



Hartford HealthCare
St. Vincent's Medical Center

Swim Talk NEWSLETTER



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"She sat in a chair while my dad shaved her head"

by Abby Reynolds



A cancer diagnosis often comes with unexpected and traumatic circumstances. Swim Across the Sound provides essential support for patients and their families so they don't have to face it alone.

Abby Reynolds, a resident of New Haven, is participating in her first Swim Across the Sound Marathon on August 2 – and she's got a community full of inspiration to see her through.

When Abby was just a child, her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. "I was old enough to feel the fear, but too young to fully understand the severity of it."

Abby recalls the day her mother began to lose her hair from chemotherapy. "We went outside as a family, and she sat in a chair while my dad shaved her head. My siblings and I ran around the yard, laughing and playing, unaware of the full weight of what was happening. My parents worked hard to protect us from the pain, but they didn't do it alone."

Like so many families dealing with a cancer diagnosis, the Reynolds' family, friends and neighbors rallied with support. "They brought meals, cleaned the house, did laundry and drove us to school. That love and support allowed my parents to focus on healing and

parenting, and it showed me how powerful a community can be.”

Abby’s mother has now beaten cancer – not once, but twice. “She is the strongest person I know. She is resilient, compassionate and is always finding ways to support others, just as so many supported her.”



Abby says swimming across Long Island Sound is my way to honor not only her mother, but all those who cared and helped her family through the most difficult of times. “It’s a reminder that none of us should fight alone and that with a community behind you, even the most difficult battles can be faced.”

As a member of the Blue Marbles relay team, Abby is ready to go all in for this year’s marathon. “This challenge is personal to me,” said Abby. “It gives me the chance to take action, to use my voice and my strength for something that not everyone has the opportunity or ability to do.”

Support Abby Reynolds and Team Blue Marbles Today!

<https://charity.pledgeit.org/f/E8kxri2qbs>



Swim Across the Sound August 2, 2025

We are still in need of power boats and sailboats 20' and up for the Swim. Please consider volunteering as a boat captain to help us keep the swimmers safe as they make the trek across the Long Island Sound.

Hartford HealthCare 
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[Click Here to Register your boat](#)

In Memory, We Give. In Honor, They Live.

Honor Loved Ones, Support Local Cancer Patients.

You can make a real difference for local cancer patients and honor someone special. With a



donation of just \$50 or more, your loved one's name will be proudly displayed on a banner at the **Swim Across the Sound event on Saturday, August 2nd, at Captains Cove in Bridgeport.**

To learn more and make your donation, visit our campaign site: **[In Memory, We Give. In Honor, They Live.](#)**

Deadline to ensure your loved one's name is included on a banner is July 21, 2025.

You can also download the form and return with payment by the deadline: **[Download Form Here](#)**

Paint the City Blue

This week, St. Vincent's Medical Center and the city of Bridgeport came together to turn the city blue with the return of the **Paint the City Blue Banner Program**, a powerful initiative held in conjunction with the **38th Annual Swim Across the Sound Marathon**.

Vibrant **Swim Across the Sound banners** are prominently displayed across the city in honor of loved ones while directly supporting cancer patients and their families in the region. This year the City of Bridgeport actually painted the street blue to kick off the campaign.

The 15.5 mile swim from Port Jefferson, NY to Captain's Cove in Bridgeport takes place on Saturday, August 2nd. The Swim Across the Sound needs volunteers, please consider registering.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)



Bill Jennings, Cheri Reardon, Phil Reardon Jr, Phil Reardon Sr., Mayor Ganim and the Banner in memory of Cheri's father Carl Leonzi Sr. who died of cancer in 2016 and was a 44 year veteran of the Bridgeport Police.



HOW ELSE CAN I PARTICIPATE?

There are several ways you can help Swim Across the Sound raise money to support cancer patients in our community. Here are just a few:

- Donate toward a swimmer or make a general donation by visiting: **<https://charity.pledgeit.org/SwimAcrossTheSound>**
- Participate virtually in an activity of your choice. Register and set your own

fundraising goals at: <https://charity.pledgeit.org/VirtualChallenge25>

- Volunteer as a boat captain, medical support or on-land. Volunteers make the difference in helping us keep our swimmers safe as they cross Long Island Sound: <https://giving.stvincents.org/swim-marathon/swim-marathon-registration/>

For more information about how you can help, please call 203-576-5451

Thank you to the generosity of our Corporate Sponsors



Exceptional Cancer Care in Fairfield

4185 Black Rock Turnpike | Fairfield, Connecticut



On May 6th, Hartford HealthCare proudly held a grand opening of the Hartford HealthCare Fairfield Cancer Center, marking a monumental advance in cancer care right here in Connecticut. This state-of-the-art facility, in partnership with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), stands as a beacon of hope and innovation for our patients.

Click this link to view a short video of the new center

Located conveniently at 4185 Black Rock Turnpike in Fairfield, this 25,000-square-foot center embodies our commitment to delivering personalized, world-class cancer treatments.

One amazing feature of the new center is the Varian Ethos™ radiation therapy system, the first of its kind in Connecticut. This system harnesses adaptive intelligence to tailor treatments in real time, optimizing outcomes with precision, efficiency and improved patient comfort.

Learn more at: <http://stvincents.org/fairfield-cancer-center-new>

We look forward to seeing you August 2nd!

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