October 24, 2012

Dear Friends of Us TOO and Chapter/Support Group Leaders,

I am pleased to provide the November HotSheet and thanks to all of you that help support it and make it possible for us to continue to create it and deliver it. Providing this sort of empowering educational information is an important part of our mission, as our founding members said, learning to cope through knowledge and hope.

Both empowerment through education and hope itself are on my mind as I write this because I just came from an Advocate Summit meeting sponsored by Dendreon to tour their newest facility in the Atlanta area. There were many people there who are real warriors who are not only battling their own prostate cancer but who are also champions in the battle to have new treatments like Provenge available now.

During the discussion about new educational materials and throughout the visit, the importance of hope and caring surfaced. We were all impressed with the commitment of the Dendreon staff to care for and respect the patients’ cells and make sure that each step in the process is done right with care and concern and that we recognize and convey that we live in hopeful times as we battle this disease. I hope you recall the educational information we shared from Dendreon and keep in mind their staff is available to present educational information to your local support group as well.

As we end October, we wrap up our fundraising for the 8th Annual SEA Blue Walk & Run which of course will help Us TOO and the Wellness Place provide education and support services at no charge or cost to the people dealing with prostate cancer. I want to thank all of you who contributed to the event.

I hope you saw the September/October edition of CARING Magazine which featured an article based on Us TOO materials titled “After Prostate Cancer Treatment, Navigating the Road to Recovery”. I was pleased to see that it featured the 10 Steps to Help You Through Recovery.

As I mentioned last month, as we look forward, the Board and staff are now preparing for Us TOO Annual Board meeting on December 7th and 8th and our fall and end of the year activities. I am so pleased to see that activities during October and November are being planned, for example Us TOO Board member Jim Hammack is planning his Halloween fundraising event in Oklahoma City this weekend on October 26th and others such as the November 30th Mustache Bash in Norfolk, Virginia at Nauticus Museum.

Keep in mind, that there are tax benefits to Seasonal Giving and estate planning as we get to December and year-end. Please make Us TOO the charity, or one of the charities you give to as you consider your donations. You know us, see our services and know who we help.
Together we can and do make a difference.

My best to you all,

T. N. Kirk, President & CEO