



Dr. Karni's Dream

Dr. Tami Karni was born and raised in Kfar Saba, Israel. A married mother of three, she successfully managed to simultaneously bring up three very promising young women while juggling an impressive academic and professional career.

In 1993, Tami began working as a surgeon at Assaf Harofeh Medical Centre. Immediately following her arrival, she immersed herself in social action, becoming a member of the Surgeons Union and the Committee for Professional Medical Actions.

Tami's current titles include Senior Surgeon and Director of the CHW M. Fanny Comprehensive Breast Care Institute, Deputy Chairperson to the Ethics Department of the Israeli Medical Association and Chairperson of the Medical Committee for Publicity and Press. She also instructs teachers in the Medical Education Department at Tel Aviv University.

For years, Tami envisioned the establishment of a comprehensive breast care facility; with the women at the centre and staff from various medical backgrounds working

together. She presented this idea to the medical centre, outlining plans for an institute consisting of surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, x-ray technicians, surgical nurses, oncologists, plastic surgeons, psychologists, social workers, dieticians, physiotherapists and gynecologists – all working together to offer a multi-disciplinary haven for cancer patients and their families.

Thanks to a generous donation from CHW, the M. Fanny Comprehensive Breast Care Institute opened in 2000, setting a new standard for patient care across the country. Within 24 to 48 hours after a patient's first visit to the institute, she is provided with a diagnosis and a follow-up plan. In its first year of operation, the institute served 5,300 patients. In 2003, more than 12,000 patients were screened and between 250 and 300 new patients were diagnosed with breast cancer.

Tami is incredibly proud of what has blossomed out of the original plans; a state-of-the-art medical facility offering extensive screening, treatment and research in breast care.

She is eager to share this knowledge with other medical centres and hospitals, in hope that they will adopt similar standards for early detection and proper diagnosis.

Although the institute itself is unique, the work carried out there is very much standard practice. What makes Tami and her team so exceptional is the care and special attention they give to their patients. Tami believes the greatest reward of the institute is the warmth and appreciation they receive from patients. She knows that when patients relay positive feedback, then they are doing their jobs well. Additionally, when the medical team does good work, their patients will in turn enjoy exceptional care.

Through CHW's Annual Campaign, your support continues to provide physicians like Dr. Karni with world-class facilities for innovative research, like the CHW M. Fanny Comprehensive Breast Care Institute, where they save dozens of lives and reduce the psychological and physical agonies suffered by hundreds of women and their families. ○