

Clinical Cancer Trials
Learn more about innovative cancer treatment options provided by CTCA.
CancerCenter.com/CareThatNeverQuits

Ads by Google

The Philadelphia Inquirer

philly.com

Home Inquirer Daily News News Business Sports Entertainment Living Restaurants & Food Jobs Cars Homes Marketplace
News Front Page Sports Business Obituaries Arts & Entertainment Food, Home & Life Health & Science Education Opinion Blogs & Columns

Subscriber Services| The e-Inquirer| Join Our Team

 Site

OPINION

[Sign In](#) | [Register](#)

Currents

email print font size 0 comments Recommend

Posted on Fri, Aug. 20, 2010

READER FEEDBACK
 Post a comment

COMMENTARY

Cancer battle's home front

By Lance Armstrong

Just before Christmas of 1998, Philadelphia-area resident Rodney Warner started to get fevers, night sweats, and headaches. The symptoms went on for a couple of years, Warner said, until his body just "shut down." His doctor ordered a battery of tests and found the problem: Hodgkin's lymphoma.

A 34-year-old husband and father, Rodney spent his daughter's second Christmas getting chemo. After his cancer resurfaced in 2001, it was another chemo Christmas for the Warner family. Rodney's family spent the next holiday season supporting him through a bone-marrow transplant.

Since then, he's been in remission. But his relationship with cancer didn't end there. Having seen how cancer defines a family's daily life, Rodney found a way to help people struggling with the same issues he faced. Today, he puts his law degree to use supporting people and families fighting cancer at the Legal Clinic for the Disabled in Philadelphia. He also raises funds for Livestrong, the organization I founded to support families fighting cancer.

Cancer survivors - myself included - recognize that while funding for cancer research is extremely important, the battle against cancer isn't confined to a lab. It's fought by our families, friends, colleagues, and neighbors. They deserve our support and resources to help them get back to work and on with their lives.

About 75,000 Pennsylvanians will get a cancer diagnosis this year, and 12 million Americans live with the disease and its consequences. Relatively few have access to programs to help restart their lives after a cancer fight, even though the effects of the disease can linger long after treatment has ended.

Americans will lose one of the most devoted champions the cancer community has seen when Sen. Arlen Specter (D., Pa.) concludes his service. A cancer survivor himself, Specter has helped double the budget for the National Institutes of Health, including programs dedicated to cancer research, prevention, and care. Who will continue that legacy?

As election season kicks into gear across the country, let's hold our candidates accountable. What are they going to do to combat one of the world's leading causes of death? A study released this week by Livestrong and the American Cancer Society shows cancer has the most disastrous economic impact of all causes of death worldwide.

And how do candidates plan to make sure working families don't face the double disaster of cancer followed by financial ruin? Will they work to get more resources to the people facing the fight of their lives?

Helping families affected by cancer is a national priority that deserves support in Washington. To Pennsylvanians like Rodney Warner and his daughter, who will enjoy their 13th Christmas together this year, every dollar is worth it.

Lance Armstrong, a cycling champion, cancer survivor, and founder and chairman of Livestrong, will be participating in the Livestrong Challenge in Philadelphia this weekend.

For more information, see www.livestrong.org.

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Billing In Hospice
Efficient Home Health Care Software With Great Features. Call Us Today!
www.HAS-Software.com

Senior Assisted Living
Find Assisted Living Communities. Compare services & Costs for Free.
www.SeniorsForLiving.com

Hospice Nursing Schools
Walk with pride. Get a degree in Hospice Care Nursing. Get Info.
Nursing.CampusCorner.com

Ads by Google

KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS

Follow us on **TWITTER** »

Get our **DAILY HEADLINES** newsletter

Your email address:

Already a Philly.com member? Yes No

GET BREAKING NEWS ON YOUR PHONE

Text PNEWS to 744559

NORDSTROM
tummy tuck JEANS
From Not Your Daughter's Jeans.
• Flatten your tummy
• Lift you up in back
• Make you look and feel one size smaller
[SHOP NOW >](#)
[Advertise Here](#)

Today's Most Viewed | Most Emailed

- Phillies All-Nickname Team
Daniel Rubin: An infuriating search at Philadelphia International Airport
PHA chief accused of 'serial predatory sexual misconduct' involving female employees
David Akers loyal to Eagles, Philly, in sickness and in health
Police target prostitution at airport hotels

» [More Most Viewed](#)

- Hot off the grill
Daniel Rubin: An infuriating search at Philadelphia International Airport
PHA chief accused of 'serial predatory sexual misconduct' involving female employees
Sources: Philadelphia Housing Authority staff forced to join Greene party
David Akers loyal to Eagles, Philly, in sickness and in health

» [More Most Emailed](#)

MOST VIEWED IN THIS SECTION

- Who should decide when care is futile?
- Measuring libraries' impact
- Editorial: Hard to call it victory
- Editorial: Build the mosque
- Letters to the Editor: The Manhattan mosque

LATEST STORIES IN THIS SECTION

- Letters: Atlantic City's problem is gambling, not its past 4:59am
- The military we can afford 4:59am
By Lawrence Korb and Loren Thompson
- Letters to the Editor 4:59am
- Editorial: Hard to call it victory 4:59am
- Editorial: DRPA brass can take a hike 4:59am

[Top Jobs](#) | [Top Homes](#) | [Top Cars](#)