

From Survival **Future** To Purposeful
Engaged



LIFE AFTER PEDIATRIC CANCER

When first diagnosed with cancer, a person may go into survival mode, dealing with each adversity as it appears. However, after the cancer has been treated, the focus can be redirected to their purposeful future.

When resuming education, patients may need expert guidance and support. Because survivors of childhood cancers have faced disruptions to their schooling, they can experience complications in the learning progression and with the process of reintegration. Survivors are now a significant population, but most schools and universities have yet to develop an understanding of the specific profiles and needs of this group.

As a professor of special education and an educational diagnostician, Dr. Beverly Barkon has developed a unique skill set to help cancer survivors engage with their futures.

Dedicated to empowering survivors of pediatric cancers as they transition to adult endeavors

PROVIDING ADVOCACY • AFFIRMING POSSIBILITIES • ACHIEVING GOALS

This proven, direct approach transitions students to the next phase of their educational life and careers.

- ✦ Empower each individual survivor with their unique life planning aspirations.
- ✦ Address the social, emotional and educational consequences of childhood cancer.
 - On a group level, the survivor is a member of the larger group of shared experiences.
 - On an individual level, each person is unique with a specific combination of strengths and needs.



“I think of my part in this process as a bridge-builder by helping cancer survivors connect a past of trials to a future of triumphs.”

–DR. BEVERLY BARKON

Advocate • Coach • Mentor

“Beverly’s advice was invaluable... I graduated from Temple University Summa Cum Laude and currently work as a news producer. I love what I do and I’m here because of Beverly’s help.” –FORMER STUDENT



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A UNIQUE PATH TO ADULTHOOD

- ♦ Interpretation of educational diagnostic evaluations
- ♦ Assistance with the design of personal education plans
- ♦ Formulation of transition plans for postsecondary education
- ♦ Advocacy during the transition to full-time high school student status
- ♦ Advocacy with college and university offices of admissions and disability services
- ♦ Ongoing support as needed during the college years

EMPOWERMENT AND GROWTH

As adolescents and young adults reemerge from the life disruption of cancer treatment, Dr. Barkon becomes their partner to guide them through the early transitions of adult life. Dr. Barkon has a deep and broad understanding of the unique challenges and the remarkable resilience that survivors bring to the process of personal growth into adulthood. She is devoted to supporting the aspirations of each unique individual and creates personalized transition programs designed to support individual goals.

MEET DR. BEVERLY BARKON, MSL, PhD

Dr. Barkon is a well-respected resource for SurvivorConnect at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. She works directly with students—and parents of students under the age of 18—who may be experiencing educational transition issues due to pediatric cancer.

She has been a faculty member at New Jersey City University in special education and in Project Mentor—a support program for college students with disabilities. A full professor of special education at Carlow University, Pittsburgh, PA, Dr. Barkon has served as an educational liaison in the pediatric neuro-oncology clinic at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. In addition, she has been an expert witness in administrative law courts. She has presented at national and international conferences on the learning experiences and transition needs of survivors of pediatric cancers. Dr. Barkon also volunteers as a mentor/angel for Imerman’s Angels, a one-on-one support program for newly diagnosed cancer patients.

Dr. Barkon earned her PhD in communication disorders, field of learning disabilities from Northwestern University and has a Masters in Studies in Law in the areas of education and disability law from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

