



The Bicycle Metaphor

I want you to picture a bicycle. Now, this is a little cheesy, but bear with me....

I want you to picture a bicycle. This bike has two wheels.

The first wheel represents the American Cancer Society. The American Cancer Society funds research. They are out in communities sharing evidence that supports how and when people are tested for cancer. They provide a host of programs and services that help cancer patients and their families. Things like Road to Recovery and our 24/7 Hotline, where patients and their families are able to have their questions answered any time of day. They also hold fundraisers like Relay For Life and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer that not only raise the critical funds that make these other programs possible, but also empowers survivors, caregivers, and their families to come together and fight this disease.

The second wheel represents the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). Now, just as the American Cancer Society works to educate the public about cancer and how we can address it, ACS CAN is replicating that in the halls of government. ACS CAN volunteers and staff work to hold lawmakers accountable for their decisions regarding cancer research funding, so that when an ACS funded researcher needs to further his research, funds are available for the next big breakthrough. ACS CAN meets with lawmakers to try and ensure that when it's time for you to have a mammogram or colonoscopy that it is covered by your insurance company. ACS CAN empowers regular people, cancer survivors, caregivers and anyone passionate about the fight against cancer to have a seat at the table where we can work with our lawmakers to create big change.

Now, in reality, the American Cancer Society and ACS CAN could function as two unicycles, and we'd probably still get things done. But, the work would be harder to accomplish and not move nearly as fast.

Together, when the American Cancer Society and ACS CAN work together, we can make progress faster, be stronger, and ultimately finish this fight.