



# *The Power of Hope*

A Look Back at the Fiscal Year Ending June 2021





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

*In the spring and summer of 2020, as we were planning the organization that would become the Mucinous Ovarian Cancer Coalition (MOCC), we never imagined what the last few months of the year would hold. That we would lose our beloved founder, Rhonda, just six weeks after our launch. She was filled with such hope for and excitement about MOCC, and couldn't wait to get the organization off the ground. Rhonda was in a hurry to deliver meaningful support to women living with this rare disease.*

*Those of us who loved Rhonda were in a race of a different kind. We wanted to launch MOCC as quickly as possible to raise money for research on this rare type of ovarian cancer. The same research that we hoped would allow Rhonda to grow old with us. But that was not to be.*

*There's an old Chinese proverb that says, "A life has never ended until all the lives it has touched have ended, too." While we lost Rhonda far too young, through MOCC and the power of all who support it, her vivacious spirit will live on.*

*We dedicate this inaugural issue of **The Power of Hope** to Rhonda. Inside you can read more about what we've accomplished together in just twelve short months, and in the midst of a global health pandemic. All in honor of Rhonda and the women like her who are battling mucinous ovarian cancer.*



Kind Regards,  
Shelley







## MOCC'S YEAR ONE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### SEPTEMBER 2020

- The week before our official launch, Rhonda and her sister, Shelley, are interviewed by CBS for a segment spotlighting this rare type of ovarian cancer.
- MOCC officially launches on September 17<sup>th</sup>, our late founder's birthday. While a launch party is held, Rhonda is too sick from her chemotherapy to attend.
- The MOCC website launches with information and resources to make it easier for women with mucinous ovarian cancer to find the answers they need.
- Gretchen Whitmer, the Governor of Michigan, declares September 17<sup>th</sup> ***Mucinous Ovarian Cancer Day*** across the state in Rhonda's honor.



## OCTOBER 2020

- A world-class **Physician Advisory Committee** is assembled with representation from the leading cancer facilities, including MD Anderson, Memorial Sloan Kettering, University of Chicago Medicine, and the University of Michigan.
- Rhonda assembles and sends out the first of what have become our popular **MOCC Cares** packages. She handwrites a personal note of support for each woman who receives a package.



- Unexpectedly, Rhonda loses her battle with mucinous ovarian cancer on October 29<sup>th</sup> from complications related to her treatment. The organization pauses for the month of November.

## DECEMBER 2020

- MOCC participates in a **#GivingTuesday** event on Facebook, earning just under \$2,000.
- MOCC becomes an **Amazon Smile** charity and a beneficiary of the **Kroger Rewards** program.



## JANUARY 2021

- **Breathe** series begins in January with monthly, virtual programs, including a variety of art workshops. Women with mucinous ovarian cancer and their loved ones are invited to attend at no cost.
- Counseling programs both one-on-one and group support begin for women with mucinous ovarian cancer, their families, and caregivers.

## FEBRUARY 2021

- A request for proposals (RFP) for the first **Rhonda's Award** goes out on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Researchers are invited to submit proposals of up to \$40,000 for consideration.
- MOCC is approved as a charity to host individual fundraisers on Facebook. Throughout the remainder of the year, we are the beneficiary of multiple fundraisers organized by friends, family, Board Members, and loved ones to those battling the disease.
- Technology company Benevity approves MOCC as a charity for their platform. This allows donor's whose employer has a matching-gifts program to give to MOCC, essentially doubling their donation.

## MARCH 2021

- Despite an economy struggling through the COVID-19 crisis, we hold our first official fundraiser, a Virtual Auction. This event raises \$5,000 for MOCC projects.



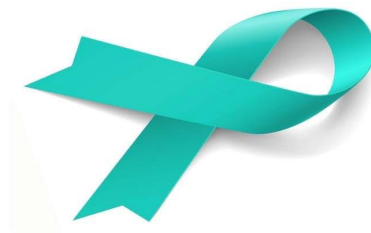
## APRIL 2021

MOCC hits another milestone—our 40th **MOCC Cares** package is mailed to a woman in Illinois!

Dr. Jenny Mueller of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center helps us create an FAQ page for our online Resource Center. It's a place where woman with mucinous ovarian cancer can find answers and the latest research.

## MAY 2021

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, MOCC joins forces with ovarian cancer advocates around the globe to raise awareness on **World Ovarian Cancer Day**.



May 8th is  
World Ovarian  
Cancer Day

Visit [Hope4MOC.org](https://www.Hope4MOC.org) to learn how you can help raise awareness about the disease that is the 5th leading cause of cancer deaths among women.



## JUNE 2021

As the 2021 fiscal year draws to a close, MOCC hosts a new fundraiser, **Give Without Spending**. A total of 227 volunteers provided feedback on businesses in exchange for donations to our organization. This event raised \$14,344 for **Rhonda's Award**.



# RHONDA'S AWARD

At MOCC, we take great pride in the process we've created for reviewing and awarding grant money to a researcher or team working on early detection, innovative treatment, or finding a cure for mucinous ovarian cancer. It's a grant named in honor of our late founder. ***Rhonda's Award*** represents hope for the future.

## The History of Rhonda's Award



If you didn't know her or don't know her story, Rhonda is the tiny girl with the biggest smile in this picture. Bottom right corner. With her protective big sister behind her and her two cousins standing beside her, she was joyful and fun-loving. A social butterfly, Rhonda was witty and kind.

In the early fall of 2019, in the midst of a happy, busy life, Rhonda was diagnosed with advanced MOC. At each point along the way, she experienced nearly every possible complication. Right up until the day we lost her one year later.

Despite how tough her days were, Rhonda told people almost daily that she was "blessed." She had great family and friends, and didn't have the financial burdens other women faced at such a difficult time. Instead of feeling sorry for herself, she opted to help others. Because of her, MOCC was born.



# FUNDING RESEARCH TO BEAT MUCINOUS OVARIAN CANCER

As we head into a new fiscal year, we are poised to open a new request for proposals (RFP). This time, ***Rhonda's Award*** will be for research projects of \$50,000. The RFP will go out in May of 2022.

Another source of pride for MOCC is the ***Physician Advisory Committee*** we've assembled. These are the professionals who thoughtfully review each of the proposals we receive from researchers. Our committee members represent some of the leading voices in rare ovarian cancer diagnosis, treatment, and research:



**Michael M. Frumovitz, MD, MPH, FACOG**

MD Anderson Cancer Center



**Katherine Kurnit, MD, MPH**

The University of Chicago Medicine



**Jennifer Mueller, MD, FACOG**

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center



**Celeste Leigh Pearce, PhD, MPH**

School of Public Health at the University of Michigan





## MOCC MISSION AND GOALS

As a nonprofit organization, we strive to be good stewards of the time and resources entrusted to us. A 100% volunteer agency, we are committed to our mission and to meeting and exceeding our goals.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mucinous Ovarian Cancer Coalition (MOCC) is a 501(c)(3) organization. We seek to improve the quality of life for and survival rates of women diagnosed with a rare form of ovarian cancer called mucinous adenocarcinoma of the ovary, also known as mucinous ovarian cancer (MOC).

## COALITION GOALS

*Founded in 2020, the organization has three goals:*

- 1** Provide financial assistance to researchers investigating MOC and other potentially linked diseases.
- 2** Build and continuously update an online resource center that connects women and their families with information and experts in this type of gynecological cancer.
- 3** Provide emotional and financial support to women undergoing treatment for mucinous ovarian cancer. Assisting women struggling with household tasks and daily living expenses, as well as those whose spirit may need a boost.





## MOCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shelley Laurell, President

Bonnie DeLange, Secretary

Jamie Butz, Treasurer

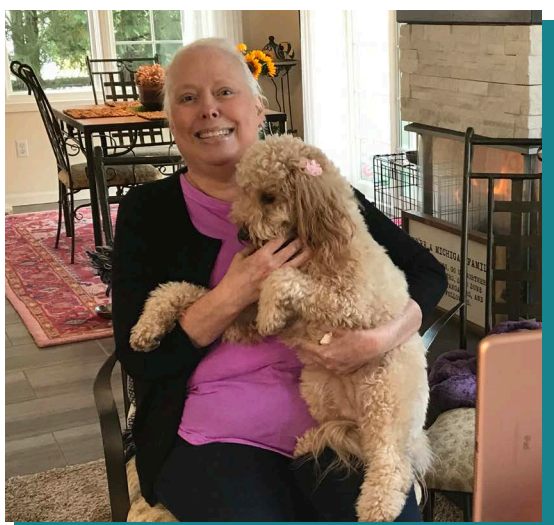
Kathy Mroz

Michelle Schwartz

Jennifer Wilkins

## ADVISOR TO THE BOARD

Sharon Laurell



## IN MEMORIAM

*Rhonda Couch*

Founder, 1964-2020



# INAUGURAL YEAR DONORS

**Fiscal year ending June 2021**

*They cared. They believed. They gave.*

Donors play an essential role in the services we provide to women with mucinous ovarian cancer, as well as the amount of funding we have for ***Rhonda's Award***. Through their gifts, we can continue our mission and move closer to our goal of finding a cure for this rare type of ovarian cancer.

Once again, we'd like to express our appreciation to each of the following donors who cared and believed in the mission of MOCC. The list below identifies individuals who generously **donated from September of 2020 through June of 2021**.

## \$1,000+ DONORS

Ron and Jackie Couch

Thom and Bonnie DeLange

Danielle Duke\*

Gary Hatfield and Sheryl Platz

Richard and Sharon Laurell

Shelley Laurell

Rick and Kathy Mroz

Scott and Michelle Schwartz

Jennifer Wilkins\*



## **\$500 – \$999 DONORS**

Bruce and Amy Bis  
Rhonda Couch  
Lynne Johnson  
Stacie Lause  
Barb and Lloyd Pant  
Scott and Terri Strain

## **\$250 – \$499 DONORS**

Luke and Lori Baldwin  
Joe and Jamie Butz  
Dawn DuPree  
Mindy Kendall  
LeAnn Nearhood  
Tim and Terri VanBrandt  
Jules Wilkins\*  
George Wells and Cindy Zimmer

## **\$100 – \$249 DONORS**

Gerald Beale  
Jenn Brockman  
John Bruce  
Lettie Deeds  
Rudolph and Cindy Dorman  
Nicki Dueling  
Katherine Dusseau  
Ron and Leanne Goodin  
Tracey Harder  
Kim Langenderfer  
Dennis and Linda Laurell  
Rick and Marilyn Marok  
Eric Oliver  
Lisa Peters  
Sue and Lester Pierson  
Elna Platz  
Cheryl Roush  
Tom and Lana Schlegel  
Robert Tadych  
Joy Wilkins

# *Thank You!*

\*Includes donation of professional services





## The Donors by the Numbers

- 254 individual donors contributed directly to MOCC
- 50 people participated in our Virtual Auction
- MOCC supporters hosted 6 different Facebook fundraisers with donations coming from 69 people
- 227 people helped with our Give Without Spending campaign

## Special Thanks to Our Corporate Sponsors

Employees of Graybar Electric Company, Inc.

Senior Care Content Specialists

SMK Beautification

## And a Thank You to These Talented In-Kind Donors

Margie Gerber

Beth Perry

Christine Price

Akiko Tamano

Tanya Walker

Tiffany Wilcox





## Let's Keep in Touch



**FIND US ONLINE:**

[www.hope4MOC.org](http://www.hope4MOC.org)



**EMAIL US:**

[Hope4MOC@gmail.com](mailto:Hope4MOC@gmail.com)



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:**

[@MucinousOvarianCancerCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/MucinousOvarianCancerCoalition)

