Friend for Life Cancer Support Network
Annual Report 2020

Facing cancer, with someone who’s been there
Our Mission

To help persons diagnosed with cancer and their loved ones navigate the path through diagnosis, treatment and recovery by pairing them with a trained survivor of a similar experience so they can face cancer with someone who’s been there. Friend for Life volunteers are cancer survivors and caregivers who are trained by healthcare professionals to prepare them to support others as they confront the emotional, psychological and practical uncertainties posed by a cancer diagnosis. We refer to our volunteers as Peer Navigators. Callers are matched with Peer Navigators by diagnosis and course of treatment and, to the extent possible, by age and gender. No other organization in the area offers this form of one-on-one support for all types of cancer. At the end of 2020, Friend for Life Peer Navigators numbered 419. An additional 187 survivors and caregivers are in the process of becoming Peer Navigators. They range in age at diagnosis from 6 to 84 and represent survival of a wide range of cancer types.

Program Success

During 2020, Friend for Life Cancer Support Network:

- responded to 1,367 requests for support and matched 657 individuals
- Peer Navigators donated over 6,500 hours
- Peer Navigators spoke with over 150 students and their faculty mentors at the University of Louisville Schools of Medicine and Nursing, Galen College of Nursing, Bellarmine Nurse Practitioner Program, and University of Kentucky School of Medicine. Peer Navigators have shared the cancer patient perspective with over 6,500 future healthcare practitioners since 2007.
- partnered with other one-on-one cancer support organizations across the country in order to provide peer support for persons diagnosed with rare forms of cancer or recently-developed treatments
- trained 41 new Peer Navigators

Program Goals

Friend for Life seeks to…

- continue to provide cost-free peer support to persons diagnosed with cancer and to their loved ones
- continue to provide quality training and ongoing support and education to volunteers
- enhance outreach to minority and underserved populations, with special focus on Kentucky
- expand and improve infrastructure to keep up with advances in cancer knowledge and treatment, and increased numbers of survivors
**PEER NAVIGATOR MODEL**

Peer Navigator
- Empathic sounding board
- Encourages
- Helps identify and clarify questions for healthcare team
- Models effective coping skills
- Shares community resource information

Immediate Impact:
- Increased perceived social support
- Decreased anxiety
- Improved mood
- Improved communication with healthcare team
- Increased understanding of self-care
- Increased sense of control and self-efficacy

Long-term Impact:
- Improved health-related quality of life
- Improved health behaviors (including medication adherence)
- Improved chronic disease control
- Decreased hospitalizations and mortality
- Decreased financial burden on patient and healthcare system

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**How did you hear about Friend for Life?**
5/1/2020-4/30/2021

- Online Search: 24%
- A Member of Your Healthcare Team: 35%
- Community Resource: 2%
- National Cancer Resource: 29%
- FFL Volunteer: 6%
- Family/Friend: 4%

*Additional details available upon request*
Support and Revenues
Grants $8,159
Direct Public Support: $94,520
Fundraising $26,624
Total Revenues: $129,303

Expenses
Program Expenses $100,741
Administrative $9,008
Fundraising $15,768
Total Expenses $125,517

Net Assets, Beginning of Fiscal Year: $112,731
Net Assets, April 30, 2021: $66,090

A copy of our Form 990 is available by request or on Guidestar

Grants Received FY 2020-2021
Delta Dental
Exelixis

Sponsors & Major* Donors
Norton Healthcare
RFX Technologies
Cornerstone Legacies Foundation
Baptist Health Louisville
University of Kentucky/Marky Cancer Center
Tri-Arrows Aluminum
Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance
American Fundraising Foundation
Kentucky Nonprofit Network
Kyle Bianconcini
Karen Donahue
Greg and Sue Friedmann
Jude Gallagher
Anne and Neil Harper
Arthur R. Kasey
John and Judy Kasey
Mark and Barb Lechner
Jim and Kathy Jo Pullen

Fundraising Events & Activities
Dining at The Village Anchor, Le Moo, Grassa Gramma
Give for Good Louisville
Kentucky Gives Day
Quarantining with Friends—our first virtual event
Amazon Smile
Facebook
Kroger Cares

*$500 and over

Friend for Life Board of Directors 2020-2021
Jason Howard, President
Colette McCoy, Vice-President
Karen Donahue, Treasurer
Bart Bushong, Nominating Chair
Jordan Bunch
David Collins
Scott DeGaris
Jim Gaffney
Tara Gnau
Tom Jecker
Ann Jones
Angie Malone
Kristen Mellinger
Laura Mitchell
Ben Ruley
Janelle Seeger, MD
Kenya Whitfield

Friend for Life Staff
Judy Kasey Houlette, MA, Executive Director
Nicole Guffey Wiseman, MPA, Assistant Director
Landon Foster, Marketing Director

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Friend for Life is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization. EIN # 61-1139410