



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mary's Place by the Sea Executive Director and Founder to Receive 2024 Humanitarian of the Year Award for Contribution to Cancer Patients

OCEAN GROVE, N.J., Nov. 12, 2024 – [Mary's Place by the Sea](#) Executive Director and Founder Michele Gannon will be honored on Nov. 14, 2024, with the 2024 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the American Cancer Society – Northeast Region. Presented at the 16th Annual Tides of Change Gala at Eagle Oaks Country Club in Farmingdale, N.J., the award recognizes an individual's extraordinary contribution to the American Cancer Society, reaching patients and families and involving communities which ultimately resulted in a positive change.

Mary's Place by the Sea offers wellness retreats and services for women with cancer at no cost. Gannon founded the organization in 2009. Since then, Mary's Place by the Sea has served over 15,000 women with cancer, offering complimentary overnight stays and day visits that include personalized services for the mind, body and soul, including oncology massage, health coaching and reiki. Virtual services are also available before and after cancer treatment.

"Michele is a true advocate for women with cancer, allowing them to take a step away from treatment to heal their mind and body," said Jennifer Lefthand, Executive Director of the American Cancer Society. "She plays a key role in furthering the American Cancer Society's mission and has shown herself to be a leader in the local cancer community and for women across the country who need a moment to truly focus on themselves. Michele has given women with cancer a place to connect with others going through similar experiences and the support needed in their recovery journey."

As the executive director and founder, Gannon oversees all facets of the organization, from retreats to fundraising to donor relations. When recovering from the flu in January 2009, Michele realized how difficult it can be for women with long-term illnesses to support their own physical and emotional health when also dealing with the responsibilities of daily life. She set out to establish a respite for women with cancer to heal and focus on their wellbeing.

"I am truly honored to have been chosen for this award from the American Cancer Society," said Gannon. "Mary's Place by the Sea has grown so much since 2009 and that is due to our dedicated staff and volunteers who make it possible to give women with cancer an integrative experience that can aid in their healing process. We are committed to providing a space where women can focus on their health through their cancer treatment."

More about Mary's Place by the Sea:

Mary's Place by the Sea provides wellness retreats for women with a cancer diagnosis. Guests of Mary's Place are provided with unconditional care during their time of need at NO COST. During day retreats and two-night retreats, guests experience integrative services, such as oncology massage, nutritional counseling, guided meditation, yoga, expressive writing, and much more. Mary's Place by the Sea

operates out of a state-of-the-art, custom-built, ten-bedroom home, located at 22 Main Avenue in Ocean Grove, New Jersey. In addition to its in-person program, virtual services are also offered. Since its founding in 2009, Mary's Place has served 15,000 women with cancer. Mary's Place by the Sea is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization. To watch a video to learn more about Mary's Place please go to: <https://youtu.be/5VvOUOGDgRk>.

###