

ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc.

www.thyca.org • 1-877-588-7904 • thyca@thyca.org

Annual Report for 2008



Organization Overview

ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc. <www.thyca.org> is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization of thyroid cancer survivors, family members, and health care professionals. ThyCa is dedicated to support, education, and communication for thyroid cancer survivors, their families, and friends, as well as awareness for early detection, outreach to health care professionals and the public, and thyroid cancer research fundraising and research grants. ThyCa's Tax ID number is 52-2169434.

Board of Directors, December 2008 (These are the members of ThyCa's all-volunteer leadership and management team):

Leah Guljord, Chair, Florida

Joel Amromin, Corr. Sec., California

Sandy Triplett, Missouri

Peggy Melton, Assistant Chair, Texas

Tammy Kihullen, Treasurer, Texas

Cherry Wunderlich, Maryland

Jo Walker, Rec. Sec., Arizona

Kurt Alexander, Gen'l Counsel, Florida

Executive Director, December 2008

Gary Bloom, Maryland

Message from the Board and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In 2008, we marked the 13th anniversary of ThyCa's start in 1995 as well as a year in which the number of people diagnosed with thyroid cancer in the United States reached another new record high total. ThyCa continues to reach out and serve people in ever-broadening ways, thanks to the donated talents of hundreds of dedicated volunteers.

Thyroid cancer survivors, family members, friends, and health care professionals gave tremendous support during 2008. Many are coping with the challenges of their own thyroid cancer. Some have lost loved ones to this disease. We are grateful for everyone's outstanding dedication, and the support of our generous donors.

Again this year, ThyCa increased and strengthened our network of free resources, available worldwide. We expanded our award-winning educational web site and free downloadable publications. We held numerous successful educational meetings, including support groups, workshops, seminars, and our annual international conference. Our full-time position of Executive Director supports our ongoing tremendous growth in constituents and support services.

As we all dream of cures for all thyroid cancer, we are proud to continue to award thyroid cancer research grants through our alliance with the American Thyroid Association. Thanks to everyone's generosity, our revenues were more than \$337,000 in 2008. Every dollar contributed to ThyCa goes directly to support our wide array of services, awareness and outreach, and research funds.

We are excited about the many initiatives ThyCa has organized, and about our constructive alliances with medical professionals and endocrine and cancer associations. We will continue to strengthen our support for everyone whose life has been touched by thyroid cancer, to ensure that no one feels alone as they cope with this disease.

This Annual Report focuses on ThyCa's services and accomplishments during 2008. Please visit our web site often <www.thyca.org>. We update it often, weekly or more frequently, with thyroid cancer information and the latest news about ThyCa services and upcoming events, as well as new services and resources.

We look forward to the future, committed to working together and further strengthening our efforts to help us all.

Wishing you all the best of health,

ThyCa's Board of Directors and Executive Director

Medical Advisory Council

ThyCa appreciates the valuable information and guidance from the 28 thyroid cancer specialists and other professionals who are members of our Medical Advisory Council. These specialists and numerous other physicians and other professionals give ongoing input and review for the medical information on our web site. They participate in our events. They help ThyCa in numerous other ways. Our thanks to all these professionals for the care and treatment they provide, and for their support of patient well-being and the efforts to find cures for all thyroid cancer.

Service Overview: Survivorship Education, Support, Resources, Public Awareness

Our free education, support, awareness, and outreach serve people being tested, treated, or monitored for any type of thyroid cancer, as well as health care professionals and the public. These free services are made possible by the efforts of numerous volunteers and in-kind donations. Funding comes from membership dues, individual donations, and unrestricted operating grants. Among our 2007 accomplishments:

Web Site www.thyca.org. Our award-winning educational web site has more than 650 pages, plus links to key information and support resources. During 2008, our web site received about 300,000 visits each month from survivors, caregivers, and health care professionals. Numerous leading thyroid cancer specialist physicians provide ongoing input and review of the web site's medical content.

New Medullary Thyroid Cancer Web Site.

<http://www.thyca.org/medullary/>

This resource, developed through volunteers' commitment to sharing, gives patients, families, and medical professionals ready access to key information and support for coping with medullary thyroid cancer.

Expansion of the Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer Web Site.

<http://www.thyca.org/atc/>. This site gives patients, families, and medical professionals key information about one of the most aggressive of all cancers.

Expanded Pediatric Thyroid Cancer Web Site.

<http://www.thyca.org/pediatric/>, This resource, developed through volunteers' commitment to sharing, gives patients, families, and medical professionals ready access to key information and support for coping with thyroid cancer in a child or adolescent.

E-Mail Support Groups. ThyCa's 10 e-mail groups had over 9,000 participants at year-end, providing support and encouragement 24 hours a day. The newest group, started in 2008, is the Childbearing and Thyroid Cancer Group. The groups began with an online chatroom in 1995.

ThyCa Person to Person Network (TPPN). This one-on-one support service, started in 2000, matched patients around the globe to volunteers with the same type of thyroid cancer.

Local Support Groups. Our local support groups, begun in 1996, increased to 81 groups around the United States and in, Costa Rica, and Philippines. Support groups provided important face-to-face support and local networking to thyroid cancer survivors and caregivers.

One-to-One Support and Outreach. Our Toll-Free Number, E-Mail Response Team, Person-To-Person Network, and additional support volunteers served more than 4,000 individuals and organizations in 2008. We mailed more than 60,000 free brochures and other materials to more than 5,000 physicians, hospitals, individuals, and community groups.

New Caregiver Support Resource. ThyCa partnered with Lotsa Helping Hands, a free online caregiving coordination service, to provide a new support resource.

Free Low Iodine Cookbook. Our expanded 6th Edition of our acclaimed free downloadable Low Iodine Cookbook is available in English and Spanish. It serves thyroid cancer survivors, caregivers, friends, and medical professionals worldwide. It's available on our web site and by mail. We encourage you to share it with your medical team. Medical advisors and other committed medical professionals provided the latest information for the low-iodine diet. We published downloadable one-page Low Iodine Diet Guidelines in English and Spanish.

ThyCa Journeys Newsletter and News Notes. We distributed 12 issues of our free online newsletter to more than 12,000 people each month, and published it on our web site as well.

Spanish Translation. Fact sheets and low-iodine recipes are available on the web site. More are in development.

Patient Information Packets. We mailed more than 2,000 free Patient Information Packets worldwide to individuals, and in bulk to physicians. They are available to anyone requesting materials via our web site, toll-free number, health care professional, or support group.

Guestbook. Our Guestbook on our web site enables web site visitors to subscribe to our free online newsletter and e-mail announcements.

Workshops and Guest Speakers. ThyCa sponsored free one-day Regional Workshops attended by over 400 in Mid-Atlantic Area (Falls Church, VA), Midwest (St. Louis, MO), Texas/Southwest (Dallas, TX), and Vermont/New England (Stowe, VT). In addition, many physicians spoke at ThyCa support group meetings.

Annual International Conference. Our 11th Annual International Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, featured more than 60 speakers and drew several hundred participants from 34 states, Canada, and Netherlands. The 12th International conference will be held on October 16 - 18, 2009 in Boston, MA. The 13th International Conference will be held in Dallas, TX, on October 15-17, 2010.

Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month. ThyCa sponsors Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month each September. Activities year-round raised awareness of thyroid cancer, neck checks for early detection, treatment, and lifelong monitoring. ThyCa volunteers, medical professionals, and community organizations distributed materials and reached out to others, and to underscore the need for more research to find cures. A volunteer created radio public service announcements, now on our web site. Sheryl Pascal, Mrs. New Jersey American Beauty 2008, initiated awareness efforts in person and online.

Thyroid Cancer Awareness Brochure Features Actress Catherine Bell. We have distributed more than 240,000 free copies worldwide of our Thyroid Cancer Awareness Brochure featuring actress Catherine Bell, thyroid cancer survivor.

Pediatric Backpacks. Initiated by a teenage thyroid cancer survivor in Maine, the Pediatric Backpacks are filled with information, *Tim's Tips for Children and Teens with Thyroid Cancer*, and ThyCa Spirit and Awareness items. ThyCa received a generous donation of six boxes of backpacks from JanSport for this project. We sent backpacks to young people and their parents throughout the U.S. and in Canada, Philippines, and United Kingdom.

Thyroid Cancer Wristband, Bracelet, Magnet, and Ribbon Pin Support Outreach and Awareness. Many thousands of Thyroid Cancer Awareness Wristband, Magnet, Ribbon Pin, Bracelet, Pill Cases, and other Spirit Items were distributed worldwide in 2008 and are being displayed, given, and worn. They raise awareness and connect people with all ThyCa's free resources. Proceeds support our support services and thyroid cancer research.

Awareness and Outreach through Meetings and Exhibits. ThyCa participated in more than 50 events during 2008. These included health fairs, seminars; the Hypoparathyroidism Association conference; and professional meetings of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), American Thyroid Association (ATA), National Comprehensive Cancer Network, THANC Foundation, The Endocrine Society, and Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM). ThyCa also participated in the Scientist-Survivor Program of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Media Coverage. ThyCa volunteers participated in two Good Morning America Broadcasts in New York City and in the Stand Up To Cancer event in Los Angeles. ThyCa, thyroid cancer, and ThyCa volunteers around the country received media coverage in articles in local and regional newspapers.

Medical Advisors. ThyCa receives invaluable support, information, review and input on web site material, and participation as event speakers, from our distinguished Medical Advisory Council of 28 thyroid cancer specialists from major centers around the United States as well as from numerous other committed professionals.

Financial Supporters and Grantors. ThyCa's free services, publications, events, and outreach are made possible by our volunteers and from the generous financial support of our members and individual donors, as well as through the unrestricted educational grants from our year-round financial supporters. Our thanks to our 2008 Grantors: Abbott Laboratories, AstraZeneca, Bayer/Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Exelixis, Genzyme Therapeutics, Jones/King Pharmaceuticals, KRONUS, OXiGENE, Sigma-Aldrich, Toshiba Ultrasound, and Unithroid Direct.

Thyroid Cancer Research Grants. ThyCa's research funds continue to achieve significant growth. ThyCa marked its sixth year of awarding thyroid cancer research grants and awarded its 9th and 10th research grants. Our web site has details. All ThyCa Grant awardees are selected through a peer review process by the experts of the American Thyroid Association. All of this occurs because of our collective commitment. Thanks to all who participate in our year-round research fundraising efforts.

Volunteers—Thank You. Thanks to our more than 350 volunteers for the tremendous efforts you contributed. What we are doing ensures that no one who follows us with thyroid cancer will have to feel as alone as we did.

Research and Research Fundraising

To ensure continuing expansion of urgently needed thyroid cancer research, ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc. began fundraising for thyroid cancer research in 2001. In 2003, we proudly awarded the first-ever patient-funded Thyroid Cancer Research Grant. We have continued to award research grants each year since then.

ThyCa sponsors two Research Funds. We welcome contributions of any size. Our Thyroid Cancer Research Fund is dedicated to research on papillary, follicular, variants, and anaplastic thyroid cancer. Our Medullary Thyroid Cancer Research Fund is dedicated to research on medullary thyroid cancer.

Thanks to the continuing growth in contributions, ThyCa awarded our seventh and eighth scientific and clinical research grants in 2008, in alliance with the American Thyroid Association. Experts from ATA reviewed the applications and selected the recipients. In the fall of 2008, we committed to awarding two additional 2-year grants in 2009. Our web site has details about the grants and each year's recipients.

Supporters of ThyCa's community, including thyroid cancer survivors, loved ones, and medical professionals, have all joined together in varied ways to raise funds and awareness.

Keys to our fundraising success were the ongoing contributions and tribute donations in honor and memory of loved ones and to commemorate special family occasions. We are most grateful to everyone who contributes to ThyCa and makes tribute donations. ThyCa was accepted into the Federal Government's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the world's largest workplace giving campaign. We also thank the many volunteers who have initiated and organized creative and highly successful individual fundraisers during the year. In Texas, John Oaks of the Hangin' Tree Saloon, organized a benefit golf tournament in memory of longtime ThyCa volunteer Megan Stendebach. Our largest event was our Seventh Annual Benefit Dinner/Auction, a wonderful evening of tribute and support, held in conjunction with our annual conference. Further Rally for Research events have included outstanding golf tournaments, Marathon Runs, Concerts, and Individual Walks dedicated to ThyCa's research funds.

Through these wonderful efforts, we hope that the future will bring cures for all thyroid cancer.

Statement of Financial Position

ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc.

For the Years Ending December 31, 2008 and 2007

ASSETS	2008	2007
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$668,849.00	\$632,645.00
Inventory	\$3,318.00	\$628.00
Receivables	-	-
Other Assets	\$1,969.00	2,098.00
Equipment, Net	\$3,499.00	\$4,418.00
Total Assets	\$677,635.00	\$639,789.00
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities	\$7,783.00	\$8,428.00
Net Assets and Liabilities	\$677,635.00	\$639,789.00
Designated Assets	\$144,959.00	\$227,002.00
Revenues	\$337,179.00	\$293,443.00
Expenses (See Note 1 about 2008 and 2007)	\$298,688.00	\$248,069.00

Notes: 1. ThyCa's 2008 and 2007 expenses include the \$115,000.00 and \$102,000.00 thyroid cancer research grant distributions, respectively.

2. ThyCa's audited financial statements are available upon written request.

Thank You

Our special thanks to all our constituents, our volunteers, our medical advisors, and our donors for your terrific support and involvement in 2008. Truly, you're all helping make a difference to people whose lives have been touched by thyroid cancer. We look forward to an even better year of service and support in 2009.