LIVING LEGACIES

MERYL KERN

FOUNDER
THE MERYL KERN SURVIVORSHIP PROGRAM AT TOWER CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The idea that adversity can move one to greatness defines Meryl Kern. As a breast cancer survivor, Kern took one of life’s biggest tests and turned it into a triumph with the Meryl Kern Survivorship Program at Tower Cancer Research Foundation, an independent community cancer research foundation. In partnership with Tower, MKSP offers services that educate, support and provide women going through treatment with the opportunity to feel and look their best. “A family history with cancer sparked my interest in Tower, where I was volunteering long before my 2015 diagnosis,” says Kern. “The excellent care I received from the nursing staff during my treatment inspired the Meryl and Russell Kern Educational Program at Cedars Sinai, which allows nurses who can’t afford continuing education could to do so. The founding of the Survivorship Program at Tower followed my successful treatment in 2015.”

MKSP lends support through three distinct platforms. “The Blush Panel Series provides a safe forum for discussing some of our most personal concerns, including sexuality, intimacy and changes in appearance,” Kern shares. “The Grace Program is a six-week program that provides educational support and addresses existential issues such as finding meaning in the cancer experience, resiliency and dealing with fear. It is a perfect balance of emotional and academic understanding and the Wig Program provides wigs to women who can’t afford them. If a wig increases someone’s confidence, then it can only serve to make them feel better.”

The issues, fears and support Kern experienced with breast cancer is the heart and soul of MKSP’s programs and mission. “I want women to know that you are not alone and that as a community we are strong and mighty,” says Kern. “The road is hard and is tiring, so take advantage of all of the tools that Tower has to offer. My program simply provides a stepping stone that you can use on your journey.”

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