



Charlene Sperber and me  
at the Michael McDonald  
& Friends event

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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. 818.906.3022 • [www.wespark.org](http://www.wespark.org)

## Words from weSPARK

I can't help but notice the number of entertainment icons we've lost due to cancer last month. Add to that, the number of our family, friends and acquaintances who have been diagnosed or passed away and I find it sadly shocking.

In 2015, an estimated 1,658,370 new cases of cancer were diagnosed in the United States and 589,430 people died from the disease. We live in a world where literally everyone has been affected by cancer. With the expansive reach of cancer, weSPARK strives to continue to provide a supportive, hopeful, and welcoming healing environment to serve our community.

This past year, in response to a significant increase in new guests, we diversified our programs to be more inclusive, including more Spanish-speaking initiatives, a nurse navigator,

a nutritionist, and a Doing Cancer Solo group where singles could learn to cultivate their own means of support. Our 6th Annual Run/Walk returned, encouraging family and friends to join the weSPARK community to honor and share stories about their loved ones affected by cancer. My personal highlight last year was to honor Charlene Sperber, who continues to carry on her daughter's vision, at the Michael McDonald and Friends concert.

As we approach our 15th anniversary, we hope to emphasize that regardless of what your cancer connection may be, you are not alone. weSPARK is here for you, offering a safe and supportive place for healing and community.

With Love and Gratitude,

  
Nancy Allen,  
Executive Director 

## weSPARK's Spanish-Speaking Group

### Platicas en Español

**"It's our home away from home"** is how our first Spanish-Speaking Support Group describes weSPARK. Like all of our support groups, it's a community where Spanish-speaking cancer patients can ask questions, get resources, and be reminded that they are not alone in their diagnoses. Lilian explains, "It was helpful to meet others with the same backgrounds and see how they deal with it." For Ana Maria, it became a space to vent feelings and frustrations related to her diagnosis that her own family often did not understand.

You can find the group sharing laughter, stories, and food at their potlucks. Susana Stewart, LCSW, the group's facilitator, creates a sense of community so each member can maintain a sense of


positivity even during difficult times. "She really listens to us and gives us the support we need. It's more than a job to her, she's our family member and a friend," says Ana Maria. "Taking weSPARK's classes and having the support from the group keeps me moving forward," continues Luz. She added, "This group made me a new woman. On days that I feel low, I come here to lift myself back up."



Lilian S., Ana Maria C., Luz L., Rosa V., Cathy E.,  
Susana Stewart, LSW. Not Pictured: Esther M.,  
Isabel C., Mirna S., Petrona N., Raquel E., Wilma M.

Due to the group's success, weSPARK continues to expand its Spanish language

programming to include a brand new "Noche de Familia," giving Spanish-speaking families a chance to all come together to meet and share.

Interested in signing up? Call Susana at (818) 906-3022 or email at [susana@weSPARK.org](mailto:susana@weSPARK.org) to join today! 



# An Evening with Michael McDonald & Friends



November 4th was a night to remember as legendary musicians Michael McDonald, Amy Holland, Multi-Grammy Award-winning TOTO, and Ambrosia came together to support weSPARK for An Evening with Michael McDonald & Friends! Our Emcee, Alonzo Bodden, kicked off the spectacular night with his hilarious stand-up. We were proud to honor Charlene Sperber with the Heart of weSPARK Award for her continuous support of weSPARK.

Before the rocking show began, the amazing Mark Walberg led weSPARK's Fund-A-Need Auction which raised \$56,000! A special thank you to our Co-Chairs, Shawn and Richard Sperber, Ellice Sperber, Michelle Sperber, Cancer Treatment Centers of America, ValleyCrest, and all our other generous sponsors and Event Committee including donors, event and production volunteers for helping us raise over \$220,000! Bravo to all! 🌈



1. Michael McDonald, Honoree Charlene Sperber & Jack McGee 2. Jay Moriarty, Rachele Carson, Dianne Burnett & Executive Director Nancy Allen  
3. Steve Porcaro, David Paich, Joseph Williams, Steve Lukather, Mabvuto Carpenter, Co-Chair and performer Amy Holland and weSPARK Board Member Mark Walberg 4. Emcee Extraordinaire Alonzo Bodden 5. Board member Jim Morris, Kam Morris, Tiffany Harris, Suze Lanier-Bramlett, Marci Moran, Director of Development Marlene McGuirt, Catherine Curry-Williams, Lucinda Piligian and Board Member Scott Williams



## Tis the Season to Be Jolly!

On December 10th, weSPARK guests, supporters and staff came together for weSPARK's Annual Holiday Party! The evening included wonderful entertainment by the National In-Choir and an appearance by Santa Claus himself! Thanks to everyone who joined us! 🌈







## Look Better, Feel Better!

On December 9th, The Beauty Bus Foundation partnered with weSPARK for our annual pop-up salon! The Beauty Bus Foundation delivers dignity, hope and respite to men, women and children and their caregivers through beauty and grooming services and pampering products. During their visit, Beauty Bus volunteers provided free haircuts, hair and wig styling, facials, manicures, and make-up applications for

our guests. Each guest also went home with a bag of goodies to encourage continuing self-care at home. Thanks to The Beauty Bus Foundation for their partnership and services; we appreciate what you do in our community! 🌈



— FOUNDATION —  
bringing beauty home

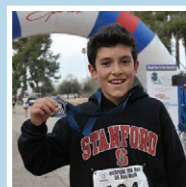


Anita "Sarge" Kellman of Beat Cancer Bootcamp & her helpers including weSPARK's Operations & Guest Manager, Carlin Bell

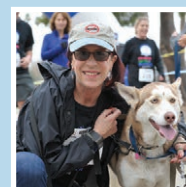


## 6TH ANNUAL 10K RUN & 5K RUN/WALK

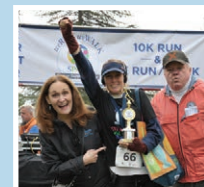
**Our annual Run/Walk was back and better than ever this year!** On January 23rd, hundreds came out to run and walk in support of weSPARK at Lake Balboa Park. Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Whole Foods, and Fleet Feet were there along with our other community partners and vendors. Emcees Jack McGee and Beth Grant charmed everyone with their playful humor and kicked things off with a vigorous warm-up led by Anita "Sarge" Kellman of Beat Cancer Bootcamp before the 5K/10K. The little ones weren't left out of the fun as our Kids Fun Run and activity area offered face painting, games, crafts and more. The morning ended with an awards ceremony recognizing top placers in each category. A HUGE thank you to all of our sponsors, vendors, runners, walkers, volunteers and supporters for participating in this fun-filled and active day! A special shout-out to event founder and weSPARK Board member, Anton Maillie & Mari Fuentes! 🌈



Roman Jones shows off his finisher medal



Jodi & her puppy finishing their race!



Beth Grant & Jack McGee present trophy to a 5K/10K top finisher



Mari Fuentes, Event Founder Anton Maillie, Beth Grant, Kandace Hurdle of CTCA, Jack McGee, weSPARK Program Director Lea Salvatore, Clinical Coordinator Stephanie McGee and Director of Development Marlene McGuirt

## 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



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Winning the fight against cancer, every day.®

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

# Thank You to our generous supporters in 2015!

We are grateful to have so many wonderful donors willing to contribute to weSPARK. You enable us to offer innovative and life-enhancing services every year, and it's thanks to you that we can offer them all free of charge.

🔥 denotes a donor who is also a Torchbearer; a big-hearted individual who commits to giving an annually recurring gift of \$250 or more to weSPARK.

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Cancer Treatment Centers of America  
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Charlene Sperber 🔥

## BLAZE (\$10,000-39,999)

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This list includes all supporters who gave \$150 and up from 2/1/2015 through 1/31/2016. Thank you to all our donors!

## WHO WE ARE

weSPARK is a nonprofit cancer support center dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for cancer patients as well as the lives of their families and friends. Our programs and services are provided free of charge and are designed to heal the mind, body, and spirit of all those whose lives have been affected by cancer.

## WHAT WE DO

weSPARK offers over 40 free, ongoing classes and workshops delivered by expert facilitators, instructors, medical psychologists, social workers, and physical therapists to empower cancer patients with the educational, inspirational, and emotional tools to help them throughout their treatment and recovery process.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

- Facilitated by a licensed clinical social worker or therapist
- Held in a safe, homelike setting for 90 minutes
- Serve patients who are in-treatment, post-treatment, and in ongoing treatment
- For family members, including caregivers, bereavement and children and teen groups

## INTEGRATIVE COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES

- Include Restorative and Gentle Yoga, Hypnotherapy, Reflexology, Acupressure, Reiki, Qi Gong, and Tai Chi
- Offer holistic aid for cancer patients
- Provide physical rehabilitation, stress reduction, pain management, anxiety management, and relaxation techniques

## CREATIVE & EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

- Include Creative Writing, Guided Imagery, Jewelry Making, Mah Jongg, Music Workshops, Food Nutrition, and Mindfulness Meditation
- Designed to be both inspirational and informational



## Words from weSPARK Guests

SUPPORT + PREVENTION + ACCEPTANCE  
+ RECOVERY + KNOWLEDGE

"Until weSPARK, I had nowhere else to turn. Whenever I was feeling down after chemotherapy, I came to weSPARK to relax. **weSPARK became my second home** and anytime I visit I still feel welcomed." — Mary Peters



"Going through breast cancer has been difficult, but **weSPARK's Acupuncture, Hypnotherapy, and Drum classes have helped us relax and feel better.** We will forever be grateful to them." — Rosa and Leo Villegas

"It was hard for me when my mom passed away from cancer. It sounds so generic, but it is so true: **weSPARK's teen support group changed my life for the better.**" — Sabina W.



"**weSPARK is a sanctuary:** All you need is an open mind and heart, and weSPARK offers you tools and resources to not simply "cope," but to be enriched in the face of adversities." — Paul S. 🌈

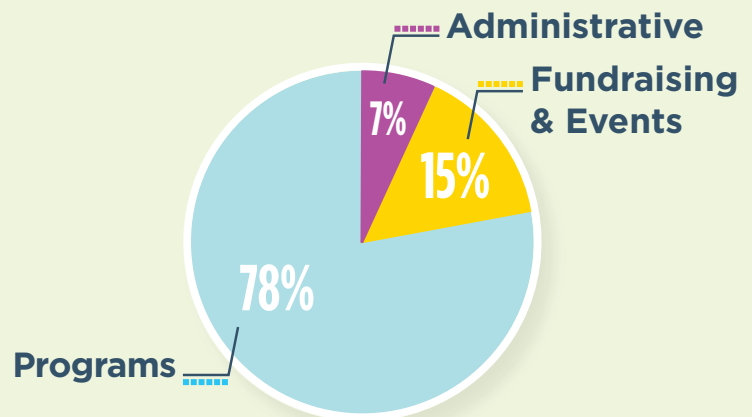
# Financial Year in Review



In 2015, weSPARK committed over three-quarters of our expenses to programs, ensuring that we can continue to offer diverse, comprehensive services for those affected by cancer to enrich their minds, bodies, and spirits. weSPARK is dedicated to growing and supporting these vital services.

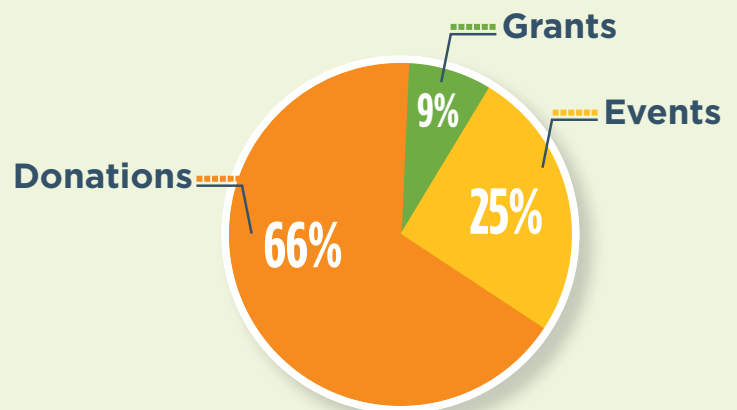
weSPARK is the beneficiary of a few wonderful grants, and our fabulous and fun events make up a decent portion of our income. However, weSPARK would not be where we are today without the generous ongoing support of our donors. It is thanks to you and your kindness that our doors are open and we can expand, grow, and thrive with a diverse range of services that are vital to help those impacted by cancer. weSPARK is there for those who need us and YOU, our supporters, are there for weSPARK. Thank you!

## ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES



Fiscal Year ended 1/31/2016

## 2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR-END INCOME



## For Every Dollar You Donate:

- 78¢ goes to fund all of our programs
- 15¢ covers fundraising costs
- 7¢ covers management and general expenses

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



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

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: [wespark.org](http://wespark.org)





SUPPORT + PREVENTION + ACCEPTANCE + RECOVERY + KNOWLEDGE

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*We Invite our Spanish-Speaking Guests...*

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

**PLATICAS EN ESPAÑOL**



*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.**

*Pacientes con cáncer, miembros de la familia, y cuidadores. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!*

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