

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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WALKER GIFT ESTABLISHES RESOURCE LIBRARY AT UT SOUTHWESTERN CENTER FOR BREAST CARE

DALLAS – March 29, 2001 – Carolyn Walker knows from personal experience how important it is for breast-cancer patients to have access to information about their health concerns. So does her husband, Tom Walker.

So much so, in fact, that he surprised his wife this past Christmas with a pledge of \$25,000 a year for the rest of their lives to establish and support the Carolyn W. Walker Breast Care Center Library at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. In addition, the Walkers have provided in their estate plans for a \$500,000 bequest to permanently endow the Library.

The announcement of the donation to Southwestern Medical Foundation came at a surprise party in Carolyn's honor, for which Tom Walker flew in friends as well as breast-cancer survivors his wife had met while undergoing treatment at the Southwestern Center for Breast Care. She is a 19-year survivor of breast cancer and was treated by Dr. George Peters, executive director of the center and holder of the Marilyn R. Corrigan Distinguished Chair in Breast Cancer Surgery.

"The Walkers' commitment to provide \$25,000 per year for this library is absolutely wonderful," said Southwestern Medical Foundation President W. Plack Carr Jr. "Their generosity and caring spirit is deeply appreciated."

The library offers books, videos, interactive CD-ROMs, Internet access for research, breast models and a nurse educator. It also serves as a site for support-group meetings and educational seminars.

Through the Thomas C. and Carolyn W. Walker Family Foundation, the Walkers have previously donated gifts totaling \$400,000 to UT Southwestern, including the establishment of the Mary L. Brown Breast Cancer Genetic Risk Assessment Program in 1997. The gift was in memory of Brown, a Dallas resident and fellow patient whom Carolyn Walker met in 1984 in the waiting room of Dr. Peters. Both were involved in the formation of a support group for women

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with breast cancer that matched current and former patients who had similar diagnosis and treatment. The women's friendship was ended all too soon in 1990, when Brown died of breast cancer that had spread to her liver. The program in Brown's honor offers risk analysis and genetic testing, along with counseling services.

When the couple gave \$100,000 last year to support breast-cancer research and clinical care at UT Southwestern, Carolyn Walker said it was a tribute to the doctor who treated her.

"Simply put, Dr. Peters saved my life almost two decades ago, and Tom and I wanted to find a way to support the wonderful work he is doing at UT Southwestern," she said.

Carolyn Walker is a writer who continues to volunteer at the Center for Breast Care. Tom Walker is chairman of the board of F.Y.I. Inc., a publicly held provider of business process outsourcing solutions.

"The Walkers' continuing willingness to support the work of our Center for Breast Care is a testimony to the spirit of breast-cancer patients and survivors," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. "This heartfelt gift will help countless patients, and we are honored to have Carolyn Walker's name as a permanent part of the center's library."

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