

North Texas Navigator Monthly Member Spotlight: November

1. **Name and credentials:** Katie Brown, OPN-CG
2. **Place of Employment:** LUNGeVity Foundation
3. **Type of Navigation:** Lung Cancer Support & Survivorship
4. **Being a Navigator means...**Being a patient's advocate throughout their cancer experience and teaching them to become empowered patients.
5. **What do you enjoy most about your job as Navigator?**



- I am the Vice President of Survivorship for LUNGeVity so I don't work in a hospital or clinic but I do work with patients and health care providers. My team and I help to navigate lung cancer patients to resources and support programs and we help healthcare providers by providing them the information they need to better care for their patients.
6. **What special skills do you bring to your job, including hidden or visible talents and past work/life experience?** I feel like supporting patients is my calling. I am a cancer survivor. I also lost my dad to lung cancer. I have experienced barriers to care and poor health systems. I've personally struggled with feelings of isolation and helplessness. I never want another patient to feel the way my dad or I did.
 7. **Are there any tips, resources and/or words of inspiration or advice you would like to share with other Navigators?** I would like to see more healthcare providers/Navigators collaborating and working together- especially across different healthcare systems in a community. I would like them to share and pool resources to better help their patients. I also encourage them to join a group like AONN so that they can keep connected, learn new methodologies and network to improve the way they care for patients.
 8. **Have there been any events that you participated in related to Navigation that you would like to share? If so please see additional questionnaire below:** I've been to the AONN annual meetings and always walk away with a wonderful sense of community and new tid-bits of information that I want to put into action in our organization. This year I am speaking on the Thoracic Break Out Panel. Recently I spoke at the Volunteer in Cancer Care Management Symposium about the importance of peer support and peer mentoring in cancer care.

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Event Information

- 1. Name, date and location of event:** I speak at many events throughout the year. This November I will be speaking/hosting 2 lunch and learns and a reception in Charlotte NC, and Dallas TX. I am also speaking at the AONN annual meeting in Orlando FL, as well as speaking on survivorship at NCCN in Washington DC.
- 2. Your role in this event:** Host, speaker, panelist.
- 3. Name 3-5 lessons learned from doing this event:** My favorite part about hosting survivorship events or speaking at conferences is meeting patients. When a patient tells me that I have given them hope or that after having attended one of the conferences I put together they now feel empowered- I am so gratified. Its then that I feel like I am doing what I'm supposed to be doing.

Any other comments you would like to add?

Everything that I do is in honor of my father and the patients that I've met over my 15 year career. Each program I've created or service that we provide is to help patients and better their quality of life. I am also surviving genetic liver disease-stage 4 cirrhosis. I feel like I understand intimately what it's like to be a patient as well as a caregiver.

I've written my first book on caregiving called, Co-Surviving Cancer. It should be available early next year!



Katie's presentation at VMCC or Dana Farber

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Media interviews during lung cancer awareness month



*LUNGevity's event in TX,
Breathe Deep DFW www.lungevity.org/dfwwalk*



Katie getting her 6 month MRI