

Muller Foundation offers aid to breast cancer patients

BY SANDY MULLER

Last year as family, friends and I were celebrating my two years as a breast cancer survivor, we realized that the celebration would be so much more meaningful if it could be a fund-raising event for breast cancer patients. But what organization would need our help the most? Where could we do the most good?

Then a phone call came in from my dear friend Beverly Sage. She told me of a young woman who had recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. The woman had been fired from her job and now she could not pay the insurance premiums necessary to continue her breast cancer treatments. The young woman needed financial support, but there were no resources available for her to tap into. Here was our answer. Here was where we could be of help to others not blessed as I was with the support of family and friends.

So Beverly Sage and I decided to form the Sandy B. Muller Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc., along with our friend Dr. Linda Marraccini. The mission of the Foundation is to provide one service: Financial assistance to women and men recently diagnosed with breast cancer and in treatment. The foundation provides assistance where needed for basic living expenses such as mortgage and rent, medical insurance premiums, transportation costs to and from doctors'



Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Linda Marraccini, Sandy Muller and Beverly Sage.

appointments, child-care payments, food and other life necessities. Often these patients cannot work during their extended treatment, and without the possibility of income they cannot afford to meet their life needs.

We were very lucky in getting the foundation off the ground. Everyone we told about our idea was supportive and volunteered their time and expertise. We were given legal help to form the foundation, accounting services to design the application for applying for financial assistance, marketing services for our brochure design, and an artist designed the beautiful foundation logo and website design, too.

People in the community were very excited about this wonderful service and wanted to help. All of the members of the Sandy B. Muller Breast Cancer Foundation advisory board live and work in Pinecrest and the surrounding communities. They are Kathy Fernandez Rundle, Miami-Dade County State Attorney; Dr. Robert DerHagopian, Charles E. Muller, Ronald E. Rubin, and Suzan McDowell, president of Circle of One Marketing.

On March 12, the Foundation was hosted by Bloomingdale's at the Fall's, DKNY and Runways the Talent Group for our launch event. I was so concerned that no

one would show up for the event, but to my delight over 125 people attended and the foundation raised more than \$10,000 that evening.

I am hoping that the community will continue to offer support to the foundation to help breast cancer patients in our community by providing financial assistance to cover their basic living needs during such a life-altering time.

For more information, call 305-255-1385, email <sandy-mullerbcf@bellsouth.net> or go to <www.sandybmullerbreast-cancerfoundation.org>.