

Geisinger - Community Medical Center • Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Henry Cancer Center • Mid-Valley Hospital • Moses Taylor Hospital
Regional Hospital of Scranton • Special Care Hospital • Tyler Memorial Hospital • Wayne Memorial Health System • Wilkes-Barre General Hospital

Join Us for the 20th Annual Cancer Survivors Celebration!

Cancer survivors, caregivers, and oncology medical professionals are invited to connect and re-unite with each other at the 20th Annual Cancer Survivors Celebration hosted by the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute.

This year, participants can choose between two locations/dates for the event. On September 22, 2012, an event will be held at Kirby Park in Wilkes-Barre and on September 29th, an event will also be held at McDade Park in Scranton. Both will take place from 10am - 12pm.

The highlight of this year's celebrations will be the "Circle of Survivors." This activity will allow every person in attendance the opportunity to share a thought or inspirational message about their cancer experience (see examples below). The events will also feature a survivor's banner, survivor and caregiver ribbons & pins, autograph books/program, and light refreshments.

To register for the event, or for more information, please call the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute at 1-800-424-6724 or visit www.cancernepa.org. Please respond prior to September 14th.

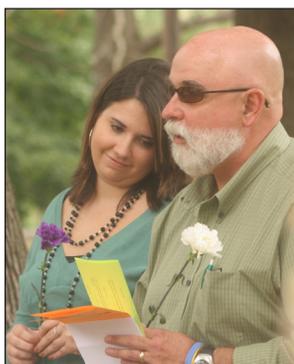


Pictured are members of the Cancer Survivors Celebration Planning Committee: (from left to right) Judi Keller; Annie Densvich; Mary Densvich; Georgette Mecca, Co-Chair; Laura Toole, Director of Community and Patient Services at the Cancer Institute; Bob Jud; Fran Jud; and Jill Kryston, Co-Chair.

Comments from the "Circle of Survivors"

"When I was told the medication prescribed for me would have to be taken for five years, I would never imagine how time would be a counting game. Here it is, now I'm down to my last few pills and you are about to hear a big shout - whoopee!" - JK, Scranton

"It is such a blessing to me to be a survivor now 6 years...my life is full of love and joy, and even a few normal tears. For everyone who has ever had to deal with this diagnosis, I am so sad, but today being part of our unique group-SURVIVORS- makes my heart glad. For all that still have their mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter, husband or wife, I say REJOICE, be glad, and celebrate LIFE!" - FJ, Clarks Summit



"Considering I had no choice in the matter, cancer was one of the best things that ever happened to me; I got to experience the goodness of caring people and learned to make each day count!" - JK, Wilkes-Barre Area

"It is so inspirational to reconnect with survivors each year and to hear how they're doing. It's not only great to see everyone, it's also great to be seen" - ME, Spring Brook Township

"I am one of the lucky ones. My cancer just passed like a bad cold. One day cancer, the next day cured. As it turned out, having heard those awful words was not an altogether bad thing. Over the last nine years I have met and become friends with people I would never have had the pleasure to meet, and my life has been better because of it." - BL, White Haven

Georgette Mecca – Story of Survivorship

I was so honored when I was asked to co-chair this year's Cancer Survivor Celebration. My journey and battle with cancer started in 2002, with a routine mammogram. A small lump was found in my left breast, so small that I did not detect it.

I took immediate action and made an appointment with a local surgeon, who turned out to be a friend and important part of my support team.

Dr. Hijazi scheduled my surgery and the cancerous tumor was removed. The next step was several months of radiation, and I was in the clear, or so I thought.

In January 2005 the cancer returned, however in a different form. After several doctors visits I was diagnosed with Paget Disease, a rare form of cancer that attacks the nipple of the breast. It was then I made a life changing decision. On July 18th I underwent a double mastectomy along with a long reconstruction procedure.

I remember being very calm that morning,

Survivor Art Available for Display in Luzerne County



The Cancer Institute is seeking businesses, libraries, schools and other locations interested in hosting

a traveling display of artwork painted by Luzerne County cancer survivors and caregivers. The display, "Tiles: From Tears to Triumph" shows replications of tiles painted through an art therapy program.

Interested individuals can contact Christine Zavaskas at 570-941-7984 or christine.zavaskas@scranton.edu.

knowing this is what I needed to do to survive. After several months of painful injections, my final surgery was scheduled for January 2006 and my ordeal was over. I am cancer free and do not regret the decision I made.

Throughout my journey I had a great support team, starting with my surgeons Dr. Hijazi and Dr. Bormes, who guided me to the end. Of course, first and foremost was my husband Jim, without him I could not have the courage to do what I did.

Since then I am delighted to be able to volunteer at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute. The wonderful programs and help they provide is priceless.

My journey and battle against cancer has been successful. I want to thank the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute for allowing me to share my story with you.

Georgette is pictured on the front page of the newsletter in the Cancer Survivors Celebration Committee photo.

Have You Seen Us on TV?

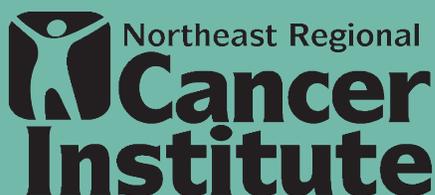


The Cancer Institute Patient Navigation Program is currently featured in a Public

Service Announcement airing on WNEP-TV. To view the clip, visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/NortheastRegionalCancerInstitute. If you would like more information about this cancer screening program for uninsured individuals, call the Cancer Institute at 1-800-424-6724.

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