

American Cancer Society

**Helping Someone Who Has Cancer –
You Can Make a Difference**



Who the American Cancer Society Is

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service.



Society Goals

By the year 2015, the American Cancer Society is challenging America to:

- Double the number of lives saved from cancer,
- Diminish the number of people who hear the words, “you have cancer,” and
- Measurably improve the quality of life for cancer patients.



How the Society Meets Goals

- Research,
- Education,
- Advocacy, and
- Service.



The American Cancer Society depends on YOU – volunteers and donors – to make a difference on cancer in your communities by:

- Helping keep children healthy,
- Protecting adults from cancer,
- Helping those with cancer, and
- Funding research.



Volunteers and donors are making a difference today through:

- The cancer research they support.
- The educational materials they make available to adults and youth to prevent cancer or detect it early.
- The legislation they help pass to reduce cancer's impact.
- The services and information they make available to cancer patients.



Research

- Society donors provide approximately \$130 million annually for cancer research. This represents the largest source of private, not-for-profit cancer research funds in the United States.
- Since the Society's research program began in 1946, a total of 38 Nobel Prize winners have been funded.



Who benefits from the Society's research?

- Every woman in your community who has had a mammogram or Pap smear,
- Every man who has had a PSA test for prostate cancer,
- Every patient helped by chemotherapy,
- Every child treated for leukemia,
- And more.



Education

The Society accesses many routes to provide education to the public, some of which are:

- Health For Success Web site, www.healthforsuccess.org;
- Free educational materials for youth;
- Free educational materials to help prevent cancer and detect it early; and
- Online resources and a toll-free hotline, www.cancer.org and 1-800-ACS-2345.



Advocacy

The Society works diligently to protect the rights of cancer patients and American citizens through health-care legislation such as:

- Tobacco excise taxes;
- Promotion of insurance coverage for cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment; and
- Clean indoor air ordinances.



Services

The Society provides many services to help patients through their treatment. Some of these services are:

- *Wigs* for women experiencing hair loss.
- *Nutritional supplements* (restrictions apply).
- *Mileage reimbursement* to offset the expense of travel to and from treatment (restrictions apply).
- *Road to Recovery* volunteer drivers transport patients to and from their treatment facilities.



Services (cont'd.)

- *I Can Cope* educational and support classes teach patients and family members how to cope with a cancer diagnosis.
- *Look Good...Feel Better* classes help female patients deal with the cosmetic side effects that can occur during cancer treatment.
- *Look Good...Feel Better* Web site for teens, www.2bMe.org.
- *Look Good...Feel Better – Self Help* includes a video and booklet.



Services (cont'd.)

- *Reach to Recovery* matches newly diagnosed breast cancer patients with breast cancer survivors for support and rehabilitation.
- *Man to Man* provides education and support for men with prostate cancer.
- *Scholarships* for youth who have had cancer (eligibility requirements apply).
- *Camps* for children with cancer.



You Can Make a Difference in Your Community

You can make a difference by:

- Sharing information about Society programs and services with your family and friends.
- Providing newly diagnosed family and friends with the Society's toll-free number and Web site.
- Continuing to support the Society with your time and money so that research, education, advocacy, and services can continue to serve patients and their families.



For More Information

For more information on cancer or cancer resources, call the American Cancer Society 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 1-800-ACS-2345, or visit their Web site at www.cancer.org.

