

Images of HOPE

When Richard J Stephenson lost his mother, Mary Brown Stephenson, to cancer in the early 1980s, he vowed to change the face of cancer care—and the spirit with which it was delivered. After enduring the pain of watching his own mother denied the standard of care that he felt she deserved, Mr. Stephenson became committed to the idea that every patient was entitled to the most advanced medical care and that care should be delivered in a compassionate, warm manner by a team of caregivers who focus not only on the medical issues at hand but on the whole person. In fact, health care providers should strive to treat all patients as they would their own family. Galvanized by his mother's experience, Mr. Stephenson founded Cancer Treatment Centers of America® (CTCA) and set out to revolutionize cancer care with, what he termed, the *Mother Standard® of Care*.

Now patients at four CTCA hospitals around the country are living Mr. Stephenson's dream. Cared for like family, they benefit from the latest medical, surgical, and radiation therapies and also from supportive therapies like nutrition, naturopathic medicine, mind-body med-



Richard J Stephenson celebrates with breast cancer survivor Terrece Crawford.

icine, oncology rehabilitation, and spiritual support. And each spring, patients and care team come together, as a family, at the hospitals' Celebrate Life® festivities to commemorate all CTCA patients who have reached their five-year anniversaries since beginning treatment at CTCA.

Each Celebrate Life event includes opportunities for fellowship among survivors and staff, a formal ceremony honoring survivors, a tree-planting ceremony, a luncheon, and Hope RoundsSM, during which survivors visit with patients currently receiving treatment. For many survivors, passing along support to current patients during Hope Rounds is an intensely meaningful experience. Like family members who recognize their unique

opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those who follow in their footsteps, survivors share the inspiration of their celebratory moment and honor patients by instilling hope. Throughout the celebration, as in all days at CTCA, the Mother Standard shines brightly—honoring both Mary Brown Stephenson, in whose memory these hospitals thrive, as well as the family of patients, survivors, and staff that are her living legacy. **CFThrive**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Zion, Illinois



Tulsa, Oklahoma



Goodyear, Arizona

