



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement Regarding Death of Gene Wilder

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It is with great sadness that we learned today of the passing of Gene Wilder, the iconic actor, screenwriter, author and advocate.

An honorary board member of the Cancer Support Community, Gene was instrumental in the 1991 founding of Gilda's Club, named in honor of his late wife, comedienne Gilda Radner. During her battle with ovarian cancer, Gilda was a member of The Wellness Community in Santa Monica, California and wrote about her experience in her book, *It's Always Something*.

In 2009, The Wellness Community and Gilda's Club Worldwide joined forces to become the Cancer Support Community, with more than 46 affiliates around the world. Both Gilda's Club and the Cancer Support Community locations offer an array of professionally led social and emotional support programs for people with cancer and their families.

"Gene was a great friend and supporter to Gilda's Club. His support was monumental during the founding of Gilda's Club, and he remained a strong advocate for the vital programs and shared mission of our two legacy organizations," said Joanna Bull, Founder of Gilda's Club Worldwide. "Gene had promised Gilda that no one should face cancer alone, a vow that moved Gilda's Club forward as he served as its celebrity spokesperson. That promise was held over many years and supported in every way by his widow, Karen. The Cancer Support Community and Gilda's Club are grateful, and we are diminished by the ending of Gene's wonderful life."

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Gene Wilder during this difficult time.

About the Cancer Support Community

As the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community (CSC) is dedicated to ensuring that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. CSC achieves its mission through three areas: direct service delivery, research and advocacy. The organization includes an international network of Affiliates that offer the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer, as well as a community of support available online and over the phone. The Research and Training Institute conducts cutting-edge psychosocial, behavioral and survivorship research. CSC furthers its focus on patient advocacy through its Cancer Policy Institute, informing public policy in Washington, D.C. and across the nation. For more information, please call the toll-free Cancer Support Helpline at 888-793-9355, or visit www.CancerSupportCommunity.org. *So that no one faces cancer alone*®

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