

Fall-Winter 2008



Triumph

TOGETHER WE CAN WIN!

Hope Lodge guest
Jenny Li,
page 10

SUPPORT FOR BODY AND SPIRIT

ACCESS TO CARE • FIGHTING CANCER WORLDWIDE •
A DAY WITH AN ONCOLOGIST • CARING FOR CAREGIVERS



hope away from
home

BY KAREN LYNCH

Thanks to Hope Lodge, Jenny Li could focus on getting well—and learning how to hula.

AFTER BEING DIAGNOSED with rectal cancer in March 2008, Jenny Li chose a leading treatment program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. However, she and her husband, Jinchao Xu, lived 236 miles away, in State College, Pennsylvania. For nearly two months, the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge®, Jerome L. Greene Family Center in New York City became their home away from home.

What concerned you most about receiving treatment away from home?

I needed chemo and radiation daily for seven weeks. My 14-year-old daughter stayed with friends, and my 4-year-old visited my parents. The first week, my husband and I stayed with friends an hour and twenty minutes outside the city. But each day, my husband had to fight traffic, and I had diarrhea and threw up often. Thank God we found Hope Lodge.

How did you and your husband get connected to Hope Lodge?

Sloan-Kettering told us about it, and we looked at the Web site (www.cancer.org/hopelodge). We thought, great news! By the second week, my husband and I had moved in.

How did staying at Hope Lodge help ease your concerns while undergoing treatment?

Without the pressure of the drive, we relaxed. The Hope Lodge staff knew what I was facing, which eased my mind. I met other guests with cancer, so we shared experiences. The women there were like my big sisters. They listened and offered support and encouragement. The fact that Hope Lodge was free was secondary to the comfort and relaxing feeling of home.

What else made being a guest at Hope Lodge feel like home?

They had support groups, meditation, tai chi and yoga—even hula lessons. Treatment seems far away when you have fun like that. The pain comes and goes, but in between, you can actually enjoy life.



planning for a **cancer-free** future

BY KAREN LYNCH

AFTER LOSING BOTH HIS MOTHER AND SISTER TO CANCER in a two-month span, Richard Fitzgerald faced a difficult eight months as executor of their estates. So Richard, now 76, of Marion, Illinois, took steps to ensure his own estate would one day be settled with ease—and that his assets would support a worthy cause.

Richard met with an American Cancer Society planned giving officer for complimentary assistance in organizing his affairs. Because of his strong ties to the Society, Richard named the organization as beneficiary to his retirement plan and life insurance policy and also made a bequest in his will. “I’m not going to leave a mess behind,” he says. “And after I’m gone, my money will go to earlier detection of cancer and programs that benefit those touched by cancer.”

Richard’s involvement with the Society began when his sister was diagnosed with lung cancer. He attended a local support group,

Richard Fitzgerald believes in the power of the possible. That’s why he made the American Cancer Society a beneficiary of his estate.

and after she passed away, he was encouraged to attend Relay For Life. Richard was so impressed that he stayed for the entire overnight event. Since then he’s participated in at least 54 Relay events, often driving 90 miles to attend. “Sometimes, about 2 o’clock in the morning, I say to myself, ‘What am I doing out here? I’m retired, I should be home,’” he says. But meeting other survivors spurs him on.

A prostate cancer survivor himself, Richard says the disease has been in remission for five years. He often speaks of the opportunity survivors have to help others today and into the future. “How would you like to have your grandson ask, ‘Grandpa, what’s cancer?’ Some people may say a world without cancer isn’t possible, but I say it is.”

Make informed decisions about your charitable donations with the help of our free estate planning services. Call us today at 1-866-417-9272.