

Survivor Story: Jonathan Clarke

Richmond, VA Local 995 / Fire Fighter
Diagnosed with leukemia in 2022

In May of 2022, I was diagnosed with leukemia, and it has changed my life forever. You never realize how short your life is, until you go through something like this.

I let my fire department family know about my diagnosis. My assistant chief on my shift knew a woman that could help me out. She in fact knows the Virginia State Director of the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. At the time I did not know her myself. My assistant chief passed her number along to me and I made contact. I filled out the info on the Firefighter Cancer Support Network's website. It seemed like in five minutes I was getting a call from the state director. We introduced ourselves to one another. He sent me a FCSN toolbox.

The toolbox reminds me that there are people who care. It kept all of my paperwork organized. The toolbox contained a wealth of resource material that was very helpful. I was also assigned a mentor that I speak with weekly. My mentor and I talk to each other like we have known each other our whole lives.

The Firefighter Cancer Support Network has taught me that there are great people all over the country. In turn, I signed up and now I am a mentor for them. Even though I have a lot on my plate, I decided to give back or pay forward, however you look at it.

Our Local 995 brothers and sisters have been helping me through this journey as well.

