



Over 3 million businesses have gone Google.

Learn about Apps at Work



Home > Local News

SEARCH

LiveStrong center helps patients navigate challenges of cancer

Nonprofit unveils place for people touched by cancer to get support and guidance

Site Web Archive Web Search by **YAHOO!**



Larry Kolvoord/AMERICAN-STATESMAN

By **Andrea Ball**
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Updated: 9:29 p.m. Thursday, March 24, 2011
Published: 9:28 p.m. Thursday, March 24, 2011

Post a Comment | E-mail | Print | Share | Larger Type

Emy Doyle had been dealing with cancer for two years when she decided she needed extra support.

So in December, the 25-year-old Austin woman contacted the LiveStrong Cancer Navigation Center. She didn't know what the center had to offer. But after years of medical problems, she needed to talk.

"I'm dealing all the time with uncertainty," Doyle said. "At a time of life when people are rigorously planning their futures, I have this huge obstacle that could keep me from achieving my goals."

Today LiveStrong officially opens the center, at 2201 East Sixth St. The facility is designed to offer support and guidance to people dealing with the disease. It offers short-term counseling, but also connects clients to financial, medical, fertility and emotional services that other nonprofits provide, LiveStrong CEO Doug Ulman said.

"There are so many great resources in town," he said. "People just don't know about them."

The navigation center is more than just a community resource. The new facility marks the first time LiveStrong — also known as the Lance Armstrong Foundation — has offered in-person services to the community. Until now, the global nonprofit has provided that help online and by telephone. It also focused on fundraising, advocacy and grants for survivorship services.

And despite being created and based in Austin, the nonprofit hasn't had prominent presence in the local nonprofit world.

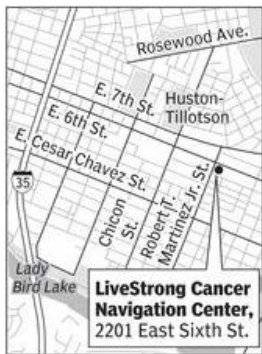
Part of that is because for six years, LiveStrong was based in a nondescript office building near Zilker Park, Ulman said. But in 2009, the nonprofit moved into the East Sixth Street building in an effort to reconnect with its Austin roots.

"The success of this organization is the result of so many generous people in Austin," Ulman said. "We wouldn't be here without them."

In November, the foundation unofficially opened the center, offering its services not just to people with the disease, but to their family

ENLARGE PHOTO

Staffers Teresa Castro and Robert Ramos talk in the lobby of the LiveStrong Cancer Navigation Center, which officially opens today on East Sixth Street.



AMERICAN-STATESMAN

ENLARGE PHOTO

LATEST LOCAL NEWS »

- Austin police solving fewer burglaries 11:55 p.m. Thursday
- Central Texas Digest: None hurt in MetroRail collision; Three charged in teen's robbery 11:14 p.m. Thursday
- Leander city manager dies of cardiac arrest Updated 5:38 a.m.

SHARE THIS PAGE WITH YOUR FRIENDS

27 6 0

Tweet Share Digg Submit

LATEST NEWS GALLERIES »

Photos of the Day, March 2011

Veterans' Hill Elementary, 03.20.11

Lake hug, 03.20.11

MOST POPULAR

- Anthony "Biff" Johnson, 1961-2011
- Austin police solving fewer burglaries
- UT regents' special adviser losing his job
- Nuggets from Longhorns football practice

LATEST AP TEXAS NEWS »

- Corpus Christi Watergarden fixed after June storm 9 mins ago
- Ted Turner's bison help save historic Texas herd Updated 7:04 a.m.
- Conservative ex-diplomat testifies in perjury case Updated 6:48 a.m.
- AP NEWS: Texas | Nation | World | Sports |

- ▶ **City Council actions**
10:42 p.m. Thursday
- ▶ **LiveStrong center helps patients navigate challenges of cancer**
9:29 p.m. Thursday
- ▶ **Latest local news and last 7 days of headlines**

MORE ON STATESMAN.COM »

- ▶ **Butler holds off second-half rally by Wisconsin for win**
 - ▶ **Arizona stuns Duke with big second half**
 - ▶ **Austin police solving fewer burglaries**
 - ▶ **Nowitzki scores 30, Mavs rally late to win**
 - ▶ **Central Texas Digest: None hurt in MetroRail collision; Three charged in teen's robbery**
 - ▶ **Austin developer puts former Whitley Printing site under contract**
 - ▶ **NFL players conclude meetings, await court**
- More**

members, friends, co-workers or anyone else who needed support. The center has four patient "navigators" — two are counselors and two are intake staffers who help clients figure out what they need. All are bilingual.

"You'll see some people who just need someone to listen to them," said staffer Sarah Gomez, who does intake. "It's a very big step for people to say 'I need help.'"

Doyle — who is pursuing her graduate degree in social work at the University of Texas — didn't know exactly what she wanted when she went to the navigation center. Two years earlier, she'd been diagnosed with nasopharyngeal cancer and learned she had a tumor in the upper part of her throat behind her nose. Today, she has chemotherapy twice a month and doctors are treating it as a chronic condition.

Doyle received eight counseling sessions from LiveStrong. It helped her deal with the fear, confusion and uncertainty she was facing, she said.

"I really love that there's a cancer support service in Austin that's more than just medical treatment and practical issues, but emotional support," she said. "That's a part that's often overlooked in cancer treatment."

aball@statesman.com; 912-2506

Share this article:



What Do You Think?

New to the site?
To leave a comment, you need to sign up.


Already a member?
To comment, Please login.

Email address

Password

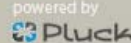
Remember me

1 comment Sort: Newest to Oldest



b. Score: 0
12:10 AM on March 25, 2011

I have been a regular visiting the Navigation Center in Austin, helped tremendously by Brendan Bietry (of the Patient Advocate Foundation, who works out of the office there) regarding a financial issue. I can't speak highly enough of the support I have received from him. They have done a very commendable job in setting this up. Bravo!

powered by 

1 Tip of a flat belly :

Cut down a bit of your belly every day by simply using this 1 weird old tip.



Tip

FROM OUR NEWS PARTNERS

- ▶ **Man uses iPhone app to track down thief at Disney World**
- ▶ **Police use Facebook, twitter to get message to shooting suspect**
- ▶ **Did NC man capture video of Bigfoot?**
- ▶ **Wikipedia founder examining disputed info on Amanda Knox**
- ▶ **Man sentenced to 60 years in prison for fifth DUI conviction**
- ▶ **Deputies: Man attacked roommate with machete**
- ▶ **Woman killed when tree uproots, falls on tent**
- ▶ **Carnival worker charged in sexual assault of 15-year-old girl**
- ▶ **Man gets life in prison for impregnating girl, 9**
- ▶ **Students spot body hanging in tree**

World-Class Cancer Center

Find out why CTCA is different. Chat w/a cancer info
www.CancerCenter.com

Duracell And Travel

Fulfill Your Power Needs While Traveling,
www.Duracell.com

Local Coupons

1 ridiculously huge coupon a day. Get 50-90% off your
www.Groupon.com