

BOOK OF HOPE

what hope means to me . . .

. . . the voices of cancer patients
on the East End

compiled by
Fighting Chance

Counseling and Resource Center for Cancer Patients
Serving the East End . . . Free-of-Charge since 2002

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www.fightingchance.org

Hope is everything.

*- lung cancer patient,
undergoing treatment*

Hope that there is a reason to
put your socks on in the A.M.

- esophageal cancer patient

Hope means not being alone. I have had many family members who had cancer...during the days when the word “cancer” was taboo. Little or no support was there for the patient or family members did not speak of it. The loneliness of the cancer patient is unbearable.

- caregiver to a father who died of pancreatic cancer

What hope means to me is that I can survive this cancer as my mother did.

*- ovarian cancer patient,
undergoing treatment*

Hope is time

Time to be my daughter's mother and friend.

Time to see my grand-daughter grow.

Time to enjoy my friends and relatives.

Time to see lung cancer eradicated.

Time to live.

- lung cancer survivor

Hope = Faith = Support

I have also learned to live,

laugh and love

Live – longer

Laugh – a lot

Love – life

Hope means never, ever feeling that you are alone or that you are not important; your life has meaning and great importance to many people on this earth. There is nothing that can take hope away. Through my patients and family, it is an honor to serve those affected.

- *an oncologist*

Hope is about helping others,
with the benefit being that you
are helping yourself as well.

*- caregiver to a daughter
with cancer*

Hope is living my life to its fullest while providing Hope is living my life with my family with all the love I have.

I would really like to pass on when he or she above decided it was time, but not because of an invasive bug or virus or whatever has invaded my body. Cancer has completely changed my active life for now, but I am hopeful to return to where I was.

*- cancer patient
undergoing treatment*

Hope means life and time
and a chance.

If a disease is always fatal there is no hope. I don't feel that way about cancer. We truly do have a fighting chance. What keeps hope alive is wanting to continue the things I enjoy: family, friends, music, nature and doing my art work. Keeping busy helps you forget you have a serious illness. It's really therapeutic.

- a cancer survivor

Hope means being able to see
the sunshine another day!

Hope is knowing that something will happen next, we don't know what, or why, but it will happen. It is important to stick around to see that something will be -----

Believe in myself, that I can get through my treatment and beyond. Hope that I will continue to remain healthy and that one day there will be a cure for breast cancer.

Hope means not giving into feelings of despair. It means knowing that someone or something is there to catch you when you fall.

*- ovarian cancer survivor
caregiver to a daughter with cancer
who is undergoing treatment*

Hope means that each day I will continue to be at my optimum and hope that God is taking care of me and that my “*good cells*” have overtaken and killed those “*bad cells*”.

Hope is something
you **MUST** have.

To me, hope is the love, support and prayers I receive each day from my family and friends. And hope is the gentle touch and look in the eyes of my medical team that really cares for me. And hope is knowing god has a plan for me.

- breast cancer survivor

Hope means the ability to continue to function and maintain my individuality. I find it difficult to confide in anyone except my family and very old friends.

*- cancer survivor and caregiver
to a daughter with cancer*

Hope is a bright light at
the end of a dark tunnel.

*caregiver to a mother
with cancer*

Hope means finding the best avenue to take on a road to recovery. I have found great doctors, with compassion and concern; I feel I am on the way to overcoming the difficulties of breast cancer.

*- breast cancer patient
undergoing treatment*

Hope enables me to go on.

Hope is about the future.

Not what will be.

Not what should be.

Just what could be.

*- caregiver to a mother
and wife with cancer*

Hope for me is being
able to live today without
fear of tomorrow.

Hope means to me to be able to look ahead and know that I can try and complete my goals. Also, I can see my children grow up.

- *cancer survivor*

Hope means to me to be able to look ahead and know that I can see my children grow up.

- prostate cancer survivor

Hope is being able to enjoy tomorrow after a good day today. Cancer has made me more tolerant. I am more careful of my time than before my cancer was diagnosed.

- *cancer survivor*

Hope is being able to get through each day without the return of cancer. Hope that my son or husband and family do not have to experience this.

- breast cancer survivor

Hope means a bright
future and a return to a
“normal” life.

*- caregiver to
family member*

Hope means more effective
treatment for cancer as well
as support for quality of life.

- oncology nurse

Hope

H means help & support

O means one day at a time

P means prayer

E means ever thankful for each blessing

*- metastatic breast cancer patient,
undergoing treatment*

Hope is knowing there is a path to
make the best of this situation.

*- caregiver to a wife
with multiple myeloma,
undergoing treatment*

Hope means life

Hope means time

Hope means a chance

Hope for a more peaceful, brighter outlook.

I am so grateful to the
doctors for giving me back
my life and the “HOPE” for
a long and healthy stay on
this beautiful earth.

- cancer survivor

Hope – it was always there when I was seriously confronted with the possibility of my cancer having spread. I “flowed” not insisting that I would fight, just trying to live as before.

- cancer survivor

Hope is having faith that everything happens for a reason; that God has a plan for each of us. When bad things happen to us, it is hard to believe this, but if we can, we find hope that all will work out.

Hope is never giving up.
Every day is a gift from god.
What we do with it is our gift
to god.

Hope means there is someone caring, to help both the patient and the caregiver; and treatment and survival rates are getting better.

Hope is trusting in the quality of
one's medical care.

Trust in luck as well.

Hope is painless longevity with the ability to function both mentally and physically in this life.

Hope is to be able to function without chronic pain, to find alternative methods for treatment other than chemo and radiation. Quality of life is a major issue.

-- cancer survivor

Hope means research, clinical trials, doctors, support groups, communication and money.

*- brain cancer patient,
undergoing therapy*

Hope means that people care about each other and that they are no longer motivated by envy or greed.

Hope means we can be helped,
nurtured, guided, supported and
genuinely cared for.

Hope means that there will be significant advances in cancer prevention and treatment.

- *breast cancer survivor*

I am hoping that with all the help that is being provided, I will be able to face the future with grace.

What hope means to me is
never giving up or quitting.

I hope that in the near future we will have a vaccine for many types of cancers. A vaccine would eliminate all the pain and suffering of cancer.

- a cancer survivor

Hope is a wonderful feeling one gets with the caring and support of people helping people with cancer.....the information, love and caring of this day sponsored by Fighting Chance was overwhelming.

Hope is found in the love and support of friends, family and clergy that walk with you through your journey.

Hope means finding that there are new friends and more people to support you than you realized.

Hope means to me, the survival of two very dear friends who have cancer. I am grateful to have them with me and I will continue to “hope” for them and their families.

- caregiver to friends with cancer

Hope means....life, love,
family and future.

Hope means there is someone to care for and help both the patient and the caregiver; and hope means that cancer survival rates are getting better.

*- caregiver to father
with colon cancer*

Hope means: comfort, loss of fear,
life, back to good health.

- caregiver to cancer patient

Hope is finding people who are going through similar problems, that hold your hand, let you cry, give you support and then teach you how to help yourself and most importantly, then empower you to help others. Give back, get past the disease and get over yourself. Fighting Chance has allowed me to be all of the above and trust me, I would not be alive today if it wasn't for them as well as the Breast Health Coalition. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Hope means the chance to
share the burden of cancer.

Hope is the grace from god to help us address the challenges of life.