

# Empowering adults battling breast cancer and beyond

**I**n a world often marked by adversity, one nonprofit organization has been a shining beacon of hope, support, and inspiration for adults battling breast cancer, as well as any other cancer.

Thrive To Survive is not just a name. It's a mission, a lifeline, and a community dedicated to ensuring that those facing the daunting cancer treatment journey are never alone.

Since its inception, Thrive To Survive has been on a relentless mission to make a difference in the lives of cancer warriors. Their unwavering commitment to providing emotional, financial, and educational support has turned battling cancer



**Jennifer Harris**

Thrive to Survive

into an outlet filled with strength, resilience, and optimism.

## The heart of Thrive To Survive

At the core of Thrive To Survive is a team of compassionate individuals who understand the physical, emotional, and financial toll that cancer can take on patients and their families. They work tirelessly to offer a wide range of services tailored to the unique needs of each individual they serve.

Three friends, Pam Venuti, Jennifer Harris, and Roseann Moffe,

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joined forces in 2012 with a dream of helping those diagnosed to thrive through a cancer diagnosis. Together, they formed the 501(c)(3) nonprofit supporting adults in Ontario, Seneca, Yates, and Wayne counties.

## Financial assistance: easing the burden

Cancer treatment often comes with a hefty price tag, leaving many individuals and families struggling to make ends meet. Thrive To Survive steps in to provide financial assistance, helping to cover medical bills, prescription costs, transportation expenses, and more. By alleviating this financial burden, they enable patients to focus on what truly matters — their health and healing.

## Building bonds and healing hearts

One of the cornerstones of Thrive To Survive's success is its incredible support group. Karen Cardillo leads these groups with empathy and expertise. She creates a nurturing environment where participants can openly express their fears, hopes, and triumphs. These groups foster bonds that go beyond mere emotional support — they become families united by a common purpose and a shared journey.

Through these monthly meetings, individuals not only find solace but also discover the strength to face their cancer head on. The power of these support groups lies in their ability to transform strangers into a tight-knit community where the weight of cancer is shared and the burden is lightened. It's in these rooms filled with courage and compassion that healing begins and the journey to survival truly thrives.

## Inspiring stories of triumph

Among the many individuals who have benefited from Thrive To Survive's support is Eileen Halling, a breast cancer survivor who describes her journey as “transformative.”

“Thrive To Survive gave me the tools and the emotional support I needed to face cancer,” Hallings said. “Today, I am not just surviving, I am thriving.”

Eileen's story is just one of many that highlight the incredible impact this nonprofit has on the lives of those it serves. Through resilience, unity, and unwavering dedication, Thrive To Survive proves that a cancer diagnosis can be an inspiring journey toward strength, hope, and survival.

In the battle against cancer, Thrive To Survive stands as a testament to the indomitable human spirit. As they continue to light the path forward for those facing cancer, their message remains clear: Together, we can thrive, and together, we make a difference.

Local support: a community united against cancer

The success of Thrive To Survive wouldn't be possible without the generous support of the local community. Year after year, individuals, businesses, and foundations come together to rally behind this cause, proving that when a community unites against cancer, incredible things happen.

One standout event on the Thrive To Survive calendar is the annual Middle Finger 5K held in May each year. This event has become a symbol of resilience and defiance in the face of cancer. Participants, many of whom have been directly impacted by cancer, take to the lakefront, running and walking with determina-

tion, sending a powerful message: “Cancer, you won't win!” The Middle Finger 5K not only raises vital funds but also serves as a celebration of life and a testament to the strength of the human spirit.

Another critical contributor to Thrive To Survive's mission is our local Friendly Auto Team, local dealerships that have embraced the organization's cause wholeheartedly. Their ongoing support includes financial contributions, volunteer efforts, and advocacy of Thrive To Survive. Friendly Auto Team's commitment to the community extends beyond selling cars; it's about making a meaningful difference in the lives of those facing cancer.

To date, Thrive To Survive has raised over \$920,000. All of these funds have gone directly into providing our unique programs and services to support adults in treatment for any form of cancer. The organization is working on a campaign to reach \$1,000,000 before we begin our 13th year in March 2024.

As Thrive To Survive continues to grow and expand its reach, it's clear that the organization's roots are firmly planted in the local community. With the continued support of fundraisers, businesses like Friendly Ford, and the dedication of countless volunteers, Thrive To Survive is poised to shine even brighter in its mission to empower adults battling cancer. Together, they prove that when a community comes together, hope, strength, and survival become a reality.

Find more information about Thrive To Survive at [www.thrivetosurvive.org](http://www.thrivetosurvive.org).

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