

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



Working Against Cancer

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Working Against Cancer

Helping

Cancer Patients and Survivors
Help Themselves

www.workingagainstcancer.org

Our Mission

In 2001, Working Against Cancer (WAC) began its mission to assist young cancer patients and survivors navigate their way through the emotional upheaval that accompanies a cancer diagnosis in order to become **self-reliant individuals, with independent, productive lives**. WAC's comprehensive program model seeks to address the complex needs of cancer patients and survivors within hospital and community based settings through Community Education and Awareness, Mentorship, Scholarship, and Career Development Opportunities.



What We Started

The goal of Working Against Cancer is to provide culturally appropriate, comprehensive, psychosocial support to underserved young cancer patients and survivors. 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.

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. The **Youth Mentoring Program, Scholarship, and Career Development Opportunity Programs** are in place to assist cancer patients and survivors take on any of life's endeavors.

Why?

"The progress achieved in attaining 80% survival among children and adolescents and young adults with cancer can be justified only if their physical, emotional and social quality of life also are protected." (ACS Task Force on Children and Cancer) 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. He understands the need for services and support tailored to this young population.

Mentoring

Through mentoring, screened and trained adult cancer survivors serve as mentors to young people dealing with the realities of their own cancer diagnosis and effects of therapy. 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 and decrease anxiety 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
PO Box 60011
San Diego, CA 92166

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☐ 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!