

2023 COMMUNITY IMPACT

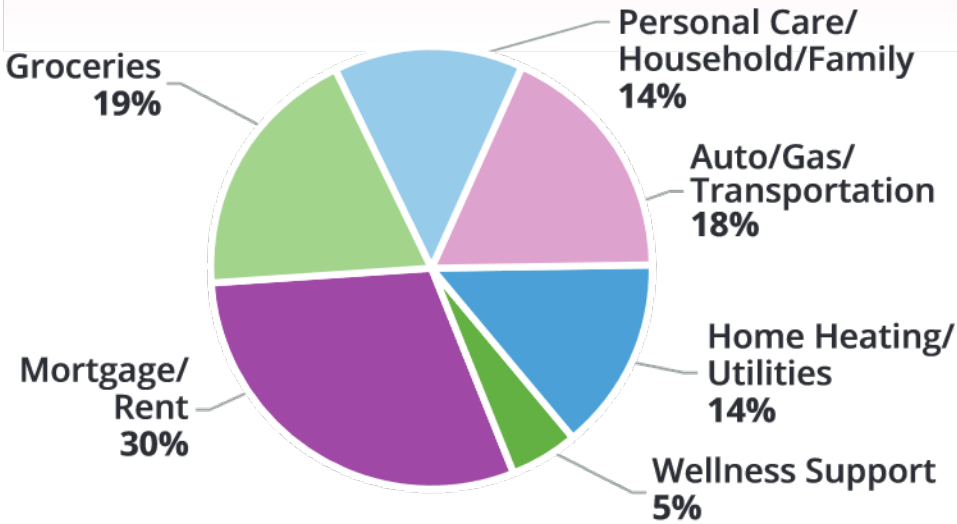


Your support helps us provide financial and emotional support to thousands of breast cancer patients and their families on the seacoast of New Hampshire and in southern Maine.

Financial grants help cover today's basic needs so that patients can focus on getting well.

2023 FINANCIAL SUPPORT GRANTS

In 2023, Your Support Provided:



Last year, we fulfilled 119 individual Financial Support Grants to alleviate the stress of nearly 300 bills and expenses.

IN ADDITION, WE PROVIDED:



382 gift bags with support items to newly diagnosed breast cancer patients

\$13,600+ 

in gift cards for Hope Chests at our partnering cancer centers



In 2024, the **Gas Grant Program** will be reinstated, providing eligible

patients **\$200** in gas cards to get to their treatments





CUMULATIVE IMPACT OVER THE PAST 10+ YEARS

\$1.22
Million in Financial Support

\$200,000
in Gift Cards for Hope Chests

THOUSANDS
of New-patient bags

OUR MOTIVATION

-  **NEW HAMPSHIRE** has the second highest rate of breast cancer in the country*
-  A woman has a **1 in 8 chance** of being diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in her lifetime
-  More than **43,000 women** will die from breast cancer in 2022 (*one every 13 minutes*)
-  Breast cancer is the **second leading cause** of cancer death in women

*ACS 2023



The Story of Ms. B

We would like to share a short story about an interaction one of our cancer centers shared with us about a young woman we will call “Ms. B.”

“I met Ms. B in my office for the first time several months ago. She is in her 40s and had been recently diagnosed with stage II breast cancer. She was recovering from a bilateral mastectomy and sat in front of me alone and in tears, as we discussed her upcoming post-operative chemotherapy. She was feeling nervous about treatment, afraid she would be nauseous, tired, and unable to perform her role as a caregiver to her two children during treatment. In the span of one hour, we talked about the usual things: how we need to see her at least once a week, how she will need to get her labs done a day before treatment, how she’d have to return the day after treatment for an injection, how she needs to remember to take her various medications, how we have supportive care clinicians and social workers to support her, how our pharmacists and nurses would talk her through her treatments, which symptoms to monitor for, and when to call us, that she will need to meet with a radiation oncologist to discuss the possibility of radiation after chemotherapy, how after chemotherapy is done, we will start her on hormonal therapy... she continued to look at me with fear and apprehension. I told her we would walk her through this, that it was normal to be nervous about cancer treatment, and how she can call us anytime. Sensing there was something else on her mind, I asked what else I could do to help ease her mind. She told me in a small voice, and with some embarrassment, “This is getting expensive. I’m afraid I won’t be able to drive myself to these appointments. We survive off my husband’s income, and he cannot afford to take time off from work. And my two kids still live at home with us, and even buying food is hard right now.”

I had just told a young woman that she needs intensive chemotherapy, radiation, and hormonal treatment. One where she will experience fatigue, discomfort, a substantial risk of infection, the potential for nausea, vomiting, and many other side effects. A treatment that will help prevent her cancer from returning and potentially spreading, so she can live to see her children grow up. And her most pressing concern was how she could afford to get back and forth to our office.

Without MyBCS, Ms. B and I are both left without a satisfying solution. I, as her provider, will wonder if there are any financial grants for cancer patients like her available at all, and if there are, how long will it take to get her the help she needs? We need to start treatment tomorrow. Should I reach into my own pocket? Is that ethical? And what about the other 5 patients who will need financial support this week? But without the ability to pay for her gas to and from appointments, will Ms. B stop coming? Will she have to sacrifice her potential survival because of the financial toxicity?

Well, this story has a happy ending. I smiled at Ms.B. I told her that I have something that could help. I reached into the My Breast Cancer Support Hope Chest behind our front desk, and immediately offered her a gas card and a grocery store gift card. I told her my nurse would start a MyBCS grant application to help pay for her expenses while she focuses on getting well. Her tears fell harder, and we hugged. Instead of being devastated, she left our visit hopeful. Instead of being defeated, I left our visit energized. So, I can tell you first-hand that MyBCS... (is) making a true and measurable impact each and every day to our patients and the people who care for them.

MyBCS serves as a place of emotional support and solidarity for women and men thrown into an impossible life situation after a breast cancer diagnosis. Continue to show up for the survivors in the community. Continue to advocate for organizations like MyBCS which contribute to the financial and emotional health of the person who will be diagnosed with breast cancer tomorrow. These are our mothers, our sisters, our cousins, our aunts, our friends; and for many here, they are us. All of us have known someone diagnosed with breast cancer. If you are listening today and are lucky enough to have no one in your life afflicted with breast cancer, I assure you, you do. She taught you in high school. She made you your morning coffee. She works in the office down the hall. She is your doctor. She packaged your items at the grocery store. Please continue to show up for them. Please continue to support their mission so that we can continue to support them during their treatment and beyond it. Please spread the word in your communities about the work MyBCS is doing to improve the lives of those with breast cancer on the seacoast. Your support means the world to those undergoing treatment, surviving breast cancer, serving as caregiver for a person with breast cancer, and providing treatment to those with breast cancer.”

~ Lauren Zanetti, PA-C, NECS