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watercolor by Nat Lewis

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## Annual Report 2007

### FIGHTING CHANCE

Counseling and Resource Center for Cancer Patients  
serving the East End free of charge . . . since 2002



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**HOME SWEET HOME** . . .In April 2007 Fighting Chance moved into new offices. We have five rooms on the ground floor of an 1890's home in the historic district of Sag Harbor. We have ample parking and our patients have already adopted a small garden in the rear of the property.



photos: C.B. Grubb



# FIGHTING CHANCE

Counseling and Resource Center for Cancer Patients  
Serving the East End . . . free of charge since 2002

P.O. Box 1358  
Sag Harbor, NY 11963

Tel: 631.725.4646

Fax: 631.725.5731

e-mail: [info@fightingchance.org](mailto:info@fightingchance.org)

website: [www.fightingchance.org](http://www.fightingchance.org)

## Board of Directors

*Peter Bach, MD*

*Betsy Battle*

*Anthony Brandt*

*Duncan Darrow (Chair)*

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*Ben Gillikin (Vice Chair)*

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*Karrie Zampini Robinson, LCSW*  
**Director of Clinical Programs**

*Jessica Berlin, MSW*  
**Director of Internet Outreach**

*Heather Matthews*  
**Cancer Patient Navigator**

*Bill Di Scipio, PhD*  
**Senior Clinical Advisor**

**We Believe...**  
*that everyone who  
battles cancer  
deserves a  
FIGHTING CHANCE*



**Duncan Darrow**  
*Chairman of the Board  
Fighting Chance*

To Friends of Fighting Chance . . . Old and New:

Each year about 1,000 residents of the East End are stricken with cancer and about 40% of them call Fighting Chance – many within 48 hours of diagnosis. Providing help to these people, and their families, is why we exist. What cancer patients find at our Sag Harbor office is someone else who will fight by their side. Someone who is a real pro.

Almost everyone in our office has spent their career on the cancer battlefield. We have oncology social workers who have provided cancer patient support for decades. Another crisis counselor is a cancer survivor and PhD. Our navigator was trained at the National Cancer Institute and helped author the Fighting Chance directory of key contacts within the East End healthcare system. And, if you can't get to the doctor we'll find someone to drive you there.

These and our other programs (all free-of-charge) are outlined in the pages that follow; you can see, I hope, how well they compliment one another.

Over time, the communities we serve have recognized the valuable role of Fighting Chance. In 2007, the year when we celebrated our fifth anniversary, we raised \$382,000 from over 400 contributors. Each donor is named on the front or back of this annual report. Thanks to all of you, from the bottom of my heart.

And what about the future of supportive care for cancer patients? We think, as also discussed in this report, more support will be delivered by "cancer patient navigators" -- we have had one on our staff for nearly three years.

For there to be more navigators, however, there will need to be role models, an accepted course of study and certification. This is an area of cancer care where Fighting Chance can share our practical experience with others, and we expect to do so.

But whether we are talking about the past or the future, our core belief is the same as the day we started: that everyone who battles cancer deserves a fighting chance.

**Duncan N. Darrow**  
**Chairman**



# Our Free-of-Charge Programs . . . (1) Patient Education . . .

## Cancer Library . . . at our Sag Harbor office



Scores of newsletters, pamphlets and other educational materials that our staff has carefully selected

## Large Scale Conferences

**DAY OF HOPE**  
Improving Cancer Care on the East End  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2006, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Bay Street Theatre, Sag Harbor

From The Cancer Center at Stony Brook University Hospital

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
"Clearer To A Cure: Improving Cancer Care in Suffolk County"  
Dr. Martin S. Kuryska, Jr.  
Director of The Cancer Center and Chief, DR. of Surgical Oncology

**"New Advances on Lung Cancer"**  
Dr. Theodore G. Kelly, MD  
Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology

**"Innovative Clinical Trials To Prevent & Treat Prostate, Bladder & Kidney Cancer"**  
Exp. Dr. Christopher S. Li, MD  
Chairman of Hematology/Oncology

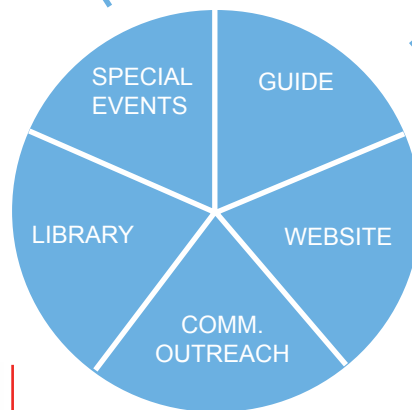
**FREE ADMISSION - REGISTRATION NECESSARY - CALL 631.725.4646**  
Also Hear from distinguished East End Oncologists, Oncology Nurses and Patient Advocates . . .

## Resource Guide



75 pages of listings updated annually. Thousands of copies distributed.

## Cancer Patient Education



## Quarterly Newsletter

**News from FIGHTING CHANCE**  
Life Skills for Cancer Patients

**Grass Roots Support for Fighting Chance**  
High School Friends Host Spaghetti Dinner with Fighting Chance as a Benefactor

**Benefit with Fight Saturday May 12th 1-4pm**

Website . . . 4,000 hits per month . . . also provides portal for e-counseling

**FIGHTING CHANCE**  
Counseling and Resource Center for Cancer Patients  
serving the East End... free of charge

**our organization...**

- contact us
- who we are
- professional staff
- governance
- get involved
- gifts & donate

**our resources...**

- In-person counseling
- e-counseling
- resource guide
- calendar & newsletter
- support groups
- day of hope
- patient navigator
- book of hope
- library

# (2) Cancer Patient Counseling . . . (3) Urgent Care Services

Workshops on topics of interest . . .  
five times a year



Professional  
Counseling . . .  
from our  
Oncology  
Social Worker

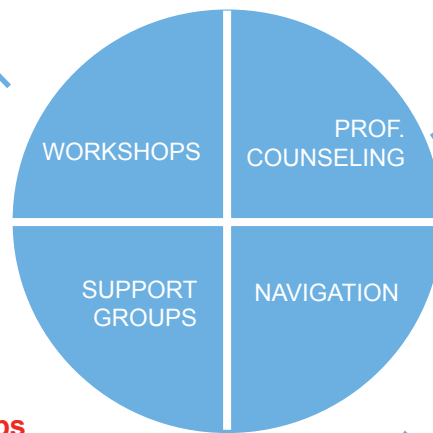


**Karrie Zampini Robinson**

. . . previously with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York as Director of Post-Treatment Resource Programs, before joining Fighting Chance in 2005.

Conducts in-office counseling sessions each week with cancer patients, often with follow-up telephone conference.

## Cancer Patient Counseling Programs



Masters in  
Social Work  
. . . provides  
e-counseling



**Jessica Berlin**

. . . for some cancer patients, counseling over the internet, what we call "e-counseling" is the most convenient.

Our advisory emails are one-of-a-kind . . . based on a careful review of each email and each patient's needs.

## Cancer Patient Support Groups . . . at our Sag Harbor office

Karrie Robinson and Jessica Berlin serve jointly as professional group leaders with all sessions held at local hospitals.

Each group has around 15 patients with separate sessions for caregivers and those with advanced cancer.

## Patient Navigation . . . from our Cancer Information Specialist

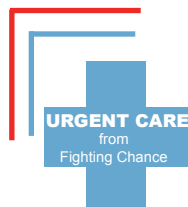
**Heather Matthews**

. . . raised in Montauk, worked at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and completed training under the National Cancer Institute program as a cancer information specialist.



photos: C.B. Grubb

Provides telephone counseling to cancer patients to help navigate the health care system.



## Urgent Care Services

**Patient Transportation**

**Housecleaning & Help-at-home**

**Financial Aid Neighborhood Fund**

# Highlights from 2007 . . .

## June '07 ... Ribbon Cutting at our New Office and Community Open House



More than 100 guests in attendance. Special thanks to our event partners . . . Turbochef and HC&G Magazine.

## Book of Hope



"What hope means to me"

the voices of East End cancer patients and their caregivers

**Published in July 2007**

The voices of 40 cancer patients -- all of them being counseled by Fighting Chance -- providing a personal reflection on "What Hope Means To Me". Widely distributed in bookstores across the East End.

**COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS...** Fighting Chance put on five of these during 2007 -- each on a topic of special interest to cancer patients. We typically had 25 or more attendees and expect to continue this outreach program.

Mind/Body Medicine for Stage 4 Cancer Patients

APRIL  
Southampton Hosp

Main speakers were experts in Alternative Medicine.

Nutrition for Cancer Patients<sup>1</sup>

MAY  
Riverhead Library

Keynote speaker was Chief Nutritionist from MSK..

Hope & Healing Thru Meditation

OCTOBER  
Sag Harbor Office

Lead by Karrie Robinson; once-a week for entire month.

Education for Lung Cancer Patients<sup>2</sup>

NOVEMBER  
Sag Harbor Office

Viewing of podcast on lung cancer, followed by group discussion/Q&A.

Look Good/Feel Better<sup>3</sup>

DECEMBER  
Sag Harbor Office

Cosmetic tips and wellness advice for breast cancer patients.

1) Co-sponsored with North Fork Breast Health Coalition. 2) Co-sponsored with Lung Cancer Research Foundation. 3) Co-sponsored with Komen/Race for the Cure & the American Cancer Society.

## Fighting Chance . . . Building More Bridges To The Medical Community

Fighting Chance continues to build bridges to local oncology providers, as well as major cancer centers like Memorial Sloan-Kettering or “MSK” which is based in New York City but has two satellite facilities on Long Island. Two of our current staff members -- **Karrie Robinson** and **Heather Matthews** -- are both MSK alumni, having worked at MSK earlier in their careers.

Our medical advisory board is very important to Fighting Chance. We are fortunate that it is headed up by **Philip Schulman, MD** who is the Chief Oncologist at the MSK facility in Commack, about half-way out Long Island. Dr. Schulman also served as the Honorary Chair of our summer gala in both '06 and '07.



Dr. Peter Bach

A new member of our board of directors, joining us in 2007, is **Peter Bach, MD**, from MSK’s main facility in New York City. Another new Board member is Renu Hausen, MD, one of the leading radiation oncologists on the East End.



Dr. Schulman at the MSK Commack Facility

Barbara McLaughlin also became a new board member in '07, after serving for several years as executive director of MSK’s main fundraising arm, known as “The Society of Memorial Sloan-Kettering.”

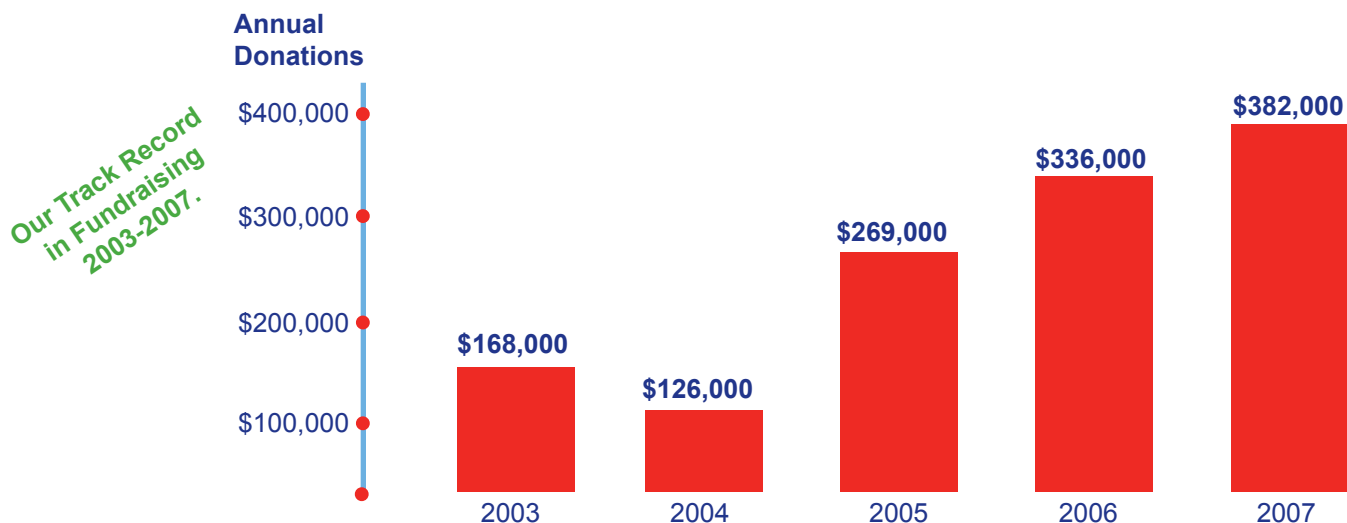


Barbara McLaughlin

Finally, Martin Karpeh, Jr. MD, board member of Fighting Chance, began his career at MSK and then headed up The Cancer Center at Stony Brook University Hospital. This past year he was appointed Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Beth Israel Hospital.



Dr. Martin Karpeh, Jr.





# Cancer Patient Navigators... an Introduction

Q. What is a Cancer Patient Navigator?

A. Someone who is schooled in how the health care system takes care of cancer patients and how local communities can provide additional resources.

Because the process of diagnosis, treatment and recovery is so highly *fragmented* -- a typical cancer patient can easily see five different doctors -- the navigator provides *continuity* for the patient and also helps improve lines of communication between the patient, their family, their doctors, the hospital and insurers.

Q. Do they have a role in cancer detection?

A. In some cases, yes. One of the pioneering navigation programs, created by Dr. Harold Freeman at a hospital in Harlem, used navigators to insure that individuals with suspicious cancer findings received prompt diagnosis.

Q. Is there a widely-accepted course of study to become a cancer patient navigator?

A. No. The navigator at Fighting Chance was educated to serve as a "cancer information specialist" by the National Cancer Institute -- and helped staff the NCI's 1-800 telephone "helpline" for several years. But many navigators have never completed any organized course of study, although there is a three-day training initiative underway at a cancer center in New York City.

Q. Are the services of a Cancer Patient Navigator reimbursable under Medicare?

A. No, but the services are free of charge at Fighting Chance.

Q. Is the Federal Government doing anything?

A. Yes. An Act of Congress -- signed into law by the President in 2005 -- called for \$25 million of funding for "Pilot Programs" to see how helpful navigation services were to cancer patients. And in 2007 a panel of experts working for a unit of the National Academy of Science issued a report saying that services from navigators are critically important if oncology providers want to meet an "acceptable standard of care."

Act of Congress...  
appropriating \$25 million



Blue Ribbon Panel in  
'07 ... details role of  
navigators



"This Act may be cited as the  
Patient Navigator  
Outreach and Chronic Disease  
Prevention Act of 2005".

**Authored by:**  
Committee on Psychosocial Services to  
Cancer Patients/Families in a Community  
Setting, Institute of Medicine.



# Cancer Patient Navigators... How They Help



## Questions Patients Ask Navigators:

- Q. What kind of tests are required and how do I find a good oncologist?
- Q. I want to learn about cancer... but I'm 70 years old and never used a computer . . . how can I get internet access and can someone help me find the best websites?
- Q. Feels like I am in shock... do you have crisis counseling?
- Q. I want to learn a lot more about this cancer... is there a specialized library where can I get brochures and see videos?
- Q. I'll need help from the community... do you have a guide to local cancer care resources?
- Q. Where can I get a "2nd Opinion" and who can explain the pros and cons of clinical trials?
- Q. Can someone look at my insurance policy and tell me if every treatment option is covered?
- Q. In deciding between treatments, I'd like some statistics on odds for survival . . . where do I get that data?
- Q. What's going to happen at the hospital -- how long will I be there, what doctors will I see, will surgery be painful and how long will my recovery take?
- Q. When I get come home from the hospital, are there some volunteers who can help around the house for a while?
- Q. Is there someone who could drive me to some of my radiation treatments -- which will happen 5 days/week for 5 weeks in a row?
- Q. I'm worried about the side effects of chemo... can someone educate me?
- Q. What are my rights at the workplace... do I get my old job back?
- Q. Is there a support group nearby for cancer patients?
- Q. I want to learn more about good nutrition and stress management... are there any local resources?
- Q. I've seen several doctors, which one is the best to call if I think my cancer is coming back?

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2007



**THE TEAM:** Karrie Robinson, Duncan Darrow and Heather Matthews

## 5 Years of Giving A Fighting Chance

**BY JOHN BAYLES**

FIGHTING CHANCE has moved from a tiny space behind the Kramoris Gallery to a traditional, beautiful Sag Harbor home on the corner of Jermain Avenue and Route 114. They may have a swank new place, but they're not letting it go to their heads. Their mission remains the same - to provide help to those who need it most.

Fighting Chance was founded five years ago by Duncan Darrow and on Saturday, they will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new offices. Fighting Chance is growing into a non-profit that Darrow hopes will one day be synonymous with his hometown.

The name came from a prayer. In 2001 Darrow's mother was diagnosed with lung cancer.

"Dear God, all we're asking for is a fighting chance. That was my prayer every night," said Darrow.

Fighting Chance began as a small group of Darrow's friends, some of whom were cancer survivors, who gathered to brainstorm on ways they might be able to help cancer patients. Today Fighting Chance can proudly say that in five years they have helped approximately 2000 cancer patients and caregivers. They have distributed over 10,000 resource guides and have over 5,000 visitors a month to their website.

They have updated the guide four years in a row. It contains useful resources such as transportation options to and from hospitals, information on available clinical trials for new cancer drugs, and a list of pharmacies that take Medicare, have home delivery and speak Spanish. Many such resources can be found online, but a guide with all the resources in one place had never existed.

Director of Clinical Programs at Fighting Chance, Karrie Zampini Robinson pointed out another benefit of the resource guide.

"A lot of older people don't go online," said Robinson. The guide is good for them."

"We basically started as a clearing house," said Darrow. "Then one day I looked up and this little foundation had a Sloan-Kettering Counselor and a National Cancer Institute Patient Navigator."

Patient Navigator Heather Matthews joined Fighting Chance 2005 from the National Cancer Institute where she was trained as a Cancer Information Specialist. Robinson also had 16 years of counseling care and oncology social work experience at Sloan-Kettering. Darrow said without them Fighting Chance would not be what it is today.

"The typical patient shows up at Fighting Chance's front door usu-

ally within 48 hours of diagnosis.

"They come in and we sit them down in the living room," said Darrow. "We show them a half hour video on their disease."

Robinson said the video might be the first time the patient really "hears" about their cancer.

"When the doctor tells you," said Robinson, "you're in shock and you're not really listening."

From the living room the patient is led into the cancer library where a "wall of hope" has been constructed showing the 10 best clinical trials currently underway in the country. The library also has cancer literature in Spanish.

The foundation has acknowledged certain facts: cancer isn't going anywhere. Hospitals are doing less and less for the patient; hospitals only treat the tumor.

At Fighting Chance, Robinson and Matthews treat the patient, the "whole" patient, and the family.

## FINANCIAL CONDITION

The audited financial statements for Fighting Chance, Inc. (which are available to anyone by simply calling our office) have been prepared by our CPA and, for the year ended December 31, 2007, include (i) statement of cash flows, (ii) statement of activities, (iii) statement of financial condition, and (iv) footnotes.

For the year ended 12/31/07 . . .

Our approximate total revenues were: \$382,000

Our approximate total expenses were: \$337,000

Our approximate "rainy day fund" totals: \$ 60,000

Fighting Chance, Inc. is a New York Non-profit corporation and also has qualified as a charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. "Fighting Chance" is a US registered trademark owned by Fighting Chance, Inc. which also is proprietor of the domain name "fightingchance.org."



Counseling and Resource Center for Cancer Patients

*Serving the East End . . . Free-of-Charge since 2002*

112 Hampton Street, Sag Harbor, NY 11963  
631.725.4646 [www.fightingchance.org](http://www.fightingchance.org)

# More Donors from 2007 . . .

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 Thomas & Dawn Peer\*  
 Pichard Pierce Photography, Inc.  
 Norman & Midge Podhoretz  
 Plum Builders (in memory Stefi Grengress)  
 Phil Presby  
 Rev. Darwin Price  
 Grace Price  
 Julie Ratner  
 Michael Recanti & Ira Staffeld  
 Elizabeth Reller  
 The Reiss Family Foundation  
 Torey Riso  
 Lee R. Robinson  
 Sheila Rogers  
 Peter & Kathleen Rozsa\*  
 Kenneth & Ronni Rubin  
 Penelope Ross  
 Roni Rubin (in memory of Capt. Mike Brumm)  
 Stephen Rutenberg  
 Sag Harbor Liquors  
 Robert & Ellen Sakowitz (in memory of  
 Capt. Mike Brumm)  
 Kevin Salmini  
 Jeffrey & Patricia Schneider  
 Janet Scholder  
 Robert Schorr  
 Christian Schropsdorf  
 Jerrold Schwabe  
 Catherine Lipkin Schwartz  
 Selldorf Architects  
 Harvey Shapiro  
 Linda Shapiro  
 John & Cynthia Shea  
 William Shepherd  
 Barry Silbert (in memory of Bradford Monks)  
 Fred & Bettina Stelle  
 Jeffrey Simpson  
 Rabbi Steven Skindell  
 Wilson & Dorothy Stone  
 South Fork Breast Health Coalition  
 Richard & Renee Steinberg  
 Barbara Strauss  
 Robert & Lynn Tepe  
 Roger & Lisa Thayer  
 Helen Thoma (in tribute of Henry Griffo)  
 Marcia Trumpowsky  
 Claudine Vacirca  
 John & Marion Vigilante  
 Thomas & Marita Walper  
 Holly Whitmore  
 Lance Wickel  
 Galen Williams  
 Nancy Williams  
 Ann Wollock  
 Jane Wood  
 George & Linda Yates  
 Geraldine Zaccour  
 Carol & Jim Zuhusky