



Support for the Whole Family the Whole Time

“You have cancer”... three of the most frightening words a person can hear in their lifetime.

Fear, anxiety, uncertainty and a sense of isolation are just some of the feelings a person may experience when they hear these words.

We are so fortunate in this area that we have access to high-quality medical care. But healthcare today does not always allow medical professionals to meet the emotional needs of cancer patients and their families due to high patient volume and overburdened staff.

Cancer Support Community at Gilda’s Club, located in Warminster, has been providing a research-backed program of social and emotional support to cancer patients in Bucks County for the last 20 years. Services are provided at six locations across Bucks County and serve patients representing over 65 different cancer diagnoses.

Our staff has achieved and maintained the highest level of clinical licensure in their respective fields and receive clinical supervision on an ongoing basis. Our facilitators are also certified in their respective fields to ensure that those who participate in our program have experts leading their workshops and classes.

At Cancer Support Community, we know that cancer is a disease that affects the whole family. Often, parents try to shelter their children to protect them from uncertainty and stress. We have learned over the years that children often feel stress in the family even when it is not shared openly.

We have developed and built a comprehensive program for children and teens that supports them and their family through treatment and into survivorship. Over the past 20 years, we have served thousands of children, teens and families through thousands of individual program activities.

These programs for children and teens, like all of our programs, are completely free of charge to all who attend because we want to make sure that there is never a barrier for anyone to receive support.

These programs are diverse and are designed for children, adolescents and teens to support them at their respective age and developmental levels. We provide ongoing support groups, educational programs and a summer camp for kids and teens up to the age of 18. Many of the teens who were campers with us become camp counselors and volunteers.

We provide a tutoring program for kids so that parents in treatment can get a much-needed break from worrying about homework and school assignments. Each week, we host a dinner for families so that Moms and Dads can get a break from cooking.

We have also partnered with other local organizations to provide food to those families who experience food insecurity. And throughout the year, we offer activities that are fun for families, including Halloween parties, holiday parties, cookouts and back-to-school events where we provide school supplies to attendees.

Kid Support is a program that helps kids ages 7 through 12 understand what cancer is, how to manage their stress and anxiety, and how to share their feelings in a safe space. This program is offered in the fall and spring, and a parent support group is provided at the same time. This group allows parents to meet other parents in similar situations and find strength through shared experiences.

Our Straight Talk about Cancer program, which is a curriculum-based program, has been provided to 7 area middle and high schools in Bucks County. This program provides facilitated support groups for kids and teens during the school day and offers education and support for teachers and guidance counselors. Our Living With Loss group helps teens who have lost a parent, sibling or family member to cancer. Over the past 2 years, there has been over a 20% increase in requests for these bereavement services, and staff members have continued to meet these needs both in schools and at our location in Warminster.

Everything provided to families affected by cancer is provided at no charge, so that there is never a barrier for those in our community to receive needed services.

For more information about the services provided by Cancer Support Community Greater Philadelphia, please contact Program Director Beth Cribb at 215-441-3290, ext. 114 or email info@cancersupportphiladelphia.org.



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