Cancer Survivors Park Alliance
P.O. Box 9428
Greenville, SC 29604

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James Anne Lamar

Greenville native James Anne Lamar has always been a health-conscious woman, so it wasn't unusual for her to get an annual mammogram. However, in the fall of 2004, what she thought would be a typical set of scans changed her life forever. Lamar's mammogram results showed two small lumps on one of her breasts that were slowly spreading, and further testing confirmed a breast cancer diagnosis.

Following her diagnosis, Lamar consulted with her medical team and underwent a unilateral mastectomy and reconstructive surgery to remove the affected breast and replace it with a prosthetic implant. The operation was a success, and doctors officially declared her to be in remission.

Now, nearly 18 years later and approaching her 80th birthday, Lamar remains profoundly thankful that her cancer was detected in its early stages, requiring no further treatment.

"I'm proud to be a survivor," she said.

To see the full story, visit the "Survivorship" tab on our website.

Read more about Cancer Survivors Park and the Cancer Survivors Park Alliance inside!

Special Thanks to our Annual Sponsor, Infinity Marketing

Cancer Survivors Park Alliance

Fall 2023 **cancersurvivorspark.org**

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CSPA is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.

Programs, partnerships, and progress

Walking in nature has been found to be extremely effective in elevating mood. By exposing yourself to a green environment, you can improve your self-esteem, lessen your stress, and have a more positive general outlook. With the combination of exercise, fresh air, and the quiet peace of a natural landscape, you can improve your attitude!

The Cancer Survivors Park (CSP) is YOUR park — whether you are a survivor living with cancer, have lived with or lost someone to cancer, or just need a place to reflect, heal, and celebrate life — come see what is unfolding for you in the 6.8 acres of intentional spaces.

With the help of multiple Upstate Cancer Network partners, including the nationally acclaimed Cancer Support Community, which has a satellite office in CSP, Cancer Survivors Park Alliance (CSPA) provides monthly educational survivorship programs both online and in CSP that are free and open to the public.

Experience one of our trailside classes, including Casting for Recovery's fly-fishing lessons along the Reedy River to help with the rigors of chemotherapy side effects, or play drums with the musical healing group in the outdoor amphitheater to decrease your stress levels. Support and community groups meet weekly in the Center for Hope & Healing, facilitated by the Cancer Support Community. QR codes within the park access messages about how to mitigate stress, change to a healthier lifestyle, and connect with other survivors. Visit our website's program calendar to see more!

The City of Greenville continues to be an invaluable partner in its maintenance of CSP. Landowners Renewable Water Resources and Naturaland Trust remain essential partners in allowing us to operate on the physical land so important to the outside spaces.

We hope that one day, there will no longer be a need for a cancer park — that this disease will be cured. Many positive advancements in treatment and healthy living are improving outcomes.

CSPA is truly grateful for all our patrons who have made our work to date possible. The support of our community continues to be vital to our mission.

Please join us on our continuing journey to provide hope and healing to all who visit the park. We hope you consider CSPA as a worthy recipient of your charitable contribution. Call (864) 255-5010 or email info@cancersurvivorspark.org to support CSPA and our programs.

Warmest wishes,

Tom Bates
CSPA Board President

Park Updates

Pavilion Top Restoration

CSPA has been working with Southern Painting and Productions Unlimited to restore the paint on the Beacon of Hope. The sculpture has been sandblasted, primed, and repainted. Next, we will be mounting LED color-changing lights on the structure. The lights will regularly change color to honor the different types of cancer that are recognized each month of the year.

Boardwalk Resurfacing

Since the boardwalk was completed in 2013, it has seen a lot of wear and tear! Beginning in early 2024, the City of Greenville will begin resurfacing the boardwalk and replacing all the boards. The current boardwalk plaques will be temporarily removed and reinstalled once the surfacing project is complete. CSPA will communicate further to all plaque donors when the process begins.

Healing Garden Improvements

A new ADA-compliant pathway and entrance directs visitors to a labyrinth and new benches and gardens. A partnership with Clemson University and private donors will render a special garden with healing plants and classes.

Programs

Partnerships

The programs that happen in the park and the Center for Hope & Healing (CHH) would not be possible without the generosity of our partners. For example, the Cancer Support Community brings a weekly gathering to CHH called “Wellness Thursday.” Our monthly drumming session in the amphitheater is facilitated by Our World Festival and Net-Good. CSPA hopes that 2024 will create our best collaborations yet.

Cancer Survivors Day

Join us and the Upstate Cancer Network as we celebrate survivors on Cancer Survivors Day, Sunday, June 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cancer Survivors Park. It’s a celebration for those who have survived, an inspiration for those recently diagnosed, a gathering for families, and an outreach to the community.

If you are interested in learning more about our programs and others happening around the Upstate, please visit the “Programs” tab of the CSPA website.

Cancer Support Community at CSPA

CSC@CSP is here! A special partnership with the Cancer Support Community enables a satellite location of the largest non-profit provider of psychosocial services to cancer survivors in the country to be in CSP’s Center for Hope & Healing. This partnership will help supply over 25 monthly survivorship programs in CHH. *Community is stronger than cancer.*®

Looking ahead to 2024

Volunteerism

Join the Cancer Survivors Park Alliance and the City of Greenville in 2024 for one of our quarterly park work days. Tasks on these volunteer dates include light work like trash pickup, invasive species removal, boardwalk plaque maintenance, etc. Join us on:

- Thursday, November 16, 2023
- Thursday, March 7, 2024
- Saturday, May 18, 2024
- Thursday, September 26, 2024

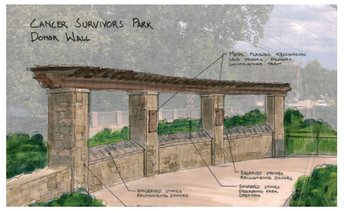
All volunteer days take place from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Cancer Survivors Park. For full details and registration, please visit the “Support Our Mission” tab of the CSPA website.

Construction

2024 will be a big year for sculptures in the park because of the three new pieces that will be installed. Yuri Tsuzuki is working on a piece called “*Turning Point*” that has been commissioned by Laura and Bill Pelham. Jeff Holland is working with donors Diane and Larry Gluck to develop a celebration bell to honor survivors. Finally, the Cancer Survivors Park Alliance will install a sculpture in the Healing Garden to honor the fine work of doctors in our community funded by Patsy and Reg Brooker.

Progress

Capital Campaign



Completing the CSPA Capital Campaign has been a long and productive journey. Tens of thousands of donors, from the penny donor during the collaborative giving of the 2013 Spirit Week High School competition to the $1 million donor we were fortunate to receive this year — all are uniquely special and vital to us! Well over $10 million has been raised by the CSPA Capital Campaign team alone. It is truly a blessing to realize that over 80% of the campaign money was given to CSPA by **private donors** to support the building and development of the current 6.8-acre Cancer Survivors Park. The CSP Master Plan is 95% complete and on target to be finalized by Spring 2024. We are grateful for the supporters and their passion for our mission.

Endowment

Siblings Annalynn Barnett and Hamilton Baiden are currently raising funds for the Jean and Art Baiden Endowment benefiting CSPA. This endowment is named after their parents, who were early supporters of the Cancer Survivors Park, and is intended to ensure the long-term sustainability of the park and its programs. All funds raised will be used to enhance and help complete the park experience, provide seasonal plantings, and contribute to the city’s maintenance budget. The Community Foundation of Greenville is responsible for administering the endowment. If you are interested in contributing, visit the “Support Our Mission” tab on our website.

Young Professionals

We are launching a Young Professionals group! The Cancer Survivors Park Alliance Young Professionals group will support our cancer community through volunteer work, advocacy, and fundraising. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our group — scan this QR code to sign up for updates about the group’s 2024 launch.

Thank you for showing up for our events, participating and engaging with our programming, and for your financial contributions!