



The History of GYN Cancers Alliance Cancer Support Group

On May 1, 2001, twelve women, who were personally experiencing the devastating consequences of gynecologic cancers (ovarian, uterine, cervical, vaginal, and vulvar), came together to form New Hope Cancer Support Group --- in 2008 the name would change to GYN Cancers Alliance - GYNCA. The purpose that brought these ladies together was the establishment of a community-wide support group for all women, their families and caregivers who were experiencing the unique circumstances of gynecologic cancers. Now, after thirteen years of service, their mission remains the same --- “to find New Hope while coping with gynecologic cancer by fostering an atmosphere of compassion, support and learning.”

GYN Cancers Alliance is a collaborative effort between area communities and hospitals. From GYNCA’s inception, it has been important that both Springfield’s major hospitals, CoxHealth and St. John’s, be involved to assist in the organization’s outreach to all gynecologic cancer survivors throughout its 30+ county service area of southwest Missouri.

GYN Cancers Alliance received its 501(c)3 non-profit status in November 2001. It is governed by a board of directors comprised of survivors, community leaders, health care professionals and others touched by gynecologic cancer. GYNCA’s board is supported by a Core Planning/Outreach Committee that meets regularly to plan New Hope support group meetings and provide direction for services offered to its clients and their families. Members of this committee include survivors, healthcare professionals, caregivers and friends of gynecologic cancer patients. Survivor members serving on the committee are mentors to newly-diagnosed gynecologic patients who seek GYNCA’s services, resources and support.

GYNCA is run by a small office of 2 women, Executive Director Stephanie Pape and Client Services Director Amber Kline, and a board of 20+ leaders of the community. GYNCA hosts 5+ large scale fundraisers each year to raise money for programs and services. There are multiple community awareness events, business provided fundraisers, and annual mailing campaign that also draw in funds. Following a generous donation by a friend of GYNCA, the organization’s resource center and offices are located at 3039 S Fort Avenue Suite A in Springfield. Funding for all outreach/support services and operations are made possible through the generosity of both monetary and in-kind donors, grantors, and event attendees from the surrounding area. We serve 30+ counties in Southwest Missouri.