For Pete’s Sake Cancer Respite Foundation enables cancer patients and their loved ones the opportunity to strengthen, deepen and unify their relationships by creating unforgettable and lasting respite vacations.
Nearly every minute, three Americans are diagnosed with cancer.

Another dies from the disease.

When someone learns they have cancer their life and the lives of those around them suddenly are consumed with overwhelming burdens and unanswerable questions. Will I live? What are my chances? How do I say goodbye to my young children? Why me? Why us? What will happen to my family when I am gone? How can I ease my children’s pain? Cancer has reared its ugly head.

Peter Bossow experienced this type of “life takeover” in 1998 when he received a cancer diagnosis at age 29. Within seconds of hearing the words “poor rate of recovery” from his physician, the burdens of fear, anxiety, worry and panic entered the lives of Pete, his wife Marci, and their vast network of loved ones.

Not knowing how else to help the young couple, Pete and Marci’s family and friends provided a gift – the gift of 

respite. This last cherished trip allowed them to temporarily escape the burdens and hardships that accompany cancer and to rebound from its crushing blow. Going away together helped them reconnect as a couple.

It reminded them that the loving foundation of their marriage, although rocked by cancer, was still strong and intact. Their experience produced lasting memories of a time without financial boundaries or agenda. For a week, they celebrated the preciousness of life, relished the intimacy of a husband and wife and dwelt only in the present. The joy of this respite was the only certainty in a completely uncertain future.

After Pete’s death, Marci celebrated the gift that was given to them by their loving friends and family by recreating it for others – thousands of others.

For Pete’s Sake was born.

We who are not research scientists, doctors or nurses still can overcome the deadly force of cancer by helping others rejuvenate and reconnect with their loved ones, and in turn, find the resolve to fight, survive and embrace the uncertainty of the path ahead.

respite: [res-pit] noun, verb, -pit-ed, -pit-ing. noun: a delay or cessation for a time, esp. of anything distressing or trying; an interval of relief: to toil without respite.

Definition courtesy of Dictionary.com

“FPS gave us amazing gifts. They gave us the gift of time, the gift of laughter and the gift of joy. Cancer leaves you torn open and exposed, and can steal many things - but it can never take away the precious memories that FPS donors so lovingly granted us.”

— Emily Parisi, wife of FPS Patient, Tony Parisi
Our Model: For Pete’s Sake Cancer Respite Foundation has an elegantly simple model: provide young adults facing rigorous treatment or poor diagnosis with an opportunity to spend carefree and cost-free time with their loved ones in peaceful and comfortable settings.

FPS creates priceless magical, memorable moments. Together, even for a glimpse, our patients and their loved ones experience immeasurable joy amidst devastating crisis. FPS offers comfortable and secure environments to celebrate in the face of uncertainty, reflect and reconnect in the midst of turmoil and strengthen their inner faith and regain their emotional strength in the shadow of adversity. We encourage patients, their caregivers and their children to confront cancer hardships together. This experience empowers them for what lies ahead and encourages them to share their experiences as a beacon of hope for others. Their success inspires our gift-givers, grant-makers, travel partners and volunteers to help us.

Our program targets an area that modern medicine struggles to address: the emotional, psychological and spiritual trauma of a cancer diagnosis. FPS provides a safe haven for emotional expression. For some, this travel experience is merely a vacation, for others, a respite, and for others, precious time for family devotion before an impending death. FPS is the only organization that focuses exclusively on therapeutic respite travel experiences for adult cancer patients, their caregivers and children. Each person on a FPS respite experiences a priceless mental break — a chance to get away and take a break from cancer.

Our Impact: To understand the potential that a respite has to enhance the life of a cancer patient and loved ones, step into their shoes for a brief glimpse of life under the crushing weight of cancer. Following the initial shock and grudging acceptance that someone so young could contract this disease in the prime of life, the patient must reprioritize. Life, once centered on work, children and social events, is transformed into a maze of appointments, tests, needles, procedures and medication. The complacency of a normal day is replaced by an uncertain future, the maze of the medical system, and the constant fear that accompanies a grave illness. Financial crisis is common. Many families, once strong and stable, become fragmented. Every ring of the telephone might be about new test results or a next appointment. Life hinges on word that the cancer has returned or spread.

Amidst the patient’s struggle, For Pete’s Sake provides the patient and loved ones a unique opportunity to rediscover their commitment to one another and find joy in the midst of this hectic and unyielding process. Away from the sterile environment of standard medical treatment, families are nourished and renewed on a psychological, emotional and spiritual level. Such nourishment creates lasting memories that sustain them not only through their treatment, but also, for some, through the dying process and mourning for those left behind. Death can neither strip a relationship nor the contents of one’s heart - FPS envisions strengthening these hearts.

“The role of one’s spirit when facing cancer should never be underestimated. For Pete’s Sake strengthens the spirit and in turn, arms a patient for one of life’s most challenging journeys.”

Dr. Ruth McCorkle, Ph.D., FAAN
Past President, American Psychosocial Oncology Society

Providing Immeasurable Joy to adult cancer patients and their families since 1999
Our Success: In 17 years, For Pete’s Sake has built a highly effective model of therapeutic respite vacations for adult cancer patients and their loved ones. Doctors and nurses know the power of our experience — they are the ones that nominate patients to our program. FPS has earned the Seal of Excellence from the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO) and has been recognized as an ethical, effective and accountable organization dedicated to the highest level of excellence within the nonprofit sector.

Working with clinicians, we have fashioned sound criteria for selection, preparation, evaluation and follow up with FPS travelers. We have researched and understand the particular needs of cancer patients regarding resort accommodations, attractions and recreation. Individual and corporate resort property owners appreciate our thoroughness in planning ahead and anticipating needs.

Oncology professionals who have referred patients to our program are grateful for our existence and the ability to deliver good news — the opportunity for an expense-paid trip together, especially when poor treatment response is evident.

FPS has collected qualitative and quantitative data from both patients and nominators. All data overwhelmingly demonstrates the positive impact of travel respite for patients as well as their caregivers, immediate family and often, extended family. Proudly, FPS reports that one hundred percent of nominators surveyed witnessed an improvement in the ability of patients and their support network to cope, post respite, with the realities of life with cancer.

Years of data reflects that a break from cancer can have a substantial impact on a patient and caregiver’s outlook on and coping with cancer. After studying qualitative and quantitative data routinely obtained by FPS following a family respite, a professional research committee has identified four common themes associated with respite benefit:

1. **Relationship Quality Among Family Members** (includes spouses and children of varying ages),
2. **Work and Life Endurance/ Renewed Stamina,**
3. **Patient Treatment Compliance post respite,** and
4. **Joy/Mental Break.**

Using these four major themes, FPS is extending its evidence-based program by compiling additional data immediately post respite, six months post respite and one year post respite for all participants, including patient, caregiver and children. We believe this new information will further support the necessity of respite as a family and social support and improve societal connections with one’s medical team, work colleagues, neighborhood community and extended community.

Our Partners

**First,** the individual homeowners, resort property companies and travel partners who donate the use of entire properties to our families. The accommodations are always independent living units with privacy that are situated in desirable destinations across North America and the Caribbean.

**Second,** commercial airlines and other transportation services which assist our families in reaching their place of peace and respite.

**Last,** but certainly not least, our recreational partners – those special attractions, and local community establishments that freely offer admission and services to our FPS families to help create joy and capture memorable moments.

This approach enables us to have a rich array of respite destinations, while applying our limited resources to essential core costs so that FPS can serve more families each and every year.
For Pete’s Sake Cancer Respite Foundation – www.takeabreakfromcancer.org

Providing Immeasurable Joy to adult cancer patients and their families since 1999

Our Future: Currently serving families primarily in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New York and New Jersey, FPS has taken steps to extend its precious support to help more and more families, including the addition of a New York Chapter and partnerships with donors, foundations and oncology professionals in additional states, including CA, MD, IL, MA, FL, AZ, OH and TX. The ability of FPS to offer the beneficial results of a respite travel experience depends on several key elements, each of which is indispensable. These elements include our Travel Partners, Professional Allies and Cancer Network. And then, our most indispensable element is our Loyal Supporters!

Our Professional Allies: The physicians, oncology nurses, social workers and hospice professionals who have helped us define and refine the necessary criteria for participation by our families. These FPS allies fulfill critical responsibilities:

» nominating adult cancer patients in whom the cancer condition foretells an arduous treatment experience, or where a guarded prognosis makes time together doubly precious,

» assuring that the cancer patient is capable of the travel and time away from clinical care as to enable a respite travel excursion free of special anxieties,

» sharing with us their insights on the beneficial results of the respite on their patients, evaluating our practices, and encouraging continuous improvements in the FPS experience.

Our Cancer Network: The many fine organizations who provide a continuum of care, information and support to cancer patients and their families. This network includes leading cancer centers and other cancer related groups. These extraordinary organizations touch millions of lives every day and help us to identify the families for whom FPS is a precious resource. When our FPS families return from their special time together, we know they are in good hands.

100% of Nominating Physicians report an improvement in patient and family coping with cancer post respite.
**Our Resolve:** That every FPS respite excursion be entirely free of cost and obligation (we even provide a daily cash stipend towards incidentals and food), that the privacy of every FPS family be guarded, that we help our FPS families have access to all the best resources during their journey, and that our FPS families forever cherish the memories made during the respite. We even capture their lasting memories with family photos taken during the time away which we present in a special photo keepsake. Our premise - Love defines your Life Story, not Cancer.

**Our Showcase:** Honoring our resolve, we do not allow our FPS travelers to contribute financially toward their respite excursion. Instead, we ask them to share their experience and to encourage others to feel the incredible satisfaction gained by helping contribute to the next FPS excursion. To that end, the FPS website, [www.takeabreakfromcancer.org](http://www.takeabreakfromcancer.org) is filled with the pictures, thoughts and experiences of our families. Each FPS traveler is encouraged to tell his/her story on the site and to invite their friends and extended family to visit. Their words tell our story in the most joyful, poignant terms. Additionally, our social media pages are filled with the smiles and stories of our travelers. Behind each smile is a unique story that inspires.

**An email from Chris to FPS:**

I got really good news at Penn the other day. Please let everyone know that I will receive a liver resection on March 26. I finally got to the point where I get to have surgery which is amazing in itself. I wanted to thank all of you for your support and that I couldn’t have got to this point without For Pete’s Sake.

**Do I look sick?**

My name is Chris Neuhard. I am 28 years old and was diagnosed with liver cancer and traveled with my friend to the FPS home near Orlando.

My cancer was too invasive and surgeons could not operate, but I recently received good news ...

We pray for the faithfulness of your work daily and encourage you to continue your efforts unceasingly. Our travel to Florida provided the stress relief from an overwhelming cycle of cancer treatment that brought hope, joy and laughter back to our family life. Remember, what you are accomplishing is an awe inspiring ministry to people like me and our family, who is one family (of the many families), your efforts are helping. **Godspeed!**

Joe, Tracey, Grace, Martina, Kelly and Sophia Coleman
Our Loyal Supporters Make a Difference: We are tremendously proud of what we’ve done for FPS families to date. It is our aim to offer this respite opportunity to many more deserving patients. We can not do this without your help. There are many ways that our loyal supporters give of their time, talent and treasure to ensure that each patient respite is cost-free, care-free and THE BEST:

- If you have a resort property or vacation home, and wish to donate it or make its use available to a FPS family, let us know. We’ll provide the criteria and arrangements that are required, give you every assurance of good results, determine the optimal gift tax consideration, and respect your scheduling and other requirements.

- Help us project monthly revenue and save on mailing costs by becoming a Monthly Memory Maker. You can choose to deduct your donation directly from your bank account or credit card each month. You’ll receive a monthly traveler story to your email and other benefits related to our Monthly Memory Makers — with the best benefit of knowing you directly help a family each month!

- Enroll your privately owned company in Pete’s Partners, a corporate giving initiative that allows employees to deduct a donation from their paycheck. Then, the company can match these donations to make twice the impact on FPS travelers! Ask us for an informational packet today!

- Get your school, community or work place involved in social philanthropy to support For Pete’s Sake. We have a multitude of community events that our loyal supporters have organized on behalf of FPS. Get your kids involved and stuff a backpack for a child who will be traveling. Perhaps even organize a dress down day at your place of business. Your creativity and passion are the success to this outreach!

- The average direct cost to FPS for a family respite excursion is about $2,500 for close-to-home excursions (within driving distance) and $5,000 for destination travel excursions. We offer both locales since we try to
secure travel, destination, hospitality and transport services free in the timeframe and locality that best suits each family. You could sponsor one or more FPS respite excursions, perhaps on a yearly basis.

- Leave a LEGACY and make a planned gift or an endowment gift that will help sustain our respite program. Our endowment is aptly called Healing, Hope and Happiness, and this sustaining income will ensure that patients and their families can continue to rely on our unique service for decades to come. We invite you to view the opportunities to create a lasting legacy, perhaps even involving your family and adopting a family a specific week each year via an endowment agreement with FPS. Commemorate a birthday, anniversary or special occasion through this legacy program.

If you know a family that is facing the challenges of cancer, encourage them to ask their professional caregivers about For Pete’s Sake or direct them to takeabreakfromcancer.org.

**For Pete’s Sake - Helping More People**

Our plan for helping more FPS families is ambitious. National Cancer Institute SEER (Surveillance Epidemiology and End Result) data reveals approximately 241,000 diagnoses per year in the age range that we have found most likely to benefit from a FPS respite excursion and cancer diagnosis stages (III, IV) with highly arduous treatment or terminal prognosis.

The FPS experience to date suggests that nearly half of these cancer patients are able to avail themselves of the structured respite travel experience we offer. Of those whom we are unable to help, some have personal resources of their own, some lack conducive family circumstances or the personal stamina to participate, some no longer have the emotional and psychological stamina to look toward the future and some become too sick to travel before the respite can be scheduled.

Our goal is to assist as many young cancer patients with a grievous disease that are able and willing to benefit from the FPS experience with their caregiver and children. It will not be easy, but the requirements are simple and few as we continue to scale our program.

**DESTINATION CAPACITY:** The defining limit of our work is access to greater number of qualified properties across North America and the Caribbean. We seek as Partners the resort property managers who delight in high purpose pro bono use of their home-like facilities. They know that our FPS families will be most appreciative and speak highly of their facilities. We also seek caring individuals who might donate or otherwise make their vacation homes available to us in select resort destinations. Lastly, FPS has limited capacity in its own capital infrastructure concentrated in the Orlando, Florida region with two homes — the FPS home and Johnny’s House.

**TRANSPORT:** Equally important is the ability to transport our FPS families, some of whom have special needs. Most respite excursions require the help of leading airlines, while some need only be transported a short distance to a nearby resort location by car or limousine service.

**NOMINATIONS:** We are extending our orientation/training of cancer care professionals via the national associations involved in oncological care. We require clinical certification as to the cancer stage, severity and the physical ability of the patient to benefit from a FPS experience as a prerequisite for all travel.
WEB COMMUNITY: Web-based resources are indispensable to the maintenance of our growing database of properties, travel resources, qualified nominators, current and past FPS families and, of course, donors. Our website, www.takeabreakfromcancer.org has great benefits to our community:

» showcase of the FPS concept
» information about the many ways to support FPS, including fundraising event information,
» transparency in financial operations, governance and strategic planning information,
» salute to donors, partners, allies and friends,
» and site of the patient’s stories!

OPERATING FUNDS: While the in-kind assistance described above is substantial, we still have costs associated with the operations of the organization, including the office where so much planning, coordination and scheduling takes place behind the scenes. For these cash costs, we are expanding our reach as follows:

a. Yearly Operating – For Pete’s Sake collects donations through many channels, including our Monthly Giving Program, Annual Appeal, Special Events, Grants and Corporate Support.

b. Community Events – Grassroot fundraising events organized by volunteers, travelers and friends of FPS.

c. Specialized Investment Opportunities – Related to program expansion, technology infrastructure improvements, and development, leadership and financial growth.

SUSTAINING FUNDS: With nominators relying on our life-altering services each day and patients telling us of the respite importance in their lives, FPS has a broad responsibility to ensure that our program remains strong for those fighting this disease in the future. With this in mind, and as FPS celebrated its 15th year of changing lives, FPS embarked on a strategic plan that at its heart, addresses the organizations’ future, long term stability. This stability will be accomplished in three ways:

» Endowment – Our endowment Healing, Hope and Happiness is specifically designated for direct program costs and is funded by the start of a Family Respite Fund and Planned Giving opportunities.

» Social Enterprise – For Pete’s Sake believes in the importance of social enterprise and partners with responsible and reputable companies to turn profit into donations for our mission. FPS is taking steps to develop a line of products to promote the concept of “take a break” in the lives of all the FPS supporters!

» Monthly Giving – Related to program expansion, technology infrastructure improvements, and development, leadership and financial growth. Become a Monthly Memory Maker today for as little as $5.00 a month!

With your help, FPS will achieve our goal of reaching and serving as many eligible families as possible within our means. Our most immediate financial need is twofold:

1. to secure funding for our continued growth and develop sustainable revenue so we can serve more families to make it rewarding for ever-greater numbers of people to help our FPS families find the joy in respites and
2. ensure our future sustainability in the years to come through our Healing, Hope and Happiness Endowment so we continue our impact on families, FOREVER! JOIN US!

Together, we can strengthen the hearts, minds and souls of adult cancer patients and their loved ones.
Ivan Jones battled brain cancer and traveled to our Respite Vacation home in Davenport, Florida with his girlfriend, Brandy.

Upon their return from their respite vacation, Brandy wrote:

“Being able to spend time with Ivan away from home, and enjoy activities we may not have otherwise been able to experience, has left me with some of the most amazing memories - I wouldn’t trade them for the world! Ivan and I always try to find the positive in life, this trip reminded us that everything happens for a reason. Each day, you need to take some time to relax, be thankful for the good parts of the day, and not let the negative overshadow the good. FPS is by far the most amazing foundation. The mission is perfect and has been accomplished for us. We truly cannot thank you enough!”

Ivan passed away only a few months after their respite vacation, but Brandy holds the memories close to her heart and his family continues to be involved in the mission of FPS, hosting fundraisers to help other people take a break from cancer.