RESOURCES FOR CANCER
Patient Information

Breast Cancer Connections: 650-326-6299
www.bcconnections.org/

- Offers support groups, educational seminars a helpline and free screenings to low-income, uninsured women under the age of 40.

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP): 1-800-434-0222
www.hicap.org/

- HICAP offers free information and assistance with understanding Medicare benefits and rights, solving medical billing problems, filing claims and appeals, and comparing insurance policies. Trained volunteer counselors, registered by the California Department of Aging, are available at local community sites to provide one on one counseling and assistance.

- Long-term care counseling is available to help you understand and compare private payment, Medi-Cal and insurance.

- HICAP is a statewide network of organizations authorized by state legislation originally authored in 1985.

- HICAP is funded through the Older Californians Act from the Area Agency on Aging and State Health Insurance Assistance Program funding from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

- HICAP is a United Way Agency.

National Cancer Institute/Cancer Information Service: 1-800-4-cancer(1-800-422-6237)
www.cancer.gov/

- Lay language material on specific cancer diagnoses’, support group (self/caregiver) information within Northern California etc.

American Cancer Society: 1-800-227-2345
www.cancer.org/

- Lay language material on cancer diagnoses’ (of any kind), mileage reimbursement (financial assistance), support group information (including Y-me for metastatic breast cancer patients with small children), “wig bank”, Reach to Recovery program, transportation, rarely housing reimbursement etc.

Women’s Cancer Resource Center: 1-888-421-7900
www.wcrc.org/
Promotes healthy living and quality of life through creativity movement and empowerment, “writing for wellness”, Gentle Yoga for Health and Healing, “Yarn divas Chemo Caps”, cooking club and a number of ongoing workshops etc. Provide limited financial aid.

**Kids Konnected 1-800-899-2866**  
[www.kidskonnnected.org](http://www.kidskonnnected.org/)

- Cancer Support and education: to provide friendship, understanding, education and support for kids who have a partner with cancer. Provides counseling, summer camps, 24 hour hotline, bereavement workshops, teddy bear packages and more, all free of charge.

**Patient Advocate Foundation’s Co-pay Relief Program 1-866-512-3861**  
[www.copays.org/](http://www.copays.org/)

- Provides direct co-payment assistance for pharmaceutical products to insure patients (including Medicare D beneficiaries) who qualify financially and medically, receive assistance. Offers assistance to the following conditions: breast, colon, lung, pancreatic, kidney and prostate cancers/lymphoma/malignant brain tumors/sarcoma/and secondary issues as a result of cancer treatment.

**CancerCare, Inc.: 1-800-813-HOPE**  
[www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org)

- CancerCare is a national nonprofit organization that provides free, professional support services for anyone affected by cancer (patient/family/caregiver).

**Families CAN: 408-496-6336**  
[www.familiescan.org/](http://www.familiescan.org/)

- Provides financial support for non-medical expenses. Assistance is available to adult cancer patients who live in Santa Clara or San Mateo counties and receive care in a hospital in Santa Clara County and have children age 18 or under.

**Cancer Prevention Institute of California: (510) 608-5000**  
[www.cpic.org](http://www.cpic.org)

- Dedicated solely to cancer prevention research. It is recognized nationally as a leader in researching the causes and patterns of cancer across the population and improving the prevention and detection of cancer.

**Friends of Faith, Inc.: 510-48-FAITH (510-483-2484)**  
[www.faithfancher.org/](http://www.faithfancher.org/)

- Offers financial assistance through its East Bay Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. The fund provides grants to low-income women who are living with breast cancer and reside in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

**Shanti Lifeline Breast Cancer Services: 415-674-478**  
[www.shanti.org/pages/about-lifelines.html](http://www.shanti.org/pages/about-lifelines.html)

- Offers practical assistance and emotional support to underserved women and men with breast cancer in San Francisco. Services include financial assistance, meals, transportation and wellness workshops.

**Breast and Cervical Treatment Program (BCCTP): 1-800-824-0408**  
[www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/BCCTP.aspx](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/BCCTP.aspx)

- The BCCTP provides cancer treatment for eligible low-income California residents who are screened by Cancer Detection Program: Every Woman Counts (CDP:EWC) or Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment (Family PACT) programs and found to be in need of treatment for breast and/or cervical cancer.

**Breast Cancer Emergency Fund (BCEF): 415-558-6999**
www.bcef-sf.org/

- Provides emergency financial assistance to help clients avoid eviction or utility shut-off. The fund’s services are available to low-income individuals in San Francisco or San Mateo counties with breast cancer. BCEF also provides referrals to other organizations that can provide further assistance.

California Major Risk Medical Health Insurance Program (MRMIP): 1-800-289-6574
www.mrmib.ca.gov/

- Provides insurance coverage for people who have had difficulty obtaining insurance due to a prior medical condition.

Lymphoma and Leukemia Society: 800-955-4572
www.lls.org/

- The mission of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS): Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS has dedicated itself to being one of the top-rated voluntary health agencies in terms of dollars that directly fund our mission.

- The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is the world's largest voluntary health organization dedicated to funding blood cancer research, education and patient services. LLS's mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Since the first funding in 1954, LLS has awarded more than $680 million in research funding.

Patient Access Network Foundation: 1-866-316-7263
www.panfoundation.org/

- Assists patients who cannot access treatments needed secondary to out-of-pocket health care costs including deductibles, copayments and coinsurance. Offers assistance for the following specific conditions: breast, colorectal, NSCL and pancreatic cancers/chemotherapy induced nausea/Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma/Multiple Myeloma/NHL/Secondary issues as a result of cancer/Symptom management.

Patient Services Incorporated (PSI): 1-800-366-7741
www.patientservicesinc.org/

- Assists patients with chronic medical illnesses in accessing health insurance (COBRA) and pharmacy co-payment assistance. Offers assistance for the following specific conditions: bone metastasis, chronic myeloid leukemia or chronic myelocytic leukemia, gastrointestinal stromal tumors and brain tumors.

National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD): 1-203-744-0100
www.rarediseases.org/

- Assists un-/under-insured individuals in securing life-saving or life-sustaining medications. Offers assistance for the following specific conditions: bladder cancer, Hodgkin’s, multiple myeloma or advanced renal cell carcinoma.

San Mateo County Redi-Wheels Transportation: (650) 508-6241
http://samtrans.com/rw.html

- Para transit is a transportation service for persons with disabilities who cannot independently use regular SamTrans bus service some of the time or all of the time. The San Mateo County Transit District provides Redi-Wheels service on the bayside of the county and RediCoast on the coastside.

- RediCoast service operates weekdays from 6:00 a.m. until 9:30 p.m., and Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 p.m.
We’ve anticipated a lot of the questions you may have about Redi-Wheels and RediCoast. If you still have questions after reading this information guide, please don’t hesitate to call SamTrans at 1-800-660-4287 or (TDD only) 650-508-6448.
Valley Transportation Authority makes Para transit service available to persons who are unable to independently use its bus or light rail services due to physical, visual or cognitive disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

Applications for Paratransit Eligibility:

The Para transit eligibility application process begins by requesting an informational brochure from OUTREACH at (408) 436-2865 / (408) 436-0155 (TTY) / www.outreach1.org or from VTA at (408) 321-2300 / (408) 321-2330 (TTY) / www.vta.org. Para transit information brochures contain a one-page application for persons interested in eligibility to complete and sign. Once this is done, the application process requires two more steps:

1. Submit the signed one-page application by mail, fax, or drop off to OUTREACH. The application form allows applicants to authorize OUTREACH to contact their physician or licensed professional. OUTREACH will then contact the applicant, or their representative, to set a date and time for a telephone interview.

2. Participate in a phone interview: OUTREACH will call the applicant to review their application and conduct a brief phone interview to help determine the applicant's Para transit eligibility.

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Helpline: 800/658-8898
www.nhpco.org

To learn about hospice in your community, check with your physician, nurse, social worker or local telephone directory. Or you may contact the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Helpline phone number provided here.

Health Well Foundation: 1-800-675-8416
www.healthwellfoundation.org/

The Health Well Foundation® is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 2003 that is committed to addressing the needs of individuals with insurance who cannot afford their copayments, coinsurance, premiums for important medical treatments, or out-of-pocket health care costs. Assistance provided for the following specific conditions: breast, colorectal, head/neck, and NSCL cancers/chemotherapy induced anemia or neutropenia, Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma, Hodgkin’s and Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphomas and Wilms’ Tumor.

Cancer Support Community (aka The Wellness Community):(650) 968-5000
http://cancersupportcommunity.org/

The Wellness Community – also known as Cancer Support Community – provides comprehensive psychosocial support and education programs for people with cancer and their caregivers, children and families.

These programs and services enable cancer patients and their families to manage their treatment and recovery as effectively as possible, increase their chances for survival, and provide for a higher quality of life. Anyone affected by cancer is welcome, and all of our services are always free of charge.

fertile HOPE 1-888-994-HOPE: (1-888-994-4673)
www.fertilehope.org/

- Dedicated to helping people with cancer faced with infertility.

**National Lymphedema Network: 1-800-541-3259**
www.lymphnet.org

- Provides education and guidance to lymphedema patients, healthcare professionals, and the general public by disseminating information on the prevention and management of primary and secondary lymphadema.

**Cancer Legal Resource Center: 1-866-843-2572**
https://www.disabilityrightslegalcenter.org/about/cancerlegalresource.cfm

- The Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC), a national, joint program of the Disability Rights Legal Center and Loyola Law School Los Angeles, provides free information and resources on cancer-related legal issues to patients, survivors, caregivers, health care professionals, and others coping with cancer.

**Community Center for Health and Wellness: (650) 493-5006**
http://counseling.itp.edu/

- CCHW in Palo Alto is a non-profit counseling center and advanced training institute offering quality professional services at affordable sliding scale fee for individuals, couples, families, children and groups. The CCHW offers a wide variety of services combining contemporary psychotherapy with values that honor the mind, body and spirit.

**Brain Tumor Society (BTS Cares): 1-800-955-4572**
www.braintumor.org/

- National Brain Tumor Society is a nonprofit organization inspiring hope and providing leadership within the brain tumor community. We exist to find a cure and improve the quality of life for those affected by brain tumors. We fund strategic research, deliver support services, and promote collaboration.

**In Home Support Services (IHSS): 1-800-675-8437**
www.cdss.ca.gov/agedblinddisabled/PG1785.htm

- In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) provides personal care and domestic services to persons who are aged, blind or disabled and who live in their own homes. IHSS is provided to those who otherwise might be placed in an out-of-home care facility but who can safely remain in their own home if IHSS services are received.
- Regional centers have a mandate not only to serve persons with developmental disabilities, but to provide services in the most cost-effective manner possible. They are required by the Lanterman Act to use all other sources of funding and services before using regional center funds to provide services. Persons who receive services from a regional center and are eligible for IHSS are expected to use IHSS services available to them.
- The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program is administered by each county with oversight by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). For application and eligibility information contact your local county welfare department, adult services section. Look for them in the county government section of your local telephone directory.

**Triple Step for the Cure, Louisa Gloger/Co-founder/CFO: (415) 250-1508**
www.triplestepforthecure.com

- Triple Step for the Cure provides both general and financial support through its Community Resource Program for women diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer and their families.
  - The Pink Shoe Posse
  - Support for Caregivers & Family Members:
  - Referrals

- Triple Step for the Cure endeavors to provide support to women as they undergo treatment for triple negative breast cancer. We understand that the financial aspects of life can be a heavy burden when facing treatment.
To offset these strains and to allow women to focus on getting well, we have established a financial support program for women diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer. Some of the areas in which we provide financial support include, but are not limited to:

- Meal Delivery Services
- Emergency Funds for Rent, Groceries, Utilities
- Transportation related to treatment
- Housekeeping Services
- Childcare
- Selected Co-pay Assistance
- Prosthetics & Wigs

**Sense of Security:** (415) 418-8929
[www.senseofsecurityus.org/](http://www.senseofsecurityus.org/)

- Mission: to help those individuals who are not only dealing with the life-altering effects of Ovarian and Breast Cancer and its treatments but are unable to meet some of their basic non-medical financial needs. Application on line or, contact Cathy at either cathy@senseofsecurityus.org or, call the number above. Will assist undocumented patients. First come, first serve.

**Free Gas USA, Inc., Kalamazoo, Michigan**
[www.freegasusa.org/](http://www.freegasusa.org/)

- 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation, established to provide gasoline grant assistance for poverty-stricken individuals and families residing in the United States of America. Founded in 2008 during the height of the gasoline crisis, Free Gas USA partners with public, private, philanthropic and other religious organizations to help resolve the daily transportation needs of low-income, elderly and disabled American consumers.

**Inheritance of Hope:** (914) 213-8435
[www.inheritanceofhope.org](http://www.inheritanceofhope.org)

- **Mission - What We Do**
  - **Our Mission:** To improve well-being in the lives of children and families with a parent diagnosed with a life-threatening illness.
  - **Our Approach:** We achieve our mission by providing superior books and literature, life-changing family retreats, and individual and group ongoing support – spiritually, emotionally, and financially. Our products and services provide direct benefits for the children and a proactive, therapeutic focus for the parent.
  - **Our Reason:** We believe that preparing for the death of a parent while they are living will yield significant long-term benefits for children and loved ones, thereby minimizing the potentially catastrophic impact. Inheritance of Hope is a faith-based organization – welcoming families of all faiths and backgrounds while serving under the core-beliefs of the Christian faith.

**ASSISTANCE WITH BENEFITS OR ENTITLEMENTS**
(Courtesy of CANCERCARE National Office, 275 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001)

**Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA): 1-888-477-2669**
[www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org)

- Pharmaceutical assistance programs can provide help with prescription drugs. PPA can help you locate assistance programs from pharmaceutical companies, as well as state programs. Includes assistance for uninsured.

**Health insurance information:**
[www.healthinsuranceinfo.net](http://www.healthinsuranceinfo.net)

- The Georgetown University Health Policy Institute has written, “A Consumer Guide for Getting and Keeping Health Insurance,” for each state. These free consumer guides list all
insurance options.

Social Security Disability, Supplemental Security Income, and Medicare benefits: 1-800-772-1213
www.ssa.gov

- It is important to apply for any benefits as soon as possible. For information related to SSDI, SSI or Medicare, contact the website or phone number listed here.

Medicare and Medicaid Services: 1-877-267-2323
www.cms.hhs.gov

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (Medi-CAL in California) Services offer extensive information on both Medicare and Medicaid. Contact the website or phone number listed here.

Department of Health and Human Services or Welfare Unit: 1-877-696-6775
www.hhs.gov/about/

- For information about other entitlements such as public assistance or food stamps, contact your local Department of Human Services or Welfare Unit or, visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services listed here.

National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR): 1-866-674-6327
http://liheap.ncat.org/referral.htm

- If you have difficulties paying your utilities, you local Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) may be able to assist you with bill payments, an energy crisis, and weatherization and energy-related home repairs. You may apply to the LIHEAP program in your community. Call the National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR) project toll-free provided here for information on where you can apply for LIHEAP.

U. S. Administration on Aging 1-800-677-1116
www.eldercare.gov

- If you are an older person, you may be eligible for additional benefits. Eldercare locator, a public service of the U.S. Administration on Aging, connects older Americans and their caregivers with sources of information on senior services. For more information, contact the number provided here.

Other Resources:

In many states, there are local organizations that help you with benefits. These organizations go by different names, but try looking up “Independent Living Centers”, “Centers for Independent Living CIL)”, and “Centers for the Independence of the Disabled”. These are usually nonprofit community-based organizations providing services and advocacy for people with all types of disabilities for issues such as housing, employment, transportation, health care benefits, and social services.

Don’t forget about the power of using your local elected officials. They often have resources and connections that can be useful. If you are having difficulty with Medicaid (Medi-CAL in California), calling the office of your state representative might help; for Medicare problems, your federal representative or senator’s office may have information and assistance. To find out how to contact your elected officials, call Project Vote Smart at 1-888-VOTE-SMART (1-888-868-3762 or visit www.vote-smart.org.)

- Stanford Cancer Supportive Care Program 650-725-9456
http://cancer.stanford.edu/patient_care/amenities/cancerPatientServices/supportiveCareServices/

A free integrated resource that simplifies the treatment process and provides information and
support to cancer patients and their families during their care at Stanford.

- **Stanford Health Library 650-736-1713.**  

  Provides free customized research on medical conditions, treatment, and support resources. The library collection includes information for both caregivers and patients. Located on the first floor of Stanford Cancer Center, across from the café. Open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

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