

THE MAGAZINE OF  
MGM MIRAGE

# THE HEAT IS ON SHAQ

HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT SPARKLE

LA FEMME GETS INTIMATE

SWANKY MARTINI SCENE

OMPLIMENTARY Volume 2 Issue 4



# ( Hope Is On The Way )

## Jim and Heather Murren Pioneer Nevada's First Official Cancer Institute

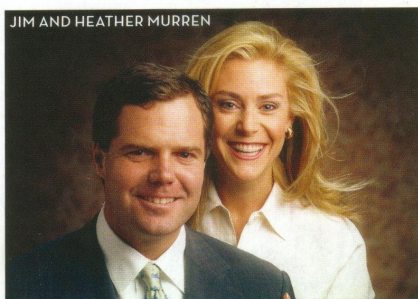


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**H**OPE—THE INSPIRATION to realize our dreams, the motivation to carry us forward in troubled times, and the unshakable force every cancer victim can cling to in their darkest hours. Becoming a mecca of hope is the ultimate goal of the Nevada Cancer Institute (NVCi), a non-profit, academically linked research and clinical institution co-founded by MGM MIRAGE President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Jim Murren and his wife, Heather, former all-star Wall Street analyst. Both know all too well what it is like to grasp onto nothing more than hope when challenged by one of humanity's greatest battles. Before the couple moved to Nevada from the East Coast in 1998, they suffered the indelible loss of family members to cancer: Jim's father died of melanoma; Heather's grandfather died of brain cancer; and her grandmother battled

breast cancer.

Fortunately for Nevadans, complacency is not inherent in either Murren. After discovering the numerous trials our state's cancer victims endure, Jim and Heather made a forever-life-altering decision.



Despite their extremely busy careers and family demands, Jim and Heather optimized their resources and personal experiences to form the Nevada Cancer Institute. Fervent to make

their new endeavor a success, Heather retired from her position as managing director, Global Securities Research and Economics for Merrill Lynch in January of 2002 to become President and Chief Executive Officer of the institute. In April 2002, their dream was born with compassion, vision and uncompromised excellence.

NVCi's mission is clear—to infuse some much-needed hope into Nevada's cancer community while changing the state's disturbing statistics. Nevada ranks 10th in the nation for cancer mortality rates, has the highest cancer mortality rate for women and its cancer victims die more frequently from the disease than victims in other states. Upon its completion in fall 2005, the institute will provide a wellspring of other benefits. Unfortunately, today many of Nevada's cancer victims travel to Los Angeles, Seattle and Houston for



treatment. With the new institute located nearby, patients will find comfort in returning to the familiarity and solace of their own homes, family and friends before, during and after cancer care.

Cancer victims will also have access to a café with outdoor sitting areas, a boutique for prostheses and wigs, a yoga and meditation room, a library and enhancements such as treatment space equipped with movable seating and DMX systems. The 140,000-plus square-foot building, under construction in the Las Vegas community of Summerlin will also house offices for oncologists, counselors and other specialists treatment and diagnostic facilities including chemotherapy and radiation and conference areas—all linked to research projects. To make the institute even more appealing, its design is warm and welcoming so that all who enter will experience the serenity and peace they may be seeking.

NVCI will be a breeding ground for the latest discoveries in cancer treatments, screening methods, technologies and prevention with the goal of becoming a "Comprehensive Cancer Center" by 2010. When asked about the role of research at the institute, Heather responded, "Research is the foundation upon which we build every dimension of the institute: education and support. It's not just about treatment, but everything that we do will involve the pursuit of research and further understanding, not only about the disease, but also to help people cope with the disease."

In order for NVCI to achieve its aim of conducting cutting-edge research, the Murrens have been very careful and

diligent in their efforts to attract top scientists and doctors. Already on board are former Director of the University of Chicago Cancer Research Center Nicholas J. Vogelzang, M.D. as its Director and Member of the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.A. David C. Ward, Ph.D. as its Deputy Director. Jim's brother Dr. John R. Murren, Chief of the Yale Medical Oncology Clinic and Associate Professor of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, has also provided his assistance and has served as the institute's acting Director of Clinical Research.

To date the institute, which broke ground May 27, 2003, is on time for its scheduled completion and under-budget, thanks to many contractors providing in-kind donations or reduced pricing for their items. The Murrens have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of assistance from Nevadans. In the short two-year's time since NVCI's inception, it has raised \$37 million dollars, the Nevada State Legislature designated it as the official comprehensive cancer care effort for the state and it has established collaborative relationships with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the University of Nevada School of Medicine, University of Nevada, Reno.

NVCI's future is dependent upon further support to pay off a construction bond, secure staff and operations, and to care for every patient regardless of his or her ability to pay (one of Heather's passions). Determined for the institute to prevail, the Murrens created *Bond for the Cure*—NVCI's first annual fund-raiser, which was held at MGM Grand in 2002 and themed around the year's mega-hit *Die Another Day*. The following year's gala, *Rock for the Cure*, was held at The Mirage and featured The Eagles, who donated themselves for the entertainment. 2004's *Rock for the Cure* promises something even more spectacular, but plans are top-secret. Whatever the theme, hopes are high that the event will exceed last year's phenomenal \$2.6 million-dollar proceeds.

If Heather could deliver only one message to everyone ever touched by cancer, it would be, "You're not alone. We're all working together to, one day, eradicate this disease completely." Thanks to the Murrens and their conviction to enable every facet of hope into the Nevada Cancer Institute, the future of Nevada's cancer community looks more promising than ever before. Through persistence, hard work and forward thinking, we can all expect to see dramatic accomplishments toward cancer's demise. Hope is on the way, and even better, hope will be here to stay. ■

WHERE THERE IS  
LIFE  
THERE IS  
HOPE

Nevada Cancer  
INSTITUTE

HEATHER MURREN AT  
NVCI GROUND BREAKING

>> For more information  
on the Nevada Cancer Institute, please  
call (702) 821-0000 or visit  
[nevadacancerinstitute.org](http://nevadacancerinstitute.org).