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MARIN

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IJ photo/Robert Tong

AWARDED: Cathy Tobin is one of seven to be honored by Marin Breast Cancer Watch for their work in supporting, researching and volunteering for the cause.

Breast cancer group to honor healers

Awards dinner on March 18 in San Rafael

By Carla Bova
IJ reporter

By day, Cathy Tobin is administrative secretary to Twin Cities Police Chief Phil Green. On her off time she volunteers with hospitals and organizations throughout Marin to help support breast cancer survivors.

An eight-year breast cancer survivor, Tobin volunteers at Marin General Hospital's Breast Center and at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Terra Linda. She has been a regular committee member for the Marin Breast Cancer Coun-

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— Marin Breast Cancer Watch Executive Director Janice Barlow

cil's annual "Stepping out to Celebrate Life" fashion show fund-raiser.

She also helps with events by Marin Breast Cancer Watch in San Rafael, which works to find causes and stop the breast cancer epidemic through research, education and public policy.

Tobin is one of seven people who will be honored by

Marin Breast Cancer Watch during its "Honor Thy Healer" awards celebration March 18 at the Embassy Suites in San Rafael. To attend, call 256-9011, ext. 103.

At the event, Tobin will receive the "Healing Partner Award."

"I grew up in Marin and it is important to find out why

the breast cancer rate here is so high," Tobin said. "I support those efforts and am flattered that my small way of giving makes a difference to other people."

This is the fifth year the nonprofit organization has given the awards to recognize breast cancer professionals and activists. A community committee selects the recipients.

"We take nominations from the community of healing professionals, partners or researchers who contribute to our understanding of breast cancer, our treatment of breast cancer," said Marin Breast Cancer Watch Executive Director Janice Barlow.

Another recipient,

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Awards

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Rosamaria Hayden, established a Latina outreach program at the Breast Health Center of Marin General Hospital. She helps Spanish-speaking patients navigate the health care system and has championed the rights of Spanish-speaking women's access to breast health information, early detection and breast cancer services through "patient navigation" programs since 1999.

Colleen Kleier, 17, founded the Redwood High School Breast Cancer Awareness Club which raises awareness and support for breast cancer research and prevention. Hayden and Kleier will receive the "Shining Star Award."

Mary Beth Faustino is a rehabilitation counselor who meets

with newly diagnosed breast cancer patients to provide information, counseling and support throughout their treatment. She is breast care coordinator at Kaiser Permanente where she runs two support groups.

Dr. Laura Esserman is part of the Carol Franc Buck Breast Care Center at the University of California at San Francisco.

Faustino and Esserman will get the "Healing Professional Award."

The "Community Researcher" award will go to Peggy Reynolds, a research scientist with the California Department of Health Services in Oakland, and the "Francine Levien Activist Award" will go to Dr. Amy Shaw, with the Sutter Medical Group of Santa Rosa.

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