



# newsletter

issue five

fall 2009

## A Decade of Caring



*YNHH staff members with some of our gifts.*

And our goals and influence have spread—originally from just Beth Israel-Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, to Yale-New Haven Hospital in Connecticut and to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

In each location—and with varying needs, we’ve determined to keep up our patients spirits, giving them reason to smile on the road to recovery and lending support to their families—while looking forward to brighter days ahead.

We’ve arranged special dental care, accounting help and hair-styling. We’ve paid for grocery bills, transportation and clothing. *A Touch of Comfort* has endowed Art Therapy programs and has established libraries of music, books, and movies. We’ve provided comfy pajamas—and different gifts based on patient’s ages—from Game-Boys to answering machines.

We’ve held numerous events to fund donations to the bone marrow transplant units. We have purchased VCRs, boom-boxes, and laptop computers so that patients can access the internet and stay in touch with loved ones. These computers make a big difference in the lives of patients who, unable to leave their rooms for a month or more, can still stay connected to the outside world. ■



*BIDMC staff members with one of our donations.*

It’s been ten years and the spirit lives on! This charity was founded in 1999 by Jim Pite, who continues to inspire us - with his mission of helping cancer patients feel more at home. And we continue to achieve that purpose - to relieve patients of the anxieties of the chemotherapy and radiation treatments, the months of isolation, the hundered of tests, exams, needles, pills and doctor’s visits.

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## Attendees at this Year’s NYC Fundraiser



# Here's What We're Hearing...

"I was a recent recipient of your welcome gifts at Yale New Haven Hospital. I can't begin to tell you how much it meant to receive all these articles of comfort. One never realizes how nice it is—until you're put in that position. I'll be forever indebted to A Touch of Comfort."

"My husband had his transplant at MSKCC and is doing well. We're from PA and being so far from home and in NYC for two months presented some challenges. However, your generous gift cards allow us to use them for fun things and purchasing meals and we so appreciate your thoughtfulness."

"I wish to thank you for my gift certificates from WalMart where I bought pants to fit my new body size—they look so much better than baggy pants—and the Blockbuster certificates helped so much while I was in isolation. I love the lavender cream and the candies—the hat fits perfectly. I can't thank you enough for making me feel normal and nice."

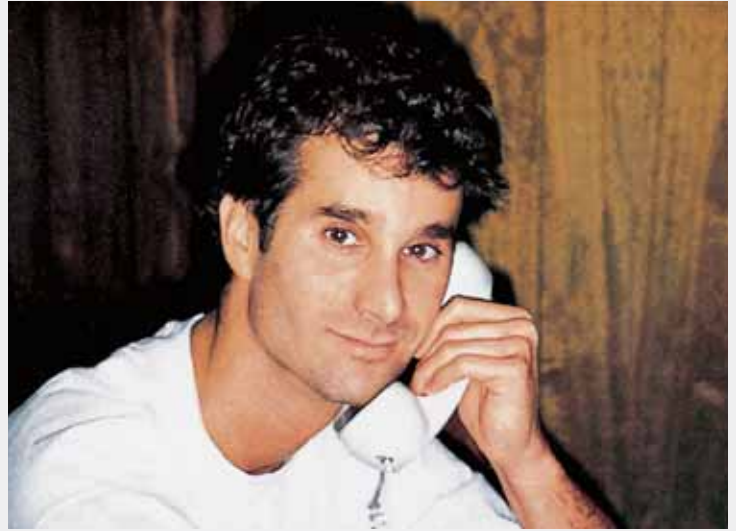
"The gifts mean so much to me—especially the Yale baseball cap since I've lost all my hair. All your gifts have made life a little easier..."

"Your gift cards for gas were a great help to my husband and me, since we were travelling back & forth to Yale NH Hospital 127 miles a day. Thank you for helping so many families with the little things that make some days seem so much brighter."

*"Your kindness is definitely a touch of comfort."*

"My husband underwent a stem cell transplant at Sloan-Kettering and remains in isolation. He selected gift cards from Barnes & Noble and purchased a bunch of DVDs and some magazines with your generous gift. The DVDs help pass the time and break up the monotony of the long hospital days. The magazines feature cycling and new bicycles on the market as Owen intends to resume riding as soon as he can. It's great for him to focus on his hobbies and future health."

"I was blessed by your caring organization with a gift bag, gas cards and cafeteria vouchers—thank you. It was a tremendous help during a difficult time. I was especially happy that my husband got a good lunch each day. Your kindness made my road easier."



"My mother received a beautiful bag of treats and will truly enjoy the wonderful goodies you provided. We were all touched by the thoughtfulness and consideration that obviously went into putting the "goodie bag" together. The hat you sent kept her warm and toasty during chemo—my brother and I are grateful for the gas gift card and cafeteria vouchers, and the movies we rented with the Blockbuster gift card. Please understand how special you are and how much your service means!"

"One of the things we learn when we go through hard times is that we need to help others when they go through hard times also. You have given us a touch of comfort through your thoughtful gifts."

"I was so surprised to receive your gift basket while undergoing treatment. It was so nice! The gifts were so relevant to the therapy! (i.e. Yale cap for bald head, hard candy for mouth sores, Blistix for dry lips, etc.) In addition the cafeteria and parking vouchers were tremendously helpful. What a wonderful, thoughtful service. Thank you so very much. Your gifts brightened my day!" ■





# A HOST OF ANGELS

Our heartfelt thanks to all of the generous donors who have helped hundreds of cancer patients over these past ten years!

## THANK YOU!

*A Touch of Comfort* received a substantial bequest from the estate of **Anne Marie Begin**. The families of **Mitchell Rochefort** and **Steven Bouvier** suggested donations be made to *A Touch of Comfort* in memory of these brave young men.



Steven Bouvier



Anne Marie Begin



Mitchell Rochefort

## OUR VERY SPECIAL ANGEL

**Lindalea Ludwick**: who generously supported our charity over the years.

## YOUNG ANGELS

**The 6th grade religious school class at Temple Emanuel in Orange, CT**

**The 4th grade at Israel Loring Elementary School, Sudbury, MA**

**Brookfield School Sunshine Fund, Brockton, MA**

**Fairfield Preparatory School, Fairfield, CT**

**Maya Diamond**: who donated her Bat Mitzvah project to *A Touch of Comfort* — “having heard from her Mom how Jimmy Pite was a very determined person while living his life with cancer, creating a charity that helped cancer patients go through chemotherapy. His legacy was about positive attitude and reaching out to others even in one’s own time of need.”

“Some people live long lives and don’t really touch a lot of people, while others like Jim leave this world far too early and have this amazing way of affecting many people in wonderful ways.”

## Other supporting angels



Soraya Ruiz Abderashman, Carolyn & Peter Benelli, Michael & Tia Bouvier, Josh Brown, Noreen Cullen, Dan Doherty, Bill Feder, Katie Finn, Bob Ford, Maureen Delahunt, Alessandro Garbulo, Pat & Allen Hergott, Ken Hylwa, Pat & George Kehrberger, Heather Lamont, David Larkin, Nicholas Laveris, Jim Leroux, Claudia Liberatore, James Lindemuth, Gary Luciani, Paula Macian, Suzanne Olson, Amy Pennington, Bill Pite, Carl & Ruth Pite, Lisa & Steven Pite, Dave Pizzutti, Dave Purpora, David Radlo, Geoff

Ringlestein, Rick Savitt, Wendy Semonian, Andy Withers, Ben Wyckoff, Mina Zolfaghari.

**ALSO:** Bill Connelly/Pzena Investment Management, LM Newman Family Foundation, Larry Carboni/McGladrey & Pullen, Frederick DeLuca Foundation, GE Foundation, Gillette Co., Kahn Foundation, Marra Family Fund, Mattel Children’s Foundation, Reebok Human Rights Foundation, Vanguard Charitable Endowment Fund.

## Further Thanks!!!

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