



Getting to the Doctor On Time . . . New Transportation Program for Cancer Patients In Need



**Cancer Patient Transportation
Help-At-Home
Neighborhood Fund**

“Red Tape.” Cancer patients get overwhelmed by it. Why? Because there’s always some new element of their cancer care, and it’s often unaffordable unless the insurance company will pay. But insurers just don’t share the patient’s sense of urgency. Here are examples of patient questions we often have at Fighting Chance:

- *“I’m too sick to drive myself to chemo -- will insurance pay for a car service because it’s not affordable for me right now?”*
- *“The hospital is sending me home today, but I’m afraid of sleeping alone and tripping on the way to the toilet -- will insurance pay for a home health aid until my sister can move in tomorrow?”*

In cases like this it is not helpful to tell the patient: “Fill out this form and we’ll get back to you in two weeks.” What’s needed is a rapid response with minimal paperwork. That’s what Fighting Chance can now provide (free of charge) thanks to our new Urgent Care Initiative. The program most in demand has been a car service provided through the generosity of Twin Forks Limo and Richard Perlman, one of our Directors. And the company’s drivers have formed a special bond with the patients they are getting to critically important doctor appointments for chemo and radiation. Turn to p.4 to learn more about this program

From the Chairman



Duncan Darrow
Chairman of the Board
Fighting Chance

In this issue of our newsletter -- the first for 2008 -- readers should be especially interested in our cancer patient transportation program that is part of a larger “Urgent Care Initiative.” We also want to highlight upcoming events . . . like our ‘08 Summer Gala on Saturday, July 12th. It is at the Maidstone Cub’s “Tennis House”.

In addition, readers can learn more about our upcoming “Workshops” that each focus on a different topic of interest to patients and survivors and are led by expert speakers. The first group of workshops this year are scheduled for March 1st, April 6th and May 5th. They are free of course. To sign up just call our Sag Harbor office.

Fighting Chance's Christmas Party December 22, 2007



photos: C.B. Grubb



Summer Gala '08 . . . to benefit Saturday, July 12th Drinks 6 pm; Dinner 7 pm

For ticket prices or to reserve your seats now, call
the Fighting Chance office at 631.725.4646.



This year our Summer Gala has a new venue thanks to the generosity and support of the Maidstone Club -- which is letting us hold our event at their Tennis House.

The Tennis House is on a charming lane just off East Hampton's Village Green -- and about a mile from Maidstone's main clubhouse.

There will be a sunset cocktail hour overlooking the grass courts followed by a catered dinner to 175 guests . . . plus a few surprises!



The Maidstone Club, Tennis House, East Hampton, NY

Built at the turn of the century, with eight grass courts, the Tennis House -- part of the Maidstone Club's extensive facilities - is an architectural gem and true Hamptons Classic

Days of Hope and Healing

Workshops Spring '08

UNDERSTANDING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS:

A workshop for cancer survivors, caregivers and family members

Join us for a discussion on such concerns as:

Social Security disability, health insurance coverage, Americans with Disabilities Act, Family and Medical Leave Act, power of attorney, health care proxies, and living wills.

Speaker: Denise Snow, Esq. Nassau/Suffolk Law Service Committee, Inc.

Saturday March 1, 2008; 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Riverhead Free Library, 330 Court Street, Riverhead NY 11901

For reservations, please call: 631-725-4646 or 631-208-8889

COPING WITH THE SIDE EFFECTS & LATE EFFECTS OF CANCER TREATMENTS.

A workshop for cancer survivors, caregivers and family members

Understand/learn to manage fatigue, hot flashes, chemo brain, hormonal shifts and pain to improve quality of life.

Speaker: Steve Passik, PhD. Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Saturday, April 5, 2008; 10:30am – 12:00pm

Southampton Hospital's Parish Memorial Hall

For reservations, please call

631-725-4646

HOPE AND HARMONY

A Workshop for Patients and Caregivers Living with Cancer as a Chronic Illness

Facing ongoing medical tests and treatments may tax your energy and spirit.

This workshop will offer encouragement, nurturing, and strategies to help you cope.

Speakers: Join Bill Discipio, PhD., Jessica Berlin, LMSW.

Saturday, May 5, 2008; 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Fighting Chance Office, 112 Hampton Street, Sag Harbor, NY 11963

For reservations, please call: 631-725-4646

New Board Member for Fighting Chance . . . who was Executive Director of The Society of Memorial Sloan-Kettering

We are delighted to welcome Barbara McLaughlin as our newest board member. Barbara now serves as a consultant to The Society as well as a volunteer at her children's schools. She and her husband, Kevin, split their time between places in New York City and Sag Harbor.



Barbara McLaughlin

Triumph Over Transportation Issues



Karrie Zampini Robinson, LCSW
Director of Clinical Programs,
Fighting Chance

Coping with cancer often means arranging and traveling to numerous doctor appointments, medical tests, treatment and follow-up. In the rural East End getting to and from these vital appointments may become a complicated issue. This dilemma, particularly affects those who live alone, elderly or frail persons, those with limited finances, or those who do not have family or friends available to drive them when they are not well.

At Fighting Chance our patients encounter these problems repeatedly as they try to get to medical appointments in many areas of Suffolk County. Nurses, social workers, medical technicians and other advocates in the East End Oncology Network (a problem solving body) reiterated that transportation issues continue to be an enduring and widespread problem in Suffolk County. While there are several state and local transportation programs, the schedules are limited and often do not accommodate cancer patients in the throes of ongoing treatment. Additionally, while other cancer agencies offer small grants, these are often limited to one-time appropriations within the period of a year, and they are often not available in an emergency.

In an attempt to address these concerns, the Fighting Chance staff approached our Board of Directors. Richard Perlman, a true problem-solver felt the need to tackle this problem head-on. Through a generous grant, Mr. Perlman made arrangements with the owner of Twin Forks Limousine, Mr. Rizzo Assoud, to accommodate cancer patients in need of transportation services . . . without "red tape."

Mr. Perlman's proactive stance has enabled Fighting Chance to individualize services for each patient. In working closely with staff from local oncology offices and hospitals, we can bypass extensive paperwork and provide transportation in a timely manner. To date we have provided over 80 roundtrips for adults and children with cancer.

We are deeply grateful to Richard Perlman and Twin Fork Limousine for their generosity and care. Their compassion and effort allows us to extend this much-needed program to the cancer community in Suffolk County. For further information on our transportation program, please call 631.725.4646.

Karrie Zampini Robinson, LCSW

Fighting Chance is a 501©(3) organization, and all contributions are fully tax-deductible. Checks can be made payable to Fighting Chance and sent to us at P.O. Box 1358, Sag Harbor, New York, 11963. Donations can also be made via credit card either on our website (www.fightingchance.org) or by calling our office at (631) 725-4646.