



**CSCLA's HEART: Healing Equitably (through) Action, Resilience, & Teamwork**

Since 1982, the Cancer Support Community Los Angeles (CSCLA) has served cancer patients and families with a free of charge program of emotional and psychological support. By providing free of charge services, CSCLA is committed to reducing the financial burden on those impacted by cancer, thus meeting the critical challenge of filling the void of resources and services for those who suffer from the financial toxicity of cancer.

In 2007, a report by the Institute of Medicine stated that “. . . it is not possible to deliver good-quality cancer care without addressing patients’ psychosocial needs.” In 2012, standards developed with strong input from Cancer Support Community were released by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer for the delivery of “patient-centered care”, one key area of which is addressing and improving cancer survivors’ quality of life. CSCLA is committed to ensuring that all patients and families have access to “good quality cancer care”, regardless of zip code, race, ethnicity, age, gender, or sexual orientation.

In the spirit of commitment to providing our critical cancer care services to all, CSCLA’s HEART: Healing Equitably (through) Action, Resilience, & Teamwork is a conscious reorientation of our culture, ourselves, and our services towards marginalized and under-resourced communities throughout Los Angeles. CSCLA’s HEART commits to reaching out and learning how to best serve those living with cancer and their families in these communities. CSCLA recognizes the resiliency that already exists throughout our diverse communities and respectfully endeavors to assist in strengthening those voices so that cancer resources and support are available to ALL.

Throughout the years, CSCLA has been working with grass roots organizations and safety net hospitals serving under-resourced communities, but we recognize that there is still much work to be done. CSCLA’s HEART recognizes our strategy to be more purposeful in our outreach. By creating support via therapists, instructors, and educators from under-resourced communities, as well as in the languages of those communities, we are centering ourselves on our clients’ identities so that they may feel welcome and valued. CSCLA will continue to expand our current collaborative cancer support programs for the under-resourced, as well as seek out new opportunities with like-minded organizations so that we may more effectively support under-resourced cancer patients and their families in the Los Angeles area.

To this end, CSCLA is actively collaborating with organizations serving BIPOC, Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), LGBTQ+, seniors, children, and others, all of whom might have limited access to psychosocial support due to a dearth of services; lack of providers; historically entrenched health inequities; and stigma and discrimination.

Current CSCLA's HEART partners include:

*Adventist Health White Memorial Hospital (AHWM)*

CSCLA and Adventist Health White Memorial, a safety net hospital in Boyle Heights, have partnered for over ten years to deliver support for the Spanish Speaking community. Our CSCLA trained bilingual therapists lead groups onsite and via Zoom, as well as engage in community outreach in order to build groups and programs that provide culturally competent education and healthy lifestyle classes, utilizing Spanish-speaking doctors, nurses and instructors.

*The Village Health Foundation (VHF)*

CSCLA provides a support group in partnership with Village Health Foundation (VHF), an acupuncture clinic founded by LGBT advocate Jewell Thais-Williams. VHF is in Arlington Heights, a predominantly Black community. This group is led by therapists from this area and is offered onsite at VHF and via Zoom.

*The Angelus Plaza*

Located in downtown Los Angeles, Angelus Plaza is the largest subsidized community for low-income seniors in the United States with a diverse community of approximately 1,400 residents, including Korean-speaking, Chinese-speaking, and Spanish-speaking. Angelus Plaza is part of the Retirement Housing Foundation (RHF). RHF is one of the nation's largest non-profit providers of housing and services for older adults, persons with disabilities, and low-income families. The Angelus Plaza Senior Center is open to residents and those in the surrounding community, offering access to health services, meals, recreation, social engagement, and lifelong learning; Good Samaritan Hospital, a safety net hospital, is embedded within Angelus Plaza. CSCLA has trained a Korean-speaking therapist, and, in partnership with Angelus Plaza, will be listening to this community's needs for an expansion of services.

*The Los Angeles LGBT Center*

CSCLA has a decades long relationship with the Los Angeles LGBT Center serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Communities. CSCLA delivers a Gay Men's Prostate Cancer Group and a group for LGBTQ+ older adults in partnership with the LGBT Center; CSCLA has trained additional clinicians who identify as lesbian/gay.

*Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation (PBTF)*

Children are an under-resourced and often forgotten group in the Los Angeles psychosocial cancer care landscape. Along with the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, CSCLA seeks to create professional programs for children and teens living with a brain tumor diagnosis, while also caring for the siblings and parents impacted by this diagnosis. CSCLA continues to expand its general services for children, teens and families and, to this end, has hired a Clinical and Youth Manager to work with PBTF and others.