



Dear Friends and Family:

Fall 2017

It is with gratitude and heartfelt amazement that after 20 years I can share my cancer journey with you. As I approach my 60th birthday, I feel a distinct urge to give back to the organization that has supported and carried me through the last two decades.

### **"It's Cancer..."**

These are the life changing words I heard in 1997. I was a single parent of my six year old daughter Alex, my mom, Barbara, had just moved to Alaska, I was employed at the University with good benefits and fortunately found a community of support that has astonished and blessed me for 20 years. My "Cancer of the Month Club" experience in the summer of 1997 turned my world upside down. Bladder, Kidney and Cervical cancer just about overwhelmed my coping skills - but a grassroots organization helped me focus, provided support and resources to get me through and helped me manage the myriad of healthcare choices. They helped empower me to make some tough decisions about my treatment plan and had information on traveling to Seattle for my care. I am forever grateful to Cancer Connection (formerly SEACWF) and the village of support I experienced in Juneau.

It's a big year for me: 20 years of survivorship, turning 60 years old, and 20 years on the board of Cancer Connection (their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday!). That's 100 and the inspiration for my Tish's Wishes campaign to forward fund Cancer Connection for a year...**Goal: \$100,000!!!** I know - it's an awesome, big, audacious goal for a legacy tribute.

### **I need your help.**

Cancer Connection is not going to cure cancer. We're about compassion, kindness, comfort and empowerment. We connect folks in our remote area of the world at a most difficult time in their lives to people and resources to assist their cancer journey.

If my story inspires you, if cancer has touched your life, or if Cancer Connection has provided support for you or a friend, I hope you'll reach deep into your heart and your resources and make a heartfelt contribution to my fundraising campaign.

It's a chance to make a difference for many cancer survivors and ensure program continuation for the near future. The campaign starts now and runs through my birthday in February. You can make a pledge, write a check or donate online at [www.cancerconnectionak.org](http://www.cancerconnectionak.org). To get me started, my good friends Sharon and Richard Burns, owners of the Juneau Radio Center, pledged \$10,000 after hearing of my goal!!! My husband, Tom, stepped up and said our business, Alaska Quest Charters, would match that \$10,000. I am overwhelmed, humbled and energized to think I can really make this happen!! My cousin, Sally, is a fabulous grant writer and has offered to try to match local contributions on the state and national level.

Bold ideas need big support. I'm sending this to friends, family and community pillars that I think can help. I can't do it without you, so please consider a gift today. Help me celebrate my 20 years of survivorship, 60 blessed years of life and 20 years of Cancer Connection - an amazing 501c3 for SE Alaska cancer survivors. As I celebrate these milestones, I feel I can make a difference and then truly look forward to what the future may bring! Together we can make a difference!

In gratitude for your consideration,