

SUCCESS STORIES

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Cancer Coalition of South Georgia conducts Photo Voice Project

SUMMARY

The Georgia Department of Public Health commissioned the Cancer Coalition of South Georgia to determine the outlook of cancer survivorship. First-hand accounts of living with cancer were collected from survivors in Dougherty and surrounding counties for the 2015 Photo Voice Project. A similar pilot project was launched in Lowndes County in 2014.



GET INVOLVED

Survivors:

Get connected to the Cancer Coalition. Add your name to the survivorship database to stay up to date with projects, programs, and news designed to benefit you.

Healthcare Providers:

Learn the concerns of survivors as reflected in the local data collected. Join the conversation as we search for solutions to improve quality of life for survivors.

Community Members:

Volunteer for upcoming efforts. Visit www.sgacancer.org to stay in the loop!

CHALLENGE

The population of cancer survivors living in Georgia has increased in recent years. Advances in technology, treatment, and early detection are a few factors responsible for this increase. Survivors face unique circumstances and day to day challenges. In recent years, the Georgia Department of Public Health expressed an interest in improving the quality of life for all cancer survivors. In order to best serve the growing population of survivors, a firm understanding of their ever-changing needs is a necessity. Therefore, the Photo Voice Project was birthed in an effort to document said needs.



Pictures highlighted include photo voice participants and guests in attendance at the Photo Voice reception.



SOLUTION

A diverse survivor group was recruited to provide accounts of their experience with cancer through photography. Photo Voice equipped survivors with digital cameras and encouraged photographic documentation of the survivorship continuum. Trained facilitators conducted meetings in an effort to analyze photos collected. A wealth of useful and unique information resulted. Corresponding journal narratives were provided for each photograph. All information collected during this two year effort will be compiled and disseminated to healthcare professionals, caregivers, and survivors in an effort to address the ever-changing needs of survivors.

RESULTS

Seven cancer survivors completed the Photo Voice Project. Each participant created a collection featuring 5 photos most reflective of their cancer journey. A photo gallery was displayed at the Albany Museum of Art for approximately 1 month. A reception was held at the museum on May 19, 2015 to unveil the project to participants, caregivers, and other stakeholders. Approximately 75 guests attended the reception.

Common themes expressed in photographs included the following:

- Maintaining Normalcy
- Support of Caregivers & Family
- Faith and Coping with Cancer
- Adjusting to Physical Changes



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FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The information collected from the Photo Voice Project during the past two years has provided a wealth of knowledge concerning cancer survivorship in South Georgia. It is our hope that the strategies below can be addressed in future work:

- Disseminate results of cumulative efforts (2014-2015) to stakeholders such as healthcare providers, public health officials, survivors, and policymakers
- Use organization website and social media as platform for sharing information captured in assessment
- Share resource list for cancer survivors on organization website
- Conduct ongoing data collection, assessment, and review to understand local survivorship issues.

The Cancer Coalition is excited to build upon the information collected as we strive to improve the quality of life for South Georgia Cancer survivors. The Photo Voice Project has been popular and well received by survivors, community members, and healthcare professionals. We look forward to integrating this project into future survivorship efforts initiated.