



MERCK FOUNDATION DONATES \$125,000 TO HELP GILDA'S CLUB NYC'S CANCER SUPPORT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK – August 18, 2010 – Gilda's Club New York City's (GCNYC) Chief Executive Officer Lily Safani today announced that the organization received a \$125,000 grant from the Merck Foundation to support GCNYC's Cancer Support and Networking Groups for the Entire Family.

“The Institute of Medicine has confirmed that comprehensive care for cancer patients must include social and emotional support for both cancer patients and their family. Since we opened our doors in 1995, Gilda's Club has been committed to providing free cancer support for anyone touched by cancer,” said Safani. “Merck Foundation's generous grant will make a positive difference for our community of individuals who are living with cancer throughout New York City.”

The grant will ensure that GCNYC's program will continue to provide support and networking groups, lectures, workshops, social events and Noogieland for kids who have parents living with cancer. Our program helps to build a cancer support community for men, women, teens and children and their families where they can share their collective wisdom and learn to live with a cancer diagnosis.

“We believe Gilda's Club plays an important role in the New York cancer community by providing free cancer support for the entire family. Our commitment to the comprehensive care of individuals living with cancer is in line with the Gilda's Club New York City mission,” said Ellen Lambert, executive vice president of The Merck Company Foundation.

GCNYC serves the five boroughs of New York City, where over 34,000 people are diagnosed with cancer annually. We have over 3,000 active members, which includes our six satellite locations. Each month, there are 1,200 visits to our clubhouse and there are over 14,000 member visits a year. We are continually striving to improve our reach into underserved communities, in order to address as fully as possible, the emotional and social impact of cancer on the people of New York.

About Gilda's Club New York City:

Gilda's Club New York City creates welcoming communities of free support for everyone living with cancer - men, women, teens and children - along with their families and friends. Our innovative program is an essential complement to medical care, providing networking and support groups, workshops, lectures and social activities, all **free of charge**. We provide our program in beautiful, non-residential homelike settings: our clubhouse is a four-story brownstone on West Houston Street in Manhattan, and we have three satellite locations in Brooklyn, two in the Bronx and one in Manhattan as part of our community satellite program. Visit www.GildasClubNYC.org for more information.

About Philanthropy at Merck:

Established in 1957 by Merck, The Merck Company Foundation is a U.S.-based, private charitable foundation and is Merck's chief source of funding support to qualified non-profit, charitable organizations. The Foundation marked its 50th anniversary in December of 2007. Since its inception, the Foundation has contributed more than \$560 million to support important initiatives that address societal needs that are consistent with Merck's overall mission to enhance the health and well-being of people around the world. To learn more visit www.merckfoundation.com

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