



The Gaila Fund for Women with Cancer, Inc.

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www.gailafund.org

The Gaila Fund for Women with Cancer is a non-profit organization that salutes the beauty and spirit of women living with cancer and other illnesses. It provides patients with stylish hats at no cost to address the emotional effects of hair loss. The Fund will also provide educational programs that address the financial issues that often arise with cancer.

The Gaila Fund was created in 2009 by three women in support of their friend and international business professor, Gail Arch, who was diagnosed with Stage IV metastatic breast cancer which forced to leave her career. Gail wanted to give back and help women sharing her journey face each day with dignity and style. She designed a beautiful hat and with her longtime friends created the Gaila Fund for Women with Cancer.

The hat is called a Gaila, named for cancer patient and hat designer, Gail, the beauty of the African headdress, gele, and the optimism of 'gala'. It conveys beauty and elegance, not illness, and is free for cancer patients. To support friends with cancer, others can buy them, which helps fund the free hats.

The economic consequences of illness can also be a major issue that requires rethinking employment, work hours, and compensation. The Gaila Fund will offer free programs to help women and their families think about their new financial reality.

In January 2010, the Gaila Fund launched its website with start-up funds from family and friends. Since then, awareness of the Gaila Fund has been gradually building, as have contributions and hat purchases. Dozens of free Gailas are finding their way to women across the country and family and friends are purchasing additional hats in support of their loved ones.

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