

ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc.

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Annual Report for 2007



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 2007 (These are the members of ThyCa's all-volunteer leadership and management team):

Leah Guljord, Chair, Florida	Cherry Wunderlich, Corr. Sec., Maryland	Sara Brenner, Virginia
Tammy Kilhullen, Treasurer, Texas	Kurt Alexander, Gen'l Counsel, Florida	Peggy Melton, Texas
Jo Walker, Rec. Sec., Arizona	Joel Amromin, California	

Executive Director, December 2007

Gary Bloom, Maryland

Message from the Board and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In 2007, we marked the 12th 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 a 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 2007. 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. We established the full-time position of Executive Director to support our continuing 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 \$290,000 in 2007. 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 2007. 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 many 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, participate in our events, and 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, expanded to more than 650 pages, plus links to key information and support resources. During 2007, our web site received more than 250,000 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 resource gives patients, families, and medical professionals ready access to 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.

Local Support Groups. Our local support groups increased to more than 65 groups in 35 states, Costa Rica, and Philippines. Support groups provide important face-to-face support and local networking to thyroid cancer survivors and caregivers.

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

E-Mail Support Groups. ThyCa's nine e-mail groups had over 8,500 participants at year-end, providing support and encouragement 24 hours a day.

One-to-One Support and Outreach. Our Person-to-Person Network, Toll-Free Number, and Correspondence Team served more than 4,000 individuals and organizations in 2007. We mailed materials to over 4,000 physicians, hospitals and community groups.

Free Low Iodine Cookbook. We published the expanded 6th Edition (2007) of our acclaimed free downloadable Low Iodine Cookbook, used by thyroid cancer survivors, caregivers, and friends 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 also published one-page Low Iodine Diet Guidelines in both English and Spanish, as well as offering the Cookbook in Spanish.

ThyCa Journeys Newsletter and News Notes. We distributed our free online newsletter to more than 15,000 people, and published it on our web site as well.

Spanish Translation. Fact sheets and low-iodine recipes are available on the web site. More will come in 2008.

Patient Information Packets. We created Patient information packets and began distributing them by mail in December 2007. 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 in Arizona, Mid-Atlantic Area (Baltimore, MD), Midwest (St. Louis, MO), Texas/Southwest (Dallas, TX), and New Jersey. These events drew more than 400 participants. Numerous physicians and other specialists spoke at these workshops as well as at many ThyCa support group meetings.

Annual International Conference. Our 10th Annual International Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Conference in San Francisco, California, featured more than 60 speakers and drew nearly 500 participants from 37 states, 5 provinces of Canada, and Brazil. The 11th International conference will be held on October 17-19, 2008 in St. Louis, Missouri. The 12th International Conference will be held in Boston, MA, on October 16-18, 2009.

Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month. ThyCa sponsors Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month each September. Activities year-round raise awareness of thyroid cancer, early detection, treatment, and lifelong monitoring. ThyCa volunteers, medical professionals, and community organizations distributed awareness materials and reached out to others, to encourage people to get neck checks for early detection, and to underscore the need for more research to find cures for all thyroid cancer. In 2007, a thyca volunteer created radio public service announcements, available on our web site.

Thyroid Cancer Awareness Brochure Features Actress Catherine Bell. We have distributed more than 200,000 free copies worldwide of our Thyroid Cancer Awareness Brochure featuring actress Catherine Bell, co-star of the hit TV series JAG and 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. We distributed them to young people and their parents throughout the U.S. as well as Canada and United Kingdom.

Thyroid Cancer Wristband, Bracelet, Magnet, and Ribbon Pin Support Outreach and Awareness. The Thyroid Cancer Awareness Wristband, Magnet, Ribbon Pin, Bracelet, Pill Cases, and other Spirit Items are being displayed, given, and worn worldwide. They help raise awareness and connect people with all ThyCa's free services and resources. They are available for order on the ThyCa web site. Proceeds support our support services and thyroid cancer research.

Awareness and Outreach through Exhibits. ThyCa participated in more than 50 events in the USA and Canada during 2007. These included health fairs, seminars; the National Organization for Rare Disorders conference; and professional meetings of the American Association for Cancer Research, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE), American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), American Thyroid Association (ATA), 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, thyroid cancer, and ThyCa volunteers around the country received media coverage in articles in local and regional newspapers. In addition, ThyCa cooperated with USA Today in USA Today's survey of radioiodine treatment and insurance issues. Our web site has details and further articles.

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 22 thyroid cancer specialists from major centers around the United States as well as from numerous other committed professionals.

Executive Director. To support ThyCa's continuing tremendous growth in constituents and support services and strengthen further service growth, alliances, outreach to underserved populations, and research advocacy, we established the full-time position of Executive Director. The Search Committee conducted an open nationwide search, with the position starting in September 2007.

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 2007 Grantors: Abbott Laboratories, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Exelixis, Fleming & Company, Genzyme Therapeutics, King Pharmaceuticals, KRONUS, and OXiGENE.

Thyroid Cancer Research Grants. ThyCa's research funds continue to achieve significant growth. ThyCa marked its fifth year of awarding thyroid cancer research grants and awarded its 7th and 8th research grants. The recipients are researchers at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York, and Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. 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 300 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 2007, in alliance with the American Thyroid Association. Experts from ATA reviewed the applications and selected the recipients. In the fall of 2007, we committed to awarding two additional 2-year grants in 2008. 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. Our largest event was our Sixth 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 benefit 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, 2007 and 2006

ASSETS	2007	2006
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$632,645.00	\$587,137.00
Inventory	\$628.00	\$196.00
Receivables	-	\$1,878.00
Other Assets	\$2,098.00	\$1,151.00
Equipment, Net	\$4,418.00	\$5,672.00
Total Assets	\$639,789.00	\$595,351.00
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities	\$8,428.00	\$9,364.00
Net Assets and Liabilities	\$639,789.00	\$595,351.00
Designated Assets	\$227,002.00	\$246,673.00
Revenues	\$293,443.00	\$328,167.00
Expenses (See Note 1 about 2007 and 2006)	\$248,069.00	\$138,882.00

Notes: 1. ThyCa's 2007 and 2006 expenses include the \$102,000.00 and \$51,000.00 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 2007. 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 2008.