

ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc.

www.thyca.org • 1-877-588-7904 • thyca@thyca.org

Annual Report for 2010



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 raising 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 2010

Louise Samuel, Chair

Karen Ferguson, Assistant Chair

Kathryn Wall, Recording Secretary

Cherry Wunderlich, Corresponding Secretary

Tom Engle, Treasurer

Peggy Melton

Jo Walker

Kurt Alexander, General Counsel

Executive Director

Gary Bloom

Message from the Board and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In 2010, we marked the 15th 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 increased to another new record high total. ThyCa continues to reach out and serve people around the world in ever-broadening ways, thanks to hundreds of dedicated volunteers.

Thyroid cancer survivors, family members, friends, and health care professionals gave tremendous support during 2010. Many are coping with the challenges of their own thyroid cancer. Many have lost loved ones to this disease. We are grateful for everyone's outstanding dedication, as well as 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 the annual International Conference. Our full-time position of Executive Director sustains and strengthens this ongoing growth in constituents and services.

As we all dream of cures for all thyroid cancer, and mourn the sad losses of those who have lost their lives to 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 in financial support, we strengthened and extended our services as well as our financial position again this year. 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 2010. Please visit our web site often <www.thyca.org>. We update it 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, and to find cures for all thyroid cancer. We wish you all the best of health,

ThyCa's Board of Directors and Executive Director

Medical Advisory Council

Our Medical Advisory Council includes 33 distinguished thyroid cancer specialists and other professionals. We greatly appreciate the information and guidance from these dedicated professionals (www.thyca.org/medical_advisors.htm). These specialists plus numerous other physicians and other professionals contribute their expertise through ongoing input and review of the medical information on our web site. They participate in our events. They help ThyCa in many 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 broad array of free education, support, awareness, and outreach serve people being tested, treated, or monitored for any type of thyroid cancer, as well as their caregivers and friends, health care professionals, and the public. These numerous free services are made possible by numerous volunteers and by in-kind and financial donations. Funding comes from membership dues, individual donations, and unrestricted operating grants. Among 2010 accomplishments:

Web Site. www.thyca.org. Our award-winning educational web site has more than 650 pages, plus links to key information and support resources. During 2010, our web site received 350,000 visits each month from survivors, caregivers, and health care professionals. More than 50 leading thyroid cancer specialist physicians provide ongoing input and review of the medical content.

Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer Web Site.

<http://www.thyca.org/atc/>. This site, developed through volunteers' commitment to sharing, gives patients, families, and medical professionals key information about one of the most aggressive of all cancers.

Medullary Thyroid Cancer Web Site.

<http://www.thyca.org/medullary/>. This resource, developed through volunteers' commitment to sharing, gives patients, families, and medical professionals access to key information and support.

Pediatric Thyroid Cancer Web Site.

<http://www.thyca.org/pediatric/>. This site gives patients, families, and professionals key information and support for thyroid cancer in a child or adolescent.

E-Mail Support Groups. ThyCa's 11 e-mail groups had over 11,000 participants at year-end, providing support and encouragement 24 hours a day, to people around the world. Web-based group support and sharing began with an online chatroom in 1995.

Local In-Person Support Groups. Our local support groups, begun in 1996, increased to 90 groups around the United States and in Canada, Costa Rica, and Philippines and provided important face-to-face support and local networking to thyroid cancer survivors and caregivers.

One-to-One Support and Outreach. Our Toll -Free Number Team (English & Spanish), E-Mail Response Team (English & Spanish), Person-To-Person Network, and additional support volunteers gave one-to-one service to more than 5,000 individuals and organizations during 2010. We provided more than 90,000 free brochures and other materials to physicians, hospitals, individuals, and community groups.

Free Low-Iodine Cookbook. In 2010, we published the

expanded 7th Edition of our acclaimed free downloadable Low Iodine Cookbook. It's available in English, French, and Spanish, to people worldwide. We also provide downloadable 1-page Low Iodine Diet Guidelines in English and Spanish. Please share it with your medical team. Medical advisors and other committed medical professionals provided the latest information for the diet.

ThyCa News Notes Newsletter. Our free monthly online newsletter went each month to the more than 20,000 people in 55 countries in our mailing list, and we published it on our web site as well.

Chinese and Spanish Translations. Fact sheets and low-iodine recipes are available in Spanish on the web site. More are in development. An endocrinologist trained at Johns Hopkins translated the relevant thyroid cancer content of our web site into Chinese.

Patient Information Packets. We mailed more than 2,000 free individual Patient Information Packets worldwide, plus packets in bulk to physicians. They are available to anyone on request via our web site, toll-free number, health care professional, or support group.

Free Guestbook/Subscriptions. Our Guestbook enables thousands of web site visitors to subscribe to our free online newsletter and e-mail announcements.

ThyCa Person to Person Network (TPPN). This one-on-one support service, started in 2000, matched patients around the world to volunteers with the same type of thyroid cancer.

Caregiver Support Resource. ThyCa partners with Lotsa Helping Hands, a free online caregiving coordination service, to provide a support resource.

Workshops and Seminars. ThyCa sponsored 5 free one-day Regional Workshops, attended by over 420 in California (Stanford), Mid-Atlantic Area (Baltimore, MD), Midwest (Kansas City, MO), St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, and Vermont/New England (Stowe, VT). In addition, many support groups sponsored seminars with physician speakers.

Annual International Conference. Our 13th Annual International Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Conference in Dallas, Texas, featured more than 60 speakers and drew over 450 participants from 40 states, District of Columbia, Canada, Hong Kong, and United Kingdom. The 14th International Conference will be held in Los Angeles, CA, on October 14-16, 2011. The 15th International Conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois, on October 19-21, 2012.

Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month. ThyCa sponsors Worldwide Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month each September. Year-round campaigns by ThyCa volunteers, medical professionals, and community organizations further raise awareness of thyroid cancer, neck checks for early detection, treatment, and lifelong monitoring. Radio public service announcements are on our web site.

Thyroid Cancer Awareness Brochures Feature Actress Catherine Bell. We have distributed more than 350,000 free copies worldwide of our Thyroid Cancer Awareness Brochure featuring actress Catherine Bell, a thyroid cancer survivor.

Pediatric Backpacks. Initiated by a teenage thyroid cancer survivor, the Pediatric Backpacks are filled with information, *Tim's Tips for Children and Teens with Thyroid Cancer*, and ThyCa Awareness items. ThyCa received a generous donation of backpacks from JanSport for this project. Thank you JanSport! We have sent backpacks to young people and their families throughout the U.S., Canada, Philippines, and United Kingdom.

Thyroid Cancer Wristband, Bracelet, Magnet, and Ribbon Pin Support Outreach and Awareness. Again in 2010 we distributed thousands of Thyroid Cancer Awareness Wristbands, Magnets, Ribbon Pins, Bracelets, Pill Cases, and other Spirit Items worldwide. People display, give, and wear them to raise awareness and connect people with all ThyCa's free resources. Proceeds support our support services and thyroid cancer research.

Meetings and Exhibits. ThyCa participated in more than 50 health fairs; seminars; and professional meetings in 2010; including the Academy of General Dentistry (part of outreach to encourage neck checks), American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Thyroid Association (ATA), National Comprehensive Cancer Network, National Organization for Rare Disorders, Stand Up To Cancer, and The Endocrine Society.

Patient Experiences Surveys. We posted patient surveys on www.thyca.org in 2010, in collaboration with medical advisors Drs. Lee, Myssiorek, Ringel, and Van Nostrand. The surveys focus on radioactive iodine, surgery and the voice, and use of complementary and alternative medicine. Results will be reported to medical professionals and to ThyCa. These are the 5th and 6th patient experiences surveys in which ThyCa has cooperated since our first international survey in 2004.

FNA Procedure Manual for Physicians. ThyCa distributed numerous copies of this resource by Yolanda Oertel, M.D., one of ThyCa's medical advisors.

Facebook (THYCA) and Twitter (ThyCaInc). Our Facebook and Twitter pages, launched in spring 2010, grew to over 2,200 friends and followers by the end of the year and are a resource for ongoing communication.

Inspire Online Community. Through a new collaboration ThyCa and Inspire initiated our new online thyroid cancer support community at year-end.

Vandetanib Hearing, Letters, and Messages. ThyCa actively participated in education and advocacy regarding approval of the new drug vandetanib, for progressing metastatic medullary thyroid cancer (MTC) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. ThyCa was represented and spoke at the December 2010 FDA hearing and our online MTC community sent more than 500 letters to the FDA.

NRC Meeting and Conference Session. Patient Release timing after receiving radioiodine continued to be a focus of communications with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and included a dialogue session at ThyCa's annual conference and a meeting with FDA staff and representatives of other organizations.

AACE Neck Check Card. Thanks to a collaborative relationship with the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, ThyCa began distributing the AACE Neck Check Cards free to individuals and organizations worldwide.

15th Anniversary Commemoration. Throughout 2010 we honored ThyCa's 15 years of service, built on the vision and dedication of our 17 wonderful co-founders.

HPTH Collaboration. ThyCa and the Hypoparathyroidism Association initiated a collaboration in support of our shared goal of reducing post-surgical hypoparathyroidism, which results in lifelong calcium issues and their many associated challenges.

New Grants to Researchers in US and Switzerland. We proudly awarded new thyroid cancer research grants to researchers in the United States and Switzerland, as well as two more continuation grants. This is our 8th consecutive year of awarding thyroid cancer research grants.

NORD Support. ThyCa participated in publicizing Rare Diseases Day, an important awareness observance of the National Organization for Rare Disorders.

Training Resources Strengthened. We expanded our volunteer training and resources, including expanded manuals and materials for board members, and volunteers.

Financial Supporters and Grantors. ThyCa's free services, publications, events, and outreach are made possible by our volunteers and generous financial support of our members and individual donors, as well as through unrestricted educational support from our year-round financial supporters. Our thanks to our 2010 Grantors: AstraZeneca, Bayer/Onyx, Exelixis, and Genzyme.

Volunteers—Thank You. Thanks to our more than 375 volunteers for the tremendous efforts you contributed.

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 13th and 14th new scientific and clinical research grants in 2010, in alliance with the American Thyroid Association. Experts from ATA reviewed the applications and selected the recipients. In the fall of 2010, we committed to awarding two additional 2-year grants in 2011. 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.

What we are doing ensures that no one with thyroid cancer diagnosed in the future will have to feel as alone as we did.

Keys to our fundraising success were the ongoing contributions and donations in honor of loved ones and in memory of loved ones and to commemorate special family occasions. We are most grateful to everyone who contributes to ThyCa and makes tribute donations. Again, 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. In Texas, John Oaks of the Hangin' Tree Saloon, again organized a benefit golf tournament in memory of longtime ThyCa volunteer Megan Stendebach. Our single largest event was our 8th Annual Benefit Dinner/Auction, a wonderful evening of tribute and support, held in conjunction with our annual conference.

Additional Rally for Research events have included birthday celebrations as fundraisers, golf tournaments, Marathon Runs, Concerts, and Individual Walks dedicated to ThyCa's research funds. The consistent theme through all fundraising is that each contribution makes a difference.

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, 2010 and 2009

ASSETS	2010	2009
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$752,519.00	\$686,680.00
Inventory	\$7,237.00	\$8,514.00
Receivables	-	-
Other Assets	\$1,997.00	\$1,840.00
Equipment, Net	\$3,275.00	\$2,528.00
Total Assets	\$765,028.00	\$699,562.00
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities	\$5,585.00	\$10,997.00
Net Assets and Liabilities	\$759,443.00	\$688,565.00
Designated Assets	\$121,150.00	\$55,135.00
Revenues	\$400,177.00	\$318,561.00
Expenses (See Note 1 about 2010 and 2009)	\$329,299.00	\$299,848.00

Notes:

- 2010 and 2009 expenses include thyroid cancer research grant distributions of \$115,000.00 and \$115,000.00, respectively.
- 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 2010. 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 2011.