



Livestrong Cancer Navigation Center

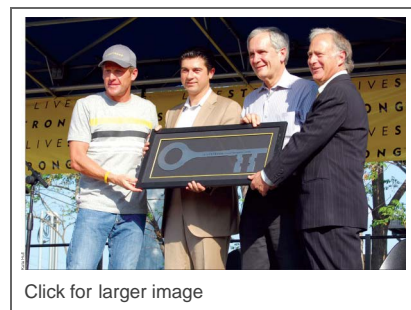
A one-stop shop for treatment, support and resources

By Kate Hull
Friday, 01 July 2011



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CENTRAL TEXAS — Gretchen Flatau remembers when dealing with husband Art Flatau's 1992 leukemia diagnosis meant trips to the library to find information and making countless phone calls to area doctors to discuss treatment plans.



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The couple had to make the connections themselves. Now, Gretchen said, the missing links are readily available to those who need them thanks to the Livestrong Foundation.

On March 25, the couple celebrated the grand opening of the Livestrong Cancer Navigation Center, which helps cancer patients and their families find support, services and treatment options in one location and connects them to services to suit their personal needs.

The navigation center began offering services in November but held its official opening in early spring at the Livestrong Center, 2201 E. Sixth St. The center is the newest branch of Livestrong, the advocacy nonprofit founded in 1997 by seven-

time Tour de France winner and testicular cancer survivor Lance Armstrong.

"My journey to this building started in Austin in 1996 when I was diagnosed," Armstrong said at the opening. "And my journey down to the doctor's office [that day] was very similar to the journey people will make [to this center]. They will walk through these doors and have the very same questions that I had and they will want answers."

Those visitors will want to know what their chances of survival are, how they can afford the treatments they need and other questions about what to do next, he said. The center also offers support for the family members of those dealing with cancer.

"We welcome any person affected by cancer who lives in Williamson County to come visit us in person at our [center] in Austin or contact us online or by phone to receive free confidential, one-on-one support," said Rae Bazzarre, the deputy director of communication and external affairs at the center.

Individuals are connected with local resources such as the Breast Cancer Resources Centers of Texas in Round Rock, which was started by breast cancer survivors to provide education, support and information to individuals with breast cancer as well as their family and friends.

The center works with medical providers across the area to coordinate care to help the patient and family facilitate a plan that fits with their specific needs, Navigation Center Director Chris Dammert said.

They have partnered with local and national nonprofits to provide additional services individuals may need such providing support groups for children whose parents have cancer.

Center staff also answer questions about fertility preservation, financial concerns and treatment, as well as provide emotional support.

Hoping to bridge the gap between a diagnosis and a plan, the navigation center is the first of its kind for cancer treatment and, if successful, will be duplicated around the country, Dammert said.

Livestrong Cancer Navigation Center
2201 E. Sixth St., Austin
220-7777
cancer.navigation@livestrong.org

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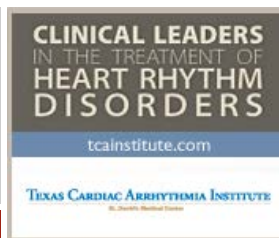
Map and contact information

Livestrong Cancer Navigation Center
220-7777
2201 E. Sixth St.

Livestrong Cancer Navigation Center



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