Cancer affects individuals of all ages, genders, and nationalities. Cancer is as unique as the individuals who are diagnosed with it. It is know that cancer has an impact on every person’s life, not matter what the prognosis is (Easley, Miedema, & Robinson, 2013). As healthcare providers and leaders, we must recognize that all cancer patients have needs and that they need support. If we each take a moment, we can look over our lives and find at least one person who has had or has cancer that has touched our lives. For me personally, there are many who have had many different types of cancer, some who have survived and others who have not. It is our duty to help support the fight against cancer. Kelleher (2010) lists ways of supporting the fight against breast cancer as overcoming screening barriers such as finances, fear and time. She also states that participating in clinical trials, volunteering on fund raising days, and just being a friend are ways to overcome cancer (Kelleher, 2010). These are not only applicable to breast cancer, but to all types of cancer.

As a healthcare provider, teaching about cancer is a part of everyday life. Unfortunately, teaching about it does not entirely prevent it. Yes, it certainly aids in early diagnosis and prevention in cases of breast, colon, prostate, and other cancers, but education on prevention does not reach everyone and does no good after the initial diagnosis. Once diagnosed with cancer, no matter the type, no matter if you are male or female, no matter if you are a child or an adult, you need support.

Through outreaches such as Relay for Life, community support and awareness is increased. Yes, one goal is to raise money, but that money goes to research, treatment, and care of cancer patients. The other goal is honor and encouragement. At Relay for Life, cancer survivors, patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers are recognized and honored. They all need this type of encouragement.

This artistic presentation is in the form of a quilt that was designed to honor all cancer patients, survivors or not. The many different colored ribbons are designed to represent some of the different types of cancers. They are placed on a background of lavender, the universal color that represents all cancer. The words of encouragement are meant for everyone. Whether you can relate to just one word, or all of them, they are a means of connection and support. Cancer affects everyone, and everyone needs to be reminded and made aware of this. The quilt was donated to the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church Relay for Life Team, Franklin County, Alabama to serve as a fundraiser. Donations are being collected and the quilt will be given to the winner at the 2015 Franklin County, Alabama Relay for Life in May.