2020 Melodie Wilson Oldenburg Visionary Award

The **Melodie Wilson Oldenburg Visionary Award**, presented by ABCD: After Breast Cancer Diagnosis, recognizes and celebrates individuals who demonstrate passion, leadership and determination while working to provide hope, confidence, and support for people impacted by a breast cancer diagnosis.

The award was created by Melodie’s family, friends, and colleagues at ABCD to continue her legacy and founding vision of building highly personal connections so that no one goes through breast cancer alone. **Nominees do not need to have a direct connection to ABCD but do need to have demonstrated positive impact specifically in breast cancer.**

The honoree will be recognized at ABCD’s Annual Celebration, *Date with a Plate*, on Saturday, May 16, 2020, in Milwaukee.

**Deadline for nominations is February 7, 2020.**

**About Melodie Wilson Oldenburg:** In 1999 anchorwoman, television reporter, and Emmy award-winning journalist Melodie Wilson Oldenburg founded ABCD: After Breast Cancer Diagnosis. She did it in a manner similar to how she first went public in 1992 with her own breast cancer diagnosis – determined, fearless, with a little stubbornness, a pinch of bravado, and lots of compassion and love.

When diagnosed, Melodie initially took an attitude of defiance toward the disease and decided to equip herself with information and treatment plans, medical options, and avenues for support. She quickly discovered the “avenues for support” lacking and if she felt that way, she knew there had to be many other women who felt the same. Vulnerable, honest, and in the public eye, she started talking. And as she talked, the phones started ringing; call after call came in from people Melodie had never met asking simply … what do I do? They, too, had been diagnosed with breast cancer. And they did not know where to turn.

A true believer that you cannot blame your circumstances if you don’t try to change them and armed with a strong commitment to make a difference, Melodie set out to find a way to make support available to everyone. So, she spoke, engaged, and connected with health care professionals, advocates, survivors, patients and caregivers, and soon, a group of resilient, brave, and compassionate women who believed in the “power of one-to-one” came together and organized ABCD.

Now women, men, families and friends taking the breast cancer journey have an avenue of support through professionally trained and supported survivors and co-survivors (“Mentors”) that is FREE, personal and dedicated to nurturing hope and restoring confidence in all those affected by breast cancer.

Melodie was 49 when she launched ABCD: After Breast Cancer Diagnosis and only 59 when she died of breast cancer. Her ten years of dedication, grace, and everlasting spirit have given immeasurable encouragement and support. Every time someone gains a moment of comfort or smiles with their Mentor, there is no doubt that is Melodie’s impact and her legacy.

**Past Recipients**
Kathleen Harris (2019)
Judy Tjoe, MD, FASC (2018)
Melodie Wilson Oldenburg Visionary Award Nomination Criteria

To be considered for this award, nominators must submit a completed application, consisting of a brief nomination form and a letter of nomination. The letter should contain clear references to how the nominee has demonstrated passion, leadership and determination while working to provide hope, confidence, and support to those impacted by breast cancer. Up to two additional letters of support may be submitted along with the nomination.

The nomination should also include how long the nominee has been doing this work and include stories of impact. Nominees’ personal and professional contributions will be considered. A copy of the nominee’s CV or resume may be included but is not necessary. Nominees do not need to have a direct connection to ABCD: After Breast Cancer Diagnosis but do need to have demonstrated positive impact specifically in breast cancer.

The completed application packet must be submitted by February 7, 2020, to the ABCD office (5775 N. Glen Park Road, Suite 201, Glendale, WI 53209 – Attn: Visionary Award Committee). Applications may also be submitted via email to Ellen Friebert Schupper, Executive Director, at ellen@abcdmentor.org. A selection committee comprised of Melodie’s family and friends, ABCD board members and staff, health professionals and breast cancer advocates will confidentially review all nominations to select an awardee by late February. The honoree will be recognized at ABCD’s Annual Celebration, Date with a Plate, on May 16, 2020.

NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Information:
Last Name:_______________________________ First Name:__________________________________________
Home Address:_______________________________________________________________________________
Business Address:_____________________________________________________________________________
Preferred Phone:________________________ Preferred Email:________________________________________
Has the nominee been directly involved with ABCD? Yes No

Nominator Information:
Last Name:_______________________________ First Name:__________________________________________
Home Address:_______________________________________________________________________________
Business Address:_____________________________________________________________________________
Preferred Phone:________________________ Preferred Email:________________________________________
Nominator Signature:________________________________________________ Date_____________________

****In addition to completing this nomination form, the nominator should attach a letter of nomination (not to exceed 2 pages) and CV or resume if desired. Up to two additional letters of support (1 page each) can be submitted along with the nomination and should be submitted at the same time as the nominator letter and form. Questions may be directed to Ellen Friebert Schupper, Executive Director, at ellen@abcdmentor.org.