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**LOCAL CANCER CHARITY TO PRESENT AT AMERICAN PSYCHOSOCIAL ONCOLOGY SOCIETY 7TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**Marci Bossow Schankweiler, CFL President/Founder and Patricia Gambino, RN, to Present Abstract**

BLUE BELL, PA- January 25, 2010 – The need for supportive respite care of adult cancer patients is great – and non-profit founder, Marci Bossow Schankweiler wants to ensure that the medical world heeds to this need.

Founded in 1999, Crossing the Finish Line helps families and their loved ones confront cancer hardships together through respite travel experiences which strengthen the healing force of their bonds and create immeasurable joy amidst devastating crisis. Serving young adults, ages 24-50, living in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, CFL sends patients and their families to the CFL respite home near Orlando, Florida, and to select destinations in California and along the East Coast. Upon the patients' return from their retreat, CFL continues to provide ancillary support to patients and their families as their battle with cancer persists.

On February 19, 2010, Schankweiler will present her abstract "**Respite as Complementary and Supportive Care for adult cancer patients, their caregivers and their families**" to an audience at the American Psychosocial Oncology Society 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Schankweiler's abstract cites the need for respite is critical as complementary support in one's treatment of cancer in the adult population segment with young families. Care-free, cost-free organized respite is a critical factor in helping to improve one's overall coping with a cancer diagnosis and improves the families' psychosocial health. Best practices from this program can assist in both short term and long term psychosocial health of patients, their caregivers and their families so to optimize a family's coping and healing related to a cancer diagnosis.

Marci Bossow Schankweiler founded Crossing the Finish Line in memory of her husband, Peter R. Bossow, Jr., whose fifteen-month battle with cancer ended on September 1, 1999. Since its inception, CFL has proudly served over 750 patients and their families. For more information on CFL, visit <http://www.crossingthefinishline.org>. A US- based 501 (c)(3) organization, Crossing the Finish Line is funded entirely by charitable donations.

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