

A Survival Guide For Cancer Patients And Their Families

(NAPSA)—In 1992, Vickie Girard was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer and was sent home by four of the country’s leading medical institutions to die. But she chose, instead, to fight. And she not only survived, but she has become one of our nation’s most compelling advocates of the new Patient Empowerment Medicine.

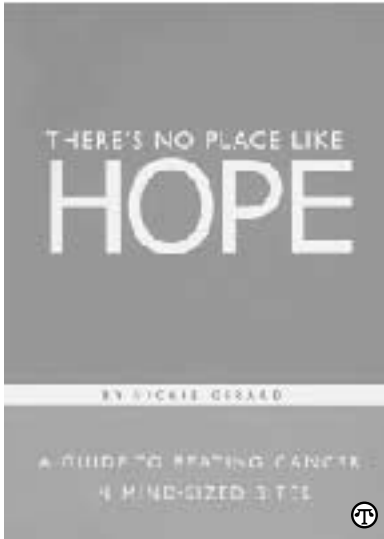
“Cancer is a beatable, treatable, survivable disease,” says Girard, a two-time cancer survivor from Michigan. “The moment you survive the diagnosis, you become a survivor. The moment your cancer has been detected, your own success story begins.”

Girard also is a Cancer Fighter and activist through her involvement with the American Cancer Society and Cancer Treatment Centers of America, and has taken her message of empowered patient care to the floor of the Michigan State Senate and to thousands of cancer patients and survivors around the world.

There’s No Place Like Hope: A Guide to Beating Cancer in Mind-Sized Bites was written by Girard to provide cancer patients and their families with the one book they regularly requested. It gives readers the essential tools to proactively deal with the entire battle, from diagnosis, through treatment and to eventual recovery, and helps empower cancer patients so they can get the best treatments the medical field has to offer.

According to Girard, the book is the result of more than eight years of working closely with thousands of cancer patients and survivors who keep asking the same questions: What did she do differently from other cancer patients? How did she get through the treatments? How did she get through the nights and how did she get the strength to navigate the healthcare system?

Hope covers all aspects of diagnosis, treatment and care, including nutrition and reimbursement issues, which grew out of Girard’s own experience—and frustra-



“Anyone who has been touched by cancer cannot help but be affected by Vickie Girard’s account of her own victory over the disease,” says Susan Root, Community Development Director of the American Cancer Society.

tions—with the insurance claims process. She found her insurance company, like so many others, automatically denied almost every claim and she had to resubmit several times. Her advice: Don’t accept the first response; re-submit as many times as it takes.

“My major cause over the last seven years has been to ensure that today’s cancer patients have equal access to the very best treatment that is already available,” writes Girard. “For those who can’t even access what is currently available, future breakthroughs are only a promise of more things they can’t have!”

There’s No Place Like Hope is available at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Amazon.com, and other bookstores, as well as gift shops throughout the country and has a suggested retail price of \$14.95. For more information on cancer and Patient Empowerment Medicine, call 1-800-FOR-HELP (1-800-367-4357) or log on to <http://www.cancercenter.com>.