



Patti Robinson Kaufmann

# First Connection Program



PATTI ROBINSON KAUFMANN



The *Patti Robinson Kaufmann First Connection Program* is a free service of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) that enables patients and their loved ones to connect with a trained peer volunteer who has gone through a similar experience.

Patti's diagnosis of lymphoma and her ten-year commitment as a volunteer inspired others to get involved, raise awareness of blood cancers, and provide much-needed support for research, patient services and advocacy. The *First Connection Program* provides the same compassion and comfort that Patti extended to others touched by blood cancers.

Before her death from lymphoma in 2008, Patti Robinson Kaufmann was an ardent LLS volunteer, organizer and fundraiser.

#### YOUR *FIRST CONNECTION* MATCH

Your peer volunteer will arrange for one or two phone calls or in-person meetings with you at a mutually convenient time and place. The information shared between a trained peer volunteer and a patient or family member is strictly confidential.

#### Special understanding from someone who has walked in your shoes

Blood cancer patients or family members of patients can speak to a *First Connection Program* peer volunteer. The match is based on diagnosis, age, gender and other factors that will hopefully create mutual understanding and ease of communication.

#### The LLS peer-to-peer support program is a unique service.

All LLS *First Connection* volunteers

- Are screened
- Have completed training
- Are at least 1 year post-diagnosis (able to provide an “experienced” perspective)
- Are regularly updated about LLS and community resources
- Are committed to providing support and sharing knowledge
- Are committed to confidentiality
- Provide regular feedback about matches to LLS staff
- Discuss with LLS staff ways to improve the program

#### Contact Us

- Call **800.955.4572** Monday through Friday from 9 am to 9 pm ET
- Visit **[www.LLS.org/FirstConnection](http://www.LLS.org/FirstConnection)**

“I find that talking to someone who has gone through a similar illness helps me. It gave me, as a patient, much hope. Linda listened and shared her experiences, and that helped me.” — Lymphoma patient



For more information, please contact our Information Specialists **800.955.4572** (Language interpreters available upon request).

To receive a *Patti Robinson Kaufmann First Connection Program* match across the U.S. and Canada, you can

**Speak with an Information Specialist** at **800.955.4572** Monday through Friday from 9 am to 9 pm ET, or visit **[www.LLS.org/FirstConnection](http://www.LLS.org/FirstConnection)**

**Contact your LLS chapter.** To find your LLS chapter, visit **[www.LLS.org/Chapterfind](http://www.LLS.org/Chapterfind)**

*The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society does not provide medical care, medical treatment or medical advice.*

**BEATING  
CANCER  
IS IN  
OUR BLOOD.**

**National Office**

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The mission of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.