

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on these past few months, it's evident that our community continues to face significant challenges stemming from the Eaton Fire. Many families are navigating not only the uncertainties of cancer but also the aftermath of this disaster. To that end, I want to take this moment to express our gratitude for your unwavering support.

I'm pleased to share that in the first quarter of 2025, we served more unique individuals than we did in the first quarter of 2024. With the addition of our new Program and Clinical Director, Anna Swift, LCSW in February 2024, followed by an Assistant Program Director, Isaac Yamamoto in March, our team is poised to make an even greater impact. Please see Anna's article on page 2.

Our recent gala marked a turning point for our organization, generating the highest revenue and largest attendance in our history. This key achievement directly supports our operations and affirms the

critical importance of your donations. Rae Magnuson, our stellar Director of Events & Marketing, writes all about the event on page 3.

Finally, we are excited to announce a pilot partnership with City of Hope. This particular pilot was years in the making and we're thrilled to tell you all about it. See pages 2-3 for this important news.

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 to all, **free of charge**.

Visit cancersupportsgv.org/gettingstarted



GETTING STARTED

All program services are free of charge.

An orientation is required to participate at Cancer Support Community.

IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS may be scheduled through our online calendar.

VISIT:
cancersupportsgv.org/gettingstarted





Program Staff at Cancer Support Community

I'm so pleased to be serving as Cancer Support Community's (CSC) Program & Clinical Director. Starting a new position during the immediate weeks after the Eaton Fire served to motivate me to find new ways to engage and reach the individuals we serve. Without a doubt, this catastrophic fire upended the lives of thousands in our community, including participants, volunteers, staff, and Directors who are part of our CSC family. Many lost their homes and many more were displaced.



*Anna Swift, LCSW
Program and Clinical
Director*

In the aftermath of this devastating event, CSC immediately mobilized to provide safe spaces for current participants, their families, and the larger community to receive support. On January 28, utilizing our expertise in grief and loss and our commitment to serve, we hosted a workshop led by Jay Wagener, a CSC Director and Licensed Clinical Psychologist with over 40 years of experience. Attendees had the opportunity to explore ways to process grief, navigate survivor's guilt, and engage resiliency. CSC also received approximately 100 air purifiers and 200 hygiene kits from Project Hope that we were able to distribute to our participants.

Participation in in-person events understandably decreased in January due to the displacement of many of our participants. However, in the months following, we have witnessed incredible resiliency, and the number of people reaching out to CSC for support recovered and grew. We have added two new support groups, resulting in a total of 22 weekly and 4 monthly groups, **ending the first quarter 2025 with more people served than in first quarter 2024**. Within these groups, our participants receive much needed support in processing the impact of the fires alongside the impact of cancer in their lives.

In the coming months, we will continue to respond to new needs that arise, including additional educational workshops on grief and additional individual counseling for those in need. I look forward to meeting you - please stop by my office when visiting our Center to say hello.

A Collaborative Approach to Cancer Support: City of Hope and CSC SoCal

Southern California is home to four Cancer Support Communities: CSC Greater San Gabriel Valley, CSC South Bay, CSC Los Angeles, and CSC Valley Ventura (collectively, CSC SoCal). Our collective efforts have evolved over the years, particularly as we began discussions with City of Hope to explore avenues for optimally supporting their cancer patients and families.

These meaningful conversations culminated last year in a pilot partnership between City of Hope and CSC SoCal. This pilot is designed to complement City of Hope's medical treatment by providing free mental, social, and emotional support services to patients and their families, which is consistent with CSC SoCal's model of care. The objective of the partnership is to empower cancer patients and their families throughout every stage of treatment, addressing the mind, body, and spirit.

This pilot partnership launched in July 2024 at two of City of Hope's outpatient centers - South Pasadena and Corona. To integrate this effort onsite, CSC SoCal hired a dedicated Psychosocial Patient Navigator, Sarah Fabian, with a background in psychology and community outreach. Sarah is responsible for developing a referral program and ensuring that patients and families at these sites receive consistent and streamlined access to CSC SoCal's full range of supportive services.

To that end, Sarah regularly visits these sites, maintaining a CSC SoCal presence and a hands-on approach to foster community trust and connection. With the involvement of City of Hope's social workers and volunteers, patients are connected to CSC SoCal services based on individual interest in various offerings (see next page).

A new website, www.cscsocal.org, was developed to support this partnership by making it easier for families across Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, and Santa Barbara Counties to access the psychosocial services they need.

To get started, patients and caregivers attend an orientation session with the patient navigator where they gain access to a range of specialized, evidence-based services at CSC SoCal locations, including:

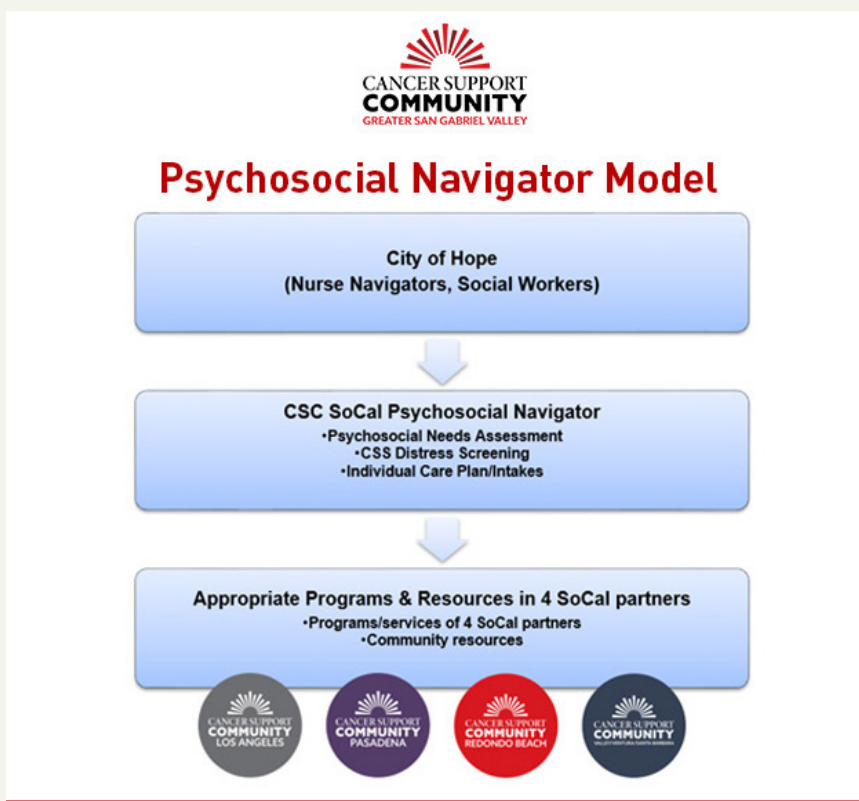
- Over 84 weekly support group sessions
- 63 weekly healthy lifestyle classes
- Counseling sessions for adults, families, children, and teens
- Programs designed for children, teens, and families
- Educational workshops presented by oncologists and other medical professionals
- Social activities and classes
- Stress management strategies
- Resources and referrals
- Programas en español
- Programs in Armenian

Participants may select from in-person, virtual, and hybrid offerings, allowing individuals to engage from the comfort of their homes.

Bilingual marketing materials in English and Spanish have helped ensure that patients and caregivers in the Corona area are aware of CSC SoCal's free Spanish-language offerings. Notably, our outreach has attracted participants from as far as Lake Elsinore, Norco, and Hesperia, reflecting the broad impact of this initiative.

The pilot partnership, shaped by ongoing collaboration between City of Hope and CSC SoCal, will continue through at least 2025. We are pleased to announce the addition of four new pilot sites, including Arcadia, Glendale, West Covina, and Upland.

With City of Hope being renowned for its exceptional cancer care and CSC SoCal recognized as a leader in psychosocial support, this partnership is poised to provide comprehensive services to cancer patients and their families. We aspire for this collaboration to serve as a model for hospitals throughout Southern California.



2025 Angel Gala Committee

Rise Together – A Record Gala

What an unforgettable night! Our Angel Gala: Rise Together on April 26th was a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish as a community. With 375 guests—our largest crowd ever—we raised over \$670,000, the most in our 35-year history. This incredible achievement not only allows us to sustain and grow our free programs, but also enables us to donate \$100,000 to the Pasadena Community Foundation's Eaton Fire Relief and Recovery Fund, supporting our neighbors impacted by recent wildfires.

We were honored to recognize USC Arcadia Hospital (Healthcare Partner Honoree), Anne Kennedy (Lifetime Achievement Honoree), and Lee & Mickey Segal (Individual Honorees) for their remarkable leadership, service, and philanthropy.



Cancer Support Community 2025 Benefactors Society



Benefactors and Patrons enjoy their annual appreciation dinner in March 2025.

In March 2025, Cancer Support Community (CSC) celebrated our tremendous Benefactors Society members for their ongoing generous and unrestricted support in 2024. With Annandale Golf Club as the venue, Benefactors and Patrons enjoyed beautiful music from Melodia Mariposa and listened to keynote speaker Jennifer DeVoll, CEO of the Pasadena Community Foundation.

Scott Gaudineer and Brad Talt hosted the evening. Donors learned about the progress being made at CSC thanks to their support. Our Benefactors and Patrons are not only

donors; they are also true champions and heroes for the families we serve. Their steadfast commitment to our mission is nothing short of extraordinary, and their belief in our mission allows us to improve the quality of life for those facing cancer.

We invite others to join this exceptional group of visionaries, where your contributions not only elevate our programs but also create lasting change.

Benefactors \$24,000+

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*
George Mack and Gloria Podres
San Marino Motor Classic
Lee and Mickey Segal
The Valenta Family

**Lead Founding Benefactors*

Patrons \$12,000 - \$23,999

Bonnie and John DeWitt
Vicki Laidig
Julia and Mark Meahl
Serge Melkizian
Dana and Mike Naples
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.



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

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