



Joyce and Dr. Larry Schmitzer and Joanna Bull, founder of Gilda's club (left to right)



Charity from the Heart

Dr. Larry Schmitzer is no stranger to cancer. As a retired Bucks County physician, Larry worked with countless families affected by cancer. Throughout his career, Larry saw how families struggled with depression, anxiety, financial worries, and feelings of isolation.

Larry and his wife Joyce, along with several other Bucks County volunteers, began working on building what is now Cancer Support Community Greater Philadelphia at Gilda's Club. For years prior to Gilda's Club opening in Warminster in 2003, Larry and Joyce worked tirelessly sharing information, spreading the word about services, and hosting and attending fund-raisers to help open the Warminster location.

Throughout this time, Joyce and Larry served on the Gilda's Club Board of Directors and were instrumental in its growth and success. Even after Joyce was diagnosed with breast cancer several years ago, they were champions of families whose needs were often unmet.

At the time of Larry's retirement several years ago, Larry and Joyce decided to relocate to Florida to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Their time was spent caring for grandchildren, enjoying family dinners, and taking extended family trips.

Sadly, Joyce began experiencing health problems and was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer. Throughout that time, Larry and Joyce still supported the work of Cancer Support Community Great Philadelphia at Gilda's Club while managing Joyce's advancing illness.

Despite exceptional medical care and the support of family and friends, Joyce succumbed to her cancer in late 2017. A celebration of Joyce's life was held at Gilda's Club last November and was attended by family, friends, and community volunteers.

The Schmitzer family has generously established a fund to provide a lecture to educate the public and those living

with pancreatic cancer on current treatment options and managing side effects. This important lecture will be held on Thursday, November 8th at 6:30 pm. Dinner will be served at this event, so RSVPs are requested. For more information or to register, please call 215-441-3290 or email Carly@cancersupportphiladelphia.org



**CANCER SUPPORT
COMMUNITY**
GREATER PHILADELPHIA

CSCGP
at Gilda's Club

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