

TARPON SPRINGS PARTNERS OPEN THEIR HOME FOR MOFFITT

By Mary Harvey, Co-chair



From left:
**Joe Part, John Bozmoski,
Karen Brayboy, Suzy Circle**

Karen Brayboy and Joe Part, Pinellas Partners from Tarpon Springs, opened their beautiful home on May 15 to help raise awareness and funds for Moffitt.

The evening was a tribute to their good friend Renee Salivaras. Renee is a breast cancer patient at Moffitt. She and her husband are well known in Tarpon Springs through their community work and as owners of the Mykonos restaurant in the Sponge Docks area.

Joe Part is also a

cancer patient at Moffitt and regaled the crowd that evening with his journey through treatment. Moffitt Cancer Center's Drs. Bradford Carter and Julio Pow-Sang spoke with the guests about the latest advances in cancer treatment.

At the end of the evening, Karen asked guests to help support cancer research and announced that she and Joe would match donations made that evening. The event raised a total of \$8,000 for cancer research.

Mission Statement

To contribute to the prevention and cure of cancer through education and outreach in an effort to support the work of the physicians and scientists working to cure this terrible disease that has touched all of our lives in one way or another.

SKANSKA MOFFITT CLASSIC

The eighth annual Skanska Moffitt Classic tees off on Monday, Sept. 22, at 10:00 A.M.

Join us for a day of golf at the prestigious Old Memorial Golf Club in Tampa.

Tournament proceeds will benefit cancer research at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute.

For more information please call Skanska USA Building, Inc. at 813-927-6176 or 813-281-3212



MOFFITT
CANCER CENTER

Pinellas Partners

It seems everywhere I go these days I meet people who tell me how excited they are to be involved with Moffitt Pinellas Partners. We have new members coming on board every day from as far north as Tarpon Springs and as far south as St. Petersburg -- many have held awareness events in their own communities.

It is our goal to provide you with an insider's look, not only at Moffitt Cancer Center's research, but also at how Moffitt's patient care services are second to none.

Over the next several issues we will introduce you to many of the dedicated professionals who make up the "heart" of Moffitt Cancer Center. You will meet the physicians and surgeons, the nurses, the department heads, researchers and other patient care professionals.

We will continue to bring you personal stories of cancer survivors, many who are our neighbors and friends, as well as stories of people who continue the battle every day. Cancer is never far from the hearts and minds of cancer patients or their families. It is something many of us wake up thinking about every morning and fall asleep fearing every night.

I know we all look forward to the day when the word *cancer* doesn't elicit such a sense of fear in us or our loved ones. We expect to see Moffitt as a frontrunner in that effort and we are proud to be a part of raising your awareness about all that is being done right in our own community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mary Harvey
Co-Chair, Moffitt Pinellas Partners
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Nurses Breakfast

From left:
**Mary Beth Reardon, Cindy McGirk,
Brenda Gordon**

Steering Committee Members

- Scott Andringa
- Brian Aungst
- Rob Bauer
- Ernestine Bean
- Beverly Billiris
- Bruce Bokor
- Joe Burdette
- Aaron Cohn
- Gary Conners
- William Crown
- Jodie Cunningham
- Ed & Marsha Droste
- Holly Duncan
- Ron & Ann Duncan
- Jackie Edgington
- Larry Feder
- Fred Fisher
- Doug Graska
- Lucy Grinnell
- Bob "Gator" Handley
- Lindsay Hardee
- Mary Harvey
- Judy Mitchell
- Pam Muma
- Bob Passwaters
- Ron Petrini
- David Ruppel
- Leslie Schipani-Anderson
- Karen Seel
- Julie Shannon
- Covington Sharp
- Gary Skinner
- Laverne Smith
- Richard Spayde
- Susan Stern
- Bill Swisher
- Dan Walker
- Gregory Wright

MORE THAN BEDPANS AND STARCHED WHITE COLLARS

By Bill Swisher

At Moffitt Cancer Center, nursing involves a lot more than old stereotypes about bedpans and starched white collars.

Just ask Mary Beth Reardon, Moffitt's chief nursing officer and vice president for Patient Care Services.

Nursing jobs have become more and more specialized because "treatments have become much more complicated," Reardon said.

"When I went to school, nurses weren't expected to do much physical assessment [of patients]. That was the doctor's role. The nurse followed the doctor's orders. Today, nurses' education has increased and their role has changed," she said.

The cancer center has almost 800 registered nurses. That number includes about 400 inpatient nurses who work for Reardon, plus another 250 in its clinics and 120 more in such areas as clinical research and the center's mobile screening bus.

She pointed out that many of Moffitt's nurses don't do direct patient care. Besides those in research or research support, others are involved with case management, "looking at the whole of patient care and trying to

help with the timing of it." Some work in diagnostic radiology or radiation oncology.

Reardon represents all of them, not just the ones who answer to her.

"We'd like our nurses to feel they have a person to represent their interests" at the upper levels of the organization, said Reardon, who reports directly to the chief operating officer for the hospital and clinics.

Moffitt also has 27 advanced registered nurse practitioners who play "pretty much the same role as our 15 physician assistants," she said. They work in almost every program at the cancer center. In the clinics they take patients' medical histories and perform physical exams. They work with the attending physician to order lab tests and X-rays. And in the operating rooms, they act as first assistants to the surgeons.

In contrast to its 800 RNs, Moffitt has exactly 12 licensed practical nurses.

"We love our LPNs, but we recognize how sick our patients are. The extensive emotional support they require; working with blood products; chemotherapy administration -- these are

things RNs are educated to do," Reardon said.

The string of letters she can list after her name tells us Reardon has a Master of Science degree in nursing and is not only a certified oncology (cancer) nurse but is also board-certified in advanced nursing administration.

The administrative part of her job has led her to a project she calls Moffitt's "Magnet journey" -- the quest to get the cancer center named as a Nurse Magnet facility. The American Nurses' Credentialing Center, a subsidiary of the American Nurses' Association, grants the Nurse Magnet designation to facilities that meet its standards for "quality patient care, nursing excellence, and innovations in professional nursing practice," according to the ANCC Web site.

Getting the designation is a long process that involves showing how the facility lives up to high standards of nursing practice in all areas of the organization. Reardon said she believes Moffitt is currently about halfway to its goal.

"We started our Magnet journey about a year ago and expect to achieve Nurse Magnet status in the fall of 2009," she said. But although



Mary Beth Reardon

Moffitt is working on "structural improvements" in such areas as nursing research and greater nurse involvement in administration, "I truly feel that we are functioning at a Magnet level for nursing care already."

What's the most enjoyable part of Reardon's job? "Working with our wonderful nurses and doing what I can to make their work easier -- taking care of nurses so nurses can take care of patients."

And doesn't it get depressing, dealing with so many patients who are critically or terminally ill? "Many nurses will say, 'No, it's so satisfying because of how much we can do for people who have cancer,'" Reardon said.

"There's so much

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to do. The pace of change is both exciting and challenging. Health care has become so complicated that the demands on anybody's time are just tremendous."

Reardon's own journey into the world of nursing began when she was a teenager in Troy, Mich. Her mother had multiple sclerosis. Helping to care for her exposed Reardon to the notion of doing for others what they couldn't do for themselves.

"I felt like it was

something I *could* do and *wanted* to do," she said.

She studied nursing, first at Mercy College of Detroit and later at the University of Colorado in Denver, where she got her master's degree. Before coming to Moffitt she was a staff nurse at Boston University Hospital, a research nurse at the University of Colorado Hospital, and head nurse of an oncology unit at Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center in Denver -- "my first oncology-specialty experience," she said.

She got her

Moffitt job as a result of a phone call from her mother.

"My parents moved to Clearwater in the mid-1970s and had been encouraging me to look for work down here. Early in 1985, my mother called me and said, 'They're opening a new cancer center in Tampa. You have to come down and run the place.' I figured it was some small operation, but I was recruited at a national Oncology Nursing Society meeting," Reardon said.

She got in on the ground floor as Moffitt's

first director of inpatient nursing in 1985 and was appointed to her current position in 2001.

"Being here from the beginning has been such a privilege. I was able to get a sense of the excitement that the founders and other people involved had. [We felt] there was nothing we couldn't do. Through the years we've attracted people who shared those same desires. That's been very rewarding.

"Now that we're established, there's even more we can do."

CONGRATULATIONS COURTNEY & GARY



Courtney shows off her engagement ring.

First featured in our February/March issue of the Moffitt Pinellas Partners newsletter, Courtney and Gary have the "for richer or poorer" thing as well as the "in sickness and in health" thing down pat.

Courtney, a 33-year-old Tampa resident,

has battled Stage 4 malignant melanoma, breast cancer (she's had a double mastectomy plus reconstructive surgery), thyroid cancer and a lung condition -- all with insurance analyst Gary Courtney, 37, by her side.

Courtney was told four years ago that she only had one year to live. Gary has been with her throughout the pain, sleepless nights, constant medication and side effects, as well as the \$39,000 in debt she has incurred from having cancer.

Most men would have run.

Moffitt Cancer Center based in Tampa saved Courtney's life after she was given only a year to live.

While surfing the Internet, Courtney found a link to Us Magazine and

In Courtney's words:

"I'm going to be Courtney Courtney — I love it!"

"There's life after cancer and you can find somebody to fall in love with."

The Wedding Channel, which were running a contest to win a \$100,000 dream wedding. As a surprise gift to her fiancé, Courtney decided to write her story in the hope it would be featured in the magazine.

Little did she know what the results

would be: Courtney and Gary won the \$100,000 wedding!

Congratulations Courtney and Gary, soon to be C2.



Gary and Courtney
Dreams do come true!