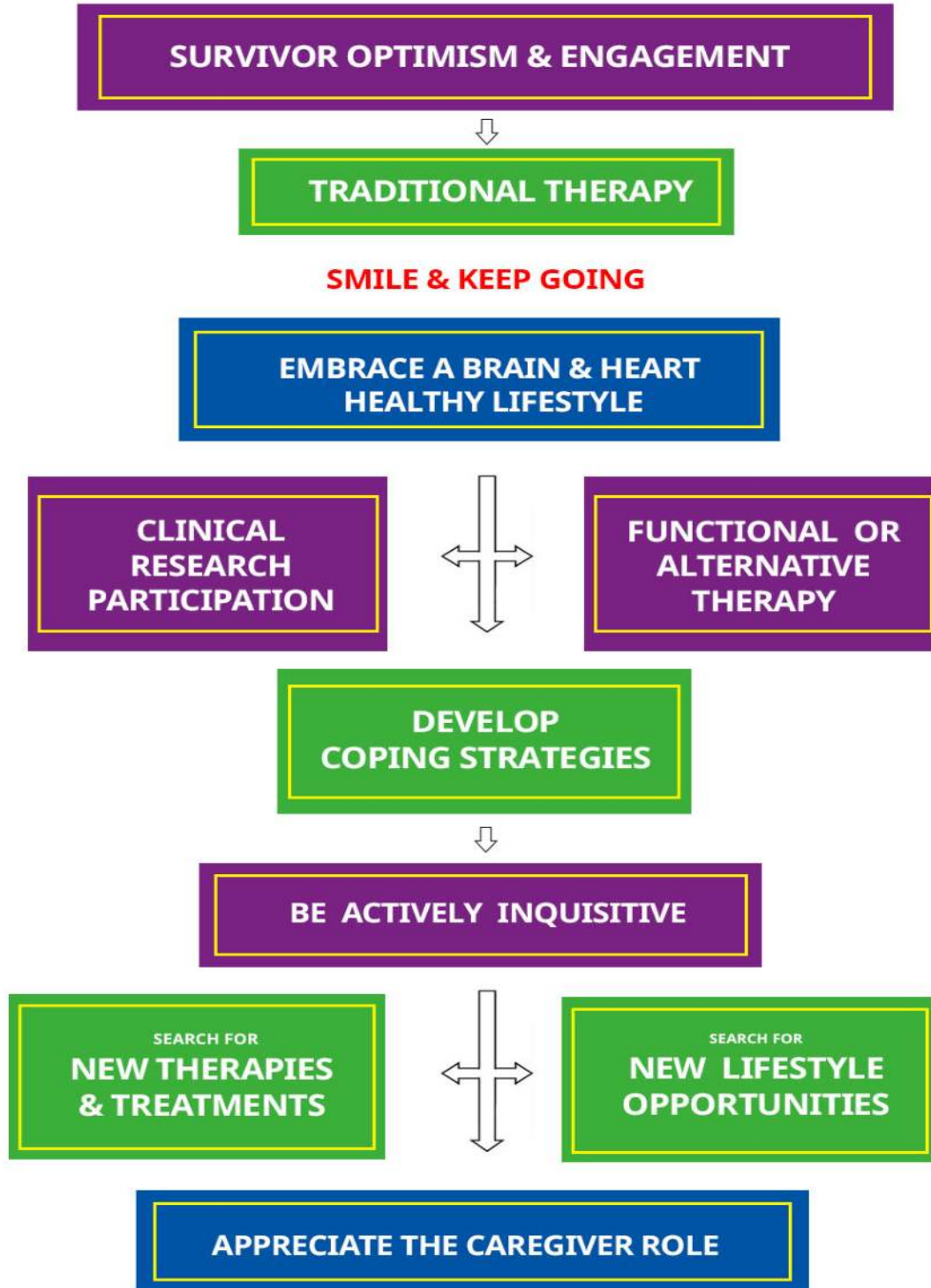




## THE PILLARS OF STROKE VICTOR RECOVERY™





**FIGHT THE GREAT FIGHT!™**

#### **PILLAR 1 – SURVIVOR OPTIMISM AND ENGAGEMENT**

An optimistic and engaged survivor will experience an improved recovery outcome, given the deficits. **Taming depression is a prerequisite for successful rehabilitation.**

#### **PILLAR 2 – TRADITIONAL THERAPY**

Physical, occupational, speech, aqua and psychological therapy make up the BIG 5 traditional therapy approaches. Insist on a neuro trained and experienced PT, and OT as part of your recovery team. When reimbursed traditional therapy terminates **IS NOT** the time to stop your stroke recovery efforts. **KEEP GOING! It is likely that additional recovery functionality can be achieved with the following strategies.**

#### **PILLAR 3 – EMBRACE A BRAIN & HEART HEALTHY LIFESTYLE**

Committing to a Brain & Heart Healthy Lifestyle **increases** your chances of achieving an improved recovery. It also reduces your likelihood of suffering a second stroke. A healthy lifestyle is composed of physical fitness activity, intellectual stimulation, maintaining a healthy diet, focusing alcoholic consumption on red wine, and eliminating smoking.

#### **PILLAR 4 – CLINICAL RESEARCH PARTICIPATION**

This a chance for the motivated and engaged survivor to get the benefit of state-of-the-art medical treatment. Results can be very helpful! Managing expectations, being in the developmental stage, there is no guarantee that clinical research participation will be helpful for an individual. That said – **nothing tried, nothing gained!**

#### **PILLAR 5 – INTEGRATIVE OR ALTERNATIVE THERAPY**

These techniques are known by several names such as alternative, integrative, functional, and holistic medicine and are out of the traditional medicine mainstream. Though traditional medical practitioners sometimes shun them for lack of evidence-based research, many of these techniques have proven to be **surprisingly effective** and worthy of consideration for many survivors.

#### **PILLAR 6 – DEVELOPMENT OF COPING STRATEGIES**

Often in stroke recovery survivors will find that what was in the past is *not in the future*. However, there are many ways to skin a cat - so to speak. Open your mind to creativity, flexibility and **learning** new ways to accomplish the task at hand.

#### **PILLAR 7 – BE ACTIVELY INQUISITIVE**

There is a brave new world out there that is constantly changing and evolving. With these changes, new or improved technologies, and evolutionary thinking come many potential opportunities to improve your recovery **many years** after a stroke.

#### **PILLAR 8 – APPRECIATE THE CAREGIVER ROLE**

The caregiver partner has a place at the table! Successful recovery is greatly **enhanced** by the constructive actions of the caregiver partner. Remember the importance of fulfilling your own needs, while being a successful caregiver. It is important to keep in mind the stroke's impact on the caregiver's life.

#### **PILLAR 9 – LAUGHTER**

*"More giggles and guffaws are just what the doctor ordered"* according to the esteemed Mayo Clinic, *"data is mounting about the **positive** things laughter can do"*. These include such positive things as relieving stress and soothing tension, pain relief, improving immune systems, and perhaps most importantly – increasing survivor and caregiver personal satisfaction and happiness.

**To Contact Us for Assistance: 239-254-8266 or [info@StrokeRF.org](mailto:info@StrokeRF.org)**

**Stroke Recovery Foundation, Inc.**  
501c3 Nonprofit Organization

5621 Strand Blvd · Suite 211E · Naples, FL USA  
1-239-254-8266 · [info@Strokerf.org](mailto:info@Strokerf.org)  
[www.StrokeRecoveryFoundation.org](http://www.StrokeRecoveryFoundation.org)