

## Meet Robbie Rohr – Cancer Lifeline’s New Executive Director

Spring has arrived and with it comes change and renewal. The first warm rays of spring are a time to throw open the windows, enjoy the spring blooms and plant the seeds for new growth. I am honored to guide Cancer Lifeline into this new season as the new executive director.

I knew of Cancer Lifeline long before accepting this role. Several years ago, I came to Cancer Lifeline to visit former executive director Barbara Frederick. When I entered the building I felt drawn in by this place of deep caring, strength, peacefulness and healing energy. I still get that feeling when I walk through our doors each morning. Living with cancer is a state of being that touches each of us in some transformative way. Those who are newly diagnosed, a survivor, a family member, caregiver or close friend – each of us has experienced the anxiety of overwhelming tasks and finances, a dark night of the soul or the helplessness of wanting to give, but not knowing how.

I have profound gratitude for the role Cancer Lifeline plays in our community. Cancer Lifeline does one of the most valuable things in the world... we are there when people are the most vulnerable, walking alongside them on their journey with cancer.



*We listen when you are most vulnerable*

*We connect you with resources when you are overwhelmed or desperate*

*We offer you opportunities to learn to take the best care of yourself or your loved one and to express your innermost feelings*

*We help you find a community of people who know what you are going through*

*We nurture your fervor to experience hope and joy and appreciation of your life*

At our recent Luncheon in March, I shared my vision for Cancer Lifeline:

- To ensure Cancer Lifeline’s enduring role in our community, offering innovative and comprehensive services that empower and support those who live with cancer
- To model accountability, collaboration and community leadership
- To embrace and affirm an ever-growing circle of participants, staff, donors and volunteers

Cancer Lifeline’s strength comes from the synergy of all of those past, present and future who are part of our mission. I welcome the opportunity to connect personally to all who value the work and presence of Cancer Lifeline. My door is open, please come by and introduce yourself!

Robbie Rohr

## 11th Annual Benefit Luncheon a Success!

**Cancer Lifeline’s Luncheon on Thursday, March 24th was a tremendous success!  
To date we have raised \$235,000 in support of our mission.**

Emceed by Enrique Cerna with KCTS Connects, nearly 600 guests came out in support of Cancer Lifeline. Poetry from a Cancer Lifeline “Writing for the Moment” class was read. If you were unable to join us, here is just one piece that moved guests at the Luncheon:

**Jig Saw Puzzle** Written and read by Sylvia Pollack

*You can clean the stove  
Arrange spices alphabetically on their shelf,  
Sort laundry into tidy stacks  
Of underwear, socks, t-shirts  
Do a thousand piece puzzle  
On the card table in the living room  
Create some comfort, a sense of control.  
But you know it’s a ruse, something  
To keep panic at bay when the next wave  
Sweeps in, undercuts the place  
Where you are beached.*

*Keep putting the pieces together,  
Do edges first,  
Frame the mess of random events  
Search for colors that go together  
The ones that are soothing  
It has gotten you through places  
You refuse to revisit,  
Where you had to leave parts  
Of yourself-half a breast,  
Piece of knee and whole  
Slices of memory.*

*Perhaps slowly a scene will emerge,  
A strong woman, a pen in her hand,  
A smile on her face and tears  
That could be because of onions  
She’s chopped for a stew  
Or, more likely, are due  
To that other layered root –  
Gratitude.*



Special guest speaker, Molly Wizenberg (of well-known blog *Orangette*: [www.orangette.blogspot.com](http://www.orangette.blogspot.com), author of *A Homemade Life: Stories and Recipes from My Kitchen Table*, owner of restaurant Delancy in Ballard) shared a touching story about a moment she shared with her father over “Italian Grotto Eggs” that moved guests.

Friend of Cancer Lifeline, Nate Miles closed the program with a powerful and emotional “Ask” reflecting on his personal experience with cancer in his immediate family.

We are overjoyed by the response from our guests, and we are already looking forward to next year’s event. Contact our development department at (206) 832-1273 if you’d like to host a table next year, or if you’d like to learn more about the Luncheon.



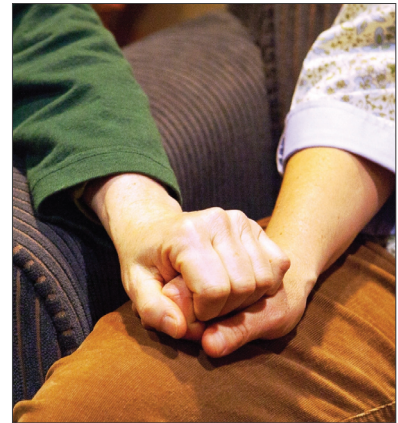
### Support Groups: You Are Not Alone

Your life can change dramatically when cancer enters your life. Everyone responds differently to hearing they have cancer, or that someone close to them has been diagnosed with cancer. Shock, disbelief and fear may have been some of the feelings that washed over you. No matter how you responded initially, you probably had questions, concerns and a feeling of uncertainty about what lay ahead in this unfamiliar world of cancer. You may have felt a need to talk with others who have gone before you down this path, to talk to people who are surviving and thriving while living with cancer.

Cancer Lifeline’s support groups make it possible for cancer patients, family members and friends to come together and find ways to get what they need. The support group “experience” can be powerful. People deeply listen, share stories, ask questions, talk about what is hard, and laugh and cry together. Coming to a support group for the first time may be hard. Support group members gently and caringly welcome new members, intuitively balance support without being overwhelming.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a support group, visit [www.cancerlifeline.org/services/support-groups](http://www.cancerlifeline.org/services/support-groups) to learn more about groups that might be a good fit. Cancer Lifeline offers 13 different support groups around the Puget Sound. We offer cancer-specific as well as general cancer support groups that are open to patients, caregivers, family members and friends, all at no charge to attend. Cancer Lifeline’s support groups are professionally facilitated and provide a safe place where people can feel included and a part of a community... not alone.

If you have questions about support groups, or other emotional support services Cancer Lifeline provides, please call Mary Ellen Shands at (206) 832-1279.



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