



**PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK**  
**ADVANCE RESEARCH. SUPPORT PATIENTS. CREATE HOPE.**

*Reprinted from July 14, 2009 Pancreatic  
Cancer Action Network online newsletter*

Dear Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Friends:

Due to the generosity of our donors and volunteers from around the country, we have concluded another successful fiscal year. We are extremely grateful for your steadfast dedication despite the downturn in our country's economy. Your valuable support has allowed us to continue providing much-needed and high-quality services and programs to the pancreatic cancer community.

As we close the books on the 2008/2009 fiscal year, which ended June 30, I want to review some of our major accomplishments during this time:

- We funded \$1.2 million in [research grants](#) to nine promising researchers from institutions around the country. We also completed a thorough evaluation of our current research grants program and identified the best areas of funding opportunities. To build upon these efforts, we plan to expand the program in the coming year by funding nearly \$2.3 million in new research grants.
- Through our [advocacy efforts](#), The *Pancreatic Cancer Research & Education Act* (H.R. 745) was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. In just six months, since the new Congress took office in January '09, this bill, which is the first federal substantive legislation dedicated to advancing pancreatic cancer research, has garnered the bi-partisan support of 35 percent of House members. To support these efforts, our advocates sent more than 26,000 messages to 537 Members of Congress.
- We secured a nearly 20 percent increase in funding dedicated to pancreatic cancer research through the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In total, the NCI budget for pancreatic cancer research increased from \$73 million in 2007 to \$87 million in 2008.
- Associates in our [Patient and Liaison Services \(PALS\)](#) program provided nearly 9,000 patients and families with information and resources in FY '08/'09, bringing the total number of people that PALS has served since its inception to 38,000. The quality of the customer service and information provided through PALS was also outstanding, with an average rating of 96 percent or greater on all quality assurance scores.
- Working through our [Community Outreach](#) program, thousands of amazing volunteers in communities around the country raised a net annual total of approximately \$4 million to support our mission, representing a 35 percent increase over the prior fiscal year.
- Finally, the number of donors who are supporting us dramatically increased during this past year. The volume of gifts to the organization rose by 55 percent compared to the prior fiscal year, illustrating the heightened visibility of the disease and the sense of urgency that has developed in regard to fighting it.

These incredible achievements are indicative of the amazing spirits of so many of those touched by pancreatic cancer. They also illustrate the effectiveness of combating pancreatic cancer through a comprehensive strategy: a vibrant research grants program, advocacy efforts to increase federal dollars for pancreatic cancer research, a support program that provides patients and families with reliable and current information about the disease, and ongoing efforts to heighten the visibility of pancreatic cancer.

The synergy produced by all of these programs has created an unprecedented momentum in the pancreatic cancer community. We are already witnessing tangible results of this increased awareness. As you may remember, [Stand Up To Cancer](#) recently stated that one of five Dream Teams they will be funding will focus on pancreatic cancer research and will receive a grant totaling \$18 million. This announcement was welcome news for everyone who hopes for greater and faster advances in pancreatic cancer research.

As I reflect on all of our accomplishments during the past year, I cannot help but be awed by how much of it is due to your immeasurable contributions. We look forward to continue working with you even more in the coming year.

With warmest regards,

Julie Fleshman  
President and CEO  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

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