



Open your Heart and Home to a Cancer Patient

1. *What is For Pete's Sake Cancer Respite Foundation?*

For a young adult, a diagnosis of cancer is unbelievable and devastating. **For Pete's Sake Cancer Respite Foundation(FPS)**, formerly known as Crossing the Finish Line, inspired by the late Peter R. Bossow, Jr. and founded by his wife Marci, strengthens the hearts, minds and souls of young adult cancer patients and their caregivers by providing a one-week, paid travel excursion as a retreat from the unyielding physical and emotional demands of cancer and its treatment. Many young adults and their caregivers, like Peter and Marci, face the anxiety, suffering and financial burden that a diagnosis of cancer brings. **For Pete's Sake Cancer Respite Foundation** is a nonprofit (501 (c) 3) organization that enables many of these young adult cancer patients from the tri-state area of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware to experience a hopeful respite during their courageous battle. The excursions that FPS provides for these young families are a peaceful way to refocus and embrace this unexpected journey that life has presented.

2. *How are patients nominated?*

To be considered for a respite, the patient must have a physician's diagnosis of cancer, be between the ages of 24-50 and reside in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, or Delaware. All nominations must be made by a health care professional who is a member of the patient's oncology team. The oncology team members have had long-standing relationships with their patients during their treatment and know who could best benefit from the respite. Often the nominations speak of the courage and desperation of the patients we strive to serve: *"When Mrs. S. (wife and mother of a 15 year old and a 9 year old) was diagnosed with breast cancer, she took a very aggressive approach- she was determined to survive. She had a bilateral mastectomy and her ovaries removed, followed by chemotherapy and radiation. Within months of the end of her treatment, the cancer reoccurred. Since then she has become fearful and overwhelmed. Her life is full of tests, treatment, and trouble. When I spoke to her about the possibility of a respite, she shed tears of joy. She would find a new life space to get away."* This request is similar to many that FPS receives from oncology health care professionals who recognize the enormous and overwhelming difficulties with which their patients struggle and the consequential need for a respite.

Oncology staff members of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Fox Chase Cancer Center and Lehigh Valley Hospital presently serve on the FPS Patient Program Committee, which exercises oversight of the patient program and acts as a liaison to the Board of Directors.

3. *What does the respite entail?*

Depending upon the location of the respite, For Pete's Sake Cancer Respite Foundation can provide families with passes to nearby attractions or theme parks. Families can enjoy the outdoors and some "fun in the sun" as well as have the opportunity to relax and relish in the intimacy and company of their loved ones in a comfortable, secure environment. For Pete's Sake Cancer Respite Foundation absorbs all expenses related to the excursion itself, including associated travel costs, and also presents each patient with





an excursion basket that contains a generous stipend for the week (\$100 each day on average), toiletries, robes, journals and pens, a camera, and inspirational writings related to the journey. There is even a limousine ride to and from the airport! Upon return home, we present each family with a DVD memorial of the excursion and provide ongoing ancillary support on an as-needed basis.

4. How does the process work if I wish to donate time at my home?

FPS could not accomplish its unique mission without the cooperation and generosity of its volunteer homeowners. While FPS has been able to purchase a respite home in Florida, we also must depend upon the generosity of homeowners who donate weeks at their vacation homes in order for us to meet the patient demand. Since the inception of the organization in 2000, FPS has formed partnerships with more than fifty homeowners who donate their vacant resort homes because they believe in our mission. These partnerships have helped FPS in managing the excursion expense and maximizing numbers of patients served.

We ask our homeowners to complete a Prospective Housing Form which will help us best match your home with a patient. We are grateful for any information you can provide about your favorite restaurants, activities, etc., as we provide each patient a stipend for use during the visit. Before any formal stay is planned, we will contact you over the telephone or by e-mail to confirm availability. You will then receive a copy of the confirmation letter which we send to the patient who will be enjoying the respite in your home. Further, you will receive patient feedback following the respite. We work with each homeowner individually to discuss patient key entry and facilitate this transfer via this office. All homeowners are covered under the organization's general liability policy (Certificate of Insurance can be provided upon request).

5. Who is responsible for linens, housekeeping and cleaning?

Homeowners supply bath, kitchen and bed linens. Patients are responsible for treating your home as their own, and leaving it in good condition. Housecleaning prior to and following a respite visit is normally the responsibility of the home owner. FPS may absorb these costs on a case-by-case basis.

6. Is the donation of my home tax-deductible?

Generally speaking, the donation of your home to FPS is not tax deductible. However, certain costs with your home's operation may be deductible for specific homeowners. Please consult with your accountant for more detailed information.

Be assured that your home donation will bring joy into the life of a family devastated by cancer. Words are inadequate to express our sincere thanks for your generosity and commitment to our mission.

For more information, or if you have questions, please call us at 267-708-0510.

