



weSPARK CANCER SUPPORT CENTER

SUMMER 2014 VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2



Words from weSPARK

"weSPARK has helped me find relief from pain and hopelessness during the darkest time of my life. I can finally see a bright future ahead." These are words from weSPARK guest, Sharen, as she begins to move forward. Because of you, the generous individuals who continue to give selflessly to support our mission, we are able to help her navigate this journey.

Through your generosity, I'm delighted with what weSPARK has accomplished so far this year. We have officially launched our Spanish Programming with a group for families. Additionally, we will further extend our reach by introducing an online community

with a series of videos for those who are unable to visit us in person. Now language, distance and restricted mobility are no longer barriers from receiving relief for the pain, anxiety and isolation a cancer diagnosis carries.

The big hearts of our friends and loyal Torchbearers will continue to move weSPARK forward. Initiating new programs and sustaining our free services would not be possible without your gracious gifts. On behalf of our Board, staff and guests, I express my eternal gratitude. Because of YOU, weSPARK.

Nancy Allen, Executive Director

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Jason Alexander Self-Defense Workshop

Friend of weSPARK and man-of-many-talents, **Jason Alexander**, hosted a Self-Defense Workshop for several lucky raffle winners! Jason, a master of martial arts, shared his many years of experience with live demonstrations, interactive scenarios and helpful tips for defense against any attack. He kept it light-hearted and fun by incorporating activities with colorful squirt guns and wooden cooking spoons. It was such a wonderful experience and we are so grateful to Jason for donating his time and talents, yet again.



From left to right:

- Jason demonstrates move for Ilyanne & Barbara
- Dianne going straight for the eyes
- Sneak attack by his own son, Noah!

OUR MISSION

weSPARK is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for cancer patients, their families, and friends. weSPARK provides, free of charge, multiple services designed to heal the mind, body and spirit of all those whose lives have been affected by cancer.

818.906.3022 • www.wespark.org

Photos by: David Palmer



Jason Alexander's poker face.



All of our players had their eye on the prize.

It was a full house at our 5th Annual Jason Alexander Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament!



Emcee, Mark Walberg

On March 9th Jason hosted one of our most attended events at The Garland hotel. It was perfect weather for the outdoor lunch buffet which energized the players for a well-fought spot at our Top 10 Table! Other celebrity poker players such as *Antiques Roadshow* host, **Mark Walberg**, *Back to the Future* star, **Lea Thompson** and *Homeland*'s **David Marciano** joined our 300 attendees for an exciting tournament. We want to extend a huge thank you to our sponsors, donors, players and volunteers for helping create another successful event. 🌈

Photos by: David Palmer

Notre Dame Boys' Volleyball We Spike for weSPARK Fundraiser



Beth Grant & Rachele Carson showed their support with weSPARK Executive Director, Nancy Allen.

and volunteered their time. We are grateful for all of the people involved in making this event happen year after year, especially Event Chair, **Judy Kain**, for the many hours she dedicated to making this year the best yet! 🌈

This year marks the **4th Annual We Spike for weSPARK Notre Dame Boys' Volleyball Tournament**, and it was a huge success! **St. Francis High School** was the opposing team, which made for some exciting volleyball. **Mac-O-Licious** and **The Fresh Potato Factory** sold some of their favorites and team parents donated food, silent auction items and



The boys of Notre Dame High School's Volleyball Team

¿Usted o un ser querido tiene cáncer? ¿Usted o alguien cercano ha sido afectado por cáncer?



“PLATICAS FAMILIARES” GRATUITAS

Usted no está solo, venga y hable con otras familias en la comunidad hispana que también están pasando por lo mismo.

Venga con preguntas. | Obtenga recursos. | Habrá comida.
Pacientes con cáncer, miembros de la familia, y cuidadores. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

Cada Viernes Comenzando el 2 de Mayo, 2014 | Horario: 11:00 am

Si usted está interesado o gusta más información por favor comuníquese con Susana Stewart, Trabajadora Social o Patricia Arroyos, Coordinadora de Ayuda Comunitaria al número (818) 906-3022

Look Good...Feel Better

Join us at weSPARK for a night of beauty & fun, plus a make-up kit provided by the American Cancer Society.



We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in Sherman Oaks.

Space is limited, must call to sign-up.
Call Alexandra at
(818) 906-3022

Follow us on Twitter @wesparksupport and Facebook

the 
Torchbearers
Because of you, weSPARK

*Because of YOU,
we are able to walk
with people through
the journey of a
cancer diagnosis.*

*Your generosity
is needed now
more than ever.
Please consider
becoming a
Torchbearer
and help us
continue to
change lives.*

Meet Our Guests



“I was shattered and bewildered after my diagnosis. It was through the support groups and treatment programs offered at weSPARK that I was able to start participating in my life again.” — *Elena*



“At weSPARK I’ve learned that it’s ok to express my feelings.”
— *Jimmy, 8 years old*



“In the time I’ve been with weSPARK, I have found pieces of me I thought I’d lost—my humor, joy, laughter and most importantly, my will to live.” — *Maggie*

“weSPARK has been the door I’ve walked through to find a me that is, in every way, better than the me prior to my cancer diagnosis. I can’t but guess who I’d be today if I’d never found weSPARK.” — *S.J.*



“weSPARK has been a great help and comfort during these trying times. The Men’s Support Group has illuminated the dark subject of cancer with great information. It has truly been a life-saver.”
— *Jerry*

**YOU keep the spark alive
at weSPARK...**

the 
Torchbearers
Because of you, weSPARK



The Torchbearers is for big-hearted individuals who wish to give an annually recurring gift to weSPARK Cancer Support Center for annually recurring needs.

To become a Torchbearer, please visit our website: www.wespark.org

We invite you to visit our website to view all tributes.

Thank you for your support.
www.wespark.org



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1st Annual weSPARK Celebration of Life

RISE & Shine

a **CELEBRATION** for those who have survived, an **INSPIRATION** for those recently diagnosed, a gathering of **SUPPORT** for families, and an **OUTREACH** to the community.

Keynote Speaker: **Christy A. Russell, M.D.**
Oncologist, Director of the USC Norris Breast Center

Guest Speaker: **Cheryl O'Neil, C.Ht.**
Hypnotherapist, HMI Professor



Saturday, July 12th from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
weSPARK Cancer Support Center
13520 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

*This celebration will begin with a **continental breakfast** followed by **interactive programs**, **survival stories**, **fun giveaways**, and will end with a **group drum circle**. This is an opportunity for people to connect, recognize, and support one another.*

All are welcome & we just ask that you call to RSVP (818) 906-3022.