

The Cancer Resource Center of the Desert hosted its second annual National Cancer Survivors Day luncheon June 7 at the Desert Trails RV Park, Ryerson Hall.

Drs. Travis H. Calvin, Hussein El-Newihi, Edgar A. Gamboa, James M. Roach, and Kenneth Tittle addressed an audience of 200 cancer survivors and their families. Richard Mendoza, CEO, Pioneers Healthcare District, was master of ceremonies. The doctors educated and informed the audience about cancer prevention, early detection, and new cancer treatments available.

The keynote speakers, John and Marie Anderson, chronicled John Anderson's cancer experience, which began in 1977. He was treated with radical surgery and two years of chemotherapy.

He told the audience that "cancer taught me to value each person, to understand the fragility of life and never to take a day of life for granted."

Marie Anderson reminded the audience that marriage mates and children of cancer patients walk a parallel journey with them. She stressed that each person in the family, be they wife, mother or child, also need the love and support of others.

Jose Cuellar, chairman, Cancer Resource Center of the Desert Board of Directors, expressed the importance of this celebration locally.

"We are honored and humbled to have five distinguished doctors in our community willing to participate in this event," he said. "And, we are most grateful to John and Maire Anderson for sharing their personal and inspiring cancer journey with us. The Cancer Resource Center of the Desert exists to serve our community. And this is one way that we serve."

Jesse Enriquez, who attended the celebration as a cancer survivor, thanked the Cancer Resource Center of the Desert for the numerous services that cancer patients receive there.

For photos of the event and additional information please check out the current issue of the *Desert Lily Advocate*, CRCDC's quarterly newsletter.