

THE COALITION VOICE

**A newsletter of the
Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition
October 2005**



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National NEWS BRIEF

New USDA Game Teaches Kids Healthy Choices

The USDA just released a food pyramid for kids along with collateral materials such as a space ship computer game, lesson plans, worksheets and family tips that they hope will educate and reinforce healthy food choices by kids and families. Obesity among children and teens has more than doubled in the past 30 years increasing their risk for chronic disease and cancer. In an effort to educate kids, *The MyPyramid Blast Off Game* (left) aimed at ages six to eleven, is an interactive game that requires that kids select healthy food combinations in order to get the Food Pyramid to blast off to Planet Power. To view the game and other educational materials, visit www.mypyramid.gov/kids



Adding the right combination of fruits, vegetables and other foods will get your ship to Planet Power.

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

NOEP Fall Conference Schedule

These professional nursing educational opportunities are offered through the Nurse Oncology Education Program. For more information or to register, visit www.noeptexas.org or call 800.515.6770.

➤ **October 12-15**

The Association of Occupational Health Professionals Conference, San Antonio.

➤ **October 14-16**

Annual Update in Medicine, Laredo.

➤ **October 15**

Cancer Symptom Management, Victoria.

➤ **November 4**

Cancer Survivorship, Tyler.

➤ **November 4**

End-of-Life Care, Waco.

NEWS FROM COALITION PARTNERS

October Health Observances

Healthy Lung Month

www.lungusa.org

National Breast Cancer
Awareness Month

www.nbcam.org

National Mammography Day
October 21: www.cancer.org

Coalition Partners Respond to Cancer Patients Affected by Hurricane Katrina

As we all know, nature unleashed a fury on the Gulf Coast in early September creating unimaginable suffering and deplorable living conditions for tens of thousands of people. The American Cancer Society is working to ease the burden of cancer patients who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina by providing the following:

- A 24-hour information center (800-ACS-2345) staffed with a team of specialists ready to connect cancer patients with community resources, access to treatment centers and care.
- A comprehensive website detailing services and information www.cancer.org/katrina.
- Services through local offices that include transportation, lodging listings and ACS support groups.

Cancer Care Services is also responding to cancer patients affected by Hurricane Katrina. They're currently helping survivors in active treatment who have relocated to Tarrant, Johnson, Parker and Hood Counties by providing financial, social and emotional support.

Government Resources



www.cancer.gov National
Cancer Institute



www.healthfinder.gov United
States Department of Health
and Human Services



www.healthgap.omhrc.gov
United States Department of
Health and Human Services

oriGENal voice Pumps Up the Volume

Under the supervision of a new girl advisory board, oriGENal voice continues to teach adolescent girls about the benefits of living a tobacco-free lifestyle via peer outreach facilitated by media campaigns they create. Upcoming events include the oriGENal voice Girls as Advocates Workshop that features professionals from a variety of industries sharing their expertise on topics such as *Girls Using Tobacco* and *Public Policy 101*. With the help of volunteers from the University of Texas at Austin and local public relations members, oriGENal voice has developed new "think tank" teams to focus on areas including Tobacco-Free Living Outreach, Workshop Development, Recognition/Public Relations, Program Refinement, Web Information and Logistics/Operations. To learn more, visit www.genaustin.org.

Komen Austin Race for the Cure Just Around the Corner

It's Fall and that means it's time for the annual Komen Race for the Cure. This year's race is Sunday, November 6 at Auditorium Shores in Austin. Pre-race activities begin at 6 a.m. and the race starts at 8 a.m. The event includes a 5K run/walk and 1K Komen Kids and Family Fun/Walk benefiting breast cancer awareness. For more information, visit www.komenaustin.org.

"To be efficient and effective, we must work with our partners to change the categorical cancer mindset into one comprehensive strategy. It is important that we use all we know in one concerted effort to improve cancer prevention and control for all those in need."

James S. Marks, MD, MPH,
Former Director
National Center for Chronic
Disease Prevention and Health
Promotion

2006 Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition Meeting Dates

February 10
May 12
August 11
November 10

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CORNER

Do you have a resource you'd like to share with colleagues?

Prostate Outreach Project Honored at 2005 In the Know Awards

The Prostate Outreach Project at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center received Honorable Mention at Prostate Net's *2005 In the Know Awards for Eliminating Health Disparities* held September 9 in New York City. The event honors those who go beyond the routine to change health disparities of all kinds within medically underserved or minority communities through demonstrated leadership, implementation of novel strategies and/or commitment in time, energy and resources.

Cancer Care Services' Kamp Kaleidoscope Helps Kids Cope

Children with a family member undergoing cancer treatment were the guests at a weeklong day camp dubbed "Kamp Kaleidoscope" hosted by Cancer Care Services in July. In addition to enjoying daily field trips to exciting local destinations like the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, the children participated in professionally-led expressive therapies involving art, music and play. The camp was designed to be a fun week of activities for children whose parents are not physically or financially able to provide such experiences. Providing expressive outlets allowed the children to communicate their feelings about living with a family member with cancer, learn positive self-expression and healthy coping skills. The camp illustrated how important it is to treat the entire family, not just the patient.

New Coordinator for TCCCC

Stephanie Uecker (pronounced EE-ker) joined the Texas Cancer Council September 1 as a Program Specialist. She is now serving as the coordinator of the Coalition. During her career, Stephanie managed the community education, training and volunteer programs at a nonprofit in Kentucky and later worked as training specialist at the University of Kentucky Medical Center before moving to Austin in 2003. She recently left the corporate training world to return to the nonprofit roots she missed so much. Stephanie holds a Bachelor's Degree in English from the University of Kentucky.

CancerTogether's Cancer in the Workplace Video Series Now Available

CancerTogether has produced a video series that addresses issues faced by people who are working while living with cancer. The five-part series includes *The Employee's Perspective*, *What a Coworker Needs to Know*, *What an Employer Needs to Know*, *Everyone Needs a Support Team* and *Attitude Makes a Difference*. All videos contain information that can benefit patients, caregivers and anyone in the workplace and are available for online viewing at www.cancertogether.org. DVDs will be available to TCC Project Directors at the meeting in October. For more information about this series or about obtaining copies for distribution, contact Laura Brouger at laurab@cancertogether.org.

Thank you for your interest in the Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition. Please direct your newsletter ideas to Stephanie Uecker, suecker@tcc.state.tx.us or call 512.463.3190 ext. 103. If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please contact Stephanie at the above address.