



## How to Be an Advocate for Cancer Patients

Author: Lucille Rosetti

*September 5, 2022*

---

The disease of cancer touches the lives of many, and as such, people often look for meaningful ways they can help those suffering from the illness. You don't have to be a scientist, researcher, or high-profile oncologist to be an asset - there are numerous avenues to assist those in need. Today, [NuEdge Alliance](#) outlines some simple ways you can make a big difference in the lives of cancer patients.

### Go Into Healthcare

According to Cancer.org, there is a [wide range](#) of medical professions that work in the field of oncology - which is the treatment of various types of cancer. You may consider medical or nursing school, physical therapy training, healthcare management, or even simply volunteering in a cancer unit. You may consider a holistic integrative health or consulting business that offers options for those seeking different or ancillary approaches to managing their disease.

You can help in other ways, too. For instance, [you can find online practitioners](#) to assist cancer patients who have trouble leaving their home or who simply prefer to meet with doctors online.

### Provide Adjacent Services

Those going through cancer treatment may be in need of prosthetics, wigs, medical equipment, transportation to-and-from medical appointments, and even hands-on

assistance with activities of daily living. You might [volunteer](#) for a visiting nurse association or be an intermediary for organizing donations of supplies for those who need them.

## Provide Related Services

Many people recovering from cancer treatment take a whole mind-body approach, in which case, the National Library of Medicine indicates providing [services](#) like meditation, yoga, and guided relaxation can be a help. Service providers in personal care areas may also give discounted or free makeovers for those coming through treatment and getting back on their feet.

## Host A Fundraiser

Consider holding a grassroots fundraiser to generate [financial support](#) for a local family impacted by a cancer diagnosis. This might include helping them pay for medical bills, or even manage their regular expenses if someone is unable to work due to illness or caregiving.

## Be an Advocate

People have different needs, and you may be able to serve in an advocacy role for someone who has cancer or is a caregiver to a cancer patient. For example, volunteer to cut someone's grass, drive their kids to school, or set up a meal delivery service. You can also accompany patients to medical appointments, take notes for them, and be a second set of ears.

## Educate Others

Not everyone knows about common cancer causes, treatment options, and outcomes, so you can become a spokesperson or resource for those who need it. You may also serve as a conduit for sharing information with extended family and friends of a cancer patient, keeping them updated so they don't overwhelm the patient with calls.

## Be Present

Sometimes, people struggling with cancer just need someone to talk to and express their emotions to. Keep in [regular contact](#) in person, by phone, text, email, or social media, and be willing to listen without judgment or pity. If a person is spiritual, providing them with inspirational literature and resources may be a welcome act.

## Make Plans

While people sometimes assume cancer is a death sentence, that's not necessarily the case. Encourage a forward-looking positive approach as a way to focus on good things

to come. An optimistic mindset is shown to improve coping and recovery rates and reduce the potential for anxiety and depression.

## Start a Non-Profit

If you're looking to provide comprehensive programs, services, or other offerings to those with cancer, you might consider [forming a non-profit](#) and applying for public grants and funding to support your efforts. You'll need to create bylaws, including details about operations and governance issues including meeting scheduling, voting, and avoiding conflicts of interest.

Researchers are learning more about cancer treatment options every day, and the outlook is brightening for many of those afflicted with the disease. If you want to be involved in a helping way, volunteer, be present, and look for ways to advocate for friends, family, and community members in need.

***[NuEdge Alliance](#) is committed to bringing you together with a quality distributor who can meet, and exceed, your needs. [Find a Distributor here.](#)***

Photo By [Pixabay](#)