

2008 Cancer Resource Network Fact Sheet

General Facts:

- The American Cancer Society Cancer Resource Network seeks to improve the lives of those touched by cancer by:
 - Helping them navigate the various systems encountered during the cancer experience
 - Providing valuable information and links to needed programs and resources
 - Meeting the needs of medically underserved, newly diagnosed patients
- The Cancer Resource Network provides patients with free comprehensive cancer information, day-to-day help, and emotional support throughout every step of the cancer journey.

The American Cancer Society offers the following programs and services within its Cancer Resource Network (offerings vary by location):

Information: Helping patients understand their disease

- The Society offers the nation's *only* 24-hour cancer information phone line (1-800-227-2345), where people fighting cancer can turn anytime, day or night, to talk to a trained Cancer Information Specialist and get referrals to community resources.
- The Society's Web site (cancer.org) offers a vast amount of information on topics such as managing the cancer experience, finding support programs and services, meeting other cancer survivors, and learning more about a particular cancer type.
- The American Cancer Society provides a free clinical trials matching and referral service to patients looking for cancer clinical trials. Not only does this service help patients find clinical trials most appropriate for their medical needs and personal preferences, it also helps researchers efficiently recruit eligible participants needed to develop more effective treatments for future patients.
- The Society also offers free cancer information and resources, such as brochures, pamphlets, information kits, books, etc., for anyone looking for information and answers.

Day-to-day help: Helping ease the physical, financial, and emotional toll of cancer

- Guidance through every step of the cancer journey – The American Cancer Society Patient Navigator Program places trained patient navigators in hospitals and treatment centers to connect patients who are facing cancer with the help they need. These navigators assist patients in coping with the physical, emotional, and financial challenges of their cancer journey, and serve as guides to help them try to overcome obstacles that may prevent them from receiving high-quality cancer care.
- Lodging assistance (Hope Lodge[®]) – The American Cancer Society offers Hope Lodge facilities across the country, which provide free, temporary lodging for cancer patients and their families who must travel outside their community for treatment. They are welcomed into a comfortable and caring environment where patients who

are going through a similar experience can support one another. At Hope Lodge, guests build lasting connections and lifetime friendships.

- The Society may also be able to arrange free or discounted rooms for limited stays at local hotels. In some locations, financial assistance is available from the Society to offset the costs of lodging.
- Transportation assistance – The American Cancer Society addresses what many social workers consider the number one nonmedical problem in fighting cancer – transportation to and from treatment. The Society has established community resources and recruited volunteers around the country to drive patients to and from their appointments and treatments. Transportation is provided according to the needs and available resources in the patient’s community.
- A program to help restore self-esteem during treatment (Look Good...Feel Better[®]) – The Look Good...Feel Better program is a community-based, free, national service that teaches people in active cancer treatment techniques to deal with the appearance-related side effects of treatment. Look Good...Feel Better is a collaboration of the American Cancer Society, the Personal Care Products Council Foundation (formerly the CTFA), and the National Cosmetology Association.
- tlc[™] (Tender Loving Care) Magalog – This magazine and catalog in one provides medical information and special products for women with cancer.
- The Society can also help people find answers to financial and insurance questions, as well as with referrals to prescription drug assistance.

Emotional support: Connecting patients with others who have “been there”

In addition to helping people find local support groups, the Society offers the following programs to provide emotional support:

- An online support community (Cancer Survivors NetworkSM) – The Society’s [Cancer Survivors Network](#) was created by and for cancer survivors and their families. This online community connects patients, survivors, and their caregivers with others who have been touched by cancer, and enables individuals to share their experiences and support one another in a safe and supportive online environment.
- One-on-one support for breast cancer patients (Reach to Recovery[®]) – Trained breast cancer survivors provide one-on-one support, information, and inspiration to breast cancer patients to help them cope with the disease. Volunteer survivors are trained to respond in person or by telephone to individuals facing breast cancer diagnosis, treatment, recurrence, or recovery.
- A support program for men with prostate cancer (Man to Man[®]) – This program helps men cope with prostate cancer by providing community-based education and support to patients and their family members. Man to Man plays an important role in community education about prostate cancer; it encourages men and health care professionals to actively consider screening for prostate cancer appropriate to each man’s age and risk for the disease.
- Cancer education classes (I Can Cope[®]) – I Can Cope classes are led by doctors, nurses, and other experts to help people with cancer and those who love them understand what they’re facing. Classes are offered online and at select locations.