

# Keys of Hope to continue another two years

The American Cancer Society has announced the continuation of its partnership with Extended Stay America's Keys of Hope program for another two years. Through this collaboration, ESA will donate 100,000 free and discounted room nights to cancer patients and their caregivers whose treatments may take them far from home. The program began in 2013 and ESA has donated thousands of rooms across the country for the past two years.

The society owns and operates 31 Hope Lodge facilities in 22 states, which also provide a free place to stay for cancer patients. The Hope Lodges quickly fill up, however, and there often is a waiting list. Extended Stay America has more than 632 properties in 120 communities in the U.S. and Canada – including the one in Scarborough. ESA's guest rooms are equipped with a full kitchen and access to laundry

facilities, making them more like home. The program is open to patients of all ages, including pediatric patients accompanied by a parent.

Houlton resident Pamela Griffith was diagnosed with lung and early stage brain cancer. Her local oncologist suggested that the best treatment option for her would be available at Maine Medical Center's Cancer Institute in Scarborough — over 500 miles and eight hours round trip from her home. Griffith would need daily radiation treatments for 14 weeks and staying at a local hotel or renting a short-term apartment was not something she could afford.

After hearing Griffith's story, Rebecca Diggins, the American Cancer Society Patient Navigator at MMCCI, suggested the Extended Stay America program. Working with the Society's Patient Service Center, the patient was approved for a free stay at the ESA in Scarborough — only 3.5 miles and 10 minutes from the

hotel — for the entire duration of her treatments allowing her to receive the uninterrupted care she needed and providing her with the chance to beat this disease.

"Not having to worry about where to stay or how to pay for lodging was such a relief to me and my family," says Griffith. "The staff at Extended Stay America was wonderful and the room was perfect. I was very tired and not feeling well during my treatments so I appreciated not having to travel very far."

To qualify for the program, patients must be in active cancer treatment and live more than 40 miles or one hour away from where they receive care. Accommodations are based on availability, and requests are met on a first come, first served basis.

"I joined Extended Stay America in December 2014. One of the reasons I chose to work for this organization was the partnership that we have with the

American Cancer Society. I have personally suffered the loss of close family members and friends to their battle with cancer," explains Gary Crowell, General Manager of ESA in Scarborough. "The staff at the American Cancer Society that I have worked with has been confidential, patient, and sympathetic. They make incoming reservation calls a joy to receive. I am very fortunate to be on the front lines of helping make our home, Extended Stay America in Scarborough Maine, their home away from home."

In addition to "Keys of Hope," ESA staff actively participates in American Cancer Society Relay for Life events in their local area and raise money at check-in to help fund Society research programs.

For more information about lodging programs, to book a hotel room, or to get help — anytime day or night — call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

## Local Women Battle Cancer with a Makeup Brush

What is the latest weapon available in the fight against cancer? For women participating in the Look Good, Feel Better program, the weapon of choice is a makeup brush.

The program offers support for women experiencing appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment. During each free session – facilitated by licensed cosmetologists who volunteer their time – attendees receive instruction on makeup application and skin care, as well as suggestions

for wearing wigs, scarves and other items. All attendees receive a complimentary makeup kit, and participants are never asked to buy anything.

Registration is currently underway for

Look Good, Feel Better sessions to be held at Eastern Maine Medical Center's Cancer Care of Maine, located at 33 Whiting Hill Road in Brewer. Sessions are scheduled 5-7 p.m. on the following dates: Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7.

For information or to register, call Rebecca Daigle at 973-7486 or email [radaigle@emhs.org](mailto:radaigle@emhs.org). Due to limited space, registration is required.

Look Good, Feel Better is a non-medical program offered free of charge by the

American Cancer Society, Personal

Care Products Council Foundation, and the National Cosmetology Association.

Look Good, Feel Better was launched in 1989

and to date, more than 900,000 U.S. cancer patients have participated in the program.



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