2014 was a year of expansion and positive change for Cancer Support Community VvSB. Serving more than 3,200 individuals through 19,175 visits representing more than 27,881 hours of service, CscVvsb expanded offerings in Ventura County and in the San Fernando Valley. CscVvsb continued providing service to Community Memorial Hospital's Cancer Resource Center in Ventura and St. John's Cancer Center in Oxnard and Camarillo. In collaboration with our hospital partners CscVvsb expanded the cancer support services and cancer education offered in West Ventura County, and in collaboration with schools, expanded services to provide support at a West Ventura County Middle School. More than 1,809 NEW PARTICIPANTS benefited from our services, which complement conventional treatment, enhance recovery and improve quality of life for people with cancer. All of our services are FREE OF CHARGE to people with cancer and their loved ones. The following programs and services were provided in 2014:

**15 WEEKLY SUPPORT GROUPS**  
(Totaling 923 sessions)  
Support groups for cancer patients and family members are facilitated by professional therapists who specialize in psychosocial oncology issues.

**19 MONTHLY AND BI-MONTHLY GROUPS**  
(Totaling 208 sessions)  
Special groups are designed for people with the same diagnosis and similar experiences, including breast cancer, prostate cancer, colorectal cancer, brain tumors and gynecological/ovarian cancer. Special concern groups include young adults, parents of children with cancer, parents with cancer, bereavement and stage IV. These groups are facilitated by professional therapists, registered nurses and peers who specialize in psychosocial oncology issues.

**28 STRESS MANAGEMENT/EXCERCISE CLASSES**  
(Totaling 963 sessions)  
Mind/body classes such as yoga, Qigong and Relaxation and Guided Imagery aid in stress reduction, enable people with cancer to gain strength and stamina and promote a sense of well-being. Several stress reduction courses are offered at multiple locations. Other activities such as water color, quilting, knitting and writing help reduce stress.

**48 EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS**  
Workshops are conducted by experts on a variety of topics such as nutrition, treatment advances and complementary therapies. Examples include: Cancer Treatment Side Effects, Alexander Technique and Frankly Speaking About: Lung Cancer, Metastatic Breast Cancer, Multiple Myeloma, and Cost of Cancer Care.

**SPANISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**  
(Totaling 171 sessions)  
These services target underserved, monolingual Spanish-speaking participants with any type of cancer, and are facilitated by bilingual, culturally fluent therapists. Programs offered at multiple locations include support groups, mind/body programs, social activities and annual Latina Women’s Conference.

**NUTRITIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**  
(Totaling 14 workshops and 8 individual sessions)  
Nutritional services including individual and group nutrition education to cancer patients, survivors and their families, including evidence-based guidance on the use of alternative nutritional approaches and the impact of diet on survivorship. Facilitated by a certified Oncology Nutrition Specialist.

**99 KIDS CIRCLE MEETINGS**  
Weekly groups and special activities are held for children who have a parent or grandparent with cancer, enabling children to cope with the experience of a parent going through treatment and recovery. Family dinner and support groups for parents, children with cancer and siblings are held monthly. These activities are facilitated by professional therapists who specialize in psychosocial oncology and family issues.

**51 SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR PARTICIPANTS AND FAMILIES**  
A variety of social activities are held throughout the year to foster community and mutual support for people with cancer and their loved ones. Examples are: National Cancer Survivors Day, Daniel’s Day of Magic, Merv’s Comedy Night and Community Lunches/Dinners.

**ENGLISH AND SPANISH LANGUAGE INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT**  
(Totaling 2525 contacts)  
This type of support includes individual, couples, and family short-term counseling; informal counseling; group preparation interviews; one-to-one outreach to cancer patients; orientation and referrals.

Pictured above: Cancer Support Community VvSB Kids Circle participants.
 PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT

Paul and Wendy Sailer were newlyweds when Paul had a seizure in 1999 on the job at Point Mugu Naval Station and learned he had a brain tumor. Soon after, Paul underwent a nine-hour surgery at UCLA in which most of the tumor was removed, leaving him with a much better prognosis—and serious cognitive challenges to overcome.

The tumor was located among the brain cells responsible for language, which meant Paul had to remain awake during the surgery and answer flash card questions to help his surgeon determine which cells were critical for language, and which cells could be removed. Paul’s procedure was so innovative that it was featured in a Los Angeles Times article called “A Scalpel, a Life and Language.”

Fifteen years and two additional surgeries later, Paul is thriving, with no tumor growth since his last radiation treatment three years ago. Still working as an electrical engineer at Point Mugu, Paul is a huge cycling enthusiast and the father of Rob, 12, and Rebecca, 11.

Paul and Wendy are longtime members of the Brain Tumor Networking Group at the Cancer Support Community. Their regular attendance over the past fifteen years has allowed the group members to learn from Paul’s brain tumor medical care and to watch Wendy and Paul’s children grow up. “The group has given me a chance to stay focused on my positive life,” says Paul.

“An important factor in Paul’s long-term survival is the active role Wendy has taken in making sure Paul saw the best neurosurgeons and neuro-oncologists and pursued more than one opinion on how to proceed,” says Brain Tumor Networking Group facilitator Rebecca Dekker, MFT.

No one expects a life-threatening diagnosis as a young newlywed, but Paul has taken on the peaks and valleys of his journey the same way he tackles his long bike rides: with determination, strength, and an appreciation of the beauty all around him.

The mission of CscVvsb is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by community.
2014 SUPPORTERS OF CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY VvSB

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