

Angel

FUND
FOR WOMEN WITH
BREAST CANCER



Dr. Shakerinia and Gladys Wellman



Gladys Wellman is a familiar face. This charismatic waitress has been brightening the days of restaurant patrons for many years. She moved to New Brunswick at the age of 18, but maintains the endearing accent of her home province, Newfoundland, which only adds to her charm.

Gladys is not only a waitress. She is also a fighter. And a breast cancer survivor. Twice!

In September 2006, Gladys was scheduled for an annual mammogram, which led to the discovery of a malignant lump.

Thankfully, the cancer had not spread to her lymph nodes. In November of that year, Dr. Shakerinia, General Surgeon at The Moncton Hospital, performed a *lumpectomy* – called “breast-conserving” surgery, because only the malignant tumour and normal tissue immediately surrounding it are removed. After a month of radiation and a quick recovery she went back to doing what she loves best: serving the masses at Steve’s Diner in Riverview, where she has worked for 14 years.

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Seven Years Later

In the spring of 2014, Gladys noticed bruising and what she describes as “bubbling” along the incision line of her lumpectomy. She was immediately referred back to Dr. Shakerinia, who promptly removed what appeared to be a “blood blister” and sent it for a biopsy.

Unfortunately, Gladys was diagnosed with a very rare cancer, different from her first bout, called *Angiosarcoma*, which was developing in the blood vessels of her breast. Concerned it might eventually spread to the chest cavity, Dr. Shakerinia surgically remove a larger portion of the breast. He also cautioned Gladys that there was a chance the cancer may recur.

After Christmas, Gladys was disappointed to find another spot on the opposite side of her breast. Ultimately, she underwent a *mastectomy* – an operation to remove the entire breast – to prevent the cancer from spreading elsewhere.

“I was nervous to do this, but I trusted Dr. Shakerinia since the day I met him, so when he said it was time to do this, I accepted it without question,” she says. “You couldn’t find a kinder doctor. He always took the time to explain everything to me in my terms. I was very lucky to have him as a surgeon.”

Post Surgery

Gladys became a “regular” at the Katherine Wright Wellness Centre (KWWC), for care of her stitches and other post-surgical needs. “All of the nurses over there were wonderful. Just the idea of having somewhere you could call was comforting. You really couldn’t get nicer people”.

“I am deeply grateful for the help provided to me by the **Angel Fund** and I hope that it can always be around to help women like myself.” GLADYS WELLMAN

When reconstructive surgery was ruled out, the KWWC introduced her to the **Angel Fund** (an emergency fund that provides financial and other assistance to women with breast cancer), which helped Gladys with a prosthesis and specialty bras. “I am a proud person, but I admit that without this help, it could have been an even more difficult time. I am deeply grateful for the help provided to me by this fund and I hope that it can always be around to help women like myself.”

She is due for a check-up soon, but so far all signs are positive. “I will hope for the best. That is all you can do.”

Gladys’ destiny seems to be to continue brightening the days of the many patrons she greets at Steve’s Diner.

So happy to have met you, Gladys!

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Creation of the Angel Fund

Cindy Hewitt was dedicated to the fight against breast cancer. For more than 15 years, she supported The Moncton Hospital's Katherine Wright Wellness Centre (KWWC) and its role in breast cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and education.

Cindy's motivation came from her own family's experiences and from losing some very good friends to breast cancer. She also ran a clothing boutique and came into contact with women from all walks of life every day. She discovered that breast cancer was predominant in many of their lives (**1 in 9 women in Canada will be diagnosed with breast cancer each year**). She decided to make a difference.

Early in 1999, Cindy held an impromptu dinner with some close friends to discuss raising funds to support breast cancer initiatives at the KWWC. Her friends enthusiastically embraced the idea and recognized the need to formalize a volunteer steering committee. The committee took on the monumental task of organizing an annual wellness celebration called the *Hillsborough Fashions Gala*. Their long-term goal was to raise \$100,000 over a ten-year span in support of breast cancer awareness and education.

In a sad twist of fate, Cindy fought and BEAT breast cancer herself during those years. As a survivor, she was even more motivated (if that's possible!) to provide support to women battling breast cancer.

And what a difference she made! Her dream blossomed more than anyone could have imagined. The gala has raised over \$450,000 since its inception!

The success of Cindy's idea resulted in a multitude of breast care initiatives at the KWWC, including her most cherished creation, the **Angel Fund**. This emergency fund was established in 2003 at The Moncton Hospital to provide financial and other assistance to women suffering from breast cancer.

The Angel Fund supports women with transportation to and from chemotherapy treatments, wigs, prostheses, food coupons, etc., which enables them to maintain self-esteem and makes prescribed treatments more accessible. The Gala has supported the Angel Fund from the beginning and more than 600 women have been helped!



Cindy Hewitt

The Angel Fund provides emergency financial support and other assistance to women who have breast cancer.

Cindy's courage and enthusiasm never waned over the years; unfortunately, her health did. She found herself battling another form of cancer and sadly lost her valiant fight in the summer of 2014.

Cindy exemplified the spirit of giving back to your community and became a role model for many people. The Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation are hoping that the generous spirit she inspired can continue to thrive.

We are creating an endowment fund to provide a permanent source of funding for the Angel Fund. (With an endowment fund, only the interest can be spent; the principal is invested and continues to fund the endowment.) Without this, the resources on hand will be depleted in just a few years.

Please make your donation today, so that we can all honour Cindy's commitment to helping women just like Gladys, well into the future.

Together, we can honour Cindy's dream indefinitely!

Linda Saunders EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation

P.S. The Angel Fund exists only because Cindy dared to dream! Her dedication and commitment made that dream come to life. Her legacy CAN continue, with your support!



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continue Cindy's
legacy. Use the
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