



BIRMINGHAM, AL - The Breast Cancer Survivorship Rehabilitation Initiative (BCSRI) unveiled Forge as the official name of the community-based therapeutic program. The name, Forge Breast Cancer Survivor Center, was chosen to represent and embody the spirit of survivorship and the personal triumph over cancer.

“To Forge” means to steadily make progress and invokes a feeling of strength and safety. It means to be strong, powerful, brave and steadfast. The term embodies the journey of the breast cancer survivor – a steady and gradual forward movement in life, even in the face of obstacles.

“In addition to the connection with the city of Birmingham’s ironworks industry, the word Forge resonates feelings of strength, empowerment and safety,” Project Director Rebecca Di Piazza said. “Forge will provide strength, education, and support through a community of survivors and their loved ones so that no one faces breast cancer alone.”

Since rehabilitation begins at diagnosis and extends beyond the completion of treatment, Forge was founded to provide holistic and supportive services for women and their families who have been affected by breast cancer. The center’s programs serve to improve the healing process for cancer survivors and their loved ones. Forge’s current services include:

- Forge Advocates
- Survivor to Survivor Mentor Match
- 24/7 Telephone Support Line
- Repository of community resources
- Support Groups
- Counseling Services through OASIS Counseling for Women & Children
- Health care professional Renewal Days

“I think breast cancer survivors will embrace our name and identity, and I believe the services we offer will reflect the same sense of strength and empowerment as our name,” Di Piazza added.

The initiative was developed and supported by Brookwood Baptist Health, Grandview Medical Center, St. Vincent’s Health System, UAB Medicine, UAB School of Nursing, and the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham.

To learn more about the Forge Breast Cancer Survivor Center please visit forgeon.org.



MISSION:

Forge assists survivors and co-survivors in taking an active role in their fight against breast cancer by offering support, knowledge, strength and direction. Through Forge, all those touched by breast cancer can bond with others to Forge a new future.

VISION:

Forge is driven to provide comprehensive and patient centered support services for breast cancer survivors and their loved ones in the Greater Birmingham area.

In 2015, there were an estimated 3 million breast cancer survivors in the United States. As early detection and treatment options improve for breast cancer patients, the number of breast cancer survivors will grow to approximately 3.78 million survivors by 2025.

3 MIL  3.78 MIL

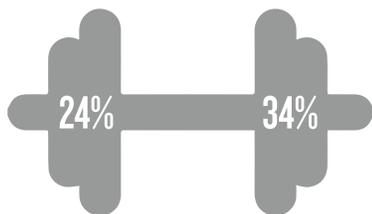
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Breast cancer is the #1 cancer diagnosis in females.

77%

77% of breast cancer survivors surveyed seek advice and information from other survivors above any other source, including healthcare professionals, the internet and other organizations.

Physical activity post diagnosis has been shown to lead to a 24% lower rate of recurrence and a 34% lower rate of mortality.



37% of breast cancer survivors surveyed said they were not offered any resources after diagnosis.

71%

71% of survivors/co-survivors stated that fatigue remains a problem throughout treatment and beyond.

Survivors report fair to poor health more frequently than adults without a history of cancer.



Forge addresses the five quality of life domains.

