

Our Clubhouse and Cancer Caring Center Merge to Better Serve Pittsburgh's Cancer Community

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (September 9, 2021) - Our Clubhouse and Cancer Caring Center, two of Pittsburgh's most established cancer support nonprofits - have joined forces to better serve those impacted by a cancer diagnosis. A merger agreement to combine the two organizations was completed September 7, 2021.

Separately, the organizations have helped thousands of residents navigate their cancer journey through free social, emotional, clinical and informational support, with roots beginning in the Pittsburgh area 33 years ago. For many years, Our Clubhouse and Cancer Caring Center have partnered and referred community members to each organization when appropriate. This merger will allow greater efficiency and impact for the children, youth, adults, and families they serve.

With funding, capacity building, and professional consultation provided by The Forbes Funds through the Management Assistance Program, boards from both organizations took a deep dive into the "why" for over two years to explore culture, programmatic fit, and opportunities to expand reach and services to the community, medical facilities, and members.

"This merger is really a partnership that unites two agencies dedicated to helping everyone affected by a diagnosis," says Rebecca Whitlinger, Executive Director of Cancer Caring Center. "We are stronger together and are excited about this formal collaboration."

The merged organization is now working to seamlessly combine operations and departments. All programs will continue, and all staff members have been retained from both organizations. Dani Wilson will remain as Executive Director of the newly combined organization with Rebecca Whitlinger serving as Associate Director. Currently, all services are being provided virtually. When in-person programs can safely resume, they will be offered at the (formerly Our Clubhouse) facility at 2816 Smallman Street in the Strip District.

"Together, we will build on our impactful programs, workshops, and services by reaching into more communities across diverse populations," says Dani Wilson, Executive Director of Our Clubhouse. "We look forward to joining our supporters together and inviting new people into our warm and welcoming space, no matter where they are on their cancer journey."

The organizations will operate under the new name Cancer Bridges. This name represents what both organizations work so hard to do – provide resources for anyone impacted by a cancer diagnosis to move from one side of the crisis to the other, including the diagnosed, their friends, family and caregivers, and those who are bereaved. Together, the organization will continue working alongside those navigating a cancer journey so they emerge with increased social connections, coping skills, and strengthened mental health and well-being.

More information will continue to be available at www.cancerbridges.org as we begin this exciting next chapter of social and clinical cancer support for the Pittsburgh community.

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About Cancer Caring Center

Since 1988, the Cancer Caring Center has provided a wide variety of free supportive services to patients and families. Pre Covid-19, general and specialized cancer support groups were offered throughout the community at 14 locations and are now available through Zoom. Individual, family and couples counseling is now accessible through tele-counseling. Wellness (nutrition, yoga, art therapy and more) is also featured online.

About Our Clubhouse

Our Clubhouse provides a warm and welcoming environment for everyone who has been impacted by cancer. Those living with cancer, as well as the friends and family who support them, are welcome to join Our Clubhouse and receive social, emotional, clinical, and informational support at no cost.

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