## The Judith A. Lese Breast Cancer Foundation

100% of contributions are disbursed



"in the pursuit of education and cure for breast cancer"

June 3, 2015

Dear Foundation Friends,

WOW! TOGETHER WE DID IT! We did the best year of fundraising efforts and it is all thanks to YOU! Thank you to each wonderful supporter as you enabled The Judith A. Lese Breast Cancer Foundation to disburse over \$34,000 (combined amounts) to: The Sullivan Center for Breast Health at Sibley Memorial Hospital (Health Center and Clinical Trials); purchased for Suburban Hospital a Breast Vest model device used at presentations that are educational/instructional demonstrations at area high schools; and our four other designated research recipients. This represents 100% of our funds raised! Let's do it again and even more!

This year, I participated with a nurse from Suburban Hospital's Community Outreach program in going to some high schools and begin building awareness in the  $11^{th}$  and  $12^{th}$  grade female students. The name of their program is "Check It Out." I spoke as a breast cancer survivor and with my combined experience as a teacher, it was a perfect fit! I believe we raised their awareness and started to increase their comfort in talking about this aspect of personal health care. You all know how committed I am to "education and raising awareness" (one of the three parts of our mission). I look forward to being a part of this educational program in the future.

Also, I made a personal visit to The McLean School in Potomac. I went to personally express my deep appreciation to all of the players on their Girls Volleyball Teams for raising monies for our Foundation. I took tee shirts from our 2014's "Walk to Win - the battle against breast cancer" for each of them to sign; then the coach put them up on display. Photos were taken and posted on the school's website. I look forward to their continued support.

I am working closely with Greg Kahn, the owner of Gregorio's Trattoria in Cabin John Mall, to begin promoting dining at Gregorio's on Monday nights when certain proceeds will go to our Foundation. I am thinking about calling this (and I hope it to become regular weekly) Fundraiser evenings "MONDAY MONIES MATTER in the battle against breast cancer"! We will post information on our website and listsery as things finalize.

I want to share a very exciting project that I have been in discussion for this past year with a wonderful caring individual named Debi Stuart. Please come meet her at our July 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser Dinner at Maggiano's. What was a thought and interest in continuing a cookbook in honor of a very dear and special aunt of hers who fell victim to breast cancer is evolving into The Judith A. Lese Breast Cancer Foundation's Cooking and Food Preparations against Breast Cancer project. More about this as time goes on and for sure more to be shared at our July 8<sup>th</sup> dinner. Also, at our Annual Fundraiser Dinner night, we have the very special opportunity to learn about "Breast Cancer and Genetics" from the tremendously knowledgeable Dr. Reem Saadeh-Haddad. She is the experienced clinical geneticist who is an integral part of crucial life medical decisions as an advisor at Sibley Memorial Hospital's Sullivan Center for Breast Health. Let me share with great pride how it was our Foundation that was instrumental initially in helping to make possible and develop this position at the Center!

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LEGAL COUNSELORS

Douglas Woloshin, Esq. Reid Avett, Esq. Duane Morris LLP Washington, D.C.

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The Judith A. Lese Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc., 16012 Chester Mill Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20906
Phone and Fax: 301-774-6719 Fed I.D. 20-0061083 CFC Code: 53302
Email: LeseCancerFdn@aol.com Website: www.judithalese.org

Let me share this special report from Helene Brody Bushwick, our Secretary: Once again, the Foundation's Executive Board members attended on April 17<sup>th</sup> the Spring Luncheon honoring our support to The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center of Johns Hopkins. It is truly an honor to be supporting such an innovative organization whose research and clinical trials are saving thousands of lives! The guest speaker, Julie Brahmer, M.D., is an expert in the use of immunotherapies to treat lung and esophageal cancer and mesothelioma. She is also the Director of the Thoracic Oncology Program at the Kimmel Center. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death and the second most common cancer among both men and women in the United States. According to Science magazine, "immunotherapy marks an entirely different way of treating cancer – by targeting the immune system, not the tumor itself." Dr. Brahmer shared the results of the early trials of a certain immunotherapy drug that has literally "melted tumors away." Many of Dr. Brahmer's lung cancer patients had exhausted all other possible treatments. Their life expectancy before the trials was fewer than six months. Currently, almost a quarter of those treated in the Johns Hopkins trials have survived over two years. The drug is now in phase-three trials, the last step before it can be prescribed to patients. Some of Dr. Brahmer's patients were at the lunch. It was inspiring to see them sitting among us enjoying life! Once again, the Foundation members left the luncheon with knowledge – of new cutting-edge research – and hope – that many people will live longer and healthier lives due to these new, groundbreaking developments.

Also, reports from Laurence Lese, our Vice President and Jay Hagler, our Treasurer. Larry Lese: We are very proud to announce that since our Foundation began in 2003, we have raised over \$207,000, of which 100% has been disbursed. This is an incredible amount, and we again thank all of you for your continuing donations and support. During 2014, we received over \$34,000 which represents our best fundraiser year ever. All of these funds were disbursed. Specifically, we provided funding to The Sullivan Center for Breast Health at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C. and Sibley's clinical trials for uninsured/underinsured women. Funds were also disbursed to the research programs at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center; the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute; the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center; The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, ME; and the Suburban Hospital Foundation for the purchase of a Breast Vest to be used by Judith Macon in the educational instruction outreach program.

Jay Hagler: As we reported in our October Newsletter, our Foundation was listed in the 2014 catalogue of the *Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for the National Capital Area*. The CFC, for those who are not aware, is the only authorized solicitation of Federal employees in their workplaces on behalf of approved charitable organizations. As a result of our being part of the catalogue, we are proud to announce that we will be receiving over \$12,500 this year from CFC contributions. CFC has been an amazing opportunity for our Foundation, and we have been accepted already for next year's CFC catalogue. Our five-digit CFC code is #53302, and we will have information on donating to the 2015 CFC campaign in our Fall Newsletter. We again thank our Federal employees for their very generous donations.

I want to give a very special huge mega THANK YOU to John Cho, owner of Bridgeport Benefit Advisors located in Bethesda, Maryland. He was the sponsor of our "Walk to Win - the battle against breast cancer" annual fundraiser at Cabin John Park in October 2014. He made sure we had fabulous personalized tee shirts for this event! I am ever so grateful for his support.

OKAY everyone, start making your plans to attend and support our Thirteenth Annual Fundraiser Dinner on Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at Maggiano's Restaurant, Chevy Chase, DC. Details are in the invitation enclosed. Invite your family members, spouses, special friends and relatives — come be a part of what will be a memorable evening! I look forward to seeing YOU and meeting the guests you bring to this very special evening!

Again, I thank you for making it possible for us to do the fantastic work we do. Come and see a special video about what we have done at Sibley to be shared July 8<sup>th</sup>. See you July 8<sup>th</sup>.

With warmest regards,

Judoth Dr. Lese

Judith A. Lese President/CEO