

Cornhole For A Cause Family Stories

Joann - Lung Cancer, Montgomery County, Paid: Mortgage

Joann is 59 years old and was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer in April 2018. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, "I was diagnosed with lung cancer in April, and I had been working full-time up until then. My husband is on SSD for severe back problems, so we're already with a lower income. Our youngest son just completed his freshman year of college, and this is the news he came home to hear. We thought we had enough saved for next semester, but now I was let go from my job. I am having to take from that money to pay my monthly bills. My husband and I are stressed beyond belief trying to figure out how to get through the next few months, until, hopefully, I will be approved for SSD. We can really use the help with our mortgage and bills. We thank you for your help."

Angela – Pancreatic Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Electric, Phone, Car Insurance

Angela is 50 years old and was diagnosed with Stage II pancreatic cancer in June 2017. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, "I moved back to Philadelphia with my mom and stepfather after finding out I had Stage II pancreatic cancer. I had many cat scans, x-rays, MRIs and lots of other tests before finding this out by a new physician in Florence, South Carolina. I resided there the past eighteen years with my two sons (ages 27, 24) and daughter (17). My daughter took the news of my illness very hard. My children remain in South Carolina while I'm here for treatment. The distance is difficult. When my daughter graduates in June 2018 from high school, she will come to Philadelphia to live with me to go to college. I'm hoping to secure an apartment by then for us. Any financial assistance or help you can provide to me to help pay the bills at my parents' house where I'm living would greatly be appreciated. Based on what I get from disability, I give them money towards the bills. I have to send money down to South Carolina for my daughter and have medical bills, too. Thank you for considering us."

Karen – Pancreatic Cancer, Montgomery County, Paid: Rent

Karen is 62 years old and was diagnosed with Stage II pancreatic cancer in July 2017. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, "I'm 62 years old, and I have been working since I was 19. I had to stop working when I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in July 2017. I gave up my apartment and moved in with my son and his family. They have three young children. But I am doing better now and would like to move out of my son's home. I need a security deposit and the first two months' rent. I just started getting Social Security disability a few months ago, so I can't save it up yet. I'm asking if you can help me. Thank you."

Jose – Lung Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Electric, Gas, Rent

Jose is 36 years old and was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer in December 2016. A statement from his social worker to Bringing Hope Home is as follows: "Jose is one of the most positive, upbeat, and kindest people this social worker has ever met. He and his wife are so very loving towards one another and their children. Their 5 year-old daughter is severely disabled (encephalopathy) and requires 24 hour care and supervision. Jose is on chemotherapy now and is unable to work due to the progression of his illness. His wife remains at home to care for his needs and his young daughter. They are an appreciative family who are thankful for any help they may receive."

Tiffany - Hodgkins Lymphoma, Northampton County, Paid: Mortgage

Tiffany is 34 years old and was diagnosed with Stage IVb Hodgkins Lymphoma in June 2016. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, "After months and months of being sick, I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma Nodular Sclerosis, Stage IVb on June 10, 2016. My fiancé and I, Chris Bonacci, wasted no time and got married on June 12, 2016. Our little boy, Angelo, was our main concern as I proceed with chemotherapy, ending in December 2016. However, in December 2016, Chris became sick. His cough worsened, and on December 23, he went to the ER. A chest x-ray showed a huge mass in his chest cavity and a nearly collapsed left lung. Chris was admitted over the Christmas holiday, and it was determined he had cancer as well - malignant teratoma (germ cell tumor) He remained inpatient and began intensive chemotherapy immediately. Chris remains in active treatment with consultations to a specialist in Indiana due to the rarity of his disease. The mass continues to grow and has pushed his heart into the right chest cavity. Our family has faith that Chris will respond to treatment and perhaps qualify for surgery. In the meantime, I continue to maintain my own healthcare and care for our 4 year old son, Angelo, who struggles to understand what our family is going through. Thank you for giving our family consideration for a respite."

Lisa – Colon Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Rent

Lisa is 47 years old and was diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer in January 2018. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, "I had severe abdominal pain for weeks, so I went to the ER. That is where I learned I had cancer. They did urgent surgery, and I'm on chemotherapy. I was shocked. I'm a single mom with two kids (ages 13 and 8). I have not told the kids that I have cancer. I don't want to worry them. I didn't work for 6 weeks, and as a result, I'm behind in my rent and utilities. Any financial assistance you can provide would greatly be appreciated. Thank you."

Mark - Bile Duct Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Electric, Rent

Mark is 32 years old and was diagnosed with Stage III bile duct cancer in March 2018. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, he says, "I was diagnosed with Cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct cancer) in March. I had been in treatment and sick from another tumor on my spine for some time (an ependymoma). As a result, I have Medicare, and I make just over the limit to get Medicaid. (My mother and I both have something from Social Security too.) I have copays for medication, home treatments, and supplies. My mother takes care of me full time. I have been in and out of the hospital, and expenses have been building. We would really like help with the rent and PECO to give us some relief. We would be really thankful."

Linda – Lung Cancer, Montgomery County, Paid: Mortgage

LC is 68 years old and was diagnosed with Stage II lung cancer in August 2015. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, "I live on a fixed income and am struggling to pay my bills. I would be grateful for any help that you can give me. Thank you."

Lisa – Cervical Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Cell Phone, Mortgage

Lisa is 37 years old and was diagnosed with stage I cervical cancer in April 2009. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, "I am a single parent who has been diagnosed with cancer and recently had a bowel obstruction. I am currently out of work on medical leave and need some assistance in helping with my living

expenses. I still am undergoing cancer care for lung cancer, as I was diagnosed in 2014. I am grateful for any help that you can give me. Thank you.”

Marianne – Leukemia, Montgomery County, Paid: Home Owners Association Fees

Marianne is 58 years old and was diagnosed with acute megakaryoblastic leukemia in March 2018. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, “I was diagnosed on March 9, 2018 with leukemia. I was seeking the opinions of a number of doctors to explain the symptoms I was experiencing. Receiving the diagnosis was difficult for me, having survived breast cancer some years ago. I was also hoping to work as a nurse practitioner but knowing the prognosis for this disease was hard too. I have not been able to work and have been receiving social security income for financial support. After I pay my mortgage, there is not enough money to cover my utilities or home owners’ association fees. Now, I greatly need assistance in paying the outstanding balance for my association, or I am at risk of having the debt collector sell my belongings to settle the debt. I have been able to negotiate a payment plan with the association, but I have had to do unexpected maintenance on my home, narrowing the amount of available funds I have to use. Any assistance Bringing Hope Home may be able to provide me is greatly appreciated. Thank you.”

Lisa – Lung Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Phone, Rent

Lisa is 48 years old and was diagnosed with Stage III lung cancer in April 2016. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, “I am currently living in a shelter operated by Project Home in Philadelphia. I currently have no income as my SSI is in appeals. I am requesting financial help to provide money for rent for an apartment that Project Home is helping me to secure until my SSI is approved. I was diagnosed with lung cancer in April 2016 and am currently receiving concurrent chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Thank you for any way that you are able to help me.”

Rosalie - Breast Cancer, Cumberland County, Paid: Mortgage

RF is 55 years old and was diagnosed with stage II breast cancer in August 2017. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, “I am a teacher and usually work another job in the summer to make ends meet. This past summer I was unable to work due to my cancer diagnosis. I have no remaining sick days at work. I have had to take days without pay, or return to work feeling exhausted from treatment. I am extremely grateful for any assistance that you can give me. Thank you.”

Linda – Lung Cancer, Montgomery County, Paid: Electric, Mortgage

LL is 67 years old and was diagnosed with stage III lung cancer in May 2018. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, “Before I was diagnosed, I had a little housecleaning business to supplement my low social security disability income. Once I was unable to clean, I lost my clients. I have no additional income, making it impossible for me to pay my bills. I just completed radiation last week after chemotherapy, so I'm still feeling the effects. I am hoping to be able to work again. I will be starting immunotherapy this month. Any support that you can give me will be appreciated. Thank you.”

Charles – Rectal Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Electric, Food

Charles is 57 years old and was diagnosed with rectal cancer in January 2018. In a statement to Bringing Hope Home, his social worker states, "Charles is homeless and is moving into a new apartment. He needs financial assistance to help him with his utilities. He is also requiring help with the supplies and items that he will need to set-up housing in his apartment. Any support here is appreciated. Thank you."

Adrian – Lymphoma, Sussex County, Paid: Car Insurance, Gas, Rent, Cable, Electric

Adrian is 53 years old and was diagnosed with Stage IV lymphoma in January 2002. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, he says, "I was diagnosed in 2002 and treated at the University of Maryland. I was treated again in 2009 at Peninsula Regional Cancer Center in Salisbury, MD. I relapsed again in 2012. I transferred my care to the Nanticoke Cancer Center at that time. I was treated with eight cycles of chemotherapy. I relapsed again in 2015 and have been in treatment ever since that time. Dr.Siddique has referred me to Christiana Hospital to see if I am a candidate for stem cell therapy. I live alone and am in need of assistance with my household bills. I am grateful for any assistance that you can provide. Thank you,"

Keyla – Colorectal Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Rent

Keyla is 40 years old and was diagnosed with Stage IV colorectal cancer in March 2014. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, "I was diagnosed with Stage IV rectal cancer, not even one year after my daughter was born in July 2013. I had four miscarriages prior to her birth, and when I learned I had cancer, I thought I was going to die. I had many surgeries including an ostomy, and I was on chemotherapy that made me feel so weak and nauseous. I was in chronic pain. I feel so much better now, only getting chemo once per month. I can finally breathe and enjoy the sunshine and my daughter. We are struggling financially. The grant would be a blessing to help me out. We appreciate your support. Thank you."

Raymond – Gastric Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Electric, Gas, Medical Insurance

Raymond is 70 years old and was diagnosed with Stage IV gastric cancer in May 2017. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, his daughter states, "My father resides with me. I have been his sole care taker since he was diagnosed. This come with an extremely demanding level of responsibility. Unfortunately, due to the amount of care that I give to my father, we are now experiencing financial hardship. I have missed a significant number of hours at work. Normally, I can usually bring home enough pay to cover our monthly expenses such as rent and utilities, as well as other expenses. I try to manage on my own his Medicare supplemental insurance, his prescription coverage, and his prescriptions that are not covered. I am at risk of being late with our rent and not being able to pay his premium on his medical, prescription, and life insurance policy payment for this upcoming month. I am also dealing with expensive utility bills, meals and transportation. I am trying to work with utility companies to make arrangements with them. My father owns a vehicle, and it needs major work (a transmission) which has made it hard for me to get him to his appointments and to commute back and forth to work. What would normally be a 35-minute commute one way for me to go to work is now a 2 ½ hour odyssey on public transit totaling 5 hours in commuting a day, when I am able to get to work. As of right now, the majority of income is from my father's Social Security. Once his treatment schedule slows down, and I am able to return back to a regular work schedule, I anticipate being able to catch up on some of these expenses. It's just that as of today I am in a dire situation. I appreciate your time and hope you can consider us as a candidate for the grant. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. If additional information is needed, please contact me.

Timothy – Brain Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Cell Phone, Gas, Water, Cable, Electric, Food

Timothy is 61 years old and was diagnosed with stage III brain cancer in April 2014. We learned the following from his social worker: Timothy was diagnosed with stage III brain cancer in April 2014. At this time he cannot walk and can no longer care for himself. He is currently in a rehab facility. He periodically receives infusions to help with the symptoms of his tumor. His wife is in the process of trying to transfer him home and find 24 hour care for him. They have exhausted their savings and retirement with out of pocket expenses and rehabilitation costs. They would be so grateful for any support. Thank you for your kindness to his family.

Sheryle – Gastric Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Gas, Mortgage

ST is 59 years old and was diagnosed with stage IV gastric cancer in April 2016. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, "I am a gastric cancer patient from a local hospital, diagnosed in April 2016 with stage IV cancer. I have been told that I will need chemotherapy for the rest of my life. I also have a bowel obstruction that I get treatment for. Treatments are physically draining, and emotionally draining as well. I will continue with my treatment for as long as possible. The cancer has rendered me disabled, therefore affecting all areas of my life. Financially it's a struggle and will always be. Any help I can receive is greatly, greatly appreciated. Thank you."

Kathleen - Esophageal Cancer, Gloucester County, Paid: Mortgage, Phone, Car Payment

KC is 57 years old and was diagnosed with Stage III esophageal cancer in February 2017. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, "In November 2016, I was experiencing difficulty swallowing. I went to my family doctor in January and told her what was going on. She sent me for an endoscopy, I truly thought it was acid reflux or possibly an ulcer. I had no idea it was cancer. When I was diagnosed, I think I was in shock. This cannot be happening to me, but it was confirmed that I had cancer. I was angry, and now I am determined to beat this. My family and friends have been so supportive. I am not sure how I will ever thank them for their support and prayers. I appreciate anything that you can do to help me. Thank you."

Randall - Testicular Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Cell phone, Electric, Rent, Car Insurance

Randall is 28 years old and was diagnosed with stage II testicular cancer in December 2015. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, he says, "I moved to Pennsylvania in September 2015 to go to college to be a massage therapist. I graduated in March 2016 and began my passion of massage. I did well for a while until the economy died down a bit. But just as I started working more, I noticed something was wrong. In September 2016 I found out I had testicular cancer and had to have one testicle removed. This put me out of work. In November 2016 the cancer had spread to my lymph nodes, and I underwent chemotherapy. Sadly, I lost my strength to massage and my energy to perform my passion. Now I need surgery, and this will prevent me from pursuing my passion even longer. I would be so thankful for your support, as I go through this. Thank you."

Victoria - Head and Neck Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Car Insurance, Electric, Gas, Water, Internet, Cell Phone

Victoria is 64 years old and was diagnosed with Stage III head and neck cancer in May 2016. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, "I am a waitress and have been working at the same place for years. I am not able to work at this time and therefore have no income. My husband is already retired and is on social

security, a fixed income. I purchased my own insurance through the health exchange which is very costly for me. I also have large co pays and deductibles with the insurance. We are struggling to meet expenses. I do hope to return to work in the fall and do some kind of work at the diner. I am thankful for any way that you are able to help us."

John – Melanoma, Philadelphia County, Paid: Cell phone, Rent

John is 66 years old and was diagnosed with Stage IV melanoma in March 2013. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, he says, "I was diagnosed with metastatic melanoma back in 2013, and have been on and off treatment since. I was unable to continue my job busing tables, so my income changed. I got an infection and needed heart surgery around Easter in 2016. Then I developed another infection and a foot ulcer in September 2016. I spent six months in a nursing home, and I've built up a lot of medical bills that I can't pay. I am thankful for your assistance."

Lisette – Ovarian Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Cell phone, Electric, Gas, Water, Mortgage

Lisette is 31 years old and was diagnosed with stage III ovarian cancer in October 2016. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, "I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in October 2016, which led me to get emergency surgery a week later. I had to take an emergency leave of absence from work and was on short-term disability with no pay. This caused my household to have one income in the home. I immediately began to get backed up on all my bills, paying what I could. I applied for unemployment and was denied, due to not being able and available for work. By then I tried finding help elsewhere, and a lot of agencies had no funding. When my short term disability was up, my doctors stated that I should not go back to work. This was due to the type of work I do and having to get weekly chemotherapy. I applied for long term disability and am currently waiting for an approval or denial. I would be so thankful for your support. "

Vincent - Prostate Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Cell Phone, Electric, Cable

Vincent is 60 years old and was diagnosed with Stage IV prostate cancer in December 2016. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, he says, "I was working and hurt myself on the job. I went to the hospital. At that time I was imaged and found to have metastatic prostate cancer that had spread to my bones. We lived in a new house through section eight housing, and there was a house fire. Several of the children suffered burns and smoke inhalation. One of the grandkids was in a coma for three months as a result. The house burned down and our family was homeless. I am unable to work and have no income. Social Security Disability is still pending. One of the kids works driving for UBER and this is the only income we have. My two adult children and I are living in Shelter sponsored housing now. We would be so thankful if you can help us."

Natalie - Cervical Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Rent, Electric

Natalie is 53 years old and was diagnosed with stage II cervical cancer in September 2015. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, "I am requesting assistance with one month's rent in the amount of \$950. I recently moved into a new location that required the first and last months' rental deposits. This impacted my ability to cover utilities and purchase essential items for my space. Any assistance you could offer with covering one month's rent will help me to get back on track to pay essential bills. I thank you for your support."

Robert – Lung Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Rent

Robert is 55 years old and was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer in May 2018. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, he says, "I was working full-time, until I became ill in May. Unfortunately, my company does not offer medical leave or disability, so I have no income at present. I was living alone, but as I got weaker, my adult son had to move in with me. He helps me with meals and care needs at home after a hospital stay. He is trying to start a non-profit organization for kids, and this is taking him away from that. We have no household income at present. We have applied for disability income, but we understand this may take until October to happen. We thank you for your support."

RS, Colon Cancer, Philadelphia County, Paid: Water, Electric, Gas/Oil

RS is 58 years old and was diagnosed with stage II colon cancer in April 2017. In a personal statement to Bringing Hope Home, she says, "In September of 2016 I was diagnosed with osteomyelitis of the spine, which required neurosurgery. While recovering in the hospital, my husband was brought into the ICCU and died. I was sent to a rehab unit to learn how to walk again. I was due for a colonoscopy and was diagnosed with colon cancer after my release from the rehab. My world was spinning. My support for 26 years was gone, and I needed to find the strength to fight my cancer. I had major surgery and have just started chemotherapy. My husband would have made me move on. Since I am not working, I have not been approved for disability yet. I am too young for my husband's social security. My cousins and nieces have been paying my bills. I live with a sister, so I do not have rent. My sister is in her 70's and is behind on her gas bill. I would love to be able to help her. Thank you for considering me for this grant."