



## CANCER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RESPONDS TO COVID-19

Dear

In the spring of 2020, our world changed. The control we enjoyed in our daily decisions was, for the most part, taken from us. So many of us couldn't work or had to learn to work differently. We couldn't see family or friends for fear of spreading illness to one another. Feelings of isolation, loneliness, sadness, anger, and hopelessness became commonplace. But the resilience of the human spirit rose high and beauty became apparent in the small things – a flowering crocus, the wave of a neighbour from afar, a phone call with a family member, the beauty of a cloudless sky, or joy in having the time to read a great book. The coronavirus turned the world upside down. From the most senior of persons to the youngest of children, the focus became how to stay safe and healthy, employed, financially supported, and emotionally cared for.

**What we are feeling as a community is not unlike what cancer patients experience from the very start of their journey.** Overnight their diagnosis changes their world. Fear, sadness, anger, confusion, isolation, and hopelessness are emotions experienced by many cancer patients daily. Their treatments may alter their immune system, change their appearance, and affect their ability to eat and care for themselves. They do not get to choose how each day will be lived.

*In late 2018, my wife was diagnosed with cancer. Within days she began treatment that caused her to be so immunocompromised she ended up hospitalized over Christmas. Once she returned home, the debilitating side effects of her treatment continued. Our world revolved around her treatments and doctor's appointments. She was sick and I was exhausted. From driving to all the appointments, preparing food she could easily digest, trying to maintain the house, and caring for her in ways we never thought necessary, I was physically and emotionally drained. I can remember one particular chemotherapy appointment where I dropped her off at the Juravinski Cancer Centre, and then headed onto the street to try and find parking. After searching for some time, my phone rang – It was my wife in a panic... They were about to start her treatment and I wasn't there yet.*

**“The simple act of not having to worry about finding parking, and my wife never having to stress that a treatment might start without me, made all the difference.”**

(PLEASE TURN OVER)

**ONE-TIME DONATION:** Yes, I want to make a gift to ensure cancer patients and their families get the help they need.

\$50    \$100    \$150    \$200    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- I have enclosed my cheque made payable to **Cancer Assistance Program**.
- I authorize CAP to charge my credit card in the amount indicated at left.
- Please sign me up for electronic communications from CAP (be sure to include your email address)
- Visa    Mastercard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry \_\_\_\_\_ CW \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque payable to Cancer Assistance Program. To make your gift online please go to [www.cancerassist.ca](http://www.cancerassist.ca). Charitable Registration Number 14026 2759 RR0001

While sitting with my wife during another treatment, I learned about the Cancer Assistance Program from another man in a similar situation as mine. It's not easy to admit you can't do it all, but I knew I couldn't keep it up. I walked down the street and registered for the Cancer Assistance Program's Drive & Ride program. A lifeline was handed to me when I needed it the most. From that point on, a volunteer driver drove us to and from her remaining appointments. The simple act of not having to worry about finding parking, and my wife never having to stress that a treatment might start without me, made all the difference.

We consider ourselves lucky. Today my wife is recovering, and our need for assistance is so much less. With time now on my hands, and such an appreciation for what the Cancer Assistance Program did for us, I am now a volunteer driver one day a week. When a client gets into my car, I know what they are going through and consider myself blessed to be able to help them in this small but meaningful way.

– Bill Pelletier, Cancer Assistance Program Volunteer Driver

The coronavirus hasn't stopped cancer, but instead has added to the challenges already faced by these vulnerable patients and their families. As an organization, we must continue to provide essential support, recognizing that we must also adapt to how we can safely provide these services during such an uncertain time. As many of our clients are being discharged from the hospital to make room for coronavirus patients, home safety equipment loans have been a priority in assisting with these transitions home. The rides we normally provide are no longer possible due to social distancing, and while many treatments have been postponed, parking continues to be available for those who are able to continue their treatments at the Juravinski Cancer Centre. We know that nutrition and incontinence needs remain critical, perhaps more so than ever before. We also know that caregivers are exhausted, and that others who would have been available to assist with groceries or cooking, are now required to keep a safe distance. **The Cancer Assistance Program remains committed to providing free and practical support to our clients, and we must respond to these needs.**

Today we are asking that you help us to continue to deliver our services by bringing these essentials directly to our clients. **Help when you really need it – to your doorstep.** Along with support from our incredible volunteer drivers, we will be providing contactless delivery of nutritional supplements and incontinence products right to our client's front doors. Additionally, we have partnered with Zarky's Fine Foods, a local community and family-oriented business, to be able to offer food bundles containing prepared meals and goods to help during these trying times.

**For a donation of only \$50, you will ensure a cancer patient receives much needed essentials delivered right to their doorstep, including two six-packs of nutritional supplements and two packages of incontinence products.**

**For a donation of \$100, you will ensure a cancer patient receives these essentials as well as a Zarky's food bundle containing prepared meals and goods.**

**Like cancer does to a person, the coronavirus will forever change us as a community.**

Our hope is that you will help us make a difference in the lives of cancer patients and their families during an especially difficult time. **Your support is vital.** If we lean on one another, we will get through this together.

Sincerely,



Debbie Logel Butler  
Executive Director

**“The coronavirus hasn't stopped cancer, but instead has added to the challenges already faced by these vulnerable patients and their families.”**



**MONTHLY DONATION: Yes, I want to make a gift to ensure cancer patients and their families get the help they need.**

I authorize CAP to charge my credit card in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ on or after the 15th of each month, commencing in the month after I date my request.

Visa  Mastercard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign me up for electronic communications from CAP (be sure to include your email address)



**Cancer Assistance**  
PROGRAM

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905.383.9797

inquiries@cancerassist.ca  
[cancerassist.ca](http://cancerassist.ca)

**Thank You!**

An official tax receipt will be issued for all gifts of \$20 and above. Monthly donors receive one tax receipt at the end of the year for the full amount.