

We're CaringBridge and we're working to bring your community together around your health journey

**We're a nonprofit on a mission to make each health journey
easier by amplifying the love, hope & compassion in the world.**



With the help of hundreds of thousands of generous supporters, we've funded more than 740,000 personal websites that have received 2.1 billion visits filled with love, hope and strength.

We're just getting started.

What is CaringBridge?

CaringBridge is a global nonprofit social network dedicated to helping family and friends communicate with and support loved ones during a health journey. Thanks to our compassionate donors, anyone, anywhere can create a free personal website to easily share updates and receive the love and strength they need from their community during an illness or injury.

Founded on June 7, 1997, CaringBridge is the first and most widely used social network created for communicating during a health journey. Today, every 8 minutes a new CaringBridge website is created.

[Learn More About Our Story](#)

How Does It Work?

You can start a free personal website to share important information quickly during any type of health crisis. We do not sell your personal information to marketers, and allow you to have complete control over the privacy settings, so your website is as private or public as you want it to be. Family and friends can stay informed without overwhelming you with endless phone calls, emails and text messages. Plus they can post messages, photos and videos of support straight to your website. The new Ways To Help section of your website helps your people know how best to support you, whether financially through personal fundraising or coordinating care and organizing daily tasks.

[Learn More About How It Works](#) or [Start a Personal CaringBridge Website](#)

How Many Do We Help?

CaringBridge is for any health condition, big or small, acute or long-term. Whether you're facing surgery, a hospitalization or transplant, cancer treatment or any other health event. CaringBridge is here for you.

Each day, more than 200,000 people trust CaringBridge to provide love, hope and strength during their health journey. Every hour, 670 messages are posted to a loved one's website.

Here are some key facts from 2017:

- 67,000 personal websites were created
- 27.1 million people from around the world visited someone's website
- CaringBridge has 3.2 million monthly unique visitors



What Makes Us Unique?

We are driven by mission, not profit. Ninety percent of all funding comes from those who have experienced the power of CaringBridge firsthand. As families and friends increasingly live in far-flung places, and with our increased reliance on technology to connect us, CaringBridge is a revolutionary leader in filling a need through the power of community. What sets us apart is our commitment to be cost- and advertisement-free, placing our trust in families and donors for support.

[Learn More About CaringBridge Financials](#)

How Did We Get Started?

Twenty years ago, Sona Mehring started the first CaringBridge website when her close friends, JoAnn and Darrin, had a premature baby named Brighid. As a computer programmer and website developer, Sona was inspired to create a website to quickly share the devastating news with their family and friends. The same night their baby Brighid was born, on June 7, 1997, CaringBridge was born.

Headquartered in Eagan, Minn., CaringBridge has more than 40 employees, a governing board of 16 members and an advisory council with 13 members.

[Review Historical Timeline of CaringBridge](#)

We're Working to Rally Your People During a Time of Need, and We Have Help

Volunteers from around the world help us spread the word about CaringBridge through their expertise and advocacy. Volunteers assist with a variety of activities through social media and by raising awareness within their own communities.

[Learn More About How to Get Involved](#) or [Download CaringBridge Logos](#)

About Liwanag Ojala, CEO

Liwanag Ojala was appointed CEO of CaringBridge in February 2016. As CEO she leads management and ensures that all CaringBridge operations contribute toward its mission to make each health journey easier by amplifying the love, hope and compassion in the world.

Before joining CaringBridge as COO at the end of 2014, she was vice president of ecommerce at Meijer, president of print business for Pear Tree Greetings and president of SimonDelivers. Liwanag began her career as an attorney, receiving her law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School and her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University.



In 2017 Liwanag was recognized with a “Women in Business Award” by the Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal. In 2016 Liwanag was a recipient of the Minnesota Business magazine “(Real) Power 50 Award.” In 2008 the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal recognized Liwanag’s leadership abilities with the “40 Under 40” award. Liwanag currently serves on the board of MPR, and she remains a member of the Minnesota State Bar and a trustee emeritus of the Blandin Foundation.

To request Liwanag to speak at your next event or conference, or to book an interview, send an email to media@caringbridge.org.

[Learn More About Our Leadership Team](#)

About Sona Mehring, Founder

Sona Mehring founded CaringBridge in 1997 when the Internet was just becoming a household name, making her one of the first to recognize that the Internet could create a powerful connection for people to receive emotional and physical support during a health journey.

After retiring from CaringBridge in 2017, Sona continues to fuel her passion for connecting people in a positive and supportive way, especially online. She will remain a voice for women in leadership and technology, and plans to continue supporting entrepreneurial initiatives.



Sona is frequently recognized for her passion and visionary leadership. In 2015 Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal named her one of Minnesota’s “Titans of Technology.” In 2014 The Women’s Health Leadership TRUST named her one of the top 35 Women Leaders in Minnesota Healthcare. She was named one of 2011’s “Most Influential Women in Technology” by Fast Company.

Need More?

Contact: Beth Betcher - Senior Public Relations Specialist

Phone: 651.789.3375

Email: media@caringbridge.org