

Annual Pink Flamingos fundraiser benefits the Partnership for Breast Care



On September 27, as a kick off to Breast Cancer Awareness month, the first annual Pink Flamingos fundraiser was held to benefit the Partnership for Breast Care and "Take the Time" Mobile Mammography programs at Hartford Hospital. The Partnership for Breast Care's Community Advisory Board planned and carried out this very successful event with help from friends in many places. With generous support from sponsors, donors and guests the event net more than \$40,000! All of the funds raised from the 2006 event will to support the mobile mammography program at Hartford Hospital.

Pink Flamingos 2006 was held at The Hartford Financial Services Group Tower Suite, overlooking the city of Hartford where guests were able to watch a beautiful sunset while grazing on *hors d'oeuvres* and sipping wine. Nearly 200 individuals who are community activists, physicians, health care professionals, patients, their families, and others who care about breast disease attended the event.

Chairperson Sonja Larkin-

Thorne, welcomed guests and gave chairperson's awards to Elizabeth Brady, M.D., of Connecticut Surgical Group for being the first champion for the Partnership for Breast Care and Tom Marra of The Hartford for his lead and support in breast care initiatives locally and within The Hartford. Drs. Edward Cronin, Partnership medical director, and Andrew Salner, director of Hartford Hospital Cancer Program, introduced members of the Partnership for Breast Care and thanked the guests and sponsors.

The keynote speaker, RuthAnn Lobo, spoke of witnessing 20 years of change for a person newly diagnosed with breast cancer and their family. She recounted how society does not hush the words any longer, of the better prognosis and how the health care professionals are much more responsive to patient and family needs beyond the medicine.

As RuthAnn stated, at this time in cancer care and from our local health care providers, "you are not alone". Throughout the evening, one could feel that everyone in the room knew

In the top photo, Partnership for Breast Care staff and Community Advisory Board members are (from left): at podium, Sonja Larkin-Thorne, Roxanne Rotondaro, Iris Soto, Pamela Benoit, Jennifer White, Ronna Reynolds, Judith Melchriet, Wanda McCormack, Vivian Haas, Patty McEvoy, Ann Z. Leventhal. Above left, RuthAnn Lobo with Edward Cronin, M.D., Partnership for Breast Care medical director. Above center: Sonja Larkin-Thorne and Elizabeth Brady, M.D. Above, guest Midge Tilney and Andrew Salner, M.D., director, Cancer Program at Hartford Hospital.

why they were there, to support breast care programs in our community through the work at Hartford Hospital.

Mark you calendar for Pink Flamingos 2007 to be held on September 26, 2007! If you would like more information or to be added to our mailing list, please contact Roxanne Rotondaro at rrotond@