2020 has certainly been a year of unexpected twists and turns. Just like none of us could have planned for a pandemic of global proportion that spread so quickly, a cancer patient and his or her family face the same things that we all have been facing since March. We were forced to stay at home to avoid getting sick, just like cancer patients must do when in treatment and dealing with compromised immune symptoms. We had to limit our contact with family and friends, just like cancer patients must often do. We were faced with uncertainty, wondering when things would go back to “normal.” The difference is that, while we may not have the answers, we know that everyone else is facing the same things we are. With cancer patients and their families, there is often a sense of isolation; that they are alone on the cancer journey. That’s where Cancer Family Care comes in. Our professional, Master’s level trained therapists are there to help cancer patients and their loved ones navigate the emotions that a cancer diagnosis brings.

COVID changed how we at Cancer Family Care managed our operations, but it certainly didn’t change our mission. Cancer didn’t stop because of COVID and neither did we. We quickly shifted our programs to telecounseling in mid-March, with a combination of telephone and video sessions between our clients and our mission. Cancer didn’t stop because of COVID and neither did we.

Our staff has been busy! Between transitioning from an full office based environment to a work from home environment with very little time to prepare and then coming back into the office off and on in June; helping their own families navigate the pandemic and all that it has brought; becoming teachers to their own children while still putting their clients’ needs in the forefront - this group of professionals rose to the occasion and continued to serve cancer patients and their loved ones. Since the pandemic hit, we have had over a thousand requests for services, ranging from counseling, wigs, massage, general information and other requests that we referred to other agencies. We’ve served nearly 600 individuals with at least one counseling session; the average is 5 sessions. We’ve provided nearly 4000 counseling sessions, many of those via telecounseling.

We wish you the very best in 2021. May it be a year of good health, happiness and blessings for you and your family.
Even though COVID forced us to cancel our annual Cancer Family Care Joslin Haggert Yeiser Unsung Hero Awards Dinner, we didn’t want the 2020 Class of Heroes to go unrecognized so we worked with each nominator to present his/her Unsung Hero with the award in a unique, safe and special way. Each Hero has been featured on our social media and will be invited to the 2021 event to be recognized.

These Unsung Heroes are oncology professionals, caregivers, and patient/survivors who have made a difference in the lives of those affected by cancer and have been nominated by a patient, a colleague, a friend. They are doctors, nurses, social workers, administrative staff. They are husbands, wives, siblings, children and friends. They have faced a cancer diagnosis with a spirit and attitude of strength! They are truly Unsung Heroes.

UNSGH HEROES 2020

Annabelle Arejola
Dr. Erik Dunki-Jacobs
Blake Dwyer
Dr. Rod Flynn
Dr. Noel Free
Dr. Peter Fried
Lisa Grate
Stephanie Green
Dr. Ajit Gubbi
Mary Heinichen
Abigail Hilton
Marilyn Kugler
Beth Limke
Diane Neltner
Dr. Michele Redden-Borowski
Lisa Shelton
Tamara Smith
Patty Rose
Judy Wilson

Elaine Berninger
Beth Brubaker
Columbus Cook
Tracy Kinney
Emily Schaefer*
Barry Stuft
Brian Thomas

*Denotes award is being given posthumously.
Virtual Wine Tasting

On Saturday November 7th, more than 35 homes opened their doors to small gatherings of friends and family all with the same goal in mind: to enjoy each other’s company, eat delicious food, drink great wine, and raise funds to support Cancer Family Care. This year through our live and silent auctions, raffles, and balloon auction we were able to raise more than $250,000! We are grateful to all our auction item donors.

In 1979, our very first fundraiser was an intimate wine tasting event held in the home of John & Rosemary Van Kirk. Forty-one years later, in the middle of a pandemic, we went back to the beginning to hold multiple private house parties for this year’s 41st Annual Wine Tasting & Auction. Sponsored parties enjoyed meals provided by Jeff Thomas Catering and fine wines procured by The Wine Merchant. At previous events, the Balloon Auction is a sight to behold. Balloons fill the room at the Manor House as guests raise their paddles to donate to CFC’s mission. Since balloons could not fill the room this year, the CFC staff and volunteers delivered balloons to every home to help fill the ZOOM.

Via Zoom, 70 households joined our Virtual Event and Live Auction. Paula Toti and Kyle Inskpeep from Local 12 WKRC did an amazing job of emceeing the Live Auction, all while preparing to cover the President-elect’s press conference. During the event we saw five different client stories about the impact that CFC’s mission has made in their lives. Even though our bidders were not in the same room, there were a good number of bidding wars taking place. The most exciting bidding war was over the final auction item of the night, the 52 weeks of Wine.

The Hosts

Thank you to the Board of Trustees, Auction Steering Committee, CFC Emerging Leaders Team, CFC staff, and the hundreds of generous donors who made the 41st Annual Wine Tasting & Auction a huge success!

Save the date for the 42nd Annual Wine Tasting & Auction. It is scheduled for Saturday, November 6th, at the Manor House in Mason as well as private homes across the Tri-state.

The Wine Merchant
Sophisticated Living Magazine
Prestige AV & Creative Services
Local 12 WKRC
CPS - Cincinnati Print Solutions
American Fundraising Foundation

In-Kind Sponsors

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Jill & Dale Settlemyre
Barbara Weyand
Vicky & Troy Luke
Steve & Sue Miller
Kathy Schroder
Jeff & Tina Waddell
St. Elizabeth Healthcare
OHC - Specialists in Cancer and Blood Disorders
Western & Southern Financial Group
Barry & Sherry Hollock
Mark Witte & Vinni Brown

Cheers to our Co-Chairs!
Without the incredible efforts of George Elliott & Jill Leslie, this year’s event would not have been the success that it was. Their efforts to secure donations, deliver wine, recruit party hosts, host a party, and so much more made this event a truly exceptional experience for all involved.

With Gratitude We Thank Our Steering Committee

George Elliott & Jill Leslie - Co-Chairs
Lisa Fangman
Tom Leslie
Dawn Perrin
Kathy Schroder
Kathie Van Kirk
Michelle Krumen
Anit Keeling
Janet Reynolds
Jonathan Stanwyck
Susan Verschoor

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Local 12 WKRC
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Sauvignon Blanc

Fall/Winter 2020 7 Cancer Family Care
Cancer didn’t stop because of COVID and neither did we…
Services Provided Jan – Oct 2020

THE CENTER FOR INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY COUNSELING
Licensed, masters-level oncology counselors and social workers provide counseling and supportive services to patients, families, and friends impacted by cancer. Individuals are served in one of Cancer Family Care’s seven offices or through home visits when possible.
The Center for Individual and Family Counseling has served 625 individuals through nearly 4,000 counseling sessions.

TREEHOUSE CHILDREN’S SERVICES
Children whose lives are touched by cancer receive support, counseling, and education, provided at school through individual counseling, therapeutic support group services, or classroom education sessions. Contacts with teachers, parents, and counselors are important components of these services. Camp Courage, a free one-day camp for children, provides families with cancer an annual therapeutic and fun summer event.
Treehouse Children’s Services served over 100 children through nearly 500 school, office and group sessions.

COPING CONNECTION
Information services are provided through telephone, email, and in-person. This service offers the cancer community a telephone hotline for answering questions, making referrals, and providing support. The caller speaks with a licensed Masters Degree level social worker or counselor. This hotline is available Monday through Friday, from 8:30 to 4:30. In addition, those needing services can request them 24/7 via our secure website.
Coping Connection served nearly 1,200 individuals for a total of 1,500 services.

WADDELL FAMILY HEALING HANDS PROGRAM
Therapeutic oncology massages and Healing Touch therapy are offered free to cancer patients and at a reduced rate for caregivers. The program also provides free wigs, scarves and turbans to cancer patients.
Waddell Family Healing Hands served nearly 300 individuals and provided 185 free wigs & 240 free massage and Healing Touch sessions.