

## The light in the darkness

*Once you've been diagnosed with cancer, you may no longer feel safe in your own body.*

Any type of cancer diagnosis can leave a woman feeling devastated, terrified, vulnerable ... but cancers that involves her reproductive system — cervical, endometrial/uterine, ovarian, vulvar, vaginal, tubal and gestational cancers — create additional questions about sexuality... surgical menopause ... infertility.

How could anyone possibly understand what you're feeling? What you're fearing?

*You are not alone. Others have run this race before you.*

**EyesOnThePrize.org** is a non-profit organization founded by gynecologic cancer survivors throughout North America. It is unlike any other support service available because it provides information and emotional support from the survivors' perspective.

**EyesOnThePrize.org** connects you to women who are ready to share their support, experience and personal stories ... anytime, anywhere.

*We do understand your feelings and your fears. We can say, "I have been there, too. And I have survived."*

## The comfort that crushes fear

*Our mission is to provide emotional support and information to women living with gynecologic cancer and those who love them.*

**EyesOnThePrize.org** is a real community where you can talk with other gyn cancer survivors, their friends and family, and members of the healthcare community around the world.

To join **Our Community** through our email discussion list, newsletter, scheduled chats, and other ways to connect, visit

 <http://www.eyesontheprize.org/list/>

*The incredible need to talk to anyone, someone who has been there ... it drives us and empowers us to find each other. It unites us and allows us to mourn and fear.... It lets us do the one thing we thought we had lost: with the support of our list sisters, we can hope.*

*Melanie, Massachusetts, USA, on the eve of her first radiation treatment for endometrial cancer*

*Being diagnosed with cancer has been sad and terrifying, but surprisingly, a good thing.... My goal in life now is to help others cope with a cancer diagnosis and the difficulties of treatment. I cannot imagine going through it alone.*

*Marcy, Wisconsin, USA, cervical cancer*

## What is "The Prize"?

The light in the darkness  
The hope amidst the despair  
The comfort that crushes fear  
The belonging that comes with sharing  
The power that comes with knowledge  
The victory of running for the goal one small step at a time

*Founding member Cathy Black (1961-2001)*



## What's in a name?

*Our founders were inspired by an insightful and courageous friend, Beverly, whose favorite expression was "keeping my eyes on the prize." For the nine years she was a cancer contender, she never gave the disease the inside track. She showed us all how to run the race.*

## How can I help?

**Volunteer!** **EyesOnThePrize.org** is a non-profit organization operated entirely by volunteers. If you have special skills or simply the desire to help, we welcome your efforts.

Remember a loved one or celebrate a special survivorship milestone by making a donation.

For more information: [info@eyesontheprize.org](mailto:info@eyesontheprize.org)

**EyesOnThePrize.org**

446 S. Anaheim Hills Road #108  
Anaheim Hills, CA 92807 USA

**EyesOnThePrize.org**

Toronto, ON Canada

 <http://www.eyesontheprize.org>

*EyesOnThePrize.org wishes to thank Precision Litho for its generous support of this brochure, which allows us to share this vital information with gynecologic cancer survivors, family members and medical professionals.*



## Support and Information for Living with Gynecologic Cancer

cervical · endometrial · uterine · ovarian  
vulvar · vaginal · tubal · gestational

*When you heard the words, "It's cancer,"  
how did you feel?*

Shocked ... Afraid ... Isolated?

**You are not alone.**

A community of supportive women has saved a place for you.

**We've been there. We know. We care.**

We are **EyesOnThePrize.org**, an international Web community created by women who are living with gynecologic cancer.



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

## The power that comes with knowledge

*We are not experts in the field of medicine, but we are proud to call ourselves experts at having cancer.* We share our personal experiences, practical tips, and lessons we've learned along the way in [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

<http://www.eyesontheprize.org/FAQ/>

*What we don't know we'll help you find out.*

Helping you to find reliable medical information is another important part of our mission. Our Medical Advisory Panel of distinguished professionals, who daily care for women with gynecologic cancer, answer technical questions in the site's Ask the Pros section:

<http://www.eyesontheprize.org/askpro/>

The [Resources: Links & Books](#) section provides you with the best Web links and book selections, organized by type and content, to help you find the information you seek as quickly as possible.

<http://www.eyesontheprize.org/links/>

*Eyes  
on the  
Prize  
.org*

## The belonging that comes with sharing

*Looking for true inspiration? Share other survivors' experiences in the [Our Stories](#) section.* Dozens of women living around the world – in the United States and Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Europe, South America, and South Africa – have revealed their hopes and fears by sharing their stories overflowing with insight and encouragement.

<http://www.eyesontheprize.org/stories/>

*I have learned that having cancer does not always mean that we die. However, I am mindful that it could recur. Having survived the emotional and physical impact of vulva cancer, my life goes on. My story needs to be shared in order to help other women ... Sharing IS healing.*

*Kath, Australia  
Vulva cancer, diagnosed 1994 at age 42*

*As open as everyone is today about cancer, almost no one spoke the word aloud in 1959... The secrecy was almost as painful as the diagnosis. I suffered the fear in silence...*

*Margaret, Pennsylvania, USA,  
Ovarian cancer, diagnosed 1958 at age 45  
Uterine cancer, diagnosed 1961 at age 47*

*I recite as a joke to others: I was hit by a car, but thank God it was a Lexus...Of course, I am not so carefree in quieter, private moments. Ovarian cancer is now tattooed on my soul, and it defines every single moment of my life. At one point, I was stopped for a speeding ticket and my first thought was shock and disbelief, as in, How can you possibly give me a ticket, I'm a cancer survivor?*

*Gina, Pennsylvania, USA  
Ovarian cancer, diagnosed 1991 at age 26*

## The hope amidst the despair

*Speak out...reach out...take action!*

We created EyesOnThePrize.org because accurate and understandable information on gynecologic cancers was not readily available to us when we were diagnosed. We are determined that information about gynecologic cancers will eventually be promoted through women's healthcare centers, physicians' offices, the media and word of mouth.

*Having a rarer form of gyn cancer, GTD, I find it is very difficult to get others to pay attention to just "my cancer." If I want to have a BIG VOICE I have to join a BIG CHOIR!*

*Lola, Utah, USA, Gestational Trophoblastic Disease (GTD)*

*When you are ready, visit the Web site's*

[Advocacy](#) section to learn more about how you can get involved and help bring gynecologic cancer "out of the closet." Reach out and speak out on behalf of gyn cancers:

- Deliver promotional materials to your doctor's office.
- Send an [EyesOnThePrize.org](#) electronic postcard greeting.
- Wear a purple prize ribbon or our iris symbol to promote gyn cancer awareness.
- Talk to co-workers about risk factors and symptoms; spread the word about early detection and treatment.

<http://www.eyesontheprize.org/advocacy/>



## The victory of running for the goal one small step at a time

*A diagnosis of gynecologic cancer impacts the patient – but also her friends, family, neighbors, co-worker and medical team.*

*EyesOnThePrize.org provides answers and community for those of us struggling with so many questions. As a spouse of a founding member, I have found EOTP.org to be truly my lifeline to an amazing group of people who don't want any more women to "run or finish the race" with this disease alone.*

*Mitch Lovelock, husband of Cathy Black (1961-2001)  
Hamilton, Ontario*

*The EyesOnThePrize.org site is well done and presents accurate and helpful information. Certainly, this wonderful site will continue to grow as women dealing with gyn cancers come to meet other women in the same situations.*

*David Mutch, MD  
Director, Division of Gynecologic Oncology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri, USA*

*One of the most striking features of EyesOnThePrize.org is the "voice" that the writing conveys. Reading through the material, the women behind the words are ever present -- the computer screen disappears and we're listening to others talk to us ... so many people with unique stories, all taking similar journeys with similar themes.*

*E. Ann Mohide, BScN, MHSc, MSc.  
Associate Professor, McMaster University, School of Nursing  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada*

*Eyesontheprize.org is a must resource for women with gynecologic cancer. It is support that you cannot possibly provide in a doctor's office and it even goes beyond the resources of most comprehensive cancer centers...It offers practical information and contact to community that is so important in weathering the cancer treatment storms.*

*Rick Jelovsek, MD  
Medical Editor, Woman's Diagnostic Cyber  
<http://www.wdxcyber.com>*