

Community Is Stronger Than Cancer

For many in our community, facing cancer, in addition to facing societal biases, only adds to the stress of receiving and completing treatment. Cancer Support Community Greater Philadelphia (CSCGP) has been growing its program to enhance services to underserved groups in our community.

This current effort is focusing on both the LGBTQ+ and Spanish-speaking communities. These disenfranchised groups often receive less treatment, have less access to treatment due to barriers, and deal with the dual challenge of a cancer diagnosis and being in a group that often faces societal biases.

According to the National LGBT Cancer Network, LGBT people have a unique cluster of risk factors that lead them to greater cancer incidence and later-stage diagnosis. Seeking out and participating in support services may feel uncomfortable if there are not others like them in their support network. To that end, Cancer Support Community has begun offering a monthly networking groups for LGBT members of our community. This group will offer cancer patients and survivors the opportunity to meet and network with others who have this shared experience. It also offers the opportunity for education and support around the many issues involved with cancer and transitioning to survivorship.

Dealing with cancer when language and culture are barriers is also a challenge for many in our community.

While many cancer treatment centers offer translators for patients while they are in care, the option of support services may be limited due to a language barrier. This barrier may cause patients to ignore their social and emotional needs, which may increase stress, anxiety, and challenges with seeking support.

As we have seen people affected by increased stress and anxiety during the pandemic, the added challenges facing the LGBTQ+ and Spanish-speaking population need to be addressed.

For those who seek support in Spanish, CSCGP is pleased to announce that it is now offering services at the new Bensalem location of Alliance Cancer Specialists in Bensalem. A staff person will be on site on a part-time basis to provide support to patients in both Spanish and English.

Program Director Beth Cribb said, “We are thrilled to be able to provide services to these members of our community. So often, they do not seek services because they feel disconnected or don’t feel there will be others like them in the groups we offer. We hope that, by offering these groups and providing outreach to these communities, we will be able to reach those in need of social and emotional support.”

The monthly LGBT+ group is held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm on Zoom. For more information on this group or information on receiving services in Spanish, contact Beth Cribb at 215-441-3290, ext. 114 or BethC@cancersupportphiladelphia.org.

We are proud that our staff and volunteers are continuing to work to make sure that our services remain free and available. For more information about our free online programs, please call 215-441-3290 or visit www.cancersupportphiladelphia.org.



**CANCER SUPPORT
COMMUNITY.**

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CSCGP
at Gilda's Club

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