News from FIGHTING CHANCE



Life Skills for Cancer Patients

February 2006

Village of Sag Harbor Hosts 300 Cancer Patients and Caregivers for Day-Long Symposium

Fighting Chance Southampton Hospital Co-sponsor Event

KeynoteSpeakers are **Nationally Acclaimed Oncologists**



Conference banner across Main Street, Sag Harbor, November 12, 2005

Duncan Darrow Chairman of the Board Fighting Chance

From the Chairman . . .

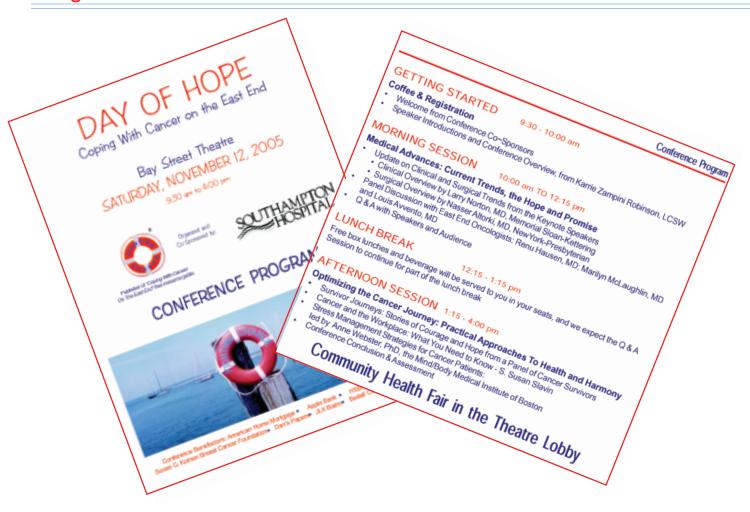
The Day of Hope was an audacious idea for Fighting Chance.

We felt that cancer patients from the East End would fill a 300-seat theatre, in the winter, to listen to eight hours of discussion about ways of coping with their disease.

As for keynote speakers we aimed high--inviting two of the greatest oncologists in America to talk about the latest breakthroughs in curing breast cancer and lung cancer. They came through.

On November 12th everything went off pretty much as we had planned -- although the planning had taken five months and work from scores of volunteers. We've strenthened ties to our co-sponsor, Southampton Hospital, and working together we expect to host a "2nd annual" Day of Hope in the fall of 2006.

Program Notes . . .



Keynote Speakers



LARRY NORTON, MD

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Doctor Norton is Deputy Physician-in-Chief for all Breast Cancer Programs . He also has served as President of The American Society of Clinical Oncology and is a Presidential Appointee to the Board of the National Cancer Institute.

Speaking on "New Frontiers in Clinical Oncology"

NASSER ALTORKI, MD New York-Presbyterian Healthcare System

Dr. Altorki, a pioneer in lung cancer surgery, is Director of Thoracic Surgery at New York Presbyterian Medical Center. He has done pioneering work on early detection of lung cancer using "CT scans" and lung cancer vaccines.

Speaking on "New Frontiers in Surgical Oncology"



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2005



East End cancer survivors shared their experiences at the Fighting Chance Day of Hope conference. The panel included, from left, Jeremy Samuelson, Jan Moran, Chuck Hitchcock, and Harry Heller. Susie Roden also spoke. Carissa Katz

FIGHTING CHANCE

Hope at a Day About Cancer Treatment

By JENNIFER LANDES

On one of the last temperate, sunny Saturdays of the year, some 300 people took time to sit in the darkened semicircle of the Bay Street Theatre this week to participate in a program dedicated to cancer.

Although the event might sound depressing on its surface, it was a day devoted to hope. And about 200 of those people who either had survived cancer, were being treated for cancer, or were recently diagnosed, were offered a measure of help and encouragement in their struggles.

Fighting Chance, a nonprofit Sag Harbor organization that provides information and access to resources for East End cancer patients, organized the symposium with Southampton Hospital.... Dr. Norton described how advances in treatment, many of them in recent years, have brought doctors closer to eradicating the disease. Dr. Altorki said that early detection techniques were allowing lung cancer patients a better chance at surgery and ultimate survival. Breast cancer and lung cancer are two of the most common cancers in the country and lung cancer is one of the deadliest

After the doctors' presentations, a panel of local doctors, Louis Avvento, Renu Hausen, and Marilyn McLaughlin, joined them to answer the audience's questions about treatment advances, drug trials, the role of politics in getting money for research, the role of the environment as a cause of cancer, and how to deal with treatment complications....

Providing an intimate look at the process of treatment and the issues involved were a group of five cancer survivors. Karrie Zampini Robinson, an oncological social worker who is the director of clinical programs at Fighting Chance and served as the conference's moderator, called the experience of cancer "a series of crises" from diagnosis to treatment. "No one can help you more than people who have been there," she observed....

According to Mr. Darrow, out of 62 counties in New York State, Suffolk is ranked seventh in number of people diagnosed with cancer.

To address the growing need, Mr. Darrow said Fighting Chance will try to offer smaller workshops over the course of the year on specific cancers in addition to larger conferences. More information on the topics presented at the conference can be found at the Web site fightingchance.org. A copy of the free book "Coping with Cancer on the East End" can be ordered there.

Feedback about the Conference

The Greater New York City Chapter of the Susan G. Komen Foundation helped shape the agenda for Day of Hope and they were kind enough to forward to Fighting Chance a letter from one of their board members that was shared with others in the Komen organization.

"It's so great when a program that Komen NYC initiates touches a friend or a family member. I have a friend in Southampton who has advanced lung and liver cancer. Last Saturday, he, his wife and daughter went to "Coping with Cancer on the East End." From what they described, it was truly "a day of education, advocacy and hope." They felt that it was hugely informative and they made some real connections with other people who were attending. They said that the speakers were excellent - and enlightening. I think that they left feeling not quite so alone. They had high praise for Karrie Robinson and Fighting Chance."



Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation

About Half of Those in Attendance Completed Conference Evaluation Forms"

The conference could be ranked from #1 (lowest-would not attend again) to #5 (highest - enthusiastically come again).

- Over 85% of the respondents gave the conference a #5 - Highest Ranking.

Respondents were ~ asked what important cancer support services were still missing on the East End. of Long Island.

- Support Groups for cancer patients as well as caregivers was the most frequently men tioned a need that still must be met.

FRIENDS OF FIGHTING CHANCE

Fighting Chance is a 501©(3) organization, and all contributions are fully tax-deductible. Checks can be made payable to Fighting Chance and sent to us at P.O. Box 1358, Sag Harbor, New York, 11963. Donations can also be made via credit card either on our website (www.fightingchance.org) or by calling our office at (631) 725-4646.