

"A non-profit organization dedicated to assisting young cancer patients and survivors become self-reliant members of society."



Working Against Cancer

Jonathan R. Espenschied, M.D.
President and Founder

246 Claremont Ave
Long Beach, CA 90803

www.workingagaincancer.org
contactus@workingagaincancer.org



Working Against Cancer

Helping

Cancer Patients and Survivors
Help Themselves

www.workingagaincancer.org

Our Mission

Working Against Cancer (WAC) is an organization guided by a self-empowered, compassionate philosophy. Staff and volunteer mentors support young cancer patients and survivors through mentoring, self-evaluation tools, and career opportunity referrals. Our mission is to help these individuals navigate their way through the emotional upheaval that accompanies a cancer diagnosis in order to become self-reliant individuals with independent, productive lives.



What We Started

Optimal management of the child, adolescent and young adult with cancer requires sensitivity to the unique psychosocial concerns of this population and efficient systems for provision of necessary services, along with the ability to recognize normal behavior.

WAC understands this uniqueness. In designing and implementing program services, team members, many of whom are living beyond their own cancer diagnoses, offer both professional and personal perspectives on cancer treatment, survival, and the importance of becoming self-reliant after struggling through such an event. We offer resources and support to address the fears, uncertainties, and struggles unique to these young cancer patients. Our WAC Youth Mentoring Program, Scholarship, and Career Opportunity Programs are in place to assist cancer patients and survivors take on any of life's endeavors.

Why?

It has been estimated that **by the year 2010, as many as one in 250 young adults will be a survivor of childhood cancer** (Childhood Cancer, 2nd edition). These young men and women struggle to make sense out of life after a cancer diagnosis. They struggle with the fear of relapse and the challenges of long-term side effects from surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation treatments. They struggle with the uncertainty of their future and whether to dare plan for an education, a career, a family.

Dr. Espenschied, WAC's founder, is a cancer survivor who was diagnosed with leukemia and underwent a bone marrow transplant at the age of 20. With first-hand experience as a young cancer patient, he understands the need for services and support tailored to these youth.

Mentoring

Through mentoring, cancer survivors serve as mentors to young people dealing with the realities of their own cancer diagnosis. This mentor symbolizes survival. Who better to empathize and address these issues than a trained mentor who has been in their shoes and is now an active member of society?



The benefits of mentoring can hold particular relevance when the mentee is battling cancer and the mentor – as a cancer survivor – can relate intimately to the challenges faced by this young person. Mentoring can help alleviate the effects of the emotional roller coaster for young people diagnosed with cancer and can improve the quality of life for those living with, through, and beyond cancer.



How To Donate

✦ Yes...I'd like to help Working Against Cancer provide a future to young cancer patients and survivors.

Working Against Cancer is a 501(c)3 non-profit tax exempt charity. Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

Please mail your donation (make checks payable) to:

Working Against Cancer
246 Claremont Ave
Long Beach, CA 90803

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____

Credit Card # _____

Visa MC Exp. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____

We'd like more information on becoming a corporate sponsor, please contact us.

For more information, a mentor application, or to donate online, log on to www.workingagainstcancer.org

Thank you
for your generosity!