



The Wellness Community Launches National Education Program Addressing Cost of Cancer Care



(L-R) Ashley Varner, MSW, MBA, Senior Director, Caregiving, TWC; Margaret Stauffer, MFT, PD, TWC-San Francisco/East Bay; Tiffany Sirkulvadhana, Esq., Staff Attorney, CLRC; David Schrempt, Co-Founder, DignityResources.com; and Jim Bouquin, ED, TWC-San Francisco/East Bay

Managing the cost of health care today can be challenging for the 12 million cancer survivors and the 1.5 million diagnosed each year in the United States. In a study released earlier this month by Harvard Law School, Harvard Medical School and Ohio University medical bills are involved in more than 60 percent of US bankruptcies, up from 50 percent just six years ago. Additionally, more than 75 percent of these families reported having health insurance but were overwhelmed by the out-of-pocket expenses. As the health care debate heats up this summer on Capitol Hill and in light of the current economic climate, TWC has launched *Frankly Speaking About Cancer: Coping with the Cost of Care*, a free workshop and book that provides a practical guide to navigating the numerous and complex challenges of managing the cost of cancer care. The launch was held at TWC-San Francisco/East Bay on July

27th and was the first of 20 workshops to be scheduled across the country in 2009. The workshops are facilitated by local experts in matters of health insurance, employment and disability rights, and financial planning. Attendees included patients, family members and health care professionals. Attendees were invited to give their anonymous feedback:

83% of attendees reported a high, or very high, knowledge of the cost of cancer care after the workshop, compared to only 28% before the workshop.

74% of attendees felt a greater sense of control over dealing with and managing the cost of cancer care as a result of this workshop.

94% of attendees would recommend this workshop and educational booklet to others with cancer and their loved ones.

We would like to thank Margaret Stauffer, Judy Blazin and the entire TWC-San Francisco/East Bay team for their tireless efforts that ensured this successful launch!

In an effort to elaborate on the book and workshop content, The Wellness Community also offers an internet talk radio program called *Frankly Speaking About Cancer*, which airs weekly on VoiceAmerica.com. The show features physicians, researchers, celebrities, patients, survivors and caregivers to offer news on cancer developments and tools that anyone affected by the disease can use to live well. As financial concerns remain at the forefront of many people's minds, throughout the month of June the show premiered a **special 3-part series called "Navigating the Health Care System When You or A Loved Has Cancer"** that examined the critical issues cancer patients and their loved ones face when coping with a diagnosis. *Frankly Speaking About Cancer: Coping with the Cost of Care* was featured in each episode.

To find an updated listing of workshops or archived episodes of this 3-part series, visit www.thewellnesscommunity.org. To order your free copy of *Frankly Speaking About Cancer: Coping with the Cost of Care*, call 1-888-793-WELL. This program is made possible through unrestricted educational grants from Genentech BioOncology and Eli Lilly and Company.



© 2009 Cancer Support Community
Providing professional programs of
emotional support, education and hope for
people affected by cancer at no charge so
that no one faces cancer alone.

[Privacy Policy](#)
[Disclaimer](#)

919 18th street, nw, suite 54, washington, dc 20006
phone: 202-659-9709
toll-free: 1.888.793.well
fax: 202-659-9301
help@cancersupportcommunity.org
www.cancersupportcommunity.org