

Dear Friends,

As we bid farewell to 2024, let's celebrate the incredible achievements of Cancer Support Community, made possible by our dedicated staff, Board of Directors, and you, our dedicated supporters. This year, we broke records, serving more families than ever and positively impacting lives of those facing cancer through our free support groups, educational workshops, healthy lifestyle classes, and personalized counseling.

When the year began, we had been in our new center for about six months, and the goal was to draw more individuals into our new home. To that end, our Board of Directors authorized a full-scale strategic marketing plan, and that decision was a good one. Our marketing campaign has increased our outreach, connecting us to our community and driving awareness of our essential services.

With growth comes the need for a robust infrastructure, and I am pleased to share that our staff has grown significantly this year. Team CSC is now comprised of 10 administrative staff and 18 clinicians. These individuals are deeply passionate about serving families facing cancer. With their expertise and energy, we are better

positioned to provide the personalized care and attention that each family deserves.

We introduced a new fundraising event, "Sip, Savor, and Support", which brought together delicious cuisine, fine beverages, and guests dedicated to supporting families facing cancer. We're excited to see this successful event grow in the coming years and look forward to making it an annual tradition.

Finally, with your support, we will increase our revenue to meet the growing demands of our operating budget, allowing us to serve even more families in 2025. Thank you for standing with us on this journey. Here's to a hopeful and impactful 2025!

Stay happy, stay healthy, and stay with us in 2025,



Patricia V. Ostiller, JD, CFRE, CEO



Can someone you know benefit from Cancer Support Community's free programs?

Cancer Support Community Greater San Gabriel Valley is a safe space for all who are impacted by cancer to connect, share knowledge, and embrace hope. We walk alongside our participants and their medical team, providing evidence-based knowledge and professionally-led psychosocial emotional support and activities as a proven method to enhance medical outcomes.

We welcome patients, caregivers, survivors, families, and those experiencing loss with kindness and understanding, ensuring that our community-funded programs, activities, and services are provided completely free of charge.

Visit cancersupportsgv.org/gettingstarted



GETTING STARTED

All programs and services are free of charge.

An orientation is required to participate at Cancer Support Community.

IN-PERSON ORIENTATIONS
Tuesdays, 11 am
Thursdays, 5 pm

VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS
Virtual orientations may be scheduled through Zoom.

VISIT
cancersupportsgv.org/gettingstarted





Empowering Patients Through Knowledge: A Look Back at Our 2024 Lunch & Learn Lecture Series

Alison Wong, Ph.D., LMFT, Program and Clinical Director

This year, Cancer Support Community had the privilege of hosting our new Lunch & Learn Lecture Series, a transformative initiative designed to empower cancer patients, caregivers, and families with the knowledge they need to navigate the complexities of cancer care. Featuring distinguished speakers from top institutions such as USC, City of Hope, Cedars-Sinai, Huntington Hospital, and UCLA, the series provided invaluable insights on the latest in cancer research, treatment options, and strategies for emotional and physical well-being.



Our speakers shared their expertise on a wide range of topics, from cutting-edge advancements in cancer treatment to practical advice for managing side effects and enhancing quality of life. Each session was designed to give participants the tools and confidence to take an active role in their care, fostering a deeper understanding of their diagnosis and treatment options. These speakers aim to reduce anxiety, answer specific questions, and ultimately improve health outcomes.

Education is crucial to supporting patients on their cancer journey. Whether they are newly diagnosed or navigating survivorship, we walk alongside participants and their medical teams, offering these educational resources along with emotional and social support. Hope to see you at our 2025 Lunch & Learn Series!



Day of Renewal and Care: Spa Day with Beauty Bus

Alexandra Switzer, MA – Program Coordinator

Last month, Cancer Support Community had the pleasure of partnering with the Concern Foundation and Beauty Bus Foundation to bring our participants a Spa Day filled with pampering, relaxation, and self-care. Beauty Bus's compassionate and skilled team of expert volunteers brought an array of services right to our community, creating a healing escape for our participants and caregivers alike.



The Spa Day experience included calming and hydrating mini-facials, administered while participants relaxed in comfortable, gravity-free chairs. With each gentle cleanse and rejuvenating facial, participants had the chance to unwind deeply and enjoy the calming effects of high-quality skincare products. Beauty Bus professionals also provided hand and arm massages, delivering ultra-moisturizing care in a serene, comforting environment. These seemingly small but impactful services lifted spirits and renewed energy, offering an essential respite from the physical and emotional strains of living with cancer.

Beauty Bus brought not only services but also kindness, compassion, and a reminder that our participants are not alone on their journey. Every attendee received a complimentary "Bag of Beauty" filled with products so they could continue their self-care at home, extending the calming effects of the day and

providing a meaningful reminder of the love and support that surround them.

Self-care is rejuvenating and helps participants gain a renewed sense of well-being and a refreshed outlook, making them better equipped to face the challenges ahead. We are deeply grateful to Beauty Bus for helping us provide holistic support to our community, recognizing that self-care is a vital part of healing the mind, body, and spirit.

The Power of Legacy: Why Planned Giving Matters for Cancer Support Community

Jan Cantwell, Senior Development Officer

At Cancer Support Community, we are committed to making a lasting impact on the lives of those affected by cancer. Yet to sustain and expand our mission, we need more than annual operating donations; we need visionary partners willing to make a lasting difference through planned giving.

What is Planned Giving? Planned giving allows supporters to leave a legacy that lives on after them. Unlike one-time donations, planned gifts are typically arranged in advance and allocated in the future, often through bequests, trusts, retirement plans, or life insurance.

Why Planned Giving is Essential By choosing to leave a legacy gift, you help us create a brighter future for those facing cancer, building a foundation that enables us to offer comprehensive, compassionate support for *generations to come*.

How You Can Make a Difference Planned giving is a deeply personal choice that reflects your values and the impact you want to have in the world. There are many ways to support our participants through planned giving:

1. **Bequests:** Include Cancer Support Community in your will or living trust.

2. **Retirement Plans:** Name us as a beneficiary of your retirement account.

3. **Life Insurance Policies:** Designate Cancer Support Community as a beneficiary or transfer ownership of an existing policy.

4. **Charitable Trusts:** Establishing a charitable remainder or lead trust to benefit both our organization and your family.



Each of these options offers unique benefits to you and your loved ones, while helping us continue to grow, innovate, and provide care to those who need it most.

Make a Lasting Impact Today Your legacy can sustain the programs and support that make us a lifeline for people facing the toughest of challenges.

If you're interested in learning on how your legacy can make a difference, please reach out to Jan Cantwell at j.cantwell@cancersupportsgv.org. Thank you for helping to ensure a future where no one has to face cancer alone.



A New Event for Our Supporters!

Rachimah "Rae" Magnuson, Director of Events and Marketing

Cancer Support Community launched a fabulous new signature fall fundraiser, "Sip, Savor & Support," on October 5, 2024, to meet growing demands for our services, as we are serving more than ever before!

This sold-out event was held at the elegant Rusnak Auto Group, with many thanks to the generosity of longtime supporter, Paul Rusnak. The evening featured savory appetizers from local restaurants including City of Hope's 1913, The Arbour, Bistro 45, Gale's Restaurant, Pez Coastal Kitchen, and Roe Fusion, and dessert by Red Carpet Cookies. Guests sipped California wines from Wenzlau Vineyard, The Hilt Estate, and Kubani Wines, complemented by Kosher organic teas from Charles & Co Tea.

The event raised over \$230,000, surpassing goals, with thanks to our sponsors and supporters, and especially our presenting sponsors, Valerie and Aaron Weiss of the San Marino Motor Classic. The highlight of the evening was a private concert by Michael Cavanaugh, Broadway star of *Movin' Out*, who moved guests to sing and sway along to "Piano Man" and other classics.

Many thanks to our Event Co-Chairs, Valerie Mendoza and Patti Traglio, who along with their committee members, successfully created and launched a new standout event for our community!

Please save the date for our largest fundraiser in 2025, **Angel Gala, on Saturday, April 26, 2025**. We are delighted to announce Lee and Mickey Segal as our individual Honorees, and Anne Kennedy as our Lifetime Achievement Honoree! For information on sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, please contact Rae Magnuson at r.magnuson@cancersupportsgv.org



CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY BENEFACTORS SOCIETY 2024



Thank you to the remarkable members of our Benefactors Society for your generous and unrestricted support in 2024. You are not merely donors; you are true champions and heroes for the families we serve. Your steadfast commitment to our mission is nothing short of extraordinary, and your belief in our mission allows us to improve the quality of life for those facing cancer.

Thanks to your unwavering generosity, we can expand our reach, transform fear into hope, and build a nurturing community for every family impacted by this challenging journey. **We invite others to join this exceptional group of visionaries**, where your contributions not only elevate our programs but also create lasting change.

We look forward to celebrating you early next year when we come together for our annual, fun-filled Benefactors Society Appreciation Dinner. Stay tuned!

Benefactors \$20,000+

Rosemary Annear
Terry Beyer
Karen and Tom Capehart
Leslie and Scott Gaudineer
The Havner Family Foundation
Terri and Jerry Kohl
Shelley Allen and Robert Kohorst
Ellen and Harvey Knell*
Dana and Mike Naples
San Marino Motor Classic
Lee and Mickey Segal
The Valenta Family

Patrons \$10,000 - \$19,999

Bonnie and John DeWitt
LeAnn and Michael Healy
Vicki Laidig
Gloria Podres and George Mack
Julia and Mark Meahl
Serge Melkizian
Julie and Scott Nesbit
Sue and Steve Ralph
Susan and Jack Reynolds
Charlotte Streng
Susie and Brad Talt
Dr. Ruth Williamson

Benefactor Benefits

Both groups receive yearlong benefits including tables at our events, VIP receptions, 12 months of recognition on our website and other materials, a private Benefactors Society Appreciation Dinner, and more!

To join, please contact Patricia Ostiller at p.ostiller@cancersupportsgv.org or Brad Talt at batalt575@gmail.com.

**Lead Founding Benefactors*



Please consider a year-end gift to help us meet growing demand for our free support services... because everybody knows somebody impacted by cancer.

Please visit cancersupportsgv.org/yearend.

Thank you!

DONATE



**Connecting all who are impacted by cancer
with hope, knowledge, and understanding.**

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