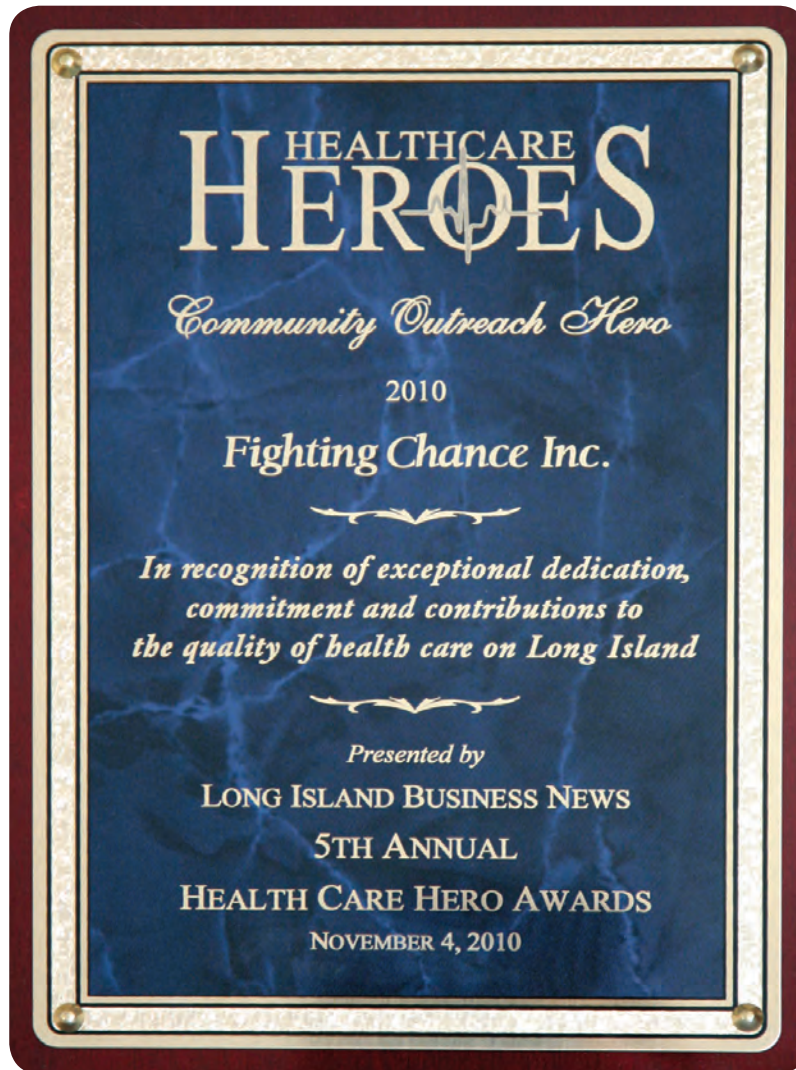


DECADE



FIGHTING CHANCE • 2010 ANNUAL REPORT
APPROACHING A DECADE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE





Awarded in 2010 by the Long Island Business News

Photographs by Ken Robbins
Design and Art Direction: Nancy Greenberg;
Contributing Graphics: C.B.Grubb



Spring 2011,

In just a few months Fighting Chance will be ten years old. We felt it was timely to honor and commemorate the cancer journeys of the many patients we have seen in over almost a decade of community service.

To do so, this annual report embraces the photography of Ken Robbins, who has been acclaimed for chronicling the beauty of the East End since the 1980s. That beauty is something our patients almost always cite as the source of serenity, sanctuary, strength and hope.

Most of you may not know, but I've been keeping a Fighting Chance Diary since the day we started in 2002. A few of these excerpts accompany Ken's images.

Duncan N. Darrow
Founder & Chairman



Free Cancer Counseling Center
Serving the East End . . . since 2002



2002

My mom just died. After battling lung cancer for 90 days. We were "lost at sea" the whole time.

I prayed every night: "Dear God, all we're asking for is a fighting chance." Before the year was over, "Fighting Chance" became the name of a new non-profit operating out of a garage in Sag Harbor. I guess God has a plan.



2003

Its early 2003. Our Board asks: "What is the first thing – really concrete thing – we should do for the community?"

We decide to develop a where-to-find-it guide for all the resources an East End cancer patient might need. Thousands of copies are distributed. A real best seller...except its free.



2004

We hire our first part-time clinical staff - Karrie Robinson, LCSW, - an oncology social worker who retired to the East End after working for 15 years at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

Karrie is highly literate in the vocabulary of oncology, she's an empathic counselor and conversant with all the twists and turns in someone's "cancer journey." I can see she will become a cornerstone of our organization.



2005

January this year is very, very hard. It's the first time I can recall when several of our patients - all in the space of one month - lose their battle with cancer.

The office is much quieter than usual for a while. Staff members sometimes seem lost in their thoughts. I am reminded that cancer truly is a formidable opponent.



2006

We're meeting more community needs. At the end of last year we produced the "Day of Hope" in a 300-seat Sag Harbor theatre filled to capacity with cancer patients. They gained inspiration from one another and heard from world-class experts (like Larry Norton, MD) about the latest life-saving scientific breakthroughs.

In '06 we hire a "cancer patient navigator." I think of her as an expert in cutting the "red tape" in the health care system. We start seeing more and more patients. As an office, our garage is now way too small.

2007

It's our 5th Anniversary! We celebrate with a "ribbon cutting" party at our new and larger Sag Harbor office.

We now are providing patients with both psycho-social counseling and navigation of the healthcare system in the patient's first visit to our office. We even have room for support groups.



2008

Swim Across America - which raises money for cancer care projects through long-distance swims - has taken us under their wing. We've never had a large foundation-type grant before.

But they ask about "metrics". How do we measure our success? I know that every year 1,000 East End residents are told "You have Cancer." In '08 we see 25% of those newly-diagnosed patients.



2009

Our services and staff keep expanding. Everyone seems to want a copy of our resource guide, *Coping with Cancer on the East End*, which we've been updating annually since 2002, so we add an "e-guide" to our web site.

Our Oncology Care Team keeps getting more requests for professionally led "support groups". Patients say that the only ones who really understand them are other people who've had to cope with cancer. I can see that, but, once again, we need a larger office.



2010

It's October and 25 of our former patients - all proud survivors - are lined up in front of the new office at #34 Bay Street on Sag Harbor's waterfront. They "cut the ribbon" and our new offices - 1,500 sq.ft. - are officially open.

I think back nine years to when my Mom battled lung cancer and died in Southampton Hospital. We felt so lost at sea - so disempowered and bewildered. From that horrible experience came some inspiration. To try and make a cancer diagnosis less overwhelming for the next guy. I think to myself: "Mom, now no one should get lost a sea."

Press Coverage 2003 - 2010

BUSINESS TODAY

Increasing the Odds for Cancer Patients

BY PEGGY SPELLMAN HOEY

Fleeting moments sometimes offer up different choices to human beings in the form of chances, while our free will determines the course we take. Chances are just that, once lost they are gone forever.

Cancer patients and their loved ones ponder these thoughts when faced by the varying forms of the killer disease as the line between chance and choice blurs. Some feel they missed their chance to make another choice or change a life decision, while others feel overwhelmed by the many choices they must make regarding their course of treatment. Not only do the patients and their families face an uphill battle physically, but a mental and emotional one as well.

telling them all she really wanted was a fighting chance. They told me that would be a great name for the organization. So there you have it, what it is today "Fighting Chance" There I was — me and my name — with my mother in the graveyard."

In the last ten years, the number of cancer diagnoses has increased exponentially on the East End. There are a particularly high number of cancer diagnoses within an already limited geographic area. Fighting Chance organizations have provided a comprehensive range of services from cancer doctors, clinical trials and treatment. "Coping with Cancer: A Practical Resource Guide"

2003

The Sag Harbor Express

FIGHTING CHANCE

Organization Is a Life Saver

One year after opening, help thousands cope with cancer

BY RACHAEL SHAW

It is exactly one year since "Fighting Chance" opened up its office in a little alley off Main Street, Sag Harbor. Since then the charity, which is committed to providing support and information for cancer patients and caregivers, has grown remarkably. The charity's story actually begins two years ago, in



2004

"Fighting Chance" bridges the gap between the medical world and the patient world. It's a place where patients can get up with doctors and nurses, and where caregivers can get up with patients. As Southampton resident Kettering, Janine, says, "it's our lifeline." Fighting Chance is a helpful part of patient care. Robinson has also been helpful. Post-Treatment at Memorial Sloan-Kettering offers a unique insight as an oncological social worker and will be a liaison with the Medical Advisory Committee. She praises the guide saying that, "it gives them [cancer patients and caregivers] what they need. It is relevant and informative."

Over the past year, Fighting Chance has seen its website "explode," now receiving over 4,000 hits every month. Further evidence of the charity's success is provided by their recent partnership with Cancer Care, a national non-profit that provides free, professional services to

Fighting Chance Anniversary

FIGHTING CHANCE, a cancer counseling and resource center serving the East End, celebrated its fifth anniversary and the opening of its new Sag Harbor offices on June 16 with a ribbon cutting ceremony and cocktail party.



2005

FIGHTIN' FOLKS

◀1> HC&G's Eileen Ekstract with Fighting Chance founder Duncan Darrow. ◀2> Carol Mason with director of clinical programs Karrie Zampini-Robinson and



2008

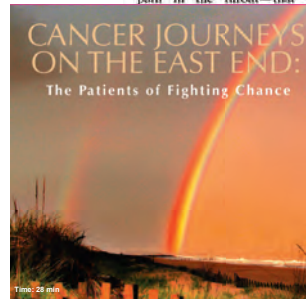
The Southampton Press

THE VIEW EAST

Giving East End Cancer Patients a Fighting Chance

By Reynolds Dodson

The thing about cancer is that it only happens to other people. That annoying ache in the ear, that little pain in the throat—that doesn't



But 1,000 kind of, and that, to Sag Noble with her Ms. ow, a soon ter of t was hinks how pany,

who will pay the bills, who will cook the meals. At one point, Mr. Darrow said to himself, "All I ask is that my mother be given a fighting chance" — and that's when an idea was born. Fighting Chance, founded by Mr. Darrow, is now in its seventh year as the East End's only organi-

zation solely dedicated to helping cancer patients cope with all aspects of the disease. Headquartered in a welcoming Victorian on Route 114 in Sag Harbor, it has helped hundreds of frightened people through the labyrinthine maze of treatment, support and recovery. Next Thursday, July 9, at 8 p.m., SEA-TV in Southampton and LITV in East Hampton will carry the first documentary devoted to Fighting Chance. It's a 40-minute production called "Cancer Journeys on the East End: The Patients of Fighting Chance," and it should be viewed by anyone who wants to understand this illness. Far from being the "downer" you might expect, it's a stirring tribute to the human spirit made more poignant by its focus on real people living here on the East End. Recently, I talked to Ben Gillikin, Fighting Chance's vice chairman, and Maxa Luppi, a "patient navigator." Ben is a former cosmetics company executive who now lives in East Hampton, and Maxa is a Water Mill resident whose late husband, Dick, was a friend of mine. There are a lot of charities with good intentions, but Fighting Chance is unusual in its local focus and thorough professionalism.

The Sag Harbor Express

Five Years of Giving a Fighting Chance

2007



Hamptons Health & Fitness

2005



Fighting Chance is helping East Enders fight cancer of all types right at home. Launched five years ago, Fighting Chance runs the gamut of helping families cope with cancer, assisting patients of all ages who need help with the fight and, as its website says, "keeping the body and soul together"

2008

The Sag Harbor Express
July 2, 2009

Tracking the Journeys of Local Cancer Victims

New Film Tracks East End Cancer Journeys

By Marissa Maier

Duncan Darrow, founder of Fighting Chance a counseling and resource center for East End cancer patients located in Sag Harbor, says that every cancer patient's journey begins with three simple words: "You have cancer."

After this sobering news is delivered, the road to recovery differs for each patient depending on the severity of their cancer and the applicable treatment. A new documentary, titled "Cancer Journeys on the East End: The Patients of Fighting Chance," deftly illuminates the journey of several cancer survivors living on the East End. Bay Street Theatre is hosting a free public screening of the film on Sunday, July 12, at 2 p.m. and it will also be broadcast on LTV, channel 20, and SEA-TV, channel 22, on Thursday, July 9.

"We wanted to lift up the voice of the cancer patients to show their distinctive experience. For



"People don't think of the tiny little things ... who takes care of the children? Who takes you to the doctor?" - Suzee



"Don't do it alone. I can't stress that enough ... doing it alone will kill you." - Lonnie



"The disease is like your worst flu combined with your worst hangover." - John

THE EAST HAMPTON STAR SHINES FOR ALL Giving a Fighting Chance

The East Hampton Star, June 14, 2009



"People find it very welcoming, very comforting" Heather Mathews, Fighting Chance's cancer information specialist, said of the group's new office on Hampton Street in Sag Harbor.

Carissa Katz

2007



Fighting Chance for Those "Lost at Sea"

A life is changed in an instant when a cancer diagnosis is made. Discussions about myriad treatments, oncologists and insurance make a person feel at sea.

Sag Harbor resident Duncan Darrow has dedicated the last 10 years of his life to being able to throw a life preserver to those in that whirlpool. Fighting Chance

And then she got sick. In 2001, Charlotte had in her arm that turned out to be a tumor that ate her lung. Darrow became the main caregiver, tri between the city and Sag Harbor. "As you wa disease, things come up, you need 24/7 help. I eryone has that option. Where do these people

2010

'Fighting Chance' Offers Cancer Patients Just That

By Nicole A. Flotteron



New York State Assemblyman Fred Thiele with the staff at Fighting Chance in their therapy room.

(C.B. Grubb)

Southampton - With an aging population, and isolation from major cancer centers, the East End can be a tough place to have cancer. Often times patients are forced to drive to Riverhead or Stony Brook for radiation and chemotherapy treatments multiple times a week, which in turn can take a toll on their already fragile and weakened immune system and energy levels. Caregivers and family members are faced with the daunting task of caring for their loved ones with the nearest cancer centers and sources of help quite far away.

There are however many support organization on the East End that can help both those with cancer and their loved ones to cope during treatment. Duncan Darrow founded Fighting Chance in 2002 after his mother, a Sag Harbor resident battled lung cancer. He decided that the East End needed a resource to help patients navigate the health system and negotiate the logistic of treatment in a rural setting.

2010

THE EAST HAMPTON STAR SHINES FOR ALL Thursday, July 29 2010

New Day and New Digs for Fighting Chance

Therapy dogs, benefit bash, and more outreach than ever



The staff of Fighting Chance gathered recently at the organization's new headquarters on Bay Street in Sag Harbor. photo: C.B. Grubb

By JENNIFER LANDES

1,000 to 1,500 people each year are diagnosed with some kind of cancer on the East End. Of those, 350 end up dying in hospice care within that year, according to Duncan Darrow, the founder and chairman of Fighting Chance in Sag Harbor.

The diagnosis, as one patient described it, "is like being struck by lightning." Mr. Darrow said he envisioned the service organization as a resource to answer the questions patients have within 48 hours of being told of their disease, and to let them know what services are available in an area somewhat remote from specialty health care.

He started the organization in a garage in 2002 after seeing the struggles his mother went through during treatment on the East End. He began with a vision for a guide to services, and as the years have passed he has continued with symposiums, Web site development, psychological support, targeted informational materials, and even practical support such as cleaning services and transportation.

And now the group has a bright and cozy new headquarters on Bay Street in Sag Harbor, with a library, conference area, and private meeting rooms all designed to be warm and welcoming to patients and caregivers dealing with trauma. A sold-out benefit for the group will be held on Saturday at the Wolfier Estate Vineyard in Sagaponack.

A large portion of those diagnosed with cancer on the South Fork find their way to Fighting Chance, where they are given free counseling and a variety of information

targeted to their disease and appropriate to their willingness and ability to absorb that information.

The oncology social workers include Karrie Robinson, who came out of retirement from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center to help the organization as director of clinical programs, William De Scipio, a clinical psychologist, and Margaret Bromberg, an oncology social worker.

With few cancer specialists serving the area, the group strives to step in and help with questions regarding the illness and the effects of treatment, as well as holistic approaches to well-being. It is not linked with any of the East End hospitals, but Ms. Robinson said they have an informal relationship with them. "We know when one of our patients leaves the hospital" they go back in for more.

Hearing the concerns of patients firsthand has given the group a unique role in advocacy and in meeting needs such as patient literacy. Fighting Chance has joined an effort to change the way doctors speak to be more intelligible to those outside the field. Having three oncologists on its board makes these discussions easier to have.

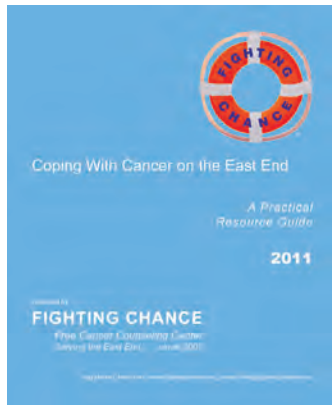
On its own, it has devised a flip-chart booklet called "Cancer Simplified," which provides a 15-minute education in the basic biology of the illness, the cost of treatment, the types of treatment and the aftereffects, services available, questions to ask, and how to navigate it all. It is one of the first things given to Fighting Chance patients.

2010

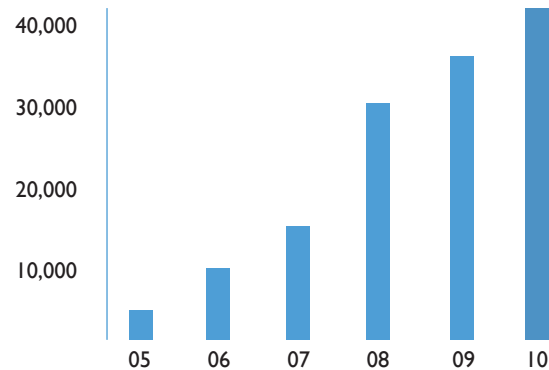


Metrics That Measure Our Progress

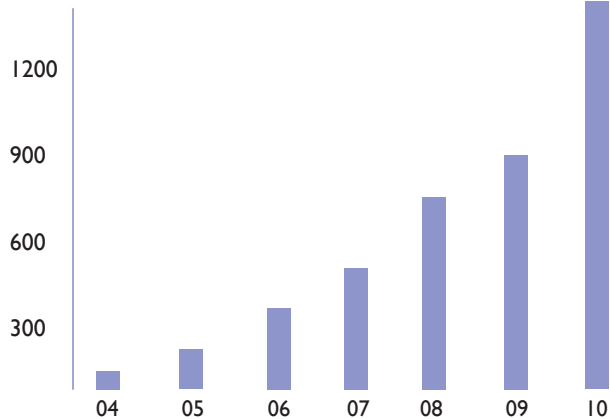
Our 75 page “Where -To-Find- It” resource guide, called *Coping With Cancer On The East End*, is being increasingly read on our web site . . . with 42,000 pages of the e-guide reviewed in 2010, and another 3,000 copies distributed through hospitals and doctors’ offices across the East End..



WEB SITE PAGES VISITED PER YEAR

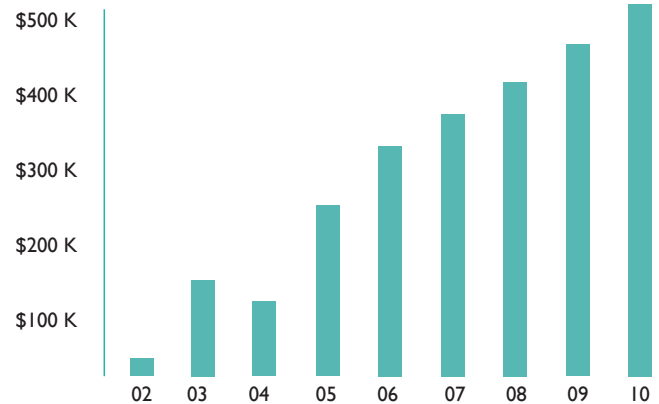


ONE-ON-ONE PATIENT COUNSELING SESSIONS PER YEAR



During 2010 we provided 1,400 one-on-one counseling sessions – from our professional staff – to East End cancer patients.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS PER YEAR



The community support for our services – all of which are free of charge – continues to grow with donations in 2010 reaching \$527,000.

Highlights from 2010

Before: Fighting Chance offices 34 Bay Street, March 2010



After: Fighting Chance 34 Bay Street, October 2010

2010 was the year when Fighting Chance moved to new 1,500 square foot offices, with a 10 year lease, at #34 Bay Street on the Sag Harbor waterfront. The new space – which took six months to design and build out – includes an expanded room for support groups, a reference library, a patient navigation station and private offices for one-on-one counseling.

35% Of the 1,000 newly-diagnosed cancer patients on the East End of Long Island in 2010 ... 35% called Fighting Chance for counseling and other support.

Board of Directors

Peter Bach, MD Anthony Brandt Duncan N. Darrow (Chair) Sue Davies
Ben Gillikin Renu Hausen, MD Martin S. Karpeh, Jr., MD Lisa Matlin
Shelley McBee Peters Barbara McLaughlin Cathy Peacock Richard Perlman
Rosemarie Slevin Perocchia, RN Edward L. Tirrell

FIGHTING CHANCE

Free Cancer Counseling Center
Serving the East End . . . since 2002



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e-mail: info@fightingchance.org • web: www.fightingchance.org



OFFICES

DIRECTORS



"Fighting Chance is a sanctuary infused with compassion and empathy."

Sister Ann Marino, Director
Cormaria Retreat House



STAFF

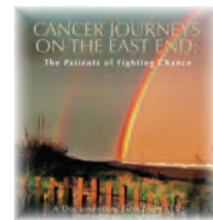
DECADE



VOLUNTEERS



PATIENTS



DOCTORS



"Today, Fighting Chance is widely considered to be the 'crown jewel' of the East End healthcare system."

Philip Schulman, MD
Head of Oncology Services at
Memorial Sloan-Kettering/Commack Facility

