



Gilda's Club Kansas City Healthcare Provider Fact Sheet

So that no one faces cancer alone. ®

Overview and Background

- Gilda's Club Kansas City is a unique community providing social and emotional support for people of all ages living with all types of cancer, along with their family and friends—from early diagnosis to post treatment and beyond.
- Gilda's Club provides a warm and welcoming, home-like setting where anyone impacted by cancer can share experiences, find support and learn how to live well with cancer.
- Gilda's Club is named for comedian Gilda Radner (best known for her work on NBC's "Saturday Night Live") who died from ovarian cancer in 1989. Her husband, Gene Wilder, and her cancer therapist, Joanna Bull, founded Gilda's Club in 1995 in New York City.

Programming

- In 2007, the Institute of Medicine published a report stating that to effectively treat cancer, healthcare providers must connect patients and their families to psychosocial health services such as those offered at Gilda's Club.
- All programs at Gilda's Club are facilitated by licensed mental health professionals.
- The Gilda's Club program is based on the needs of member/participants and includes:
 - Weekly support groups for people on living with cancer and their families and friends
 - "Noogieland" supportive play for children impacted by cancer
 - Monthly networking groups that focus on post-treatment, living with loss, young survivors, breast cancer and more
 - Customized membership plan session for one-on-one support
 - Educational workshops and lectures, including the national "Frankly Speaking" series that offers easy-to-digest information from local healthcare professionals
 - Healthy lifestyle workshops including nutrition, cooking classes, body movement and meditation
 - Social activities, including activities such as potlucks, game nights and seasonal gatherings.
 - Resource sharing and referrals

Membership and Participation

- Anyone impacted by cancer is welcome to participate in as many, or as few programs and events as they wish.
- All programs, activities and membership are completely *free of charge*.
- Gilda's Club offers regularly scheduled introductory meetings, and one-on-one support for those wondering where to begin.

Resources

- Gilda's Club is an affiliate of the Cancer Support Community, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support, education and hope to those impacted by cancer through community-based centers and online services.
- Gilda's Club's approach to psychosocial support is based on proven evidence-based programming from the Cancer Support Community Research and Training Institute. The Institute is a resource for the cancer community that conducts peer-reviewed research and directs training programs for healthcare professionals.
- Gilda's Club is supported completely through direct and in-kind donations by individuals, corporations and foundations; as well as volunteer efforts. All funds raised in Kansas City are used for local programming.

For more information, call the Clubhouse at **816-531-5444**
or email programdirector@GildasClubKC.org