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The Gathering Place & UH Ireland Cancer Center Win LIVESTRONG Grant
Local Organizations Are Top Vote Getters in National Voting Campaign

CLEVELAND—Nov. 15, 2010—Thanks to Cleveland’s social media power, The Gathering Place & University Hospitals (UH) Ireland Cancer Center are winners of a [LIVESTRONG® Community Impact Project](#) award. [LIVESTRONG](#), an organization founded by Lance Armstrong to serve those affected by cancer, created the awards to fund cancer support programs in communities nationwide.

One hundred seventy-nine qualified hospitals, cancer centers and community organizations from around the country were selected to participate in an online voting campaign to compete for funding. The Gathering Place & UH Ireland Cancer Center “Cancer Transitions” program received the most votes of any group, securing more than 6,000 votes from around the world. Clevelanders posted dozens of Facebook and Twitter posts calling for support of the organizations in this effort.

The Gathering Place & UH Ireland Cancer Center will receive a joint \$4,000 award to create Cancer Transitions, a program designed to support, educate and empower those transitioning out of cancer treatment. The innovative program, set to launch in early 2011, will incorporate support groups, education, nutrition and physical exercise, as well as address other medical management, psychosocial and quality of life issues. The program also will provide survivors with practical tools and resources to formulate a personal action plan for survivorship.

“We cannot thank our supporters enough for taking the time to vote for this special program and for spreading the word about our support programs as part of this effort,” said Eileen Saffran, founder and executive director of The Gathering Place. “This award will go a long way in helping those transitioning out of cancer treatment, not to mention the associated social media buzz that helped raise awareness for the many support services available to those touched by cancer locally.”

“Thanks to recent innovations, cancer has become a more survivable disease,” says Trish Gallagher, BSN, RN, Manager, Office of Survivorship, UH Ireland Cancer Center. “This new program will enable us to enhance the important process of helping patients to move beyond cancer and into survivorship.”

Those interested in learning more about Cancer Transitions can contact The Gathering Place at 216.595.9546. For ongoing support-related updates and other insights from these organizations, follow The Gathering Place at www.twitter.com/touchedbycancer or www.facebook.com/TGPCaringCommunity and Ireland Cancer Center at <http://twitter.com/uhhospitals> or <http://facebook.com/uhhospitals>.

LIVESTRONG is committed to supporting community organizations in their efforts to help cancer survivors face the challenges and changes that come with cancer. Since its inception in 1997, the organization has invested more than \$68 million in community-centered organizations.

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About LIVESTRONG

Founded in 1997 by cancer survivor and champion cyclist Lance Armstrong and based in Austin, Texas, LIVESTRONG fights for the 28 million people around the world living with cancer today. LIVESTRONG connects individuals to the support they need, leverages funding and resources to spur innovation and engages communities and leaders to drive social change. Known for the iconic yellow wristband, LIVESTRONG's mission is to inspire and empower anyone affected by cancer. For more information, visit www.LIVESTRONG.org.

ABOUT THE GATHERING PLACE

The Gathering Place is a non-profit, community-based cancer support center that focuses on the social, emotional, physical and spiritual needs of individuals with cancer and their family and friends. With programs provided free of charge, The Gathering Place's services are designed to complement traditional medicine with a mind-body-spirit approach. Since its inception, The Gathering Place has helped more than 20,000 people touched by cancer with more than 115,000 visits. The Gathering Place has 350 active volunteers and an annual budget of more than \$1.4 million.

The Gathering Place East is located at 23300 Commerce Park in Beachwood, Ohio. The Gathering Place West is located at 800 Sharon Drive in Westlake, Ohio. Contact the organization at 216.595.9546 or visit The Gathering Place online at www.touchedbycancer.org.

ABOUT UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS

University Hospitals serves the needs of patients through an integrated network of hospitals, outpatient centers and primary care physicians. At the core of our health system is University Hospitals Case Medical Center. The primary affiliate of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, University Hospitals Case Medical Center is home to some of the most prestigious clinical and research centers of excellence in the nation and the world, including cancer, pediatrics, women's health, orthopedics and spine, radiology and radiation oncology, neurosurgery and neuroscience, cardiology and cardiovascular surgery, organ transplantation and human genetics. Its main campus includes the internationally celebrated UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, ranked among the top children's hospitals in the nation; UH MacDonald Women's Hospital, Ohio's only hospital for women; and UH Ireland Cancer Center, part of the NCI-designated Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. For more information, go to www.uhhospitals.org.

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