



A Message of HOPE Cancer Fund, Inc.

A Message of HOPE Cancer Fund, Inc. (MHCF) offers direct financial assistance to families who face the monetary burdens associated with cancer.

When your burden seems too big to bear, the greatest gift you can give yourself is to live each day with HOPE.

P.O. Box 79054
Charlotte, NC, 28271-7047
(240) 678-9808
amessageofhopecf@comcast.net

Winter 2009

Save the Date... Now!

Please mark your calendar for
Saturday, May 8, 2010!

Planning is well underway for our
**3rd Annual Message of
Hope Gala,**

which will be held this year at the
Gaithersburg Hilton. Details will be
forthcoming. If you'd like to contribute
some time to help us in planning this
year's event or to find out about
sponsorship opportunities, please
drop us a line at 240-678-9808.

Congratulations to
Debbe Manoly and her team of
volunteers for expanding our mission
to the Eastern Shore. The first event
will be held on January 14th. Debbe
and her husband, Larry (Meredith's
parents) are hosting "The Newlywed
Game" in Ocean City, Maryland. A
large crowd is expected. [Click here](#) to
read more!

We are so thankful to
Carolyn Walsh for expanding our
fund to New Jersey! Currently,
Carolyn is fundraising by selling raffle
tickets! The prize? A signed ball by
World Series Pitcher, AJ Burnett!

Consider Giving a Gift of Hope...

With an Alternative Christmas gift,
you can honor your loved ones and
make a difference in the lives of people
battling cancer. Alternative Christmas
gifts are eco-friendly, ethically sound,
and can change lives. They're perfect
for the person who has "everything"
and are sure to bring smiles to the gift
recipient and to the faces of our
families.

You may make your gift online by
visiting our [website](#) or clicking here:
[Alternative Christmas](#). There is a place

With So Many Charities to Choose from...Why Us?

A Note from our Founder:

We have an incredible team of volunteers who support the mission. While so many people -- including our own volunteers -- want to and do support so many worthwhile causes to facilitate cancer research and efforts to find effective cures and treatments, our organization is about helping people with the financial devastation of cancer. As we note in branding our organization, A Message of Hope Cancer Fund is about... "Real Families, Real Help, Right Now!"

As I learned from first-hand experience and so many of the individuals and families impacted by cancer know, it can exact both a medical and financial toll on its victims -- even for families that are fortunate enough to have very good health care coverage. My husband and I, as a matter of fact, are both public school teachers in one of the best school systems in America, with a wonderful array of health plans to choose from. Still, there are expenses that cannot and will not ever be covered on any health care plan.

For many, the financial impact of going through cancer treatments is like the "sucker punch" for a fighter after enduring 15 rounds of punishment in the ring, after mustering all of their hope and strength to battle the cancer itself. After a few months of support, our families are able to get back on their feet and no longer need assistance. However, they have had to wipe out their savings and then needed our help in order to remain in their home or put food on the table. To give you just one example of the difference an organization such as ours can make, I spoke with another social worker, this week, who was moved to tears when I told her we could help one of her patients. She went on to explain, that they rely so heavily on many of the smaller organizations to offset the cost of cancer, but that most of the smaller organizations have gone under - due to the tough economy.

I have now had three social workers, from different hospitals, tell me that they have never seen things this bad - in terms of how many organizations are out of money and not able to help. In fact, we were just able to provide assistance to a family who has a two year old son with Down's Syndrome and cancer. His mother shared a similar story and told me that of the 6 organizations her social worker asked her to call, we were the only ones that could help.

I believe we are successful because of our volunteer model. Without the need for overhead or salaries, we are able to impact people more effectively. The trade-off is that we rely on people who are willing to give up other hobbies in order to make volunteering their passion, but the pay-off is so great. I never dreamed we'd have this type of success. It's not that we are the largest or most powerful organization, but it is very inspiring to watch how our team works together, with laser focus, in order to get the job done. Our passion drives our success. It's been a blessing to witness this type of unity.

What a Year It Has Been!

Imagine a 100 percent, volunteer-run organization that -- in just a year-and-a-half since its inception -- has raised more than \$170,000 and literally given HOPE to 25 cancer sufferers and their families, by providing them with much-needed financial assistance. With your help and your generosity, that's what YOUR organization, A Message of HOPE Cancer Fund, has been able to accomplish!

What a year 2009 has been! We've come together in friendship and with commitment to our cause, through an incredible array of fundraising events and projects!

- Our first "Swing for Hope" Golf Tournament in Laytonsville, Md. was an overwhelming success, raising thousands of dollars for the foundation, and providing so many great laughs and memories for golfers and volunteers alike, on a glorious September day.

for you to fill in information about the person you are honoring with your gift and where to send a gift notice.

Please indicate the name and address of your honoree(s) and the designation you have chosen. We will send the Christmas card directly to the person(s) with a newsletter about our foundation. You also will receive a receipt for your gift, for tax purposes.

Read Meredith's Inspiring Story of Hope!

You may know part of the inspiring story of our founder, Meredith McNerney, but now you can read for yourself... the rest of the story!

Just two years after battling through her own cancer diagnosis and one year after launching A Message of Hope, Meredith recently completed her incredible autobiography, *Facing Cancer: A Spiritual Journey of Pain and Peace*.

You can be among the first to own and read this extraordinary and uplifting story of her struggles and her triumph, by purchasing this book and – in the process – helping to support our foundation! Visit www.facingcancerbook.com to order.

- Our 2nd Annual Gala in March was a night to remember forever, as we celebrated the life-changing work of our organization, visited with our Message of Hope family and friends, and danced the night away!
- Our Basket Bingo Night in La Plata, Md. drew an amazing crowd of bingo lovers - almost 300! Thank you to the Southern Maryland Business Network for hosting another wonderful event.
- A golf tournament held in Southern Maryland was a profitable event held by First Choice Realty.
 - A motorcycle bike ride, a clothing fundraiser (held by Hooks and Hangers in LaPlata, Maryland) and rock-a-thon at a local school, and a Race for HOPE in our honor are all examples of how volunteers make this organization work!

And these are just a few of the highlights, in an amazing year that also included other fundraisers and projects such as our first-ever Crab Feast Raffle, a Bowl-a-thon, a church fundraiser, and so much more!

Special thanks to the Southern Maryland Business Network for their dedication to our fund this year. Please visit their website at www.smbn.com to learn more!

Calling All Volunteers!

There are so many wonderful ways you can help to support our important mission, as a volunteer. As a 100 percent, volunteer-run organization, we would love to have your help in support of our many events and activities. We can assure you that you will find the experience to be fulfilling, in so many ways.

What a Difference Your Dollars Make!

Because our foundation is 100 percent volunteer-run, with no overhead, you can be assured that your gifts of HOPE truly make a difference in the lives of the cancer patients and families that we support! And there are so many easy ways for you to [donate....](#)

Automatic Monthly Donation

MHCF is proud to offer the convenience of a monthly automatic charge to your credit or debit card. Complete the boxes below, sign, and mail to the address at the bottom of the newsletter. Your kind donation ensures your commitment to the families we serve on an ongoing basis, in a way that's convenient for you.



Name (as it appears on the account): _____

Home Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Circle one: (Visa or Master Card) 3-Digit Security Code: _____

I agree to have \$_____ automatically charged to my account each month as a tax-deductible donation to A Message of HOPE Cancer Fund, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Signature: _____ Date: _____