

Survival and Hope Life After Cancer



LIZ MCGIFFIN, 56
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

The Basics:

- **RESIDENCE:** Victorville
- **OCCUPATION:** Community Development Manager-American Cancer Society
- **FAMILY:** Dave McGiffin; daughters Shannon McGiffin, Jennifer Schaffer; Jen McGiffin
- **HOBBIES:** Hiking/backpacking, ziplining and just started rock climbing
- **PHILOSOPHY:** A positive outlook mixed with humor can get you through anything.

By Alberta Hale Crigler

This month marks Liz McGiffin's third year working as a community development manager with the American Cancer Society (ACS). McGiffin was working for another nonprofit when she reached out to ACS for information needed for a cancer survivor project.

She discovered ACS programs that already existed. "We did

not need to duplicate their efforts," McGiffin said. "Instead, we needed to inform the community of the resources."

"This connection resulted in a full-time job offer and a new-found mission: to make sure our community is aware of the support and resources the American Cancer Society has to offer.

"I am fortunate to work with a large team of volunteers that want to raise cancer awareness and funds to fight the disease."

McGiffin said community events include:

- Relay For Life of Barstow and Relay For Life of the High Desert, which celebrate cancer survivors and their families and honor those who have lost their battle.

- Real Men Wear Pink campaign, which gives men a leadership role in the fight against breast cancer.

McGiffin's job involves her in the battle against cancer. But like most people, the disease has affected her personally, too.

McGiffin said when she was young, she lost two uncles and a cousin to cancer.

"Now, my forever friend since 13 was recently diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer," McGiffin said.

"She is currently going through chemo, and I am thankful that I have the experience of knowing cancer survivors who have beat this disease so I can share positive stories of survival with her.

"Through my position with ACS, I am fortunate to see the upside of cancer: the strength that comes within when someone is diagnosed, and the love that they want to give rather than receive.

"The power of prayer, positive outlooks and even humor helps them with their battle.

"My vision for American Cancer Society is that we find a cure for all cancers and put me out of a job.

"In the meantime, I will continue to work with passionate, hardworking volunteers to raise cancer awareness, share the support and resources and raise funds to fight this disease."

American Cancer Society provides accurate, up-to-date information to help cancer patients, caregivers and family members make educated health decisions. Trained cancer information specialists are available at the ACS National Cancer Information Center 24 hours a day, every day.

From free lodging and transportation to help making decisions about care, ACS offers programs, services, and resources in its online Find

bank located at Merle Norman Cosmetics to include hair accessories, mammo pillows, blankets and more, all provided and made by our generous community," McGiffin said.

"I work with amazing volunteers! From the CAAT team to the our Relay For Life Event Leadership Teams. Relay For Life of the High Desert & Relay For Life of Barstow have been planning the 2019 Relay For Life events.. both are held on the same day May 18, 2019". states McGiffin.

- Relay for Life of Barstow and Relay for Life of the High Desert celebrations of cancer survivors. Volunteers work throughout the year to create fun gatherings and raise money and awareness for the ACS.

This community event allows us to share all the wonderful programs and resources that are available for cancer survivors and their families:

- Cancer Prevention information
- Up to date Research-understanding a diagnosis
- Understanding Financial and Legal matters
- Road to Recovery & Hotel Partners - offering aid to survivors who need rides to appointments and places to stay during treatment

“My vision... we find a cure for all cancers and put me out of a job.”

Support and Treatment section to assist patients with their treatment and recovery.

"Merle Norman Cosmetics has been home of the American Cancer Society wig bank for more than 15 years," said McGiffin.

But three years ago, McGiffin and Merle Norman studio former owner Linda Walker realized there was still a need to improve communication with the community about ACS's presence in the High Desert and what resources were available.

"A team of volunteers, the Cancer Awareness Action Team (CAAT) have expanded the American Cancer Society wig

Resources:



American Cancer Society
(any time, seven days per week)
Cancer.org or
call 800.227.2345.
Relay For Life (local)
RelayForLife.org/BarstowCA
RelayForLife.org/HighDesertCA
CAREGIVER BOX:
We invite the entire community to come together to celebrate our survivors and honor those we have lost.
UPCOMING EVENTS:
March 22nd - Laugh for a Cure
- Comedy Night - Holiday Inn 7:30pm
April 4th - Barstow Survivor Dinner - Senior Center
April 6th - Mayor Cup Race Wheel2Wheel - 6pm -
https://www.facebook.com/events/2304761526202141/
April 11th - Quarters For A Cause - Hesperia Elks Lodge 5:30
April 13th - Be Our Guest Survivor Luncheon
- Noon - Sunview Plaza
April 27th - Cruise for Cancer CAR SHOW - SJVC Victor Valley
May 18th - Relay For Life of Barstow
May 18-19, 2019 - Relay For Life of the High Desert
June 13th - Taste of Hope - celebrating our survivors
that shared their SURVIVAL & HOPE SERIES
Visit the ACS wig bank at
Merle Norman Cosmetics studio
at 13728 Hesperia Road,
#7 in Victorville.



The American Cancer Society provides a 24 hour service to answer questions about diagnosis, insurance, local support and resources

**www.cancer.org or
call 800-227-2345**

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