



# Volunteer Voice

Our Gilda's Club Westchester volunteers never cease to amaze us! 2009 was a tremendous year for our Volunteer Program, which currently consists of over 200 active volunteers! Our volunteers have given of their time and talents in so many ways over the past year, for more consistent volunteer opportunities such as Clubhouse Catering and Reception, and for more intermittent opportunities such as Handwriting Volunteers and Administrative Volunteers. This year was filled with some new volunteer opportunities, and growth of the old staples. Here is just a small sampling of what has been happening with our volunteers:

- The Gilda's Club Westchester Ambassador Program got up and running, through which seasoned volunteers have been specially trained to represent GCW in the community at a variety of community-based events, fundraisers, and Gilda's-on-the-Go events.
- Volunteers have become actively involved with helping GCW staff plan fundraising events, obtain donors, and representing GCW at community-based events that have benefited GCW.
- A dynamic group of high school students who volunteer with GCW do so as part of the Youth Committee, which for the first time ever is comprised of approximately 60 teens from around Westchester County!
- The YALC (Young Adult Leadership Council) was started, through which young adults are volunteering their time to develop and implement fundraising and awareness events in the community to benefit GCW.
- We had a number of community-based organizations and individual volunteers come to the Clubhouse on the night of Noogiefest, the annual GCW Halloween party. They provided fun activities in each of the Clubhouse rooms for the approximately 200 children and 100 adults who attended – the most successful Noogiefest in GCW history.
- Some of our members and volunteers have found other ways to “give back” to Gilda's Club Westchester— through their connections. Through these connections, GCW has received some very generous donations of products that are used for Clubhouse events (i.e. beverages from Pepsi, food or gift cards from local restaurants, grocery stores, paper-goods stores, art stores, etc.).

The list is endless of how individuals and community-based groups have contributed to the GCW Program this year. Whether you have volunteered once, or many times... whether you have volunteered individually or as part of a group... whether you have volunteered in person or helped to establish a connection with a local corporation or entity... every act of kindness makes a difference in the lives of GCW members. The staff and members are touched by the care and compassion of each and every volunteer - Thank you for making a real difference in the lives of so many impacted by cancer.

On behalf of the GCW staff, I want to wish all of our volunteers and their families a happy, healthy holiday season, and a fantastic start to 2010. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year—and to the continued growth of our volunteer program!

- Miranda Dold, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator