

Convenient Clothing: Survivor creates shirts offering privacy and ease during treatment sessions

Sales will benefit the Magic of Life Foundation

An innovative clothing design that helps cancer patients weather their treatment sessions more comfortably was born out of one survivor's very real experience.

David Coleman had been sick with what doctors were treating as the flu for several weeks—before a scary and confusing reaction landed him in the emergency room (ER) during a holiday weekend with Sheila, his wife.

“After multiple blood tests and several hours of waiting in the ER, the doctor had an answer for us,” said David. “He told us that I had leukemia.”

Shocked and frightened, David and Sheila prepared themselves for what turned into a six-and-a-half month journey through inpatient hospital stays, blood transfusions and chemotherapy sessions. He learned firsthand how tedious and uncomfortable the treatments could be, and how important it was to stay focused on the bigger picture.

“During my hospital stays, I tried to stay busy and continue my work. There were times when I found myself very bored, to the point that I counted the ceiling tiles in my room. After counting those 63 tiles several times, I decided it was time to move on to bigger and better challenges,” said David.

One of those challenges was to create a comfortable and convenient alternative to the hospital gowns he'd been forced to wear during his treatments.

His first crude attempt at a design was created with scissors and tape. A seamstress then created a prototype from the original. And after several revisions, they perfected it—a comfortable shirt with panels that could open to easily expose a venous device, such as a PICC or port, giving both men and women more privacy during long and uncomfortable treatment sessions.

“The shirts are a success because they offer comfort – and convenience – for all involved: patients, healthcare workers and caregivers – while offering limited exposure for the patient before, during, and after treatments and procedures,” according to David.

The shirts are made of a dri-release fabric comprised of 85 percent polyester and 15 percent cotton. They have access panels on both the right and left chest/shoulder area for easy access to the infusion site and intravenous device, and patients can wear either them as outer-garments or undergarments.

Convenient Clothing will make a 10 percent donation from each shirt sold on its website, www.convenientclothing.com, to the Magic of Life Foundation, when the coupon code “MOLF” is used at checkout.

“The Magic of Life Foundation is very grateful to David and Sheila Coleman for their generosity,” said Barbara Touchette, executive director of the Magic of Life Foundation. “The shirts are a remarkable improvement for those going through therapy and the donations will help us continue in our mission to celebrate, educate and support cancer survivors.”

Additional information on Convenient Clothing can be found online at www.convenientclothing.com. Visit www.molfi.org for more information on the Magic of Life Foundation.