To Friends Old and New . . .

In the Chairman’s Letter, which begins our annual report, I traditionally speak about what has been accomplished during the previous year and recap our financial condition*.

But as we approach our 15th anniversary -- which will occur in 2017 -- I see this annual report as a unique opportunity to look back on our history, celebrate it, and take a moment to see what we can learn from past experience. Consequently, this annual report is entitled, “Milestones.”

The people you will meet in the pages that follow are individuals that have made critically important contributions to Fighting Chance. Courageous patients willing to share their stories. Members of our Oncology Care Team. Many dedicated volunteers. And those who have made donations large and small. To all of them . . . thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,

Duncan N. Darrow
Founder & Chairman
of the Board

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* According to our audited financial statement for the year ended 12/31/15 (which can be found on our website) we have revenue (entirely from donations) of slightly over $600,000 and annual operating costs of roughly the same amount. Our endowment fund ended the year with almost $1,000,000 in cash and cash equivalents.
By 2002 our Board of Directors was coming together and asked that we have a day long “Retreat” somewhere.

I went to Cormaria to meet Sister Ann and she welcomed us for the following spring - April 2003.

“For cancer patients the Sag Harbor office of Fighting Chance is like a sanctuary infused with compassion and empathy . . . that alone means a great deal to those who are suffering and I say that based on my service for over 50 years as a Catholic Nun.”

Sister Ann Marino,
Head of Cormaria

Excerpt from the first article about our charity in a local paper.
Early Years... at “The Shack” 2004 - 2005

Our first office in Sag Harbor was modest... a small converted garage with no bathroom... and very cold in the winter.

Our first employee -- Karrie Robinson, LCSW -- referred to the first Fighting Chance office as “The Shack.” She was used to more substantial quarters since she had come to our charity after almost 15 years of work at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

Pictured here, inside our first office, are Karrie Robinson (right) and Heather Matthews (left). Heather joined us shortly after Karrie arrived with a background as a cancer patient navigator, employed by the National Cancer Institute.
The first project our Board conceived of, at our Retreat in 2003, was sort of like a “Yellow Pages” except that the only content was contacts you needed to cope with cancer.

Three years later the Guide was born -- and officially entitled: “Coping With Cancer on the East End.”

Almost every year since it was first published we have updated the Guide with new content and contact information.

The Guide has also become the most popular feature on our website.

Chapter 3

Oncologists on the East End

One of the first steps forward in the cancer journey is for the patient to select a lead oncologist. An oncologist is the physician who specializes in treating cancer. There are three basic types of oncologists.

1. **Clinical Oncologists.** They treat patients within a clinical or office setting, for the most part, and the treatments primarily entail selection and administration of anti-cancer drugs, such as chemotherapy. They also tend to get quite involved in the diagnosis of the specific cancer attacking the patient and how advanced it has become. It is the clinical oncologist who most often provides the “leadership” for the patient’s medical team.

2. **Radiation Oncologists.** They treat patients through the administration of radiotherapy which involves a type of high intensity ray that irreversibly damages the DNA that is the central feature of the nucleus of a cancer cell and is essential to that cell’s replication.

3. **Surgical Oncologists.** When cancer takes the form of a solid state tumor -- for example, a tumor in the colon or lung -- it sometimes can be removed through surgery and the physician performing that procedure is known as a surgical oncologist.

An excerpt from the latest edition of the Guide explaining the different types of oncologists on the East End.
For two years -- 2006 and 2007 we organized a day full of talks by East End oncologists, panels comprised of cancer patients and other useful information.

The event was held at Bay Street Theatre in Sag Harbor and we filled all 300 seats. It was called “Day of Hope” and from this outreach the credibility of Fighting Chance was rapidly elevated in the communities we serve.

The Keynote Speaker for the Day of Hope (Dr. Martin Karpeh, Jr., at left) who at the time was head of The Cancer Center at Stony Brook University Hospital, seen here with Karrie Robinson, LCSW, of Fighting Chance.

East End cancer survivors shared their experiences at the Fighting Chance Day of Hope conference. The panel included, from left, Jeremy Samuelson, Jan Moran, Chuck Hitchcock, and Harry Heller. Susie Roden also spoke. Carissa Katz

**FIGHTING CHANCE**

**Hope at a Day About Cancer Treatment**

By Jennifer Landes

On one of the last temperate, sunny Saturdays of the year, some 300 people took time to sit in the darkened semi-circle of the Bay Street Theatre this week to participate in a program dedicated to cancer.

Although the event might sound depressing on its surface, it was a day devoted to hope. And about 200 of those people who either had survived cancer, were being treated for cancer, or were recently diagnosed, were offered a measure of help and encouragement in their struggles.

Fighting Chance, a nonprofit Sag Harbor organization that provides information and access to resources for East End cancer patients, organized the symposium with Southampton Hospital.
By late 2006 our charity had been in the converted garage for 3 years and we clearly needed more counselors and more counseling room. It was our good fortune to find the ground floor of a Victorian located within the historic district and we moved in by mid 2007.

Giving A Fighting Chance

"People find us very welcoming, very comforting."  - Patient Navigator Heather Matthews

Our 2nd office . . . corner of Jermain & Rt. 114

We always felt this was one of the nicest local articles about Fighting Chance . . . capturing key personnel (like Heather and Karrie) on the eve of moving into our new home.
Some 5 years after we were founded, Fighting Chance had enough community support to think seriously about holding our first Summer Gala -- which took place in July 2007 at the East Hampton home of Sue and Rick Davies.

From 2007 to 2015 -- 9 consecutive years -- we continued the tradition of a summer gala at venues that included Maidstone and Devon YC. Almost all these events were chaired by Sue Davies, a Founding Director, and, in the aggregate, raised over $1 million.
. . . Over $1,000,000 Raised
The Southampton Press

THE VIEW EAST

Giving East End Cancer Patients a Fighting Chance

By Reynolds Docson

The thing about cancer is that it only happens to other people. That annoying ache in the ear, that little pain in the throat—that doesn’t mean anything to you and me. But just suppose. Every year, 1,000 people on the East End get the kind of news no one wants to hear, and when that happens, it’s devastating. Some years ago, it happened to Sag Harbor resident Charlotte Noble Selheim, who was diagnosed with lung cancer. Neither she nor her family knew where to turn. As Ms. Selheim’s son, Duncan Darrow, a successful New York attorney, soon realized, it wasn’t just the specter of mortality that was so horrible; it was the many details anybody ever thinks about: where to seek treatment, how to deal with the insurance company, who will pay the bills, who will cook the meals. At one point, Mr. Darrow said to himself, “All I ask is that my mother be given a fighting chance”—and that’s when an idea was born. Fighting Chance, founded by Mr. Darrow, is now in its seventh year as the East End’s only organization solely dedicated to helping cancer patients cope with all aspects of the disease. Headquartered in a welcoming Victorian on Route 114 in Sag Harbor, it has helped hundreds of frightened people through the labyrinthine maze of treatment, support and recovery. Next Thursday, July 9, at 8 p.m., SEA-TV in Southampton and LTV in East Hampton will carry the first documentary devoted to Fighting Chance. It’s a 40-minute production called “Cancer Journeys on the East End: The Patients of Fighting Chance,” and it should be viewed by anyone who wants to understand this illness. Far from being the “downer” you might expect, it’s a stirring tribute to the human spirit made more piquant by its focus on real people living here on the East End. There are a lot of charities with good intentions, but Fighting Chance is unusual in its local focus and thorough professionalism.

Cancer Journeys received extensive media coverage and favorable reviews including those in The Southampton Press and The Sag Harbor Express (seen here.)
In late 2009 the first modern retail/office complex in Sag Harbor was completed but there were few potential tenants because we were in the depths of the Great Recession.

But our charity saw a unique opportunity to upgrade our space and became the first tenants of what is known as #34 Bay Street Plaza.

It was 1,500 square feet of raw space and we worked with architects and contractors to create an environment that was more like your living room than a hospital room.

We still occupy the space today, under a long-term lease and both patients and staff have been pleased with the accommodations.

**The East Hampton Star**

*New Day and New Digs for Fighting Chance*

*Therapy dogs, benefit bash, and more outreach than ever*

*BY JENNIFER LANDES*

1,000 to 1,500 people each year are diagnosed with some kind of cancer on the East End. Of those, 350 end up dying in hospice care within that year, according to Duncan Darrow, the founder and chairman of Fighting Chance in Sag Harbor.

He started the organization in a garage in 2002 after seeing the troubles his mother went through during treatment on the East End. He began with a vision for a guide to services, and as the years have passed he has continued with symposiums, Web site development, psychological support, targeted informational materials, and even practical support such as cleaning services and transportation.

And now the group has a bright and cozy new headquarters on Bay Street in Sag Harbor, with a library, conference area, and private meeting rooms all designed to be warm and welcoming to patients and caregivers dealing with trauma. A sold-out benefit for the group will be held on Saturday at the Wolffer Estate Vineyard in Sagaponack.

*Just after our office opened, The East Hampton Star wrote an article complimenting us on the move.*
As part of celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Fighting Chance, several of our directors and long-time supporters came up with the idea of an Endowment Fund -- which seemed audacious to many of us. Happily, the Fund Campaign was quite successful and by 2015 our endowment stood at roughly $1,000,000 . . . providing peace of mind that our charity had contingency funds in the event of another economic downturn.
Free Transport to NYC for Cancer Patients

A new initiative launched by the Hampton Jitney and Fighting Chance, the cancer counseling center, will offer Fighting Chance clients free transportation to and from New York City for medical appointments and treatments.

The link to New York will allow crucial access to medical experts at facilities like Memorial Sloan Kettering and Columbia University, which is essential to a number of cancer sufferers on the East End.

The all-important link to the Hampton Jitney was provided by Goodcircle, a platform which brings together companies for non-profit initiatives.

“We were excited to bring together two iconic organizations of the East End,” she said. “We knew that we could bring Fighting Chance to the Hampton Jitney with complete confidence, that Mr. Darrow and his team would monitor it exactly and fairly.”

As part of the project, cancer patients Fighting Chance is working with will receive free tickets for the Jitney, which have been purchased through public donations and subsidies from both organizations. The bus service will supply a comfortable means of transportation for free into and out of Manhattan.

Cancer Patients Ride Free

The Hampton Jitney, in what was a “matching donation drive” has provided us with some 1,500 bus tickets (to use on their service to or from New York City).

As another example, since 2009, we have worked together with Swim Across America on what as known as The Hamptons Swim Against Cancer -- which has raised nearly $500,000 for our charity.

The most recent partnership is with the East End Healthcare Foundation which is helping us launch a cancer support group for the Latino community.

Swim Across America Here Nets $80K

Ninety-eight swimmers, apportioning themselves among 3K, 1-mile, and half-mile legs in Gardiner’s Bay in Amagumnset Saturday morning, raised money under the Swim Across America banner for that cancer-fighting organization and for Fighting Chance in Sag Harbor, which offers free professional counseling to cancer patients and their families.
Directors

David Kelley, Esq.
David is a partner in the Wall Street law firm of Cahill Gordon & Reindell. He previously served as United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. David and his family split their time between homes in Sag Harbor and New York City.

John Brecker
John was a founding partner of the Longacre Fund whose $3 billion in assets were concentrated in distressed debt and special situations investments. He became a Director in 2012.

Betty Cowles
Betty and her husband, Pat, spend about half the year at their home in Southampton. Betty has deep roots in Shelter Island as well, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the local paper, the Shelter Island Reporter.

Duncan Darrow
Duncan, who founded Fighting Chance in 2002 and has served as its Chairman since then, is a partner in the 2,000-lawyer firm of Sidley Austin, resident in its New York City office. Duncan and his wife, Wendy Moonan, have had a home in Sag Harbor for over 30 years.

Meredith Darrow
She is a highly regarded art advisor with offices in New York and Los Angeles, and a home in Sag Harbor.

Sue Davies
Sue is an original Board member of Fighting Chance and has been the host of our Summer Gala for 12 years in a row. Sue was named a Vice-Chair of the Board in 2012. Sue, and her husband Rick, live full-time in East Hampton.

Judi A. Desiderio
Judi is the Founder and CEO of Town & Country Real Estate, which has 8 offices throughout the Hamptons & North Fork.

Geoff Lynch
Geoff is Chief Executive Officer of The Hampton Jitney which for 42 years has provided a dedicated bus service from eastern Long Island to New York City. He lives with his family in Sag Harbor.

April Gornik
April is a highly-regarded artist, who has resides full-time in Sag Harbor since 2004 and is one of the founders of “Save Sag Harbor”, a community group that seeks to preserve the character and history of the Village.

Martin Karpeh, MD...
Marty is Chief of Surgery at Hackensack Medical Center and previously headed up The Cancer Center at Stony Brook University Hospital.

Rosemary Slevin Perrocchia
She currently works as a consultant to cancer education and advocacy organizations; before that, Rosemarie led the NCI’s Cancer Information Service (CIS), a unit based at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. Estellita “Dushy” Roth
Dushy is a physician from Australia and works at the Anti-Aging and Family Wellness Group in Southampton. She is also a proprietor of The Grapes of Roth. Dushy, her husband Roman, and their daughter reside in Sag Harbor.

Roman Roth
Roman is the Winemaker and a partner at Wolffer Estate Vineyards, which is based in Sagaponack; he has been one of the East Coast’s leading vintners for over two decades.

Susan Scanlon
Susan had a distinguished career in the fashion business with extensive foreign travel while also raising three daughters with her husband Kevin, who recently retired from a senior position in the NYC Fire Department. Susan has been one of the most active volunteers in our organization.
“Lifesavers” refers to anyone who donates $5,000 or more per year -- whether they are an individual, a company or foundation. Each year we are blessed to have hundreds of donors but the “Lifesavers” provide a very important part of the financial foundation of our charity.

Tuck Hardie, III

Swim Across America
Nassau/Suffolk Counties

Houlihan Lokey

Antoinette E. & Herman Beohm Foundation
Cowles Charitable Trust

Jan Buckaloo

Betty and Pat Cowles, III

Darrow Family Fund

Town and Country Real Estate

The Paul R. Carey Foundation

Wolffer Estate Vineyards

John Brecker

Graham Family Charitable Foundation

David Hilty

Eric Siegert

Balm Foundation

The Zankel Fun

Tony Zimmerman

Jacquie Lowie
“The Survivor”

Paul Davis, a Sag Harbor based artist, was commissioned by Fighting Chance in 2015 to execute a work of art that we could dedicate to all of our patients who are survivors today and who we expect to be survivors for years to come.