

The Southampton Press

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CANCER JOURNEYS

A Twice-a-month column from
Fighting Chance

Transportation Insecurity and Cancer Patients



Diagnosis

Emotional Impact

Treatment/Side Effects

Survivorship

Patient Stories

Getting to the Doctor

Transportation insecurity is something we often encounter at Fighting Chance, as we help patients cope with the emotional ups and downs of their cancer journeys.

Survey after survey shows that while patients are already worried about surviving and are stressing over getting through treatments like chemo or radiation therapy, the immediate challenge of getting back and forth to their doctor appointments consistently ranks as one of the leading sources of patient anxiety.

Logistics

A major reason for the anxiety is simply this: about 40% of U.S. households have only one car, and 10% have no car at all. If one family member takes the only car to work, how would the patient get to cancer therapy? And what if the patient doesn't have the strength to drive, even if a car is available?

You can only rely on a friend or neighbor so many times.

Enter Hometown Taxi which began a partnership with Fighting Chance about two years ago. The charity administers the program and Hometown subsidizes the cost of the taxi rides.

How It Works

A cancer patient calls Fighting Chance at 631.725.4646 with the destination of

their medical appointment and the time and place for the pick-up.

Fighting Chance alerts Hometown and a taxi is dispatched.

That's it. Simple. Free. And a good example of neighbor helping neighbor.



New Publicity

Over the last few months, the program has experienced a growth spurt, partially as a result of our placing posters in the windows of several Hometown taxis.

The posters promote how cancer patients can ride free by calling Fighting Chance.

Every day, Fighting Chance gets calls for a Hometown ride. Making

this resource available has greatly reduced the anxiety of "transportation insecurity" - - at least on the Long Island's East End.

How It All Started

In the Spring of 2020, Duncan Darrow, Chairman of Fighting Chance, got to know Bryan Daparma, the Owner / Operator of Hometown Taxi.

They hit it off especially well, owing, in part, to Duncan's past experience driving a NYC taxicab for 6 years, back in the day.

It didn't take long for Duncan and Bryan to figure out a way to work together devising a plan to reach out and help countless East End cancer patients - - patients who were often stranded at home, unable to get to their doctor appointments and wondering if that would compromise their chance of recovery.

The Fighting Chance/Hometown Taxi partnership is going on two years and just continues to expand.

Fighting Chance has offices in
Sag Harbor and at the
Phillips Family Cancer Center
in Southampton.

For more details, or information
please call **631 725 4646**.

Visit our website at
www.fightingchance.org