

## **Letter of Recommendation from St. Lukes Mountain States Tumor Institute in Boise, Idaho**

To: Hedda Matza- Haughton, LCSW

President, "For The Health of It" Consultation Services

FROM: Linda Penwarden, RN, MN, AOCN Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist

Wanda Jo Johnson, RN, BSN, OCN, MA

Alicia Rosales, LMSW

DATE: November 4, 2008

RE: "Words Not Spoken" Program on Cancer Survivorship

We would like to thank you for your participation in the October 3, 2008 St. Luke's Concepts in Oncology Conference, entitled, "21st Annual Concepts of Oncology/Survivorship: Steps to Well-Being". Your program, "Words Not Spoken," an improvisational interactive theatre, which served as the keynote, was a powerful way to get the audience involved from the beginning. Each of the characters in your performance provided a comprehensive array of issues affecting cancer survivors and laid a foundation for our other presenters. The characters that were portrayed were poignant, believable, and conveyed the multitude of physical and emotional issues faced by many cancer survivors, who often feel "lost in transition".

Each of the characters you presented shared an array of important issues: the prostate cancer survivor who would not talk to his wife after the long term side effects of his treatment; the breast cancer patient dealing with body image, fear of recurrence; the oncology nurse who wondered if she had done enough to help a man who had lung cancer, who was still smoking, and now facing a recurrence; the cervical cancer patient who felt that the long term side effects of treatment interfered with her relationship with her boyfriend; and the mother whose daughter had leukemia in her teens and was now facing the fact that her daughter might not be able to have children as a side effect of treatment.

The audience of nurses, social workers and other health care professionals seemed to appreciate the interactive nature of the presentation. It was great to see the audience ask questions to each of the five characters and to witness the discussion that followed. Your active engagement of the audience in sharing how they would help each character and in expressing their ideas on developing an effective survivorship program, was enlightening.

Many of the speakers who followed you made reference to your presentation and used your characters in "Words Not Spoken" to make an important point on the issue of cancer survivorship. Some specific comments from the audience in their evaluations included: "Very good!", "Hedda was amazing, brought me to tears", and "I really enjoyed the interactive session with Hedda".

Thank you again for your time and participation and good luck in your efforts as you present the issues of cancer survivorship to others through your dynamic, powerful interactive theatre program "Words Not Spoken".

Best Wishes,

Linda Penwarden Committee Chair

Wanda Jo Johnson Committee member

Alicia Rosales Survivorship Coordinator

Concepts in Oncology Conference Committee  
Boise, Idaho