



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:  
April 20, 2011**

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### **Cancer Survivors: 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Life - “Celebrating Survivors through the Eyes of our Caregivers”**

PLEASANTON, CA (April 20, 2011) In the spirit of affirming life and celebrating each and every moment, cancer survivors will gather once again for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Life on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at Faz Restaurant in Pleasanton. This year, survivors will honor those who have cared for them and who share their path toward health and healing. A distinguished panel of caregivers will tell stories from the heart about their experiences as cancer caregivers.

The panel includes Rishi Sawhney, MD, a medical oncologist with Valley Medical Oncology Consultants and has extensive experience in the medical management of oncologic and hematological disorders. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the National Research Service Award from the National Institute of Health. He has presented his work at national meetings and has published in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Sawhney has completed subspecialty fellowships in Hematology-Oncology and Geriatrics at the University of California, Los Angeles Medical School.

Dr. Sawhney is Medical Director of the Regional Cancer Center at ValleyCare and is on staff at the San Ramon Regional Medical Center.

The panel also includes ValleyCare’s certified Breast Cancer Patient Navigator, Mary Prishtina, RN, OCN, CPBN-IC, and an experienced oncology nurse with special training in all medical conditions of the breast. She has guided patients through the process of screening, diagnosis and treatment. She also facilitates support groups and oversees the ValleyCare Health Library and

Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center. From the spiritual perspective, Reverend Jonathan Leavy, BCC, chaplain at Hope Hospice, who has several years of experience on hospice and palliative care teams, will share his personal experiences at the bedside of those with advanced illnesses. From the spousal/partner perspective, Gracie Santos will talk about the journey she has shared in caring for her partner, Sandra J. Wing.

The festive event is designed for cancer survivors and their caregivers and promises an evening of inspiration and fun. There will be a dessert reception and the traditional 'birthday countdown' to celebrate the number of birthdays guests have seen since surviving their cancer experience. There is no fee to attend but reservations must be made no later than June 17, 2011. Call (915) 734-3319 with your name and the number in your party.

Celebration sponsors include the American Cancer Society, Hope Hospice, Kaiser Permanente, LifestyleRx, the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation, San Ramon Regional Medical Center, and ValleyCare Health System, ValleyCare Library & Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center.

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