

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The Healing Project, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, was founded in 2005 by Debra LaChance, a breast cancer survivor committed to helping others confronted with life-changing illnesses. The Healing Project is dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of individuals suffering from life-threatening illnesses and chronic diseases, developing resources to enhance their quality of life and assisting the family members and friends who care for them. The Healing Project creates ways in which individuals can share their stories while providing access to current information pertaining to their illnesses. The Healing Project works to promote public understanding of the impact such illnesses have on the lives of those affected.

Individuals diagnosed with life-threatening or chronic debilitating illnesses face numerous physical, emotional, psychological, social, spiritual and financial challenges during their treatment and throughout their lives. Emotional and social support from family members, peers and the community is essential to their recovery and to their enhanced quality of life while battling their illnesses. Access to accurate and current information regarding their illnesses is essential to enable such individuals and their caretakers to make informed decisions regarding treatment and post-treatment issues. The Healing Project seeks to assist individuals coping with life-threatening illnesses, their family members and other caretakers by developing and making available to them the resources that address those social, emotional, psychological and physical needs.

To achieve its goals, The Healing Project will develop and maintain an online social network called "Voices Who Care" designed to allow individuals to meet online, share experiences and perspectives, offer and receive advice. "Voices Who Care" will allow individuals to communicate through email and will be capable of accommodating multiple users in multiple countries. Individuals utilizing the network will be able to conduct searches to locate, for example, other individuals combating the same or similar illnesses, receiving a particular course of treatment or receiving treatment in particular hospitals or treatment/hospice centers. Membership in the online social network will be free of charge. Anticipated launch is September 2007.

The Healing Project has developed and made available on its website a "Resource Center," comprised of resources that can assist individuals and caregivers dealing with life-threatening illnesses. This online database enables users to quickly and easily locate vital information regarding the nature of their illnesses, treatment options, treatment centers and other essential information. The Healing Project's Resource Center also provides information regarding other organizations that provide support such as counseling and social services.

The Healing Project seeks to educate the public regarding the challenges faced by individuals coping with serious illnesses and will provide guidance on ways to enhance the quality of life of such individuals. In order to do so, the organization plans to reach out and collaborate with schools, the medical/health care community, the business community and other community-based groups. The Healing Project is currently working with LaChance Publishing on the development of an inspirational book series called, "Voices Of." Each book will target a specific illness and will be comprised of short stories and essays written by a wide variety of patients, caregivers, medical professionals and friends. Each book will contain contributor biographies as well as a resource section. Profits from the sale of the books will be donated to The Healing Project by LaChance Publishing. Other programs currently in development include youth arts after-school and summer programs produced in association with the Morrisania Diagnostic & Treatment Center, Center for Immigrant Families, Hour Children and Danny Simmons, of the Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation. The Healing Project is simultaneously working on an informational video series about illness survivors as well as a forum discussion program which will combine video screenings and Q&A sessions with those featured in each program.

The Healing Project has established an Executive Council as well as a Medical Advisory Board to guide and assist the management team in developing the organization's programs. Both groups are comprised of professionals and representatives from organizations dedicated to developing successful strategies to assist individuals struggling with serious, life-changing illnesses.

The **HEALING** PROJECT
Sharing Our Stories, Creating Community

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