Can You Help?

The holidays are rapidly approaching. For friends and neighbors fighting cancer this time of year is especially difficult. Trying to make ends meet becomes impossible with unexpected medical bills. Struggling with cancer is hard enough; added pressures of the holiday season make it unbearable. For the majority of Cancer Patient Care's clients, cancer has plunged them into a poverty situation. When everyone else is buying gifts, they are choosing between purchasing heat and prescriptions. Because of their illness, they miss out on special holiday treats and holiday parties with friends and family. Please remember Cancer Patient Care when making your holiday list. Your financial contribution will help ease some stress for those whose holidays are not so bright. What can you give?

Services Provided Through Your Generosity

- Emotional support
- Health care equipment from a loan closet
- Food supplements
- Prescription assistance
- Disposable medical supplies
- Transportation to cancer related appointments
- Emergency assistance for heat, lights, water. & groceries
- Breast cancer screening
- Prostheses
- Wigs, Scarves, & Hats
- Educational materials

$25.00 donation will buy a prescription for a cancer patient to maintain continuity of treatment. $50.00 donation pays for a breast cancer screening and one case of nutritional food supplements. $100.00 donation pays for a cancer patient's emergency assistance with utility bills.

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Caring & Sharing

Cancer Patient Care

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Linda and her Mother

From Those We Serve

Linda's Story

This past April we had just purchased our dream house, what luck to be in the right place at the right time! Then my doctor told me because of my mammogram results that I needed to have a lumpectomy. Three days later we found out six of my lymph nodes were cancerous and I needed a mastectomy right away.

My mother had a mastectomy five years ago and is now in remission, so I knew I could get through this. Fortunately we have the same doctor who recommended that I call Cancer Patient Care for help when I needed it.

Because I am sick, I had to take a leave of absence from my work. Even though I only work part time, that extra income is sorely missed. My husband works overtime when he can, but it's still stressful to watch the bills pile up. We are so grateful for the assistance we found at Cancer Patient Care. My social worker, Stephanie, offered us emergency assistance through Cancer Patient Care with our electric bill and with prescriptions. Even with insurance, my co-payments cost around $100 every month and we still owe thousands for the hospital and surgeons. With help from Cancer Patient Care, my family feels some release from the financial burdens of all the added medical expenses.

When my hair fell out, Stephanie helped me choose some wigs, hats and scarves. One day after going to a movie with my sister and her grandkids, I remembered I hadn't shown her my beautiful bald head! I took off the wig at one stoplight and she said, "Oh how cute!" At the second stop light she and the kids decided that I looked like an alien. We all had a good laugh for weeks after that.

"Linda's Story" cont'd on p.4"

Making A Difference

As the days become shorter and we enjoy the beautiful foliage of fall, Cancer Patient Care's clients dread the cooler weather and rising heat and electricity bills. Basic necessities that we easily take for granted such as heat, lights and running water become high priced luxuries when unexpected medical bills strain household budgets to the breaking point. Every day Cancer Patient Care assists our clients, their families and caregivers with a variety of services to ease the stress of living with cancer.

The escalating cost of prescription drugs is frequently in the news as insurance companies reduce benefits, requiring more financial outlay from plan members. When fighting cancer, prescription costs can easily exceed $1,000 every month. With or without insurance, paying for these medications often means doing without basic essentials for normal family life. Choices are difficult when deciding between expensive prescription drugs and groceries for the family.

At Cancer Patient Care, clients receive limited emergency assistance in the form of vouchers to purchase groceries from their favorite supermarket. Utility providers forward clients' bills to Cancer Patient Care for payment. Our social workers make arrangements with pharmacies to purchase clients' vital medications while long-term sources are found. This year we have already provided for 106 requests for emergency assistance with utilities and groceries, an 8% increase over last year. One hundred and forty-three requests for assistance with prescriptions were filled. As we face uncertain economic conditions, the demand for these services is greater.

"Making a Difference" cont'd on p.5

Cancer Patient Care

Mission Statement:
To provide social service support for cancer patients and their families who have limited finacial resources.

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A Message From the President



Will Terpening, Board President

Recently I had my first opportunity to participate in the monthly Cancer Patient Care Telecast (if you haven't yet tuned in, the show airs every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. on cable channel 14). The theme of this particular show was volunteerism. In reflecting on this theme before the taping of the show, I was reminded how much volunteers mean to nonprofit organizations such as Cancer Patient Care. Without the help of our loyal and dedicated volunteers, there are many things that simply would not get done. Most of our major fund raising activities, such as the Loreen Miller Bike Ride and Bikers and Blues to name two, depend critically on the efforts of our volunteers. In other areas, volunteers free up critical staff time to do other things. Without these efforts we would have to hire more staff and every dollar we have to use for other resources is a dollar that we can't use for our clients. Although we may not say it often enough, we really appreciate our volunteers. Without you we could not do what we do. If you haven't yet volunteered at Cancer Patient Care, give us a call. We would be glad to have you join us.

For a complete list of donors visit our website at www.cancerpatientcare.org. A special thanks again to all of those who continue to support Cancer Patient Care!

What difference does "Local" make?



Heidi Vaughn, Executive Director

Cancer Patient Care is your local cancer services agency with no national affiliation. What difference does that make?

Local means 100% of your support stays in the Inland Northwest. Local means 100% of the people we help live, work and play in the Inland Northwest. Local means 100% of Cancer Patient Care clients are your friends and neighbors who need a helping hand. Local means we know what the needs are because we live here too. Local means community leaders who have the area's well being in mind make the decisions regarding Cancer Patient Care's services. Local means effective, efficient and loving attention to every precious soul who enters our building.

Best of all, local means being able to pay for the real bills for real people who are battling cancer right here, right now. Local equals hope.

Thank you for giving hope to the people we serve at Cancer Patient Care. Without your financial support we would not be able to provide our essential services to cancer patients and their families who have limited financial resources.

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Wish List:
Belted Adult Incontinence Briefs, Wheelchairs, hats, scarves, and turbans, File folders (manila - 8.5x11), Garage door opener, Glue sticks and 8.5 x 11 copy paper (white or colored), stamps.

Slide & Ride for Cancer Patient Care

Even though the days are sunny and bright, snow is right around the corner; just ask any skier! Ski fever has hit the Spokane area and thanks to Kar-Brite Hand Wash and Mt. Spokane, you can ski to benefit Cancer Patient Care. Call or drop in to Cancer Patient Care and purchase your Slide & Ride lift ticket voucher for $23, a discount of $8 when used on weekends or holidays! What a great deal! Cancer Patient Care will keep $3 from each voucher sold. Plus each ticket has a coupon for discount car wash at Kar-Brite! You can enjoy a great time skiing or snowboarding, get your car washed and help make a difference for people fighting cancer here in our area. This opportunity is available for the whole skiing season and you can buy as many Slide & Ride vouchers as you want. With Christmas coming up, this is a great gift idea, too. Think snow, think skiing, think Cancer Patient Care.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

During the month of October, pink ribbons are visible everywhere reminding us of breast cancer awareness month. Current statistics indicate that one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States. While treatments become more sophisticated, the most important factor increasing a woman's chance for survival is early detection.

Breast cancer awareness has impressed upon women the importance of breast self-exams and mammograms. But not everyone qualifies for insurance covered screening. Cancer Patient Care has provided fifty-eight breast cancer screenings this year for women who otherwise would not be able to afford this significant test. Regardless of age, insurance requirements and ability to pay, women have a source for mammograms, ultrasounds and cone magnifications through Cancer Patient Care. Because of our partnership with Inland Imaging, clients can receive the needed screenings for early detection of breast cancer.

Given this information, women have crucial knowledge needed to proceed with their lives. Whether it is a baseline to track future abnormalities, or a positive biopsy result, clients know to make important decisions. Knowledge is power, and in this case it is the power to be well.

"Making a Difference" cont'd from page 1

With the holidays approaching, one wonders how many more families will need extra help.

Because Cancer Patient Care is a local, independent non-profit agency, the support of the community is essential to guarantee ongoing services and program for our friends and neighbors fighting the battle for their lives. Without your individual financial contributions, these vital services would not be available. A generous donation of $100 pays for a prescription to maintain a cancer patient's treatment against the disease. Your gift of $50 will buy a grocery voucher to sustain a family. A gift of $5, $10 or $25 will help to keep the heat on during the cold months ahead.

Each statistic cited in this article represents someone in our community with nowhere else to turn for help. With your financial gifts to Cancer Patient Care, you make a genuine difference in the lives of real people with real bills.

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to the following groups and businesses for their fundraising on behalf of Cancer Patient Care:

Wandermere 18 Hole Women's Golf Club
The Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane
Itron Disc Golf Tournament
The Great Scott Pub & Grill
The Onion
Dance City
Gonzaga Prep Volleyball Team

"Last year I informally polled several of the cancer survivors who participated in our event and the overwhelming consensus was that your organization has consistently been the most compassionate, responsive and supportive group the survivors have encountered within the community in such an emotionally tumultuous time, Cancer Patient Care in Spokane has truly filled a need." -Gretchen Emrich, Wandermere 18 hole Women's Golf Club

Bikers & Blues

Clear blue skies and hot sunshine greeted us on September 14th for the 1st Annual Bikers & Blues Run for Cancer Patient Care. Besides enjoying the great weather, the motorcycle ride was to benefit Cancer Patient Care's mission. As an added benefit, 100% of the money raised will be spent on real bills for real people right here in the Inland Northwest. All of this while having a great time!



The "stable" of bikes at Kootenai Fairgrounds

Ninety-five riders showed up at Easyriders Roadhouse in Post Falls and Westside Motor Sports in Spokane for rides that converged at Kootenai County Fairgrounds for an excellent catered lunch of ribs and chicken with all the trimmings from Rustlers Roost. Papa Glenn and the Border Run Blues Band cranked out great blues tunes while everyone enjoyed the lunch and good company for a very worthy cause.

Sponsors of the event included Westside Motor Sports, Spokane Teachers Credit Union, Bolo's Bar & Grill, Spokane Postal Credit Union, Holy Family Hospital and The Pacific Northwest Inlander. Raffle prizes were donated by volunteers and the Grand Prize was a room package from the Coeur d'Alene Casino.

This first annual event was made possible by a group of riders including representatives from the Roving Gamblers Motorcycle Club, CMA and STAR Touring Group. Volunteers pitched in and helped with everything from registration to publicity, raffle prizes and a 50-50 drawing, serving lunch and cleaning up. Club members also planned the rides, drew maps and assisted wherever they could.

During the event everyone was already talking about plans for next year, to make it bigger and better. With the first year being such a success, no doubt Bikers & Blues is here to stay! Mark your calendars for September 13th, 2003!

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Welcome Jenni Bowman!



Jenni Bowman

Cancer Patient Care is proud to introduce Jenni Bowman to our staff as our newest social worker. Jenni graduated in June from Eastern Washington University with her Bachelor of Arts degree in social work. Her prior experience was at Support for Parents Overcoming Challenges (SPOC) as client resource coordinator. Jenni started at Cancer Patient Care in July and brings with her enthusiasm, compassion and commitment to the mission of Cancer Patient Care.

Her favorite part of working with our clients is identifying their needs and being able to fill those needs with Cancer Patient Care's services or by referring them to other resources. "It is very rewarding to advocate for our clients when they aren't receiving all the benefits that may be available to them. The clients are so appreciative of what we do, it makes me realize how worthwhile my job really is." Now with three full time social workers on staff, Cancer Patient Care is able to serve more people in the community who need help during this most difficult time of their lives.

Honor Banners in Local Businesses

During the month of November look for Honor Banners at O'Doherty's, Chic-A-Ria, the Mustard Seed and the Great Scott Pub & Grill. All of us have been touched by cancer in our lives, whether a loved one, a family member or maybe even ourselves. The gold Tribute Patches symbolize the personal impact of cancer in our lives. Collectively, as a banner, these patches reflect individual stories and serve as a reminder of human strength and unity. The Honor Banner also represents the Spokane community by putting a face on the disease of cancer.

You will have the opportunity to honor someone you know who has struggled with cancer by purchasing a golden Tribute Patch with a donation of $5.00 and writing in their name. Stick the Tribute Patch on the Honor Banner and create a testimony of your loved one's courage. The Honor Banner provides an excellent opportunity to educate our community about the services available for cancer patients and their families, and to become personally involved in promoting Cancer Patient Care's mission.

The Honor Banner promotion is designed not only to touch the lives of those needing our services but also to touch the hearts of everyone who purchases a Tribute Patch. The Honor Banners also raise awareness of Cancer Patient Care in our community.

"Buy a Tribute Patch to celebrate your loved one's courage through cancer. Honor the memory, pay tribute to the battle, celebrate the survival."

Look for Honor Banners in the months to come at Global Credit Union, Cancer Care Northwest and Inland Power & Light.

Dinner Among Friends

Saturday, November 16th, 2002 - 6pm will be the date to join us for "Dinner Among Friends." Enjoy the Cabaret performed by Spokane Theatrical Group, directed by Troy Nickerson. Molly Allen, of Star 96.9 FM, will host this wonderful event. The menu is heavy hors d'oeuvres and a light dessert, prepared by Charley's Catering, with a full, no-host bar. There will be door prizes and the opportunity to bid on the silent auctions items for that perfect gift for you, or that impossible-to-buy-for friend or family member. Ticket prices are $30 single and $50 couple, and proceeds will benefit Cancer Patient Care. The location for "Dinner Among Friends" is Center Pointe, 1408 N. Washington and tickets may be purchased online at www.cancerpatientcare.org or call (509)456-0446 for ticket information. Join us for a fun evening, for a great cause!

"Linda's Story" cont'd from page 1

My mother was with me when Stephanie and I were looking at breast prostheses. With her help, both my mother and I got prostheses that fit. It was the first time since her surgery, that my mother had a real breast prosthesis. Even though it feels like you're half a person after having a breast removed, having a breast prosthesis feels more normal.

I have nine more weeks of chemotherapy, then radiation treatments every day for six more weeks. Chemo makes my mouth break out in sores and I can't eat regular food even though I want to. It hurts even to open my mouth. I have to be careful, and I feel best if I stick to Boost or Ensure and water for the first week after treatment. Stephanie told me that it tastes better if I make milkshakes with the food supplements and bananas.

Thank you, God, for the good fortune of finding Cancer Patient Care. They are so helpful in caring for all our needs and it is so good to know we can call on them.