



HELP US GROW OUR ENDOWMENT - DONATE NOW

2022 IN HONOR OF JANN GRACE



WFCR is thrilled to have Jann on our Planning Committee

"My name is Jann Grace, I'm 75 years of age and a cancer survivor. Growing up, I loved being out in the sun so I could get a deep, dark California girl tan. Growing up in MI, there wasn't enough sun so I started using tanning beds. Oh, yes, for 30 glorious years I faithfully tanned and enjoyed my CA look despite the lectures from my OB GYN not to use tanning beds. I was in my mid 40's and didn't have a dermatologist yet."

Jann moved to HSV after 30 years in Texas where she played golf and any outdoor sport you can imagine. After reaching the 60 year milestone, Jann noticed a couple dark spots on her body and was told to get them check out. The dark spots on her back were melanoma and a couple of years later another melanoma appeared on her

forearm. Thanks to a wonderful dermatologist and aggressive treatment, she is now melanoma free! Jann decided she had to behave and hasn't set foot in a tanning bed since. However, she still continued spending several hours a day outdoors pursuing golf and other sports.

In 2010, Jann found a lump in her left breast and didn't think anything of it since a previous lumpectomy was benign. This one wasn't. Her doctor and radiologist asked to speak with her and point blank she asked her doctor if he was going to say the "C" word and he said "yes".

After surgery, Jann learned the tumor affected 38 lymph nodes which were taken out. Jann was left with a "dead" arm since then. In 2021, Jann woke up with a 'blown-up arm' and knew it was lymphedema. Most patients who have lymph nodes removed get lymphedema within the first year of having their lymph nodes removed. Not Jann! Her body decided to wait TEN years before this happened. Jann can still do most things with the affected left arm including playing pickleball, golf and household chores and cooking! It is just a very heavy arm that Jann wears in a compression sleeve to help with swelling.

Jann received chemotherapy and radiation at MD Anderson in TX. She was able to select her own doctors, including a breast specialist and a well-known surgeon and his working partner. Her radiologist was in partnership with these two doctors to make it a 3-partnership for all her treatments. Grace noted her health insurance enabled me to do this. This trio saved my life yet again. Grace woke up one morning with the words "double chemo" and presented it to the specialists and they investigated her background, genes, health history, and found she qualified for a clinical trial that required blood work done every Monday to measure her white blood cell count read and, if good, she could continue with treatment. Grace maintained her physical health through all this and passed the weekly blood test. Jann was a healthy woman with cancer! She received chemotherapy for 6 months followed by radiation for 7 weeks, but she did it and thanks God every day for being cancer free.

Skin cancer runs in Jann's family, her father, brother, and uncle have had skin cancer. Jan continues to get checked every six months for basal cell and squamous cell skin cancer. Jan would not wish any cancer on anyone. Skin cancer is more serious than most people think it is and she hopes people will think twice about the consequences of being sun beautiful!