

# Cancer Survivorship Connection - First Statewide Comprehensive Portal Dedicated to Cancer Survivorship

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## BACKGROUND

More than an estimated 356,000 cancer survivors are living in Georgia.<sup>1</sup> Research indicates these survivors face a lack of knowledge about what “survivorship” means and daily concerns about physical, emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual needs.<sup>2</sup>

The Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education (CORE) identified the need for a statewide interactive website that is comprehensive and contains evidence-based survivorship information in one place for cancer survivors, caregivers, and healthcare professionals independent of a single institution’s resources.

Georgia CORE is a public-private partnership created by cancer experts to bring higher quality, better organized, more cost effective care to patients and survivors in Georgia.

Because of their personal cancer journeys, Tom and Karen Chapman contributed a \$100,000 gift to Georgia CORE to develop the *Cancer Survivorship Connection*.



## OBJECTIVE

**Objective:** To provide evidence-based survivorship information, navigation, tools, and support to improve Georgia cancer survivors’ quality of life and to integrate survivorship into a new culture of cancer care in Georgia.

## METHODS

Georgia CORE established a diverse Advisory Board comprised of survivors, caregivers, and healthcare professionals from across the state to provide guidance for the development and implementation of the website:

- 10 Cancer Survivors (Breast, Prostate, Colorectal, Thyroid, Lymphoma, Brain)
- 3 Caregivers (Lung, Breast, Multiple Myeloma)
- 3 Healthcare Providers (SW, RN, MD)
- 3 Healthcare Professionals (Researcher, Educator, Academic Institute Healthcare Consultant)

Content categories were based on previous LIVESTRONG survivors needs surveys and previous surveys conducted by Georgia CORE.<sup>3</sup>

Website Content:

- [Survivors Home](#)
  - [Nutrition](#)
  - [Mental Health](#)
  - [Physical Activity](#)
  - [Spirituality](#)
  - [Sexuality & Fertility](#)
  - [Symptom Management](#)
  - [Economic & Employment Concerns](#)
- [Caregivers Home](#)
  - [Taking Care of Yourself](#)
  - [What is the Survivor going through?](#)
  - [Educational Resources](#)
  - [Support for Family & Friends](#)
- [Healthcare Professionals Home](#)
  - [Most Common Unmet Needs](#)
  - [Care Plan & Treatment Summary](#)
  - [Educational Resources](#)
  - [National Standards & Guidelines](#)

## RESULTS



In July 2014, Georgia CORE launched the *Cancer Survivorship Connection*, the first statewide comprehensive website that provides evidence-based information for survivors, caregivers, and healthcare providers, with resources and services available across Georgia.

Within the first year, more than 8,600 unique visitors have accessed the website.

Process evaluation was conducted by the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

- 6 focus groups of survivors, caregivers, and healthcare professionals conducted in Rome, Atlanta, Thomasville
  - General consensus: website provides comprehensive and reliable information; is relatively easy to use; and improves users’ understanding of survivorship.
  - Liked the variety of learning formats on the site. (video, blog, discussion group, maps)
  - Recommendations include: provide resources in Spanish; provide more local resources; and provide phone support.
  - Need to create more awareness about the site to cancer survivors throughout Georgia.

## CONCLUSION

*Cancer Survivorship Connection* provides reliable, accessible information and resources about survivorship to cancer survivors, caregivers, and healthcare professionals. The number of cancer survivors continues to grow in Georgia with the advancement of cancer screening, prevention, and treatment.

After the final analysis of the 2014 Georgia Statewide Survivors Needs Assessment survey data and the recommendations from the process evaluation, the *Cancer Survivorship Connection* will be updated to ensure that it contains resources for the unmet needs of Georgia’s cancer survivors.

## REFERENCES

1. American Cancer Society. (2014). *Cancer Treatment & Survivorship Facts & Figures 2014-2015*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society.
2. Hewitt et al. (2005) *From Cancer Patient to Cancer Survivor: Lost in Transition*.
3. Kirsch LJ, Patterson A, Lipscomb J (2014) “The state of cancer survivorship programming in Commission on Cancer-accredited hospitals in Georgia.” *J Cancer Surviv*. 2014 August.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.GeorgiaCancerInfo.org/Survivorship](http://www.GeorgiaCancerInfo.org/Survivorship)



CANCER SURVIVORSHIP CONNECTION  
An Initiative of Georgia CORE

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