



Clinical social worker Amy Zachary and Hamptons resident Michele Shenfeld at Fighting Chance, a Sag Harbor nonprofit that aids cancer patients; the group now has an office at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital's 3-year-old Phillips Family Cancer Center.

MEDICAL GROUPS EXPAND TO MEET NEEDS OF REGION'S GROWING POPULATION

Text excerpted from June 12, 2022 article by Maura Mcdermott

The East End has seen a significant increase in care for cancer, heart ailments and other conditions, though mental health care still “could be upgraded a notch,” said Duncan Darrow, founder and chairman of Fighting Chance, a nonprofit that provides free counseling, transportation and other resources to cancer patients. The group also has an office at the Phillips Family Cancer Center.

Among its clients was Michele Shenfeld, 74, a retired hospital administrator who lives in the Town of East Hampton. Shenfeld went to a Manhattan hospital to get treatment when she was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2018, but she received counseling locally at Fighting Chance.

Shenfeld said when she first began visiting the town in the 1980s, there was “a dearth of quality health care out here.”

With Stony Brook making upgrades to Southampton Hospital and other health care sys-

tems taking over and expanding facilities and opening new ones, she said, that is changing.

“I think they realize that so much of their patient population is out on the Island,” she said.

“All the eastern communities are completely inundated now with people who have moved out during the pandemic, and I can't imagine the strain on the health care system that that is creating.”

— Kathy Quinn, a certified patient advocate who lives in Bellport