hospice by a small group of close members of the support group will create a supportive atmosphere to allay fears. This is the first time that the group has decided to face the logistical issues of end-of-life care as a group instead of individually, and the members involved feel relieved by being able to share the experience with each other.*

**MGH Vincent Memorial Hospital for Gynecology:** The Vincent Memorial Hospital for Gynecology at Massachusetts General Hospital includes an 18 bed acute-care gynecology oncology unit that understands and cares for women of all ages, ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds and religions. The \$5,000 grant will augment a growing complimentary therapy program for women with ovarian cancer by making Images Salon

hair and personal care services available to patients either on the unit or in the Salon for those patients who are able to leave the unit. These services include manicures, hair cuts and washing and management of hair loss, among other services.

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The Foundation asks grant recipients to provide a summary report on the use of the funds. This year, we will provide information to each group from the other organizations in the hope that successful practices and therapies will be shared and the value of the grants enhanced.

*The Iris was one of Pat Cronin's favorite flowers, and pink her favorite color. Her friends and supporters of the Foundation extend our thanks to everyone who contributed to our efforts this year in her memory.*