



Volunteer Helps People Run Over Cancer

John Boyes and his family exemplify what it means to serve as a volunteer at the Cancer Support Community Greater Philadelphia (CSCGP). They have been active participants in the program since 2004 and have benefitted in many of the diverse programs that are offered on a monthly basis.

In 2004, John and Arleen's son Alex chose to complete his Eagle Scout project at CSCGP at Gilda's Club. Alex completed much-needed work on the outdoor barbecue grill and dedicated the completed project to his Mom. Alex continued to be an active participant in the walking and running club, supporting his Mom as she worked to regain her stamina following treatment. Sadly, Alex was diagnosed with melanoma and passed at age 22.

Despite a broken heart, the couple, married for 31 years, continued to dedicate their efforts at CSCGP. Arleen was an active member, attending programs including the quilting circle and the annual Camp Discovery for women with breast cancer. She also was an outstanding member of the volunteer committee, investing her time at the CSCGP off-site location at Abington Jefferson Health. In addition to participating in events and programs, she and John organized the Alex Boyes' walk to benefit CSCGP as she courageously battled breast cancer. While Arleen lost her battle with cancer in 2013, her legacy lives on through John and their son Harris.

John and Harris continue to plan and organize the walk every year in both Alex's and Arleen's memory to raise funds for our programs. In addition, John's behind-the-scenes contributions are remarkable. His "can-do" attitude is inspiring; in fact, he has completed over 3,000 volunteer hours since 2009.

John volunteers consistently at special events including CSCGP's annual Paws 4 Life Dog Walk and Basket Bingo. He has transported supplies in his truck, posted event signage along the roadways, directed traffic during events, helped with setup and breakdown, erected tents, set up tables and chairs, manned tables during events at registrations, and set up raffle tables sometimes under less-than-ideal weather conditions.

John also aids in the maintenance of CSCGP's Bucks County farmhouse in Warminster along with the historic mansion in Fairmount Park. He is a wonderful handyman, cheerfully repairing anything without cost to the organization. He understands the importance of creating and maintaining a homelike environment for families whose lives are often chaotic as a result of a cancer diagnosis.

John's passion is evident in the support he garners on behalf of the children and teens' programs including Kids Support summer camp. He diligently inspects and repairs all outdoor equipment and lends an able hand to the staff with the prep work needed with crafts and games.

The 9th annual "Run Over Cancer" run will be held Saturday, September 15th at Tyler State Park at 10 am. For more information, visit www.cancersupportphiladelphia.org/5k or call Kathy O'Mara at 215-441-3290, ext. 114.



**CANCER SUPPORT
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CSCGP *at Gilda's Club*

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