

IOWA POLICE JOURNAL



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE IOWA STATE POLICE ASSOCIATION

COPS AGAINST CANCER NEEDS YOUR HELP

Join us as we work to expand our mission statewide.



The words "protect and serve" mean more than just responding in an emergency. As men and women who live by these words, you know it often means going above and beyond the call of your daily duties.

That calling is at the heart of Cops Against Cancer, a faith-based nonprofit that provides financial assistance to cancer patients and their families. Craig Phinney, a retired Ankeny police officer, and his wife, Shirley, created the organization after seeing a need during Craig's own battle with cancer.

"We've learned cancer doesn't discriminate, regardless of how much money you make, your occupation or your age," said Phinney, who serves as the organization's executive director. "A patient may feel financially secure and then they hear the words, 'you have cancer,' and that diagnosis changes everything."

Since 2012, Cops Against Cancer has raised over \$225,000 and assisted more than 650 cancer families in 78 of Iowa's 99 counties. Phinney says there is a never-ending need as patients face increasing costs for prescription medications, medical supplies and other living expenses, such as utilities and groceries.

When patients are struggling to meet their basic needs, it detracts from focusing on their health. Every year, our organization strives to raise more to accommodate the increasing needs of our clients. That's where you can help: by forming a Cops Against Cancer chapter in your community. With your efforts, not only can we expand our mission to raise more money for cancer patients; we can also identify those in your community who could use our help.



Nick Brown, a former police chief and Cops Against Cancer executive committee member, understands the value of having officers involved in their communities. “That interaction between officers and the public establishes a connection that benefits everyone by reducing crime and improving the safety of all citizens.”

Brown also knows that officers are aware of needs that others in the community may not see or recognize. “Officers on the street

constantly see people and families in need of help. They often are at a loss as to how to help them,” said Brown. “Cops Against Cancer is one small way they can contribute that is meaningful for all of the community. Cops are often looked upon as only enforcers, but the truth is that they want to help make things better for those who are hurting or in distress.”

Brown’s involvement in the organization is also personal. His wife died of bone cancer last year after a five-year struggle. Brown saw up close and personal the emotional and financial burden cancer places upon a caregiver spouse and the entire family. “This is a way for me to give back for all the many blessings in my life and to help ease the pain cancer brought to my family,” Brown said.

Cops Against Cancer receives funding through grants, donations and our annual Cops Against Cancer Five-0 BBQ Classic in June. We are proud of the fact that for the past two years, 90 cents of every dollar raised goes to client assistance programs.

“We know by the time our clients contact us for assistance, the clients and their families are so far over their heads, they are extremely appreciative of any assistance they might receive,” said Phinney.



To learn more about the organization visit CopsAgainstCancer.org. To form a chapter, contact Craig Phinney at CopsAgainstCancer.org@live.com.