



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Voices of Hope Collaborative Nursing Grant *MGH to use VOH funds to advance nursing research efforts***

**Boston, February 1, 2019** – Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center has announced **The Voices of Hope Collaborative Nursing Research Grant**, established this year in honor of the all-volunteer organization, Voices of Hope, whose members have raised over \$700,000 for local cancer research through performance since being founded 10 years ago.

This grant pays tribute to the significant and direct impact nursing has on a patient's personal treatment experience.

With this newly created annual award, Termier Nurses and Research Nurses will collaborate to enhance the patient experience & elevate their care during the phase one trials, a passion shared by Voices of Hope and the Henri and Belinda Termier Center for Targeted Therapies at the MGH Cancer Center.

#### **What role do the Termier Nurses and Research Nurses each play in a patient's journey?**

The Termier Center defines the future of cancer therapy through the delivery of targeted therapy clinical trials. Nursing care is an integral part of the care delivered to the patients receiving treatment. Termier Nurses take exquisite care of patients during each of their visits, administer trial medications, and help patients manage their symptoms & side effects. Research Nurses work tirelessly to open new protocols, enroll patients on trials, and support them throughout their treatment.

Since 2009, Voices of Hope has raised funds through performance to support local cancer research at Boston institutions. Proceeds from shows, fundraising events, and direct donations come from family members, friends, local supporters & organizations, all to honor people in their lives who have been touched by cancer.

"We are incredibly honored to see this collaborative research grant named for our organization and to know that our donations are being directed towards such an impactful effort," says Greg Chastain, VOH Founder & President

The grant will be awarded annually and recipients will be selected by committee based on the following values/criteria:

- **Clinical Knowledge**
- **Compassionate Care**
- **Teamwork/Collaboration**

"Each fundraising performance by VOH serves as a pebble dropped into the vast ocean of people impacted by cancer," says Executive Artistic Director, Dana Siegal. "Over ten years, we've watched the ripples grow continuously wider on pace with the miraculous achievements of the researchers at MGH. In our own unique way, we are contributing to the historic evolution of cancer research."

Starting in 2019, an annual grant of \$10,000 will be dispersed to fund the winning research project and to pay for the Voices of Hope Research Team to:

- present their work at (at least) one nursing-focused oncology conference,
- present their project to Voices of Hope members, and
- present a poster of the work at MGH Nurses Week held annually in May.

Inspired by Dejan Juric, MD, newly appointed director of the Henri and Belinda Termeer Center for Targeted Therapies at the Mass General Cancer Center, the Grant announcement stated, “Through the love, generosity and musical talents of the Voices of Hope members, this grant is funded yearly from their generous donations to the Termeer Center and will continue for as long as Voices of Hope continues their annual support.”

### **About Voices of Hope**

Voices of Hope (VOH) is a 501(c)(3) organization with more than 100 members who share a passion for the performing arts and a desire to join the fight against cancer by raising awareness and funds for cancer research. Through song, we celebrate those we love, remember those we have lost, honor those who fight, and rejoice for those who survive. Honored by Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center as part of “the one hundred” in 2011 for our efforts in the fight against cancer, Voices of Hope has donated more than \$700,000 for cancer research since 2009; and know we will soon achieve our March to a Million goal.

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