

# Two sisters vs. cancer

*How did Kathy Giusti respond when she was diagnosed with a deadly blood cancer? She joined forces with her twin sister and became a fund-raising powerhouse.*

"WHEN YOU GROW UP WITH AN identical twin and she's your best friend, you have this image of growing old together," says Karen Andrews of her sister, Kathy Giusti. "So when Kathy told me she had multiple myeloma, my heart just dropped—we were only 37." Her fear was justified: At the time of Giusti's diagnosis, little was known about this rare blood cancer, which kills most victims within four years. But 10 years later, Giusti is still going strong. "I knew the disease was a death sentence," she says, "but I decided to live my life like I was going to *live*." Determined to find a cure, Giusti teamed up with her sister to found the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, now the world's largest nonprofit sponsor of myeloma research, with more than \$50 million raised. "Because of Kathy," says former congresswoman and 1984 vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, "myeloma patients—including me—are now benefiting from treatment options, where before there were none." Thanks to those treatments, Giusti herself has been able to put in 60-hour weeks at the foundation. She knows, however, that one day her regimen may stop working for her. In that case, her twin is standing by, ready to offer her blood for a potentially lifesaving stem cell transplant. "The silver lining of this journey," says Giusti, "is that I've learned you *can* make a difference."

**Glamour  
Hero  
of the  
month**

Two of a kind: Kathy Giusti, left, and twin Karen Andrews

—SARAH ROBBINS