



Teamwork Is Key As Patient Care Staff Expands in 2008

Volunteers Bolster Office Management and Fundraising

Increase in Cancer Patient Navigation Thanks to support from Ralph Lauren Foundation & Swim Across America

The Team at Fighting Chance . . .

Front Row from left: **Heather Matthews** (Navigator); **Laraine Gordon, LCSW** (Oncology Social Worker & Navigator)

Second Row: (from left) **Vanessa Petruccelli** (Office Manager); **Bill Di Sipio, Ph. D** (Clinical Psychologist); **Karrie Robinson, LCSW** (Oncology Social Worker, Navigator & Director of Clinical Programs)

Third Row from left: **Ben Gillikin**, (Vice Chairman); **Duncan N. Darrow** (Founder & Chairman)



photo: C.B. Grubb

Of those on the Fighting Chance team, two of the original members - Heather Matthews and Karrie Robinson, LCSW - have superb skills in the growing field of "cancer patient navigation," Karrie, of course, also is exceptionally gifted in one-on-one psychosocial counseling.

What you may not know is that by the end of this year, four more members of our team - Laraine Gordon, Ben Gillikin (our Vice Chair), Dr. Bill Di Scipio and our Chairman, Duncan Darrow will have graduated from a three-day training program for prospective cancer patient navigators. It is held at the Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Institute, which is located on 124th Street in Harlem. Dr. Freeman provides a "certification" to all graduates of the institute.

Dr. Freeman is considered one of the pioneers of cancer patient navigation and has conducted studies showing that this form of supportive care can significantly improve outcomes for many cancer patients.

New Oncology Social Worker Joins Fighting Chance

The newest member of the Fighting Chance team -- who joined us this summer --- is Laraine Gordon. She is a licensed social worker with a decade of experience, primarily counseling patients with cancer. She will continue in that role in our Sag Harbor office.

In addition, Laraine also has exceptionally strong navigation skills because she has worked within the world of Suffolk County hospitals and healthcare clinics for many years.

Laraine also maintains a private practice in Southampton, and is widely respected for her work providing grief counseling to teenagers.



Laraine Gordon, LCSW

Born and raised in Suffolk County and current resident of Southampton



photos: C.B. Grubb



Mr. Don Garrity, the keynote speaker from Memorial Sloan-Kettering is flanked by Heather Matthews (on the left), the Patient Navigator at Fighting Chance, and Karrie Robinson, LCSW, who organized the Workshop and is the Director of Clinical Programs at Fighting Chance.

Educational Workshops ... have become a staple of our community outreach. In September, Fighting Chance sponsored its fifth Workshop of the year — on the timely topic of Cancer & Nutrition.

We were fortunate to attract one of the country's leading nutrition experts as our keynote speaker, and had nearly 50 cancer patients and caregivers in attendance. Our thanks to Bridgehampton National Bank for hosting this event.

From the Chairman . . .

The **Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Institute**, is located at 124th Street in Harlem and is part of the Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care and Preventative Medicine. It addresses the issue of "health disparities" in the field of cancer care and is a realization of a dream held by both Dr. Freeman and Ralph Lauren.

What do you learn at the Institute?

You learn that besides medical treatment, a cancer patient has many other needs to be met. You obtain the knowledge and skill to help address patient needs that include . . . financial stress, disputes over insurance coverage, rights of the patient in the workplace, transportation (to doctor appointments) and overcoming the many kinds of "red tape" confronted in our healthcare bureaucracy.



Duncan Darrow was the first person from Fighting Chance to go to the Institute -- attending the session in July '08. He is seen here with fellow classmates.

Fighting Chance Benefit
FIGHTING CHANCE, the first free-of-charge counseling service and resource center for cancer patients, invited guests to celebrate at its annual summer gala. The festive evening benefited the nonprofit and its work in the East End.

GALA-GOERS
< 1 > Peter Darrow with Denise Seegall, Anthony Brandt and Lorraine Dusky. < 2 > Sue Davies with Barbara McLaughlin. < 3 > Steven Sands with Richard Periman and Russell Steele of R.E. Steele Antiques. < 4 > John and Susan Jaxheimer with Bill Melville. < 5 > David Schieldrop with Catherine Grant, Dr. Peter Bach and Ruth Mazzoni. < 6 > Dr. Martin Karpeh with Patricia Kinney, Fighting Chance founder Duncan Darrow, Michael Kinney, Daniel Schulman and Dr. Philip Schulman.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD LEWIN

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Our Summer Gala '08, which had twice as many guests as the year before, also garnered positive publicity in HC&G, one of the most widely read magazines in the Hamptons.



This September the "Pumpkin Classic," to benefit Fighting Chance, was held for the 3rd year in a row at the Friars Head Golf Club in the Hamptons - whose course now ranks in the Top 25 in the nation.

The leading sponsors, also for the 3rd year in a row, were David Matlin (who developed the course); Tuck Hardie, a Wall Street investment banker and his firm, Houlihan Lokey; and the law firm of Sidley Austin.



Inspired leadership for the Tournament also came from Tuck Hardie, a senior banker at Houlihan Lokey



The Tourney's Major Benefactor is David Matlin (on the right). Next to him is Joe Armbrust, a senior partner at the Sidley Austin law firm.



photos: C.B. Grubb

Friar's Head

The recently completed Clubhouse at Friars Head (left)



A group photo of the 40 golfers who participated in the Pumpkin Classic - and all of them made generous donations to Fighting Chance