



## **New Buddy Search Tool will Save and Improve Young Adult Lives**

Prepare to Live is seeking financial support to further develop Buddy Search, an online tool that lets Young Adults diagnosed with cancer find and communicate with fellow patients, survivors and caregivers. This important tool matches people with similar interests, backgrounds and experiences and gives them a unique way to instantly share successes, support and lifesaving knowledge.

Buddy Search is an incredibly powerful way for patients to understand their situation and build connections with people experiencing similar medical and emotional states. Most importantly it helps the diagnosed realize they are not alone in their struggle and inspires them to remain connected, positive and living.

### **Overview**

Upon joining Prepare to Live (membership is optional) members are asked to fill in a short profile that is then used to best match them with new “buddies.” Matches are ranked on any number of criteria including: disease type, time since diagnosis, age, geographic location, sex, race, hobbies/interests, profession, music preferences, activities etc.

Buddies can then choose various methods of contact (email, live chat, forums, text, iChat, Skype, telephone, in person etc.) through which to exchange information and experiences. The desperate need for this tool is based not only on the personal experiences of Prepare to Live’s Founders, but also on extensive interviews with fellow Young Adult cancer survivors, patients, caregivers and through discussions with other cancer organizations.

### **Global Alliances**

At the recent inaugural meeting of the Lance Armstrong Foundation’s Young Adult Alliance (Prepare to Live is a Charter Member) it was agreed that development of a new tool to help Young Adults find and communicate with each other was crucial to improving their overall quality of life and long-term survival.

Representatives from the worlds leading cancer organizations, including Prepare to Live, met in Austin, Texas to discuss Young Adult issues over a 4-day period. The end result was a recognized need to focus on, and create tools that let Young Adults coping with cancer find each other and communicate their way, on their terms.

### **How You Can Help**

Prepare to Live is taking the initiative and Buddy Search is already in development, but to complete the build we need help. We are actively seeking donations, grants and sponsorships to raise the \$76,500 needed to complete the Buddy Search online tool. Your support is absolutely necessary to make it happen.

For more information visit: [www.preparetolive.org](http://www.preparetolive.org) (Buddy Search beta is [here](#))  
Or contact Eran Thomson: [et@preparetolive.org](mailto:et@preparetolive.org)



## **Prepare to Live - Resources for Young Adults Coping with cancer Worldwide**

### **The Need**

When asked to visualize a stereotypical cancer patient, most people think of children or the elderly. The reality is Young Adults (aged 20-40) are the fastest growing demographic among the over 10 million new cancer diagnoses each year worldwide.

In fact, cancer is the *leading* disease killer of Young Adults. Over 70,000 are diagnosed every year in America alone – eight times more often than patients under 15.

And while there are currently hundreds of cancer related organizations in existence today, almost none are strictly focused on meeting the unique needs of Young Adults.

### **The Difference**

Young Adults with cancer are a distinct patient group with unique clinical and psychosocial needs and typically encounter a difficult set of issues and challenges:

- They generally feel isolated and alone, or "too young" to have cancer.
- They are typically just starting careers or families, often in a city that is not their home.
- His or her peers are unlikely to understand cancer, let alone know how to behave or support someone who has it.
- Financially they usually can't afford not to work, and may not have sufficient health insurance.
- And perhaps most importantly, cancer forces many Young Adults to prematurely face their own mortality.

### **The Resource**

Prepare to Live is the only non-profit, charitable organization founded and managed by cancer survivors, dedicated to using the power of the web and documentary-style filmmaking to provide Help, Hope, Information and Inspiration™ specifically to Young Adults coping with cancer worldwide.

For more information visit: [www.preparetolive.org](http://www.preparetolive.org)