



Survivor Story: Joe Schumacher
City of Fairfax Fire Department, Virginia, Captain
Chief Operations Officer, Firefighter Cancer Support Network
Diagnosed with Testicular Cancer in 1996, and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2013

"There is no better resource than speaking to someone who has gone through the same experience that you are about to go through."



Joe's cancer story began before FCSN was founded, but the organization still found its way into his life. Thankfully for FCSN Joe found us because he's been a huge part of fulfilling our mission, educating others, and growing the organization. Not only is Joe a two-time-cancer survivor, he's our Chief Operating Officer, and a huge resource on our team.

When Joe found himself battling cancer for the second time he went to the internet as many of us do in times of uncertainty and began searching for firefighter cancer organizations. That is when he found the FCSN and reached out to learn more. Not only did he start to learn more about occupational cancer he wanted to be involved in affecting change. In a matter of months Joe found himself in the position of the assistant State Director for Virginia. In less than a year he took over as the State Director for Virginia.

Our Vision: To be the global leader in firefighter cancer support, awareness, and education.

Our Mission: To assist firefighters and EMS providers and their immediate families diagnosed with cancer by providing badge to badge support, training and guidance.



Joe's dedication to providing assistance and resources to firefighters and their families fighting cancers comes from his own experiences of knowing what it feels like to be in that very same situation. Joe says, "there is no better resource than speaking to someone who has gone through the same experience that you are about to go through". Joe is passionate about providing our services during a very dark, maybe even the darkest time, of a person's life while they fight for their life against cancer. He said it is what truly keeps him here and working so hard to educate and change the culture so that others will not have to face being diagnosed with cancer as he was. Twice.

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