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**Metropolitan Hospital Auxiliary Hosts 2013 Gala Supporting Cancer Care  
Cocktail Reception, Bowling & Billiards**

New York (April 11, 2013) — The Metropolitan Hospital Auxiliary hosted its 2013 Spring gala on Thursday, April 10 with a cocktail reception, and fun, interactive evening of bowling and billiards at Frames Bowling Lounge. NY1 News reporter Dean Meminger attended the event, and bowled with some of the hospital's cancer patients and staff. The fundraising event supported the establishment of a state-of-the-art cancer center at Metropolitan Hospital Center.

"The funds raised tonight go directly to support cancer care services at Metropolitan Hospital," said Michael Kaufman, President of the Metropolitan Hospital Center Auxiliary. "We chose to earmark funds for cancer because the need for these services is so great in the communities served by Metropolitan. The hospital already provides excellent care for cancer patients. These funds will help expand those services to ensure that our patients and their families continue to receive the best care and support."

Funds raised at the event will support the establishment of a Cancer Center at Metropolitan Hospital. Care for patients undergoing cancer treatment will be streamlined, creating a comprehensive state-of-the-art multi-service Cancer Center providing hematology, oncology, gynecological oncology, specialized dermatology, breast surgery, pain management, palliative care, and infusion services. The center will have space dedicated to comfort and healing, with a relaxation room, hair and make-up dressing room, and a modern waiting area for patients and families.

"I met some new patients who are scared, just like I was at first," said Adeline Jean-Baptiste, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010. "I told them 'it's ok, you're in good hands at Metropolitan. They saved my life.' Being around everyone at this event in such a cheerful environment was a lot of fun. We were able to stop thinking about our diagnoses for a while and just enjoy ourselves."

"We are so grateful for the support of the Metropolitan Hospital Auxiliary," added Meryl Weinberg, Executive Director of Metropolitan Hospital Center. "Their generosity allows Metropolitan, as a safety net health care provider, to provide high quality care to all of our patients, regardless of their ability to pay. The Auxiliary's ongoing focus on cancer care makes it possible for Metropolitan to continue to meet the needs of our community."

Cancer care is a top priority for the members of the Metropolitan Auxiliary, two of whom are cancer survivors. Geralyn Lucas, who attended the event, has written about her experience with breast cancer. Her acclaimed book *Why I Wore Lipstick To My Mastectomy* was also made into a Lifetime TV movie. Joan Liman, MD, MPH, also a member of the Auxiliary, is working on a musical memoir about her experiences as a survivor of breast cancer and lymphoma.

**PHOTOS**



NY1 News reporter Dean Meminger with (left to right) Adeline Jean-Baptiste, Maria Ojeda, Jamea Adams (rear), and Maria Chico, at Metropolitan Hospital Center Auxiliary spring gala, at Frames Bowling Lounge, Wednesday, April 10, 2013. The four women are cancer care patients at Metropolitan Hospital. (Photo by Damien Kim)



Guests prepare to bowl at the Metropolitan Hospital Center Auxiliary spring gala, at Frames Bowling Lounge, Wednesday, April 10, 2013. (Photo by Damien Kim)

The **Metropolitan Hospital Auxiliary** is a separately incorporated, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The Auxiliary is comprised of volunteer members of the community whose goal is to raise funds that can be used to enhance patient care at Metropolitan Hospital Center. Tax-deductible donations to the Metropolitan Hospital Auxiliary support programs and services that lead to better care of our patients. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/mhc/donate](http://www.nyc.gov/mhc/donate).

**Metropolitan Hospital Center** (MHC) is the community hospital of choice for residents of East Harlem, northern Manhattan and neighboring communities. Metropolitan provides culturally-sensitive primary and specialized medical care to patients of all ages regardless of national origin, immigration status, or ability to pay. Metropolitan Hospital Center is part of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), the largest municipal hospital and health care system in the country. For more information, please visit [www.nyc.gov/mhc](http://www.nyc.gov/mhc)

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