

For additional information about becoming a *Patti Robinson Kaufmann First Connection Program* peer volunteer or to receive a *First Connection* match through one of the LLS chapters across the United States and Canada, you can

- **Contact your LLS chapter.** To find your LLS chapter, enter your ZIP Code in the Chapter Finder at www.LLS.org.
- **Speak with an Information Specialist** at 800.955.4572 Monday through Friday from 9 am to 6 pm ET.

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

For more information, please contact:

or:

National Office

1311 Mamaroneck Avenue, Suite 310
White Plains, NY 10605

Contact our Information Specialists **800.955.4572**
(Language interpreters available upon request)

www.LLS.org

Our Mission:

Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

LLS is a nonprofit organization that relies on the generosity of individual, foundation and corporate contributions to advance its mission.

Patti Robinson Kaufmann First Connection Program



PATTI ROBINSON KAUFMANN

Patti Robinson Kaufmann First Connection Program

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. The program makes an average of 6,000 first connections each year.

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

For nearly 10 years, Patti's commitment as a volunteer inspired others to get involved, raised awareness of blood cancers and provided much-needed support for research, patient services and advocacy. Patti was diagnosed with lymphoma in 1997, before LLS launched *First Connection*. Now that her name has been given to the program, the compassion and comfort Patti extended to others touched by blood cancer continues.

Connecting patients and families to resources

LLS *First Connection* peer volunteers are in a unique position to provide support and community resource information to others facing a similar cancer diagnosis. Patients and their family members are matched with peer volunteers. The match is based on diagnosis, age, gender and other factors that might create a mutual understanding and ease of communication between participants and volunteers.

Special understanding from a person who has walked in your shoes

If you are a blood cancer patient or a family member of a patient and wish to speak with someone who has been treated for a similar diagnosis, you can request a *First Connection* match at www.LLS.org or you can contact your LLS chapter. Your peer volunteer will then arrange for one or two phone calls or 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.

Support and recognition for LLS volunteers

Peer volunteers are needed at every LLS chapter to carry on the important work of *First Connection*.

To become a peer volunteer, you need to

- Be a blood cancer survivor (or a family member of a blood cancer survivor) with an interest in, and a commitment to, helping others
- Be screened by your LLS chapter for the program
- Participate in all *First Connection* training sessions provided by your LLS chapter
- Make a one-year commitment to the program and meet periodically to receive continuing education and training at your LLS chapter.

I became a First Connection volunteer to give back and encourage other survivors to have hope. I have spoken with survivors by telephone all over the United States, giving hope, sharing knowledge and learning much at the same time.

—Wayne Woolever
First Connection Volunteer