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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MEDIA ALERT**

**Frankly Speaking About Cancer: Coping with the Cost of Care  
Free Educational Workshop For Cancer Patients and their Loved Ones**

**Saint Louis, MO (September 16, 2009)** – A February 2009 study by Kaiser Family Foundation and American Cancer Society found that high cost-sharing, caps on benefits and lifetime maximums leave cancer patients vulnerable to high out-of-pocket health care costs. Additionally, cancer patients and survivors are often unable to find adequate and affordable coverage in the individual market. The recent economic downturn has exacerbated these financial concerns for cancer patients and their families.

**The Wellness Community of Greater St. Louis** will host a free workshop for cancer patients and their loved ones entitled: *Frankly Speaking About Cancer: Coping with the Cost of Care*. The program provides a practical guide to navigating the numerous and complex challenges of managing the cost of cancer care. This free workshop will take place on **Tuesday September 22 • 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM (Registration and light lunch at 11:00AM)**.

*Frankly Speaking About Cancer: Coping with the Cost of Care* aims to streamline the crucial resources available to people in treatment for cancer. Created by The Wellness Community, this workshop and booklet sheds light on the psychological impact of incurring debt, sometimes for the first time, in combination with psychological impact of coping with a cancer diagnosis.

Advance registration is preferred, but walk-in attendees are welcome.  
To register, please call **314-238-2000** or Register Online at [www.wellnesscommunitystl.org](http://www.wellnesscommunitystl.org).

The Workshop will include:

- Ann Plunkett, Attorney and founder of Workplace Partners, and Claudia Abbott, Insurance Specialist, will provide valuable information on the legal issues involved when navigating insurance and financial systems.
- Carol Murphy, LCSW, Director of the Cancer Information Center at David C. Pratt Cancer Center, will address resources within the Mercy system as well as specific community resources available to help cancer patients deal with the numerous challenges of managing the cost of cancer care.
- Kevin Ferris, LCSW, Certified Money Coach, and Wellness Community facilitator will discuss the psychological issues involved when navigating the complicated financial system

*Frankly Speaking About Cancer: Coping with the Cost of Care* is made possible through a unrestricted educational grants from Genentech BioOncology and Eli Lilly.

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**Note:** Reporters are welcome to attend the workshop, however, please contact us in advance.

FRANKLY  
SPEAKING  
ABOUT CANCER

## Coping *with the* Cost of Care

### **ABOUT THE WELLNESS COMMUNITY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS**

The Wellness Community of Greater St. Louis is part of an international non-profit organization that provides support, education, and hope to people with cancer and their loved ones. Through participation in professionally led support groups, educational workshops and mind/body classes, people affected by cancer learn vital skills that enable them to regain control, reduce isolation and restore hope regardless of their stage of disease. Most importantly, The Wellness Community provides a home-like setting for people fighting cancer to connect with and learn from each other. At The Wellness Community, all programs are free of charge.