



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Linda House

317.997.0561

Linda@cancersupportcommunity.org

**NUMBER OF CANCER SURVIVORS TO SOAR BY 2020 WITH UP TO ONE-HALF OF ALL
CANCER SURVIVORS EXPERIENCING SOCIAL OR EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**

The Cancer Support Community introduces Patient Planning Services, Inc. to meet the growing demand for patient-centered care

WASHINGTON - (January 23, 2014) - The Cancer Support Community (CSC), the nation's leading nonprofit provider of social and emotional support for patients and their families, introduced Patient Planning Services, Inc. (PPS) today. Created as a social enterprise to meet the growing need for patient powered, provider-based care management tools, PPS will build on the success of CSC's distress screening program, CancerSupportSourceSM, by launching an enhanced version of the program in early 2014.

Studies have consistently shown that approximately 40 percent of patients living with cancer experience some level of distress as a part of their cancer journey. Additional studies demonstrate that early identification and appropriate intervention reduce overall distress, improve quality of life and may increase longevity. CancerSupportSource is a validated, fully integrated distress screening, referral and follow-up solution which assists patients and their health care team in the management of comprehensive cancer care.

"Overall advances in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer have resulted in patients having more choices while also adding complexity to the overall cancer experience," said Kim Thiboldeaux, President and CEO of the Cancer Support Community. "This added complexity coupled with increasing demands on the health care system makes today a critical time to deliver solutions to ensure patients have fully integrated education and support services as a part of the overall plan of care. Establishing PPS to aid CSC in delivering such solutions provides targeted outreach while allowing CSC to concentrate on its core work of research, program development and support services for patients and families touched by cancer."

Patient Planning Services, Inc. is led by its President, Chris Dammert, who brings to this role a wealth of experience in the health care, technology, and nonprofit sectors. Chris, the former Director of Navigation Services at the LIVESTRONG Foundation and the former CEO of the SSS Network, is focused on the important role that PPS plays in helping people with chronic conditions improve their wellbeing. PPS is also staffed by a team of dedicated individuals who are committed to outstanding customer support and service.

“We realize the impact that quality tools and service can have on the patient experience, provider resources, cost containment and, most importantly, patient outcomes,” said Chris Dammert, President of Patient Planning Services, Inc. “Delivering tools and services with the backing of state-of-the-art research to hospitals, clinics and care providers is very meaningful.”

The provision of the enhanced version of CancerSupportSourceSM will enable hospitals, clinics and medical practices to meet recent accreditation guidelines established by organizations such as the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer which accredits nearly 1500 cancer programs throughout the United States. For more information about CancerSupportSource or other programs offered by CSC or PPS, please contact Linda House
Linda@cancersupportcommunity.org or Chris Dammert
Chris.Dammert@patientplanningservices.com.

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 over 50 licensed affiliates, more than 100 satellite locations and a vibrant online community, 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. In 2013, CSC delivered more than \$40 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.

About Patient Planning Services, Inc.

Patient Planning Services, Inc. (PPS) is dedicated to helping hospitals, clinics and health care providers engage and support their patients. Committed to evidence-based solutions, and staffed by a dedicated team of professionals, PPS delivers industry-leading distress screening solutions and access to cancer care planning tools and psychosocial support programs. PPS was founded in 2013 and is headquartered in Austin, Texas.

For more information, please visit www.patientplanningservices.com.

About CancerSupportSourceSM

CancerSupportSource (CSS) is the first validated distress screening program developed for community-based hospitals, physician practices and advocacy organizations to fully integrate screening, referral and follow up care, all through a single, streamlined, web-based program.

Screening for psychosocial distress is a key recommendation in the Institute of Medicine's Report, *Cancer Care for the Whole Patient, Meeting Psychosocial Health Needs*. Additionally, new patient-centered standards from the American College of Surgeon's Commission on Cancer, require that all patients seen in an accredited cancer center be screened for distress beginning in 2015. CSS helps cancer centers and physician practices meet those critical standards easily and effectively. CSS is more than a screening tool—it enables providers to create a vital program linking patient-reported needs with in-house and community support services.

#