

american cancer society des moines

American Cancer Society Des Moines plays a pivotal role in the fight against cancer in the Central Iowa region. This local branch of the national organization is dedicated to providing support, resources, and advocacy for cancer patients, survivors, and their families. With a mission to eliminate cancer as a major health problem, the American Cancer Society (ACS) Des Moines works tirelessly to improve the quality of life for those affected by this disease. This article explores the various services, programs, and initiatives offered by ACS Des Moines, as well as how individuals can get involved in the fight against cancer.

Understanding the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is a nationwide, community-based voluntary health organization that has been at the forefront of cancer research, education, and advocacy since its inception in 1913. The mission of the ACS is to save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer. With local chapters like ACS Des Moines, the organization can better serve communities by tailoring programs to meet specific needs.

Key Objectives of ACS Des Moines

The Des Moines chapter aims to achieve several key objectives:

1. **Support for Patients and Families:** Provide resources and emotional support for cancer patients and their families.
2. **Awareness and Education:** Educate the community about cancer prevention, detection, and treatment options.
3. **Advocacy:** Advocate for policies that promote cancer research funding and access to care.
4. **Research Funding:** Fund innovative cancer research to improve treatment outcomes and find cures.

Programs and Services Offered

ACS Des Moines offers a variety of programs and services designed to support cancer patients and their families. These include:

1. Patient Support Services

The organization provides several support services that cater to the emotional, physical, and practical needs of patients:

- **Transportation Assistance:** The ACS offers transportation services to help patients get to and from medical appointments.
- **Lodging Services:** For those traveling for treatment, the ACS provides lodging options through their Hope Lodge facilities, ensuring that patients have a safe and comfortable place to stay.
- **Look Good Feel Better:** This program helps women undergoing cancer treatment manage the appearance-related side effects of treatment through beauty workshops and makeovers.

2. Educational Resources

Education is a critical component of cancer prevention and early detection. ACS Des Moines offers:

- **Health Fairs and Community Events:** These events provide information on cancer prevention, early detection, and healthy lifestyle choices.
- **Online Resources:** The ACS website offers a wealth of information on various types of cancer, treatment options, and coping strategies for patients and families.

3. Advocacy Efforts

The ACS Des Moines actively participates in advocacy efforts aimed at improving cancer care and funding. Key initiatives include:

- **Legislative Advocacy:** The organization works with lawmakers to promote policies that support cancer research and patient access to care.
- **Community Engagement:** ACS encourages community members to engage in advocacy efforts by contacting their representatives and participating in awareness campaigns.

4. Research Initiatives

The American Cancer Society is one of the largest non-profit funders of cancer research in the United States. The Des Moines chapter contributes to this effort by:

- **Funding Local Research Projects:** Supporting local researchers in Iowa who are working on innovative cancer treatments and prevention strategies.
- **Collaboration with Research Institutions:** Partnering with local universities and research hospitals to advance cancer research.

How to Get Involved

There are numerous ways for individuals and communities to get involved with the American Cancer Society Des Moines. Here are some suggestions:

1. Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community and support cancer patients. Opportunities include:

- Event Planning: Help organize fundraising events such as Relay For Life and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.
- Patient Support: Provide emotional support or transportation for patients in need.

2. Fundraising Events

Participating in fundraising events is vital for supporting ACS's mission. Popular events in Des Moines include:

- Relay For Life: A community event that brings people together to honor cancer survivors and raise funds for cancer research.
- Making Strides Against Breast Cancer: A walk that raises funds and awareness for breast cancer research and support services.

3. Corporate Partnerships

Businesses can partner with ACS Des Moines by sponsoring events, organizing employee fundraising campaigns, or participating in workplace giving programs. Corporate partnerships not only benefit the organization but also enhance employee engagement and community involvement.

4. Donation Opportunities

Donations are essential for sustaining ACS programs and research initiatives. Individuals can contribute in several ways:

- One-time Donations: Monetary contributions can be made online or via mail.
- Recurring Donations: Setting up a monthly donation can provide ongoing support for ACS programs.
- In-Kind Donations: Donating goods or services that can assist cancer patients or support fundraising events.

Impact of ACS Des Moines on the Community

The impact of the American Cancer Society Des Moines on the local community is profound. Through its various programs and initiatives, ACS has:

- **Provided Support:** Helped thousands of cancer patients and their families navigate the challenges of a cancer diagnosis.
- **Increased Awareness:** Educated the public on cancer prevention strategies and the importance of early detection.
- **Advanced Research:** Contributed to significant advancements in cancer research through local funding and partnerships.

Success Stories

Real-life success stories illustrate the positive impact of ACS Des Moines on individuals and families:

- **Survivor Testimonials:** Many cancer survivors credit ACS programs, such as Look Good Feel Better and transportation assistance, as crucial elements of their support system during treatment.
- **Community Engagement:** Local events have mobilized the community around cancer awareness, bringing together individuals, families, and businesses in the fight against cancer.

Conclusion

The American Cancer Society Des Moines serves as a beacon of hope for those affected by cancer in the region. Through its comprehensive programs and services, the organization not only supports patients and families but also fosters a community of awareness, education, and advocacy. By getting involved through volunteering, fundraising, or making donations, individuals can contribute to the ongoing fight against cancer and help create a world where fewer lives are affected by this disease. Together, we can make a difference and support the mission of ACS Des Moines to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

Frequently Asked Questions

What services does the American Cancer Society provide in Des Moines?

The American Cancer Society in Des Moines offers a variety of services including cancer education, support groups, transportation assistance for

patients, and financial aid for treatment-related costs.

How can I volunteer with the American Cancer Society in Des Moines?

You can volunteer with the American Cancer Society in Des Moines by visiting their website, where you can find opportunities to assist in events, provide support to patients, or participate in fundraising activities.

Are there any upcoming events hosted by the American Cancer Society in Des Moines?

Yes, the American Cancer Society in Des Moines frequently hosts events such as Relay for Life, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks, and various fundraising galas. Check their local website or social media for the latest information.

How does the American Cancer Society support cancer research in Des Moines?

The American Cancer Society funds cancer research projects across the nation, including those affiliated with institutions in Des Moines. They provide grants and scholarships to researchers working on innovative cancer treatments and prevention strategies.

Can I get information about cancer prevention from the American Cancer Society in Des Moines?

Yes, the American Cancer Society in Des Moines offers resources and educational materials on cancer prevention, including information on healthy lifestyle choices, screenings, and vaccination recommendations.

What kind of support groups does the American Cancer Society offer in Des Moines?

The American Cancer Society in Des Moines offers various support groups for cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers, providing a safe space to share experiences, receive emotional support, and connect with others facing similar challenges.

How can I donate to the American Cancer Society in Des Moines?

You can donate to the American Cancer Society in Des Moines by visiting their official website, where you can make a one-time donation, set up recurring donations, or contribute through fundraising events and campaigns.

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