

*The World Health Organization reported that by the year 2010 cancer will be the number one killer worldwide. More than 12.4 million people in the world suffer from cancer; 7.6 million people are expected to die from some form of cancer.*

## Wondering what you can do to help those diagnosed with cancer?

### Before you offer help, consider these ten things:

- Commit yourself to be an ongoing friend throughout the entire cancer process.
- Remind yourself that the diagnosis of serious illness changes people—even before their treatment begins.
- You don't know what's best for anyone with cancer. The best way to find out is to help them discover what they need.
- Make certain you're comfortable talking about the disease.
- Read and inquire about the disease. (The Internet and your local library can provide an abundance of information about every form of cancer.)
- Determine to stay positive no matter how negative the ill person sounds.
- Accept *their* feelings no matter how *you* feel. If they're pessimistic or discouraged, don't try to talk them out of their feelings.
- Prepare yourself that some people may not express their emotions easily. Accept them as they are.
- Some people may lash out in anger at God. You don't need to defend God or answer their anger. Focus on their pain and confusion.
- People handle problems differently. Cancer patients respond in the way most natural to their personality. Accept that.

Taken from: *When Someone You Love Has Cancer*  
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