

UNTIL there is a cure for cancer, Kentuckians need help **TODAY!**



The mission of Kentucky CancerLink is to provide support by reducing and/or eliminating barriers to screening, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

PATIENT NAVIGATION SAVES LIVES

Founded in 2008, Kentucky CancerLink's mission is to provide support to Kentuckians by reducing and/or eliminating barriers to screening, diagnosis, and treatment for all cancers. Kentucky CancerLink (KCL) serves uninsured/underinsured or newly insured Kentuckians whose household income is at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level guidelines. Many of the newly insured have obtained insurance through expanded Medicaid, and they have little or no experience with medical facilities, their programs, and procedures.

Programs provided by KCL are: Community outreach and education on the importance and availability of cancer screenings; Assisting qualified patients in obtaining low-cost/no-cost cancer screenings; Providing assistance to cancer survivors during and after completion of cancer treatment. KCL's certified patient navigators provide education and outreach at Kentucky health fairs and other community events in Kentucky to promote the value of early cancer detection. Patient referrals are received as a result of KCL outreach, patient self-referrals, referrals from their family members, friends, healthcare professionals, KCL web site and other communications.

In collaboration with healthcare providers throughout the state, KCL navigators assist patients in

obtaining evidence-based cancer screenings, such as breast, cervical, colon, and lung cancer screenings; and navigators follow-up with patients after completion of screenings. KCL activities vary depending upon the type of cancer, programs available, and collaborative partners. KCL navigators help reduce barriers for Kentucky cancer survivors who are receiving cancer treatment by providing assistance relating to transportation, childcare, health insurance, and other personal and financial issues. KCL also provides cancer-related supplies, such as mastectomy items, lymphedema garments, wigs and headwear to cancer survivors at no charge. Types of patient navigation assistance provided to cancer patients varies, based on the needs and situation of each patient.

KCL's mission is unique; our relationships with the clients and community partners is innovative, highly productive, and focused on improving health outcomes of Kentuckians. KCL certified patient navigators collaborate with the patient's healthcare team, often working with physicians, nurses, physical therapists, social workers, case managers, health insurance companies, and a myriad of other resources as they guide the patient and family through a complex health care continuum.

KCL navigators have been

certified through the Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Institute and the George Washington Cancer Institute. Patient navigators identify patient's barriers to cancer screenings and cancer care. They educate and advocate for their patients/clients about issues that impact their healthcare, such as helping the patient find a medical home/family physician, obtain no-cost/low-cost medicines, provide assistance related to transportation to cancer screenings and treatment, childcare, and other relevant personal and financial issues. Navigators utilize KCL and external services and resources to help individuals become healthier and live longer, improving patients' health outcomes, while reducing healthcare costs for the population. To better serve the Hispanic community in Kentucky, KCL has 2 bilingual patient navigators on staff.

KCL has established patient referral systems and collaborative programs with healthcare organizations, such as the UK Markey Cancer Center and its affiliates, KentuckyOne Health, Baptist Health, KY Federally-Qualified Health Centers, KY free clinics, and others. Please visit our website, www.kycancerlink.org for additional information. •

SAVE THE DATE

for these upcoming events to support Kentucky CancerLink!

Saturday, March 25, 2017. Thank you to partner, RaceRise for hosting this amazing, unique race concept to benefit Kentucky CancerLink. Thank you to UK HealthCare for your support! Grab a team and run the Quarter Horse Marathon Relay at Spindletop Hall in North Lexington. Go to www.quarterhorsemarathon.com for registration and event information!

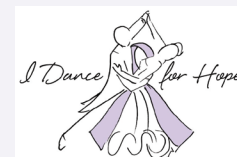
Monday, April 24, 2017. Join us at Spring Valley Golf Club for the 4th Annual Kentucky CancerLink Golf Scramble! Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, UK HealthCare! Registration fee is \$400 per team. Lunch and registration are at 11:30 am with a Shotgun start at 1:00 pm. There will be on-course games with team and individual prizes. We hope to see you there! To register your team, or become a sponsor, contact Melissa Karrer at 859.309.1700.

June 2017. UNTIL there is a cure for cancer, Kentuckians need help TODAY! Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, UK HealthCare. Join us in our 2nd Annual Fundraising and Awareness campaign for Kentuckians in need during a cancer battle. Kentucky CancerLink will provide a kit including: #UNTIL bracelets for staff and donating customers, signage and a suggested donation box. For more information on how to get involved, either as an individual, or a business to raise money for Kentuckians in need, call 859.309.1700. Let's make a difference! Will you BE THE UNTIL?



November 11, 2017. Kentucky CancerLink is partnering with Lexington Arthur Murray for a unique event in the Bluegrass hosted at the Grand Reserve in Lexington! Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, UK HealthCare. Cancer survivors will be "dancing for hope" for other Kentuckians going through a cancer battle.

You won't want to miss this inspiring event that will include dinner, dancing and more! For more information about tickets, sponsorships or silent auction donations, visit www.idanceforhope.com. •





JOHN T. FOGLE

John T. Fogle originally came to Kentucky CancerLink for assistance after his sister, Priscilla found out about the resources that our programs provide. We have been fortunate to help John with several things including obtaining Ensure that was needed due to sensitivity in his throat from radiation treatments, gas cards needed to offset transportation cost to his treatment and cancer-related appointments and also finding a resource for him to obtain dental care.

John says, “Cancer is that awful word we all fear when we go to the doctor for a physical exam. But in that brief dark moment we hear it, the world we live in and the people we share it with begin to illuminate. That’s why I’m so thankful for Cancerlink. They were there for me and they still check on me. I’m thankful and I will continue to fight the good fight and stay in the race.”

Kentucky CancerLink is grateful for the opportunity to work with John along his journey. It is an honor to serve him. Through our connection, Priscilla is now a valuable volunteer in our organization. We’re thankful for her willingness to give back.

Since the writing of this article, John has sadly passed away. He fought bravely and will be greatly missed.

REVEREND PEGGY YUNKER

Reverend Peggy Yunker came to know Kentucky CancerLink when she visited us in support of her friend who was battling cancer last year. Little did she know, she would also need our services the next year while going through her own cancer battle. Reverend Yunker called Kentucky CancerLink because she needed a wig due to hair loss from treatment. She lives in Floyd County, but was in Lexington and stopped by our office on Regency Road. She, along with the support of a friend that joined her, tried on until several wigs and she found the look that was right for her!

Rev. Yunker was also in need of mastectomy bras and breast forms, due to having a double mastectomy. Kentucky CancerLink has an extensive supply and we fit her for those items as well! She left our office with a smile on her face and said, “I had no idea that when I came today I’d feel put back together!” It was a joy for Kentucky CancerLink to help Reverend Yunker in this way at no cost to her.

If you, or someone that you know is needing a wig due to chemotherapy-induced hair loss, mastectomy supplies, such as prosthesis and/or mastectomy bras, scarves, hats or lymphedema garments, please call Kentucky CancerLink at 859-309-1700.

Special thanks to Barrett & Co. School of Hair Design in Nicholasville for being our partners in our wig program. New and gently used wig donations are accepted at Kentucky CancerLink. If the wig is gently used, it is sent to Barrett & Co. for cleaning and restyling. They re-package the wig and it is returned to Kentucky CancerLink. •



KENDRA

Kentucky CancerLink had the pleasure of working with Kendra by navigating her cancer screening process. She is a widowed, single mother to a young son, and we are proud of her for taking part in a program designed to keep her healthy.

For the past 3 years, we have partnered with Kendra for various screening opportunities. She has gone between having insurance and being uninsured, but has always made cancer screenings a priority. Kentucky CancerLink has worked with Kendra in obtaining screening mammograms, pap smears and colon cancer screenings.

We worked with her 2 different times by providing a free take-home colon cancer screening kit (FIT). The first year, she had negative results, indicating that she did not have to repeat the test for another year. The second year, however, her results were positive, indicating that she needed to follow-up with her doctor to discuss the next steps that needed to be taken. Ultimately, she was scheduled for a colonoscopy, which resulted in having a large polyp removed that the doctor deemed could have turned into cancer. Her post-colonoscopy with the doctor included him making the statement, “We saved a life today.”

We applaud Kendra in taking initiative and making sure that she is aware of her health. Early detection is so very important! •



Transportation impacts the health of Kentuckians fighting cancer

The number one request for financial assistance from Kentuckians battling cancer is support for transportation. The cost of travel to treatment is often an overwhelming barrier for many Kentuckians. Kentucky CancerLink supports cancer patients by providing assistance via gas card, taxi and public transportation to cancer treatments.

According to research, negative impacts due to distance and lack of transportation include: "Increase in delayed or missed trips to receive healthcare services, disruption in ongoing treatments and services for chronically ill patients, travel distance to health services and related costs affect patients' healthcare decisions, travel time spent to access healthcare can affect patients physically and cause stress, and some medications, like insulin, declines as patients live farther from their source of care. Studies have shown that providing transportation for medical treatment to low-income, elderly and the disabled patients is cost-effective and improves the quality of life." (www.ruralhealthinfo.org).

No one understands the impact of assistance with transportation more than our own clients. "CancerLink has really helped me with the gift certificate for gas. Now I don't have to worry about having to come up with gas money for the people to take me to my chemo appointments. Thanks so much. Every little bit helps." Another KCL client expressed, "There were times I would have gotten to my appointments. Thank you so much!"

KCL's "Provide A Ride" program is an excellent way for Community Partners to donate and make an impact to fill this great need for Kentuckians battling cancer. For more information about how to become a "Provide a Ride" Partner, call 859.309.1700. We all want a cure for this terrible disease. But, until there is a cure for cancer, Kentuckians need help today!

KENTUCKY CANCERLINK PATIENT SERVICES ROOM *A Resource for Kentucky Cancer Patients*



One of the services provided to Kentucky CancerLink clients is access to our Patient Services Room. Clients can come to the office by appointment, or items can be mailed. Supplies including wigs, scarves, hats, lymphedema products and post-mastectomy products such as, breast prostheses and bras are available. Our inventory of lymphedema products are available based on funding and stock of sizes. All products are provided at no-cost to the client based on program guidelines.

Ask any one of the Kentucky CancerLink staff and they will tell you that having the client come in to the office is a highlight of their day. It is an opportunity to get to know the client better, and often meet some of their friends or family members. Kim Blakeman, KCL Patient Navigator says, "This is a time when I can provide encouragement, extend hope and give them the extra love they need. I am always blessed to serve in our "love" room."

Each client is unique, but with each there is always laughter, tears, smiles and hugs, many times all in the same visit. One client said, "I came in today feeling so sad and you all have lifted my spirits." Each employee at Kentucky CancerLink takes time to acknowledge a client and offer compliments, especially if they are looking for a wig or their "new look."

Being state-wide in our mission, Kentucky CancerLink also uses a mailing system to get products to clients who are unable to get to Lexington to select for themselves. If a wig is needed, clients are encouraged to look at a catalog and choose options that they are interested in. The Kentucky CancerLink staff then looks through the

inventory available and chooses a style and color that match as closely as possible to the clients wish.

Due to our inventory of bras, hats, scarves and wigs, clients are generally able to take multiple of each item and it's our privilege to give these away at no-cost. The prices can generally be quite high and most insurance companies do not cover the cost of these products. The boost of hope is apparent when clients realize they can receive these items at no-cost to them.

Another comforting item we give away is our heart-shaped pillow. These are sewn and stuffed with care by sisters of a Kentucky CancerLink client. These lovely ladies have taken it upon themselves to provide the pillows for Kentucky CancerLink clients. We are always grateful to see their smiling faces when they bring enough to overflow our storage basket. These simple pillows are yet another way we offer love and hope to those fighting cancer.

If you, or someone you know has been diagnosed with cancer and need items, such as a wig, hats, scarves, lymphedema garments, post-mastectomy prostheses and bras, please contact Kentucky

CancerLink at 859.309.1700 or Toll Free 877.597.4655. You can also reach us through our website: www.kycancerlink.org

Kentucky CancerLink would be happy to assist you with your needs and be a link to hope for you during your cancer journey.

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Donations of new or gently used wigs, hats, scarves, breast prostheses and bras are accepted at Kentucky CancerLink, 2425 Regency Road, Suite B, Lexington, KY 40503. A form for tax deduction can be provided if needed. •



(The Power of) Advanced Medicine

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