



# Sue's News

The official newsletter of the *Sue DiNapoli Ovarian Cancer Society*  
Helping Southern Colorado's women and families in their fight against gynecological cancers through networking, financial support, and education since 2007.

## The Sue DiNapoli Ovarian Cancer Society: Who we are

You have ovarian cancer.

Hearing those four words sent life spiraling for 52 year old Colorado Springs resident Debbie Gordon. After immediate surgery, the painful aftermath and slow recovery left Debbie unable to work. As the medical bills piled up, Debbie's ovarian cancer diagnosis snowballed from a life-and-death battle into a financial one as well.

Those same four words brought 43 year old Aracely Avitia to Penrose Hospital. Her stage four diagnosis and treatment led to difficulty breathing, and her limited insurance left her unable to obtain oxygen tanks needed to resume. In the days after her surgery, Aracely's struggle with health care providers seemed more overwhelming than her struggle to breathe.

For these Southern Colorado women, ovarian cancer proved a life-shattering diagnosis. The disease, often referred to as the "silent killer", is difficult to diagnose and has an incredibly high mortality rate. Estimates from the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance place the death rate from ovarian cancer at two to three times the rate of breast cancer. The Sue DiNapoli Ovarian Cancer Society began its crusade following the death of Sue DiNapoli, a longtime Colorado Springs resident who lost her five year battle with

ovarian cancer in 2005. Motivated by the memory of their mother and the need to help other women and their families, the Sue DiNapoli Ovarian Cancer Society has grown into Southern Colorado's strongest advocate and support network for women battling this heinous disease. Our mission is to educate and support low income and under-insured women in our community with expenses,

great insurance. The Sue's Gift Financial Aid program offers economic support specifically to Southern Colorado women diagnosed with gynecological cancer to help with medical bills, health insurance deductibles, prescriptions, housing payments and utility bills.

For Debbie Gordon, Sue's Gift meant instant payment for her outstanding medical bills. "Sue's Gift helped me when I needed it the most. I'm not sure what I would have done without it," she said.

For Aracely Avita, the Sue DiNapoli Ovarian Cancer Society worked directly with the oxygen supply company to arrange to pay for and deliver her oxygen tanks the same day she applied for Sue's Gift.

The Sue DiNapoli Ovarian Cancer Society also takes an active role in the community educating women as to the warning signs of ovarian cancer. Our rallies, fundraisers, and educational efforts have been featured on numerous news outlets, and we have been active participants in many of the great Colorado Springs community events.

For further information, please contact Susan DiNapoli Guyton at 719-229-4114 or see the website at [beovaryaware.org](http://beovaryaware.org).

we are...  
**COMMITTED**  
to providing southern CO women with  
**ovarian cancer information.**  
We are committed to providing  
Southern CO women with financial aid  
when necessary through Sue's Gift.  
This level of commitment has been in  
place for **8+ YEARS** & will continue  
for many years to come!  
Find out more at  
**BeOvaryAware.org**

education and early detection of gynecological cancer.

2015 marked the beginning of the Sue's Gift program offered by SDOCS. Often times, as families battle long-term illnesses like ovarian cancer, expenses and bills can quickly pile up and overwhelm even families with

# 2016: Our BIGGEST and BEST year yet!



2016 proved to be the biggest and best year yet for our Sue's Gift financial aid program, our organization, our dedicated volunTeals, and community education programs! We continue to expand, grow, and help Southern Colorado women by being an unparalleled local advocate for



those touched by gynecological cancer through intentional, consistent grassroots efforts.

Additionally, we've updated and modernized our website with a sleek, new look and easy to navigate menu to keep our community informed of our mission, events, fundraisers, and networking opportunities. Check it out at the new and improved [beovaryaware.org](http://beovaryaware.org)!

Our Facebook community page shares the latest news articles, information, and photos of our day-to-day outreach in the community. Give the page a like and follow to stay in the loop! And finally our new regular newsletter will hit email boxes and give a detailed look at all of our campaigns, community events, and opportunities for support.

As 2017 continues, we will graciously welcome all impacted by gynecological cancer and acknowledge their unique journey. We will celebrate the lives of the survivors and honor our loved ones who have passed away from the disease. We will appreciate and respect our volunTeals, clients, and supporters and honor their time and effort in support of the Sue DiNapoli Ovarian Cancer Society (SDOCS) mission.

We will continue to create a cherished, supportive, collaborative place for

patients, survivors, and families affected by ovarian cancer. Our Society's environment is compassionate, responsive, educational, and has a purposeful, spirited intent.

We will be highly mindful that our best defense against ovarian cancer is knowledge. We will immerse ourselves into many different community events in an effort to reach the masses with life-saving information about the symptoms of this horrible disease.

## Numbers: the year in review

- 15 Southern Colorado women receiving and benefitting from *Sue's Gift* financial grants
- 9,150 symptom cards distributed to the community about the warning signs of ovarian cancer
- 13,000 dollars raised during the *Colorado Springs Independent's* Indy Give Campaign
- 56,000 dollars raised at the 2016 BeOvaryAware 5k run

# BID, BUY, DONATE

**Teal is  
Taking Over  
Ross Auction  
One Night Only!  
March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017  
6:00pm – 8:30pm  
\$30 Suggested Donation**



**2430 S. Academy  
Colo Springs, CO 80916**

**Fun Evening  
Featuring  
Live Auction  
Live Music  
Silent Auction  
Great Food & Drinks**



**Sue DiNapoli  
OVARIAN  
CANCER  
SOCIETY**



**LIVE AUCTION  
Thomas Langeland**



**LIVE MUSIC  
Mikey Louis**



**All Proceeds to Benefit the Susan DiNapoli Ovarian Cancer Society**