



What is Survivorship?

PAID PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

Cancer Nation (formerly the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship) says you are a cancer survivor from your day of diagnosis through the rest of your life. Not everyone identifies personally with the term “survivor,” but the concept of survivorship is far-ranging and inclusive.

Survivorship:

- includes both physical and mental health.
- applies not just to patients, but also to families and caregivers.

Survivorship care:

- addresses the entire cancer community at all levels of support.
- begins on the day of diagnosis and applies to the rest of one’s life.

RBOI’s free support activities to the community are available both virtually and in person, and are designed to help you and your family from the beginning (even before a diagnosis is made) for as long as you need them. Completing treatment does not mean the end of care. Our cancer navigators and social workers make sure that you can get the resources and support you need. For more information, call Wendy Hall, LCSW at 352-527-0106 or Amy Roberts, LCSW at 352-732-0277.

Financial Survival

Cancer is expensive, not only for treatment but for related costs like transportation, lodging, child care, home care, and respite care. Those costs can create financial hardship, which can impact survivorship,

especially if one skips medication or appointments just to get by.

Resources are available at the local, regional, and national level. They include H.U.G.S. in Marion County, the Citrus Aid Cancer Foundation in Citrus County, Elder Options of North Central Florida, and more. RBOI’s social workers and cancer navigators can help you access resources to lessen your financial burden.



Survivors Speak Out

What does survivorship mean for daily living? In 2025, more than 2,000 people across the US answered Cancer Nation’s annual survivor survey. Findings include the following:

- Rising health insurance cost was the number one financial concern. It affected 73% of survivors, with 25% saying insurance coverage played a role in their treatment decisions.
- Most survivors were satisfied with treatment and care, but satisfaction dropped from 78% in 2024 to 70%. Younger and underserved patients were especially affected.
- Most survivors, 88%, believe cancer research benefits them, but 53% believe it is influenced by politics. They still trust the science, but are concerned mainly with funding and communication.
- More than half of survivors felt comfortable with using artificial intelligence (AI) for basic tasks, like scheduling appointments and collecting intake data. Fewer than half felt comfortable with AI performing more complicated tasks, like helping with diagnosis or prescribing drugs.

by the numbers

18.6 million

Estimated cancer survivors in the US as of May 2025

79%

Proportion of cancer survivors in the US who were age 60 or older in 2025

2,114,850 and 183,100

Estimated new cancer cases in the US and in Florida in 2026

1.5%

Decrease in annual cancer deaths in the US from 2014 to 2023.

Mark Your Calendars!

Cancer Recovery Through Creativity combines hands-on creativity with mindfulness education to uplift and support local cancer survivors. Led by Amy Roberts, LCSW, and Lisa McGuire, HCA Director of Oncology, this program occurs on Friday, June 5, from 1-3 PM, at HCA Florida West Marion Hospital, 4600 SW 46th Ct. in Ocala. Call Amy at 352-732-0277 for more info.

Survivor Wisdom

Cancer survivors at RBOI recently offered these tips for others living with cancer:

- “Figure out a new routine (when the old routine is gone).”
- “Don’t hesitate to ask questions. You are the captain of your medical team.”
- “Never give up!”

RBOI’s support services are available to the community free of charge, from before diagnosis through treatment and afterward, regardless of where you are being treated. Give us a call.



Patient-centered radiation oncology close to home

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 Ocala 352.732.0277
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