



ACKERMAN<sup>™</sup>  
Cancer Center

# PRESS RELEASE

June 11, 2018

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## Community Event Brings Together Cancer Survivors in Mandarin

*Ackerman Cancer Centers celebrated all cancer patients and survivors at the Hug a Survivor Festival*

*Jacksonville, FL.* – On Saturday, May 19, Jacksonville’s cancer patients, survivors, and their families came together for a morning of celebration, education, and fun at the Hug a Survivor Festival. Hosted by Ackerman Cancer Center, this annual event provides patients with resources and education to continue living a healthy life that reduces risk of cancer recurrence, and offers a great community of patients and survivors to share stories and heal together.

“My husband was diagnosed with a brain tumor, and this was a great opportunity to meet other families that are going through cancer. Whenever you can hear stories from survivors, it gives you hope - to know that you’re not in this alone and that some days will be harder than others, but you have the support to be able to go day by day, get through it, and survive,” said Paula Zumot, the wife of a brain tumor survivor, when asked about her experience.

Two survivors, Mr. Steven Briggs and Mrs. Caroline Tunkel, spoke to the group about their cancer journeys and how they got to be where they are today – proud survivors who are committed to providing mentorship, encouragement and guidance to patients who have been recently diagnosed. Each also recognized the importance of caregivers through their cancer journey. Mr. Briggs brought his wife, Audrey, up on the stage to say thank you for all she did, and Mrs. Tunkel is quick to praise her husband for his role: “A good caregiver is vital to the recovery of any cancer patient.” Each speech concluded with all attendees coming together in a group hug to show their support for patients, survivors, and families.

Many community partners were in attendance, including the American Cancer Society, the Wellness Working Group, Live for Today, In the Pink and the Mammoglam, Bosom Buddies, the Christina Phipps Foundation, and the American Lung Association.

To learn more about Hug a Survivor or if you would like to participate in next year’s event, contact Alison Jerreld at (904) 880-5522 or visit [www.hugasurvivor.com](http://www.hugasurvivor.com).

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About Ackerman Cancer Center

Ackerman Cancer Center’s mission is to be the first resource where patients turn when diagnosed with any type of cancer. Ackerman Cancer Center provides the most advanced radiation oncology treatment available, in a compassionate and respectful environment. A highly trained staff of radiation oncologists and medical professionals provide convenient access of care at three locations across Northeast Florida. Learn more at [www.ackermancancercenter.com](http://www.ackermancancercenter.com).