

Expert Financial Advisory Services–

Mike O’Shaughnessy, CancerLINC Pro Bono Financial
Advisor



Along with a cancer diagnosis comes the burden of extensive costs for medical treatment and care. Mounting medical bills have an impact on a patient’s ability to pay for everyday living expenses like groceries, rent or mortgage payments, utilities, and gas for the car. CancerLINC’s clients need to focus on getting well and do not need the added stress of financial worries.

Michael “Mike” O’Shaughnessy, a Richmond resident and partner at Ascent Financial Group, is one of CancerLINC’s pro bono professionals who offers their financial advisory services to CancerLINC clients.

Mike first became aware of CancerLINC when he reached out to the Executive Director, Julianne Duvall, to share news about his new financial services business. Julianne and Mike’s family have been connected since the days when she was a school administrator at schools he attended in the Northern Neck.

When Mike spoke with Julianne, she asked him if he would be interested in joining the CancerLINC pro bono team of professionals. He didn't hesitate to join. "When I learned about CancerLINC and the impact they make for people in unfortunate circumstances, I wanted to help in any way possible," he said.

"I had the pleasure of working with Mr. O'Shaughnessy recently. My husband and I have been struggling with expenses and didn't seem to have [many] options. Due to complications from my chemo treatments, I am not able to work and have fallen behind on all my bills. Desperate for some kind of help or guidance, we went to his office. Mr. O'Shaughnessy patiently listened to our problems, asked many questions, and took a lot of information. For the first time in a long time, my husband and I were hopeful when it came to our finances. He gave us suggestions and provided resources for us to use. Our struggles are not over yet, but we are grateful for the service he provided." -Client M.S.

Mike has over 15 years of experience in the finance and technology industries. Prior to starting his career, he earned his bachelor's degree in economics at James Madison University and went on to earn a Master of Business Administration from the University of Connecticut. In his present position as a partner at Ascent Financial Group, Mike focuses on creating long-term relationships with his clients and helping them solve their financial challenges.

Though Mike is relatively new to CancerLINC becoming a volunteer in August 2024, he has already helped four families navigate their new financial normal. Mike delivers personalized guidance to each family, often meeting with them multiple times over a span of several weeks.

Mike has helped families that are still in the midst of their treatment with general financial planning and budgeting for reduced income, as well as families whose cancer journeys have come to a recent end with matters relating to debt management and savings/retirement account transfers. No matter what stage or circumstances, Mike is eager to help.

If you would like more information about how to become a pro bono volunteer with CancerLINC, please contact us at (804) 562-0371 or visit our website at www.cancerlinc.org.

Written by: Lynda Fullem, Advancement Officer for Development

