

## Happy Spring Everyone

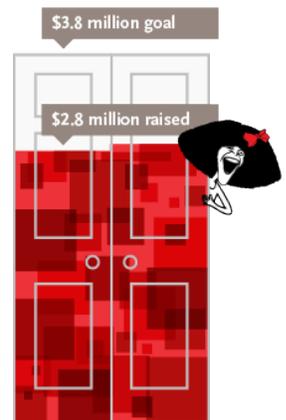
by Michelle Silverman, Executive Director



Well, I'm going to cut right to the chase—the Gilda's Club Twin Cities momentum just keeps growing! As the old walls of our clubhouse come down, we are preparing to put up beautiful new ones. We are getting ever closer to opening our red doors and delivering the important cancer support program our community needs.

We're right where we need to be. The demolition stage is completed and April 15 we started swinging hammers, installing walls, finishes, flooring and paint. **Throughout construction, we'll be conducting hard hat tours every Thursday from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.**, so you can see where all the program activities will happen. If you're interested in taking a tour, call the Gilda's Club office at 612-227-2147 or [Anne.Josten@GildasClubTwinCities.org](mailto:Anne.Josten@GildasClubTwinCities.org).

On the business side of things—thanks to all of you, we've **crossed the \$2.8 million mark**, which means we've raised the clubhouse building costs. Now we're funding the support program, available to all as soon as our red doors open. When we raise just one million more, we'll have a full year's programming capital in the bank. (Our national affiliate, the Cancer Support Community, requires this for us to open; it's also just good business practice.) Our entire fundraising team and board members are meeting with new prospects every week.



We're all eager for our program to be available. Every day, I field requests from people asking when they can come to the Clubhouse. And every day I look around and see so many others who could benefit from our program. I see a family dealing with mom's cancer that's come back, a spouse managing the financial and emotional turmoil that brings the kids trying to make sense of it all and the sense of loneliness I read in their eyes.

As painful as this is to see, I am lifted up knowing that we're ALMOST THERE! Soon, we'll have support groups for the persons facing cancer and the spouses, parents and friends who have a million different questions—questions that can be answered only by someone who's been there. In addition, we will have resources such as family social time, movie nights and a place where even the kids can learn how to cook healthy meals for mom and dad.

The physical space for these programs is quickly taking shape thanks to our incredible Clubhouse Committee, our amazingly dedicated volunteers and the team of talented professionals who are stepping up in so many ways.

With many of them providing pro bono help and finding us suppliers, services and materials, we've seen well over \$100,000 of donated construction materials and installation labor. Teams of new volunteers have worked evenings and weekends to undertake the demolition, saving us another \$10,000.

Let me give you one more example of what keeps me ignited. On March 6, we gave a contractor's tour for 15 professionals to provide them information about our project. Afterwards, one of the contractors lingered behind and said this: "I lost my mom to cancer. I'll do whatever it takes to get this clubhouse open."

I continue to be grateful and humbled to be surrounded by so many dedicated people, staff, volunteers, tradespeople and committee members, who want to be part of bringing this valuable resource to the Twin Cities.



We're going home with a lot of dust on us these days, but we're constantly reminded that we're building so much more than a Clubhouse. We're building a community of support and hope.

Warmest Regards,

Michelle

