

## Words from weSPARK



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### 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.

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weSPARK's 15th anniversary! That really takes my breath away. It's hard to believe that it's been fifteen years since the doors of weSPARK opened. When I got the phone call from my friend and our founder, Wendie Jo Sperber asking me to get involved, I had no idea the adventure I would be embarking on.

At the beginning, every day was an opportunity for us to brainstorm and create weSPARK's programs for cancer patients, their families and friends, which to this day, still remain free of charge! There were many naysayers at first, but that never bothered Wendie. The word "no" wasn't in her vocabulary.

At the end of the first year, we had one program each day of the week and every one of them contributed to the wellbeing of our guests. Our progress has been steady every year since then, but in the last two years alone, I've seen a huge growth in the number of programs we offer and the number of individuals we serve. Our support groups are flourishing,

we have added a Nurse Navigator and Oncology Nutritionist to our staff, and we now offer a multitude of programs for our Spanish speaking community.

Today, weSPARK offers over forty programs a week and serves approximately 1500 individuals a year. This has all been possible because of Wendie's inspiration, the unyielding support of the Sperber family and the generosity of all of you!

Every day I'm amazed at what we've accomplished since May 2001. I know Wendie would be thrilled to see how far we've come, but I also know she would say "we can do more!" I ask you, our generous supporters to help us do more. Please help us ensure our continued growth, and safeguard the future of weSPARK. In celebration of our 15th anniversary, dig deep, give generously and let our guests know we're here for them. With your support anything is possible!

With Love and Gratitude,

  
Nancy Allen, Executive Director 

## TEEN GROUP SPOTLIGHT

"Community," "friendship," "openness," "loving," and "helpful," are just some of the words the teens could think of to describe weSPARK Cancer Support Center.

weSPARK's Teen Group was created in 2006 on the premise that when a parent or family member is diagnosed with cancer, the entire family is affected and the needs of the children must be addressed. The group is led by psychologist, Dr. Victoria Farber who has extensive experience working with children and their families. The aim of the group is to provide a space where teens feel safe to open up about their fears, frustrations and concerns and how to navigate through these challenges. weSPARK's Teen Group instills the feeling that they are not alone and can share with their peers who understand what it is like to experience cancer within the family.

Cassady R., a Teen Group participant for the past 3 years has learned to articulate her thoughts in a clear manner with the help of her peers and Victoria. Cassady shared, "Initially, I was against it. I didn't want to sit and talk about my feelings. However, it's very comforting to know that other people in the room have felt what I'm feeling."



(Top row - L to R) Siblings Edith & Matthew P., Teen Group Facilitator, Dr. Victoria Farber, Sabina, Julian, Maytal K., Cassady R., (Bottom row - L to R) Bridget A., Ian O. & Jorden R.

Julian C., a freshman in high school has found a sense of camaraderie in the Teen Group. "I originally came here when I was 4 years-old. It was at the time my mom was diagnosed with cancer. I didn't even know what cancer was and the Kid's Group taught me what it was." Julian and his brother Anthony are one of two sets of siblings who attend group.

TEEN GROUP SPOTLIGHT, continued on page 3





Board Member, Andy Zucker (right) waits to be dealt a hand



Scott Williams, Michael Monks, Bryan Cranston, Rocky Carroll and Matt Craven



Steve Moore & James Woods wave hello



Our 2016 Jason Alexander Texas Hold 'em Poker winner, Tony Cosanella

## The Jason Alexander Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament

It was a FULL HOUSE on Sunday, March 13th, at weSPARK's 7th Annual Jason Alexander Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament held this year at Pickwick Gardens in Burbank. We had over 200 poker players participate, including celebrity guests **Bryan Cranston, James Woods, Rocky Carroll, Mark Walberg, Matt Craven, Barbara Enright, Jim Hess, Kato Kaelin, KCAL News Anchor Leyna Nguyen** and other notables.

Participants had the chance to win awesome raffle prizes such as a Bose Bluetooth Speaker, a Kindle, GoPRO, Fitbit, Flatscreen TVs and tickets to Ray Romano's show.



Event Co-Chair, Arthur Toretzky, Nancy Allen and Event Co-Chair, Jay Moriarty



City National Bank Crew and Nancy Allen

Poker photos by Johanna Siegmann

We would like to thank our sponsors, **City National Bank, Dukes Wealth Management, The Bolkin-Helene Family, Bryan & Robin Cranston, Scott Williams & Catherine Curry-Williams, Elaine Donley/Assisted Home Care, and Gendler & Kelly.**

Thank you to our donors, players and volunteers who made this event a success! A special thank you to our host, Jason Alexander and his co-chairs Arthur Toretzky and Jay Moriarty. Because of you, we raised valuable funds for weSPARK! 🌈



Kato Kaelin, Mark Walberg, and weSPARK's Marlene McGuirt



Winning the fight against cancer, every day.®

[www.cancercenter.com](http://www.cancercenter.com)

### SAVE THE DATE



3rd 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.

**Saturday, July 16 from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

**weSPARK Cancer Support Center**

13520 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423



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



### Look Good...Feel Better



Join us at weSPARK for a night of beauty and 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 Carlin at (818) 906-3022



Dr. Farber has created a safe space and welcoming atmosphere where teens discuss a range of topics, from their fears to pop culture. Victoria reiterated, "There's so much under the surface that brings the teens together, so much understanding, commonality and shared experiences."

#### Interested in signing up?

Call weSPARK at (818) 906-3022 or email [carlin@wespark.org](mailto:carlin@wespark.org)



**the Torchbearers**  
living in wholeness...building hope for tomorrow

**YOU** keep the spark alive at weSPARK

*Join our annual giving program...  
be a Torchbearer!*

weSPARK Cancer Support Center is a special healing place that offers **FREE** Support Groups, Monthly Workshops, Group Classes and One-On-One therapeutic and holistic services to cancer patients, their families and friends. Our guests gain the necessary tools to cope with the mental, physical and emotional side effects of their cancer diagnosis and treatment. Through our services, guests feel empowered, connected to our community and feel a sense of hope and belonging.

#### GIVING LEVELS

the Blaze level	\$10,000 and up
the Flame level	\$5,000 - \$9,999
the Glow level	\$1,000 - \$4,999
the Spark level	\$500 - \$999
the Ignite level	\$250 - \$499

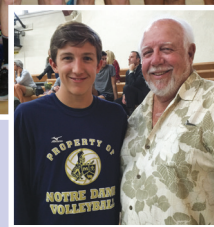
## 6th Annual Notre Dame Boy's Volleyball: weSPIKE for weSPARK Fundraiser

On Friday, April 29, 2016, The Notre Dame Boys' Volleyball Team hosted its 6th Annual weSPIKE for weSPARK, and it was a huge success! St. Francis High School of La Cañada was the opposing team, which made for some exciting volleyball! Thank you to St. Francis parents for raising over \$1,400 at their hot dog lunch fundraiser benefiting weSPARK! Additionally, thank you to all those who donated items, attended the event, and volunteered their time. This year's weSPIKE raised over \$10,000 that will be used to fund weSPARK's special programs.

A special thank you to the Event Chair, Erin Brewster, who brought her creativity, enthusiasm and energy to making this event as great as it could be. Thank you to her co-chairs: Adrienne Dunn, Maria Hall and Lori Reising and to weSPIKE for weSPARK Founders, Judy Kain and Frankie Manes. We are truly honored and blessed to be a part of this!



The NDHS Boys' Volleyball Varsity Team celebrates Senior Night



Event Chair, Erin Brewster's son, Tim with his grandfather Roger Casey

Group photo of Varsity by Joe Dunn



(Above) Event Founder, Gary Brumburgh and Gail Pettis

Photos by Craig Levine



## Jazz vs. Cancer

A jazzy thank you to the co-hosts and producers Gary Brumburgh, Jackie Gibson and Cathy Segal-Garcia for an extraordinary afternoon of jazz on February 7th. We had over 30 special guest performers, which included Antonia Bennett, Kiki Ebsen, Gail Pettis and Cheryl Bentyne. They wowed the audience at Catalina Bar & Grill in the heart of Hollywood.

The Jazz vs. Cancer event raised thousands of dollars for weSPARK's programs! Let's do this one again!

(Left) Mark Winkler, Cheryl Bentyne (The Manhattan Transfer), Ann Paterson and Roy McCurdy

## GUEST TESTIMONIAL The O'Haver Family

**Jenny O'Haver:** "weSPARK doesn't just support me, it supports my family. weSPARK embraces our whole family. It offers great support to my kids. They love coming here."

**Ian:** "There's always someone available to talk to about my mom's cancer."

**Colby:** "I get to talk and play at the same time"



Ian & Colby give mom a big smooch!



SUPPORT + PREVENTION + ACCEPTANCE + RECOVERY + KNOWLEDGE

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Save the Date **SAVE THE DATE**



**MAY  
CONTAIN  
NUTS!**

**A COMEDY  
NIGHT**

*Celebrating 15 Years!*

*Honoring our founder,  
Wendie Jo Sperber*

**Thursday, September 15, 2016**  
6:30pm • The Skirball Cultural Center

**Why run the same ol' 5k when  
you can dress up like your favorite  
character from a movie or show?**

**7TH ANNUAL  
5K RUN/WALK**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 6th, 2016**

8:00 A.M. • CBS STUDIO CENTER  
RADFORD BACKLOT



**Pay homage to Hollywood with our  
7th Annual 5k Run/Walk at the world famous  
CBS Studio Center Radford Backlot!**



The race tours runners past the sets of iconic Hollywood movies and shows like, "Mary Tyler Moore," "Gilligan's Island," "Will and Grace" and "Father of the Bride 2" — with signs outside each property. Runners will earn a shirt and a finisher's medal at the Red Carpet Finish.

Contact Cheryll at [cheryll@wespark.org](mailto:cheryll@wespark.org)  
or **(818) 906-3022** for more information.