

# Thanks to You, WE'RE CLOSER TO A CURE



*Left to right: Carol Baribeau, director, Annual Funds & Events; Dr. Grace Makari-Judson, medical director, Comprehensive Breast Center; and Dr. Joseph Jerry, science director, Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute.*

The proceeds from the annual Rays of Hope Walk Toward a Cure for Breast Cancer, which celebrates its 18th anniversary this year, have long been used to support breast cancer research at the Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute (PVLSI) and breast services at the Baystate Regional Cancer Program. But this summer, the fundraising effort has made its largest step to date in finding a cure for this

disease, putting forth a \$1.5 million donation to establish the Rays of Hope Center for Breast Cancer Research at the PVLSI.

The center, located across the street from Baystate's Comprehensive Breast Center, is a collaboration between Baystate Medical Center and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. It will be co-directed by Dr. Grace Makari-Judson,

medical director of the Comprehensive Breast Center, and Dr. Joseph Jerry, science director of PVLSI, who has studied the links between hormonal factors and breast cancer.

One of the center's goals will be to coordinate medical investigative research being done across the region. "With this new long-term funding base, we can increase the pace, scope, and depth of our work," says Makari-Judson.

"In Springfield," she continues, "the average age women are diagnosed with breast cancer is 10 years younger than the rest of the country. Our research will include national studies and clinical trials, but we'll also have a strong regional and local focus. We can bring direct benefit to breast cancer patients here in western New England. It's exciting to consider the potential of this new endeavor."

## OTHER PROGRAMS

Rays of Hope also helps to fund a broad range of support services for breast cancer patients and survivors, including:

- The Mammography Access Project
- Cancer House of Hope
- Cancer Connection
- La Esperanza Support Group for Latina Women
- Forest Moon Cancer Survivorship Program
- Art from the Heart
- Yoga, Reiki, Stress Reduction, and Fitness Programs
- Support Groups at Baystate Mary Lane Hospital and Baystate Franklin Medical Center
- Massage in the Infusion Suites at the D'Amour Center for Cancer Care
- The Comprehensive Breast Center Survivorship Program
- The Rays of Hope Wellness Program

Learn more or donate by visiting [baystatehealth.org/raysofhope](http://baystatehealth.org/raysofhope).

## JOIN US AGAIN THIS YEAR!

Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure 8K, Sunday, October 23



### SPRINGFIELD

Registration: 9 am  
Survivors' Photo: 10 am  
Program: 10:15 am

Lots of ways to get involved! Shorter routes available. To register or for more information, visit [baystatehealth.org/raysofhope](http://baystatehealth.org/raysofhope) or call 413-794-8001

### GREENFIELD

Registration: 10 am  
Survivors' Photo: 11:30 am  
Program: 11:45 am

Thank you for voting Rays of Hope the Best Charity Event for 2011 in the *Advocate's* "Best of the Valley" Readers Poll!