

Let's Celebrate Our Red Door Heroes!

Red Door Bash

October 9, 2021

Benefiting Gilda's Club

Middle Tennessee



From Our President & CEO and Board Chair



Good evening and thank you for being a part of the Red Door Bash, Gilda's Club Middle Tennessee's biggest annual fundraiser and our collective opportunity to celebrate another year of free support for anyone in the community impacted by cancer.



As is the case for many individuals and organizations, this last year has been a challenging one for Gilda's Club, with lots pivots, yet two things have remained constant: one, the demand for emotional and social cancer support (because cancer doesn't quit, even in the midst of a pandemic); and, two, our commitment to finding safe, creative ways to deliver our evidence-based program, so that every adult, teen, and child facing cancer in Middle Tennessee has access to "life-saving" resources.

We invite you to learn more about Gilda's Club's response to the last 12 months of COVID challenges (and opportunities) on the opposite page, but here's what we really want you to know...the one big thing we hope you'll take away from tonight's event: Gilda's Club's cancer support program wouldn't be possible without donors, volunteers, and community partners like you. Now more than ever, your support is making our critical work possible – and we are deeply grateful.

On the subject of support, we're thrilled to be celebrating the 2021 Red Door Bash with you, although only virtually. This year, we have the distinct pleasure of presenting our annual Red Door Champion Award to a Williamson County couple that has supported our non-profit through volunteerism, financial giving, and advocacy for nearly two decades. We'll also seize the opportunity to honor 13 Gilda's Club support group facilitators, all of whom have continued to put our mission and members first – even when faced with their own personal, COVID-related challenges. Each of these individuals graciously joined us as we boldly stepped into the world of virtual cancer support nearly 18 months ago and Middle Tennessee is better for their heroic efforts.

Tonight, we also benefit from the support of our returning celebrity guest host Demetria Kalodimos; musical talent Jenny Tolman and Dave Brainard; an outstanding Red Door Bash Event Committee; and many, many event sponsors and in-kind contributors who not only stayed with us, but also cheered us on as – with only five weeks to event date – we made the difficult decision to shift to an all-virtual Bash in order to safeguard our community.

Yes, support in its many shapes and forms is essential to fueling Gilda's Club's mission: To ensure all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by community. Thank you for all you do.

Harriet Schiftan, President and CEO

Helen Lane, Board Chair

Gilda's Club's Impact: Fiscal Year 2020/2021



INDIVIDUALS SERVED: 2,662

*"When the pandemic hit, and we were all home isolated because of our health issues, **Gilda's Club never missed a beat** in keeping the activities and support groups going through Zoom sessions."*



NEW MEMBERS: 421

"Gilda's Club has helped me through some of the hardest times of my life. Through all the stress and uncertainty of cancer, and the current world we live in, it has been an anchor for me."

2,152
Responses to
Participation and
Resource Requests

229
New Member
Customized
Support Plans

566
Virtual
Support Group
Sessions

362
Virtual Classes,
Workshops
and Webinars

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

PLATINUM

Omni Nashville Hotel

GOLD

Burr & Forman

BRONZE

Fishel Family Foundation

HCA Healthcare/TriStar Health

Jenny and Gerald Risk

Studio 8 Design

TABLE HOSTS

Ms. Denise Alper | Mr. & Mrs. Sam & Jessica Averbuch | Mr. & Mrs. Joe & Judy Barker
Mr. Anthony Barton & Mr. Sheldon Shiraki | Mr. Ur Barzel & Mrs. Rachel Goodrich
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Community Trust
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy & Jamie Brook & Mr. & Mrs. Greg & Erin Zagnoev
Dr. & Mrs. Mark & Robin Cohen | Dr. & Mrs. Earl & Julianne Fitz
Mr. Harris Gilbert, Sr. | Mr. & Mrs. Harris N. & Danielle Gilbert
Mr. & Mrs. Randy & Gretchen Goldstein | Dr. & Mrs. Steve & Sandra Hecklin
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce & Rae Hirsch | Mr. & Mrs. Allen & Maggie Huggins
Mr. & Mrs. Billy & Erica Jacobs | Jacobs Cohen & Associates
Mr. & Mrs. Keith & Meryl Kraft & Mr. & Mrs. Axson & Ann West
Mr. Ken Kraft & Ms. Luci Crow | Kurtz Hospitality Marketing
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen & Helen Lane | Mr. Lawrence Luckey & Dr. Frances Cate
Mr. & Mrs. Drew & Holly Mallory | Mr. & Mrs. Brian & Victoria Marger
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan & Jenny Marshall | Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Lisa Moschel
PathGroup | Rabbi & Mrs. Mark & Harriet Schifftan
Barrett Sutton, Jr. and Carolyn Schneider | Sherrard Roe Voigt & Harbison, PLC
Mr. & Mrs. Mike & Lisa Shmerling | Sprintz Furniture | The Temple Clergy
Tennessee Oncology | Vanderbilt Gynecologic Oncology
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center | Mr. & Mrs. Fleming & Dallas Wilt

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS

AmFund | Branches Event Design and Floral | Chip Sprague Photography
Gary Musick Productions | Lipman Brothers and R.S. Lipman Company
Nashville Interiors | Sweet Little Mother

Thank you to Jennifer Wilkins for the beautiful art used for our awards.



**GILDA'S
CLUB
MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**

An Affiliate of the
CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY

Red Door Bash

Saturday, October 9, 2021

Opening Message
Helen Lane, Board Chair

Welcome
Rae Hirsch and Erica Jacobs, Event Co-Chairs

Musical Guests
Jenny Tolman and Dave Brainard
Demetria Kalodimos, Celebrity Guest Host
Harriet Schiftan, President and CEO

Member Moment
Tara Seay, Gilda's Club Member

Fill the Red Door
Harriet Schiftan

Red Door Champion Award
Presented to Brian & Victoria Marger

Red Door Hero Award
Presented to 13 Support Group Facilitators

Farewell
Musical Guests
Jenny Tolman and Dave Brainard

*Turn to the back cover for tips on making the most of your
Red Door Bash experience.*



Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next.

- Gilda Radner

OMNI  HOTELS & RESORTS
nashville

NEVER STAY THE SAME

Visit omnihotels.com/nashville to book your room, spa day, or Sunday brunch and start making memories with us.

**Let's Get Social! Follow Us @GildasClubMiddleTN
for Info on Program Offerings, Special Events, and More.**



Demetria Kalodimos, Celebrity Guest Host

Demetria Kalodimos is a trusted voice in Middle Tennessee. She anchored and reported news for nearly 40 years and has won some of the top awards in broadcast journalism, including 16 Emmys, three Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) National awards, three Edward R. Murrow Awards for investigative reporting, and the Gracie from American Women in Radio and Television. She has consistently been voted Best Local Anchor by readers of the *Tennessean* and the *Nashville Scene*, and she was inducted into the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame and the NATAS Silver Circle. Demetria holds a Master of Journalism degree from the University of Illinois and a Bachelor of Music Education and Honorary Doctorate from Illinois Wesleyan University. She produces her own award-winning documentaries, music videos, and other visual content through her company Genuine Human Productions, headquartered at The Filming Station. Her 13-episode songwriter series, *Barneegie Hall*, aired nationally on PBS stations nationwide.

Dave Brainard, Musical Guest

While he'll tell you he's from Nebraska, Dave Brainard was raised in an Air Force family that moved around a lot. Along the way, he acquired an affinity for music, and he's never looked back. After a year of college, he was invited to audition as a guitarist for the prestigious U.S. Air Force band, and went on to serve active duty for five years at Offutt AFB NE. After his service to the military, Dave's natural ear for music, combined with a Midwestern, hard-working ethic, landed him in Nashville to pursue a songwriting career. Within a couple years, he was signed to his first publishing deal with Balmur Corus. A few cuts later, Dave went on to sign with Big Picture Entertainment, where he wrote for producer Keith Stegall (Alan Jackson/Zac Brown Band). Dave's songwriting credits include cuts by Brooks & Dunn, Neal McCoy, Sammy Kershaw, Ricochet, Hunter Hayes, Jeff Bridges (the Dude), and Jenny Tolman. A self-taught producer, he has produced albums for Jerrod Niemann (including the #1 hit "Lower Lover" and the top-five smash "What Do You Want") and Brandy Clark (12 *Stories*.) The newest additions to Dave's body of work include Jenny Tolman's critically acclaimed *There Goes the Neighborhood Hood* album, Brit Taylor's *Real Me* album, and Jon Wolfe's *Dos Corazones*.

Jenny Tolman, Musical Guest

With a razor-sharp wit and throwback sound, Jenny Tolman is on deck to become her generation's Roger Miller - a comedic troubadour with a decidedly feminine perspective, offering savvy wordplay and wisdom far beyond her years. With titles like "High Class White Trash," her debut album *There Goes the Neighborhood* lit up Nashville in 2020 by delivering engaging snapshots of small-town life in the fictional Jennyville. Not many new artists would step into the spotlight quite so brazenly, but doing so has been worth the gamble thus far for Jenny, with the *Nashville Scene* singling out *There Goes the Neighborhood* as "Best Country Debut Album," while the *Tennessean* named her an "Artist to Watch" and *MusicRow Magazine* included her in its "Next Big Thing" Class of 2020. Pretty heady stuff for a twenty-something whom veteran Music Row writer Robert K. Oermann says is "practically single-handedly bringing humor back into country music."

Brian and Victoria Marger, Red Door Champion Award

Brian and Victoria are long-time Gilda's Club volunteers, donors and advocates. The dynamic duo was first introduced to our organization in 2014, when Brian – now president of ONSite Mammography, LLC – was our Young Leaders Council (YLC) Board intern. He was invited to become a full Board member at the end of his internship and ultimately served as Board Chair from 2015-2016. Victoria, meanwhile, began attending Gilda's Club events and quickly became a regular Gilda's Club volunteer, along with her two daughters. She served as our Red Door Bash Chair in 2019 and as Co-Chair in 2020. Brian and Victoria are Red Door Society donors, as well as members of our legacy giving society: The Will Power Society. *Please join us in congratulating the Margers on receiving the 2021 Red Door Champion Award.*

Red Door Hero Awards

Tonight, we are seizing the opportunity to celebrate 13 of our support group facilitators, all of whom have continued to put our mission and members first, and graciously joined us as we boldly stepped into the world of virtual cancer support at the beginning of the pandemic. These amazing people - our Red Door Heroes - never missed a beat, even as they faced their own personal, COVID-related challenges, and the greater Middle Tennessee community is better for their ongoing efforts. *Please join us in celebrating the following individuals:*

David Adcock, PT – David is a physical therapist, who became a facilitator of our Head and Neck Cancers group after being invited by speech therapist and Gilda's Club facilitator Carmin Bartow to speak to the group about lymphedema treatment, David's area of specialty. "I was amazed at this group. Their comradery, friendships, support, and ways of assisting each other was remarkable. They instantly became heroes to me and I asked to get more involved." Nine years later, David says the group continues to amaze him and he feels fortunate to be a part of it.

Deanna Candeloro, M. Ed, LPC-MHSP – Deanna is a Licensed Professional Counselor-Mental Health Service Provider and holds a master's degree from Vanderbilt University's Human Development Counseling program. She took an unconventional path to becoming a mental health professional, earning her bachelor's degree in fashion merchandising, and she spent five years in the music business before pursuing counseling. She first became involved with Gilda's Club in 2018 and currently leads one of our support groups for individuals with a cancer diagnosis.

Dana Davis, LCSW – Dana is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, who works at the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System Veteran's Hospital as a caregiver support

*“We are proud to support
Gilda’s Club Middle
Tennessee. Programming
and resources may continue
in a virtual environment,
but the sense of community
remains the same.”*

KEN BRYANT
Cancer Survivor, Donor,
Gilda’s Board Member



350 Attorneys.
19 Offices.
Results Matter.

Burr.com • 615.724.3200
222 Second Ave South, Ste 2000, Nashville, TN

A Special Thank You to Our Red Door Bash Committee

Mrs. Rae Hirsch, Co-Chair
Mrs. Erica Jacobs, Co-Chair

Frances Cate | Robin Cohen | Beverly Davenport
Lori Fishel | Gretchen Goldstein | Belinda Havron
Janet Kurtz | Victoria Marger
Ingrid Perdikis | Marci Spigel

Red Door Hero Awards, continued...

coordinator. Dana was first introduced to Gilda's Club during a presentation on palliative and hospice care at Vanderbilt University. She says she was immediately drawn to our mission and has facilitated our Emotional Aftermath post-treatment group, Families Facing Cancer group, and Young Adults Who Have Lost a Parent to Cancer group since 2016. Dana thanks her wonderful husband Anthony for supporting her work at Gilda's Club.

Lynn Dunavant, MA, HSP – Lynn, a Licensed Health Services Provider, is a school psychologist, who also maintains a private practice. She met our founding Program Director Felice Apolinsky at American Artisan Festival the year before Gilda's Club opened and, 23 years later, is still facilitating our Friends and Family Who Have Lost a Loved One to Cancer support group. Lynn lost a friend to cancer and says her connection to Gilda's Club is both personal and professional.

Pamela Duvall, MS, CCC-SLP – Pamela is a speech-language pathologist, who specializes in speech, language, and swallowing disorders. She has been in practice for nearly 30 years and has served as a facilitator of Gilda's Club's Head and Neck Cancers support group for nearly five.

Larae Heil, M Ed., MS, CCC-SLP – Larae is a retired speech and language pathologist, who spent much of her career working in Metro Nashville Public Schools. She was introduced to Gilda's Club in 2017, when a friend invited her to join our Multiple Myeloma Group; she's been attending ever since and became the group's facilitator two years ago. Larae is committed to making the Multiple Myeloma Group a warm, welcoming, and enjoyable experience for all who attend.

Cynthia Johnson, LCSW, BCD – Cynthia is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Board-Certified Diplomate in Social Work, who works at the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System Veteran's Hospital as a social worker. Her friend and fellow honoree, Dana Davis, introduced her to Gilda's Club in 2020. Cynthia's mother was a career oncology nurse, which provided Cynthia motivation and background for serving our members. She facilitates our Early-Stage Cancer group and Family and Friends group.

Laura Jo Leach, LMSW – Laura, a Licensed Master Social Worker, came to Gilda's Club in 2009 as a part of her social work master's program internship; she has been facilitating Gilda's Club support groups ever since. Laura leads our Breast Cancer group and Gynecological Cancers group. She also currently facilitates a group for another one of our volunteers who is on maternity leave. Laura is thankful for her husband and two children.

Doris P. McLay – Doris has served as president of Sister’s Network, an advocacy and education organization for African-American women impacted by breast cancer, since 2008. Prior to this, she was involved with the group as a member and says she is grateful for Gilda’s Club for hosting the organization’s monthly gatherings over many years. Now retired from the corporate world, Doris spent more than 30 years as a manager with AT&T.

Lanier Sachs, M.Ed., NCC – Lanier has a Master of Education degree and is a National Certified Counselor. She serves as an educational consultant and research lab manager for special education at Vanderbilt University. Lanier was introduced to Gilda’s Club in 2015 as an intern. Following her internship, she was hired to pilot our individual counseling program, and she currently leads our Families Facing Cancer group.

Carol Sanders, RN – Carol is a retired Vanderbilt University Medical Center nurse, who worked in oncology and stem cell transplant for 30 years. She first became a part of the Gilda’s Club community in 2014 as a facilitator of our Monday night Lymphoma/ Leukemia support group. She later became a leader of our Wednesday morning Multiple Myeloma group.

Warren Thompson, Ph. D – Warren holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree and has a private counseling practice. He became a part of the Gilda’s Club community in 2000 and has led our Life After Loss and When Your Adult Child Has Cancer support groups ever since. Warren says his wife Lynn, who lost her battle with cancer in 1995, is to credit for his deep understanding of bereavement. “My wife Lynn knew it was unlikely she’d survive... We told [our three kids] she was going to die. Doing so made it possible for Lynn – and our entire family – to grieve during her last year of life. I believe it’s important to allow loved ones to grieve before they die.”

J. Dawson Wells, LMSW – Dawson, a Licensed Master Social Worker, is a hospice social worker, counselor, and life coach. He came to Gilda’s Club in 2012 as a volunteer meditation instructor and says his work with Gilda’s inspired him to leave the music industry and pursue a career in social work. Since 2015, Dawson has facilitated our Lung Cancer, Colorectal Cancers, and Prostate Cancer support groups.



Don't Miss a Moment!

Follow these steps to ensure your Red Door Bash experience is everything it should be:

1. **Visit** RedDoorBash.givesmart.com in advance of the event. (Use your phone to scan the QR code below to get there lightning fast!)
2. **Register** on the event site by clicking the Register button.
3. Star your favorite auction items and **bid** beginning Sept. 29.
4. Share the link (RedDoorBash.givesmart.com) and **invite** friends to help us raise even more money to support our mission.
5. **Log in** at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 9 for our auction preview.
The main event begins promptly at 7 p.m.
7. **Keep bidding!** The auction closes at 9 p.m.
8. If you have questions, **call** 615-329-1124.



TRAVEL FOR A GOOD CAUSE

3 Years No Blackout Dates to Travel

Deluxe Accommodations

Roundtrip Airfare for 2

Travel Specialist to Book Your Trip

Options to Extend, Add Travelers
and Upgrade Available.



Don't forget to visit our online auction, with once-in-a-lifetime trips, original art, handmade jewelry, and much more! The best part: **All proceeds benefit our cancer support program.**

THANK YOU!

