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New Campaign Aims to “Shine the Light” on Rare Cancers
*Cancer Support Community to Raise Awareness of
Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPNs) with September Events*

WASHINGTON – (Aug. 25, 2014) – The Cancer Support Community (CSC), an international cancer nonprofit, announced today a September awareness campaign for myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs). MPNs are a group of rare blood cancers, which include polycythemia vera (PV), essential thrombocythemia (ET) and primary myelofibrosis (PMF), impacting approximately 14,500 people in the U.S. that are diagnosed each year.

The campaign, “Shining the Light on MPNs” aims to educate local communities on the challenges of living with an MPN and provide them with resources for support. MPN Awareness Day is officially recognized on Sept. 11, but awareness events at several local Cancer Support Community affiliates will take place throughout the month of September.

“Life with a rare cancer comes with unique challenges, and it is important for the general public to recognize these.” said Kim Thiboldeaux, President and CEO of the Cancer Support Community. “CSC is dedicated to providing social and emotional support to people diagnosed with all kinds of cancers, no matter how rare.”

“Shining the Light on MPNs” activities will include a range of programming, such as educational seminars, healthy lifestyle activities and celebratory events. Participants and others interested in MPN awareness are invited to share their experiences using the social media hashtag #MPNAware2014.

For a full list of “Shining the Light on MPN” events, please view the [calendar](#) or visit www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/MPNAware2014

People or organizations interested in organizing an MPN awareness event in their local community at any time may download a free toolkit with tips and templates [here](#) or at www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/MPNAware2014.

The “Shining the Light on MPNs” campaign is supported through an unrestricted educational grant from Incyte Corporation.

About the Cancer Support Community

The mission of the Cancer Support Community (CSC) is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. In 2009, The Wellness Community and Gilda’s Club joined forces to become the Cancer Support Community. The combined organization, with more than 50 years of collective experience, provides the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer through a network of more than 50 licensed Affiliates, more than 120 satellite locations and vibrant online and telephone communities, touching more than one million people each year.

Backed by evidence that the best cancer care includes social and emotional support, the Cancer Support Community offers these services free of charge to men, women and children with any type or stage of cancer, and to their loved ones. As the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community delivers a comprehensive menu of personalized and essential services including support groups, educational workshops, exercise, art and nutrition classes and social activities for the entire family. Through cutting-edge psychosocial, behavioral and survivorship research, the Cancer Support Community's *Research and Training* Institute is helping CSC change the future of cancer care through education and training. The Cancer Support Community's *Cancer Policy Institute* ensures that the voices of 13.7 million cancer survivors and their families are heard in the nation's capital and state and local legislatures across the country. In 2013, the CSC network delivered nearly \$48 million in free services to patients and families. The Cancer Support Community is advancing the innovations that are becoming the standard in complete cancer care. So that no one faces cancer alone®.

For more information, please visit www.CancerSupportCommunity.org

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