

## Red Door Community to Celebrate the Power of Community at 2026 Gala

*Annual gala raises critical funds to ensure no one faces cancer alone.*

NEW YORK (Oct. 9, 2026) [Red Door Community](#), a nonprofit dedicated to providing **free** support for anyone impacted by cancer, will host its 2026 Red Door Community Gala on November 3, 2026, at Tribeca Rooftop in New York City.

The annual gala will celebrate the organization's community and the emotional, social, and educational support it provides. The evening will bring together supporters, community members, partners, and leaders to raise critical funds that sustain Red Door Community's free program. Red Door Community relies on the generosity of individuals and companies to maintain its vital work and welcome all people in need.

For more than 30 years, Red Door Community has opened its doors to people living with cancer, caregivers, family members, and those grieving a loss. Through free support groups, educational programs, wellness activities, and opportunities for meaningful connection, Red Door Community provides a place where people can find support and connect with others who understand what they are going through.

"We don't always think about how isolating cancer can be, or how powerful it is to feel understood. I see it every day, and our free program can make all the difference. I invite you to be a part of our community." - Dan Latore, CEO

This year, Red Door Community will honor **Jim Hawley**, Senior Director, Head of Infrastructure Control Operations at BNY, with the **Key to the Red Door Award**. Jim has always enjoyed literature, songwriting, and comedy, all personal interests that helped him process and heal from an unexpected cancer diagnosis in 2024. His recent discovery of Red Door Community and its mission has been meaningful to him on many levels. This award recognizes individuals whose commitment and leadership help open doors to greater support and opportunity for people impacted by cancer.

Red Door Community will also honor **Saranne Rothberg**, Stage IV Survivor, Founder & CEO of The ComedyCures Foundation, and Host of the "Beating Cancer Daily" podcast, with the **Community Spotlight Award**.

Saranne is a globally recognized healthcare thought leader, AI innovator, and comedy expert. Saranne scouted comedians for Dick Clark Productions, working on more than 40 televised programs with him. In 1999, Saranne founded ComedyCures.org from her chemo

chair during her first treatment while throwing a “Chemo Comedy Party” for all at her infusion center. Her "Beating Cancer Daily" podcast is a unique, bite-sized 440+ episode series helping patients, survivors, caregivers, and healthcare professionals in 151 countries, 7 days a week.

The 2026 Gala will be hosted by **Dena Blizzard**, comedian, writer, speaker, and creator of One Funny Mother. Dena will bring her signature humor and energy to an evening centered on an experience that is deeply human: finding strength and connection in the company of others. Dena has helped Saranne entertain audiences of patients, survivors, and caregivers for two decades.

The evening will also feature special guest **Missy Hall**, comedian, writer, speaker, and cancer survivor. Also known as the “Queen of Happy Things”, Missy is a recurring ComedyCures guest on Saranne’s “Beating Cancer Daily” podcast, where she shares her cancer journey for listeners on all 7 continents.

The evening will be highlighted by remarks from **Alphur “Slim” Willock**, a Red Door Community member, and widowed father of six. Diagnosed earlier this year, Al will share his perspective as someone who has experienced the power of community firsthand, and the value of having a place to turn when cancer impacts the entire family.

Together, the speakers represent the many dimensions of Red Door Community’s mission. From advocacy and innovation to humor, family, and the simple but transformative power of being surrounded by people who understand.

As cancer continues to affect individuals and families in every community, the need for emotional and social support remains profound. Red Door Community offers a place beyond the clinical side of cancer, a community where people can ask questions, share experiences, develop coping tools, build relationships, cry openly, and find moments of joy and connection.

“The Institute of Medicine recognizes psychosocial support as an essential component of comprehensive cancer care for patients and their families. Red Door Community’s program helps foster better health outcomes and improves quality-of-life throughout the cancer experience” - Migdalia Torres, Executive Director, Program

Red Door Community invites supporters to join them on November 3 and help ensure that its red door remains open to anyone affected by cancer.

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities for the Red Door Community Gala are available at <https://bit.ly/RDC2026Gala>.

### **About Red Door Community**

Founded in 1995, Red Door Community is the premier nonprofit, 501(c)(3), cancer support organization in New York City. Its mission is to ensure that no one faces cancer alone by providing free, comprehensive support to those living with cancer, their caregivers, the bereft, and their families. Through support groups, workshops, educational programs, and community-building events, Red Door Community has served tens of thousands of New Yorkers over the past 30 years.

[RedDoorCommunity.org](http://RedDoorCommunity.org)

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