

The Hillcrest Committee

The Hillcrest Committee was formed in 1946 by Nan Day. She was asked to head the first unit of the American Cancer Society in Jackson County, Oregon. She asked for newcomers to Medford and physician's wives to work with her. The group's first activity was to send letters and educational materials to everyone listed in the telephone book, and to solicit funds for the American Cancer Society.

When the group realized that more members were needed and other fund raising was necessary, a Silver Tea was planned at Hillcrest Orchard House. It proved a popular event, however the collection of "silver" in quarters and dimes did not satisfy the committee's goals. Other activities were added to the annual Silver Tea, such as fashion shows, table setting contests, wine tastings and jewelry shows. Most of these events took place at Hillcrest House. To this day Nan Day's family, the Parsons of Seattle, generously donates the occasional use of the Hillcrest House for our committee's activities.

Eventually a larger board of women and men formed the Jackson County Unit of the American Cancer Society. However, the Hillcrest Committee remained a separate entity and in 2014 became a legally incorporated 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation: The Southern Oregon Foundation Supporting a Cure for Cancer, DBA Hillcrest Committee. Today the fifty members of the Hillcrest Committee continue to raise funds to fulfill the mission of the organization: to financially support organizations whose purpose is prevention of cancer, saving lives and eliminating suffering from cancer, and/or research, education and service related to cancer.

Through the years, auctions have been held as fund raisers at brunches and balls. The auction packages incorporate Hillcrest Committee services at lunches, theme dinners and cocktail parties. Hillcrest members donate food and make all arrangements for the various events creating care-free entertaining for the successful bidders. Since 1984 the annual Hillcrest Ball has remained the major fund-raising event.

The Hillcrest Committee has received the prestigious Lifetime Excalibur Award from the National Board of the American Cancer Society. For many years the committee raised funds to support Camp UKANDU, a local camp for children with cancer. The Southern Oregon Foundation Supporting a Cure for Cancer annually funds organizations and services fulfilling our mission. Over two and a half million dollars have been donated toward our cause.

The Hillcrest Committee has a proud history and is deeply grateful to all who have and continue to support our mission through donations and attendance at our functions. We will continue our tradition of raising funds toward cures for cancers.