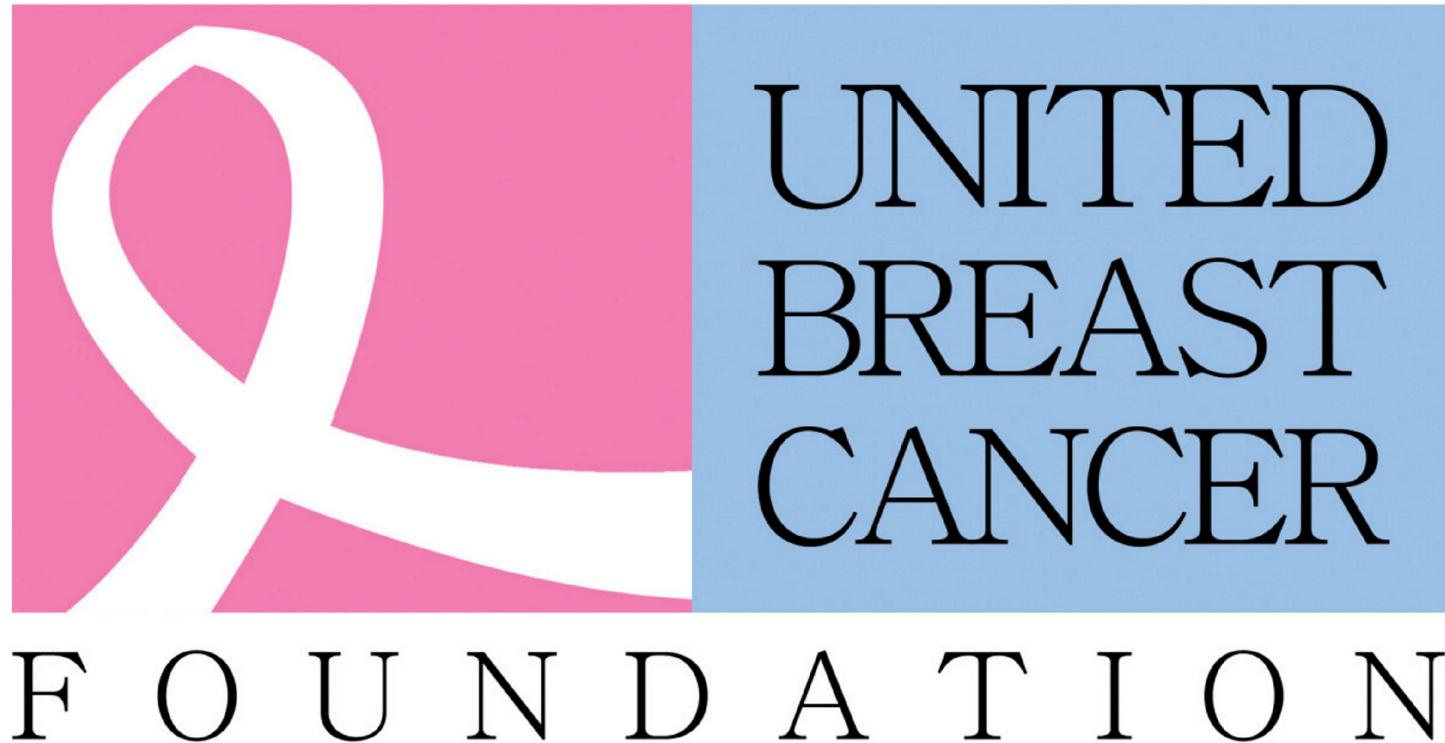
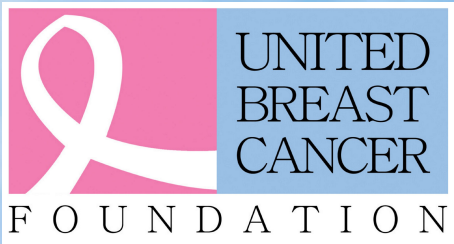


Our Case for Support

Join us in our mission to make a positive difference in the lives of those affected by breast cancer.





Support beyond measure,
for a life beyond cancer.





The UBCF Story

United Breast Cancer Foundation's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of those affected by breast cancer.

Founded in October 2000, the United Breast Cancer Foundation (UBCF) is a platinum-rated 501(c)(3) nonprofit that started as a grassroots organization in New York State, serving low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women and men. In 2005, the foundation expanded its reach to serve the national community. Headquartered in Huntington Station, NY, we assist women, men and their families across the country through 7 life-supporting patient and family programs.

Our President & Executive Director, Ms. Stephanie Mastroianni, has led UBCF since 2001, transforming the charity into the impactful organization that it is today. Her drive is deeply personal, inspired by her experience and the loss of her mother, Audrey Beverly Christy Mastroianni (pictured left), who passed away from breast cancer at the age of 42.

UBCF is committed to honoring Audrey's memory through our dedication to our mission, programs and superior client care.



Breast Cancer Touches Us All

The numbers are staggering. 1 in 8 women are diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.

And while rare, men can develop breast cancer too.

This year, it's estimated that 310,720 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer - cancer that has migrated outside the breast, and another 56,500 will be diagnosed with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) breast cancer.

Together, we can make a difference.

What is Breast Cancer?

Breast cancer is a type of cancer that forms in the cells of the breast. It occurs when abnormal cells in the breast grow and divide uncontrollably, forming a tumor. These tumors can vary in size and can spread to other parts of the body (metastasis) if not detected and treated early.

There are several types of breast cancer, which can develop in different parts of the breast and behave differently. The most common types include ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), invasive ductal carcinoma, invasive lobular carcinoma, inflammatory breast cancer, and triple-negative breast cancer, among others.

Factors that can increase the risk of developing breast cancer include age (risk increases with age), family history of breast cancer, inherited gene mutations (such as BRCA1 and BRCA2), personal history of breast cancer or certain non-cancerous breast diseases, radiation exposure, hormone replacement therapy, obesity, and alcohol consumption.

Treatment for breast cancer depends on the type, stage, and characteristics of the cancer, as well as the person's overall health and preferences. Treatment may include surgery (such as lumpectomy or mastectomy), radiation therapy, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy, or a combination of these approaches.

Some people may choose to explore alternative treatments such as acupuncture and acupressure that stimulate specific points on the body, nutritional therapies (specific diet, juicing, etc.), mind-body therapies such as yoga and guided imagery, energy therapies like Reiki and Qigong, or hyperbaric oxygen therapy. Integrative oncology, which combines conventional treatments with evidence-based complementary therapies, may offer a balanced approach to supportive care during cancer treatment.



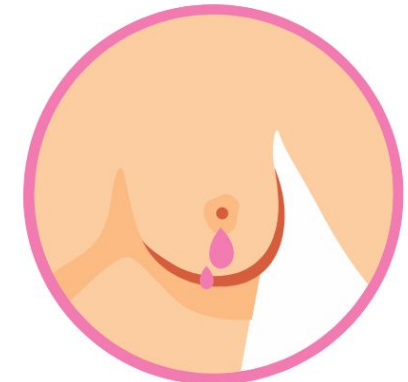
Signs & Symptoms

Everyone has breast tissue, regardless of gender, and it's important for all individuals to be aware of their breast health. Knowing how your breasts normally look and feel is crucial because it allows you to detect any changes that might indicate a potential issue, such as:

1. **New Lump or Mass:** The most common symptom of breast cancer is a new lump or mass. It's important to note that most breast lumps are not cancerous, but any new lump should be evaluated by a healthcare professional.
2. **Changes in Breast Size or Shape:** Noticeable changes in the size or shape of one or both breasts should be investigated.
3. **Skin Changes:** These can include dimpling or puckering of the skin, resembling an orange peel, which might indicate an underlying issue.
4. **Breast or Nipple Pain:** Persistent pain in the breast or nipple area that doesn't go away should be evaluated.
5. **Nipple Changes:** Such as retraction (turning inward) of the nipple or changes in the skin texture around the nipple.
6. **Skin Abnormalities:** Redness, warmth, swelling, or thickening of the skin on the breast or nipple.
7. **Nipple Discharge:** Particularly if it's spontaneous and not associated with breastfeeding.
8. **Swollen Lymph Nodes:** Especially under the arm or near the collarbone, which can sometimes indicate spread of breast cancer.

While these symptoms can also be caused by benign (non-cancerous) conditions, it's essential to promptly seek medical advice if you notice any of these changes. Early detection of breast cancer greatly increases the chances of successful treatment.

Knowing what to look for is important, however, it should complement, not replace, regular breast cancer screening recommended by healthcare professionals based on age, risk factors, and guidelines. Screening tests like mammograms remain crucial for detecting breast cancer in its early stages when treatment is most effective.



Early Detection

We've all heard "Early Detection Saves Lives", and that's because it's true.

Screening is important - sometimes breast cancer is found after a person becomes symptomatic, but many women have no symptoms. The American Cancer Society recommends for women at average risk of breast cancer:

- Women between 40 and 44 have the option to start screening with a mammogram every year.
- Women 45 to 54 should get mammograms every year.
- Women 55 and older can switch to a mammogram every other year, or they can choose to continue yearly mammograms.

When detected early and localized (invasive cancer has not spread outside the breast), there is a 99% 5-year survival rate in the U.S..

Breast Cancer Screening Methods:

1. **Breast Self-Exam (BSE):** This involves checking one's own breasts regularly to become familiar with their normal appearance and feel. While BSE is not recommended as a standalone screening method, it can still be a valuable tool for individuals to become aware of any changes and promptly report them to their healthcare provider.
2. **Clinical Breast Exam (CBE):** A clinical breast exam is performed by a healthcare provider who examines the breasts and underarms for lumps or other changes. This can be done as part of a regular physical exam.
3. **Mammography:** This is the most common screening tool for breast cancer. Mammograms use low-dose X-rays to create detailed images of the breast tissue. They can detect tumors or abnormalities that may be too small or too deep to feel during a clinical breast exam.
4. **Breast Ultrasound:** Ultrasound uses sound waves to produce images of the breast tissue. It is often used to further evaluate abnormalities found on a mammogram or during a clinical breast exam. Ultrasound can help distinguish between fluid-filled cysts (which are usually benign) and solid masses (which may require further evaluation).
5. **Breast MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging):** MRI uses powerful magnets and radio waves to create detailed images of the breast tissue. It is often recommended for women at high risk of breast cancer or to further evaluate abnormalities found on mammography or ultrasound.
6. **Thermography (Digital Infrared Imaging):** Thermography has been approved by the FDA as an adjunctive tool to use alongside a primary screening test like mammography. Thermography measures the infrared heat emitted from the body and creates images that show patterns of heat and blood flow in the breast tissue. Advocates suggest it can detect abnormal heat patterns associated with breast cancer, potentially providing an early warning.

It's important to discuss with your healthcare provider which screening methods are appropriate for you based on your age, risk factors, and individual health history. In many cases, a combination of mammography, clinical breast exams, and possibly additional imaging (such as ultrasound or MRI) may be recommended to ensure comprehensive breast health monitoring. Early detection through regular screening remains the cornerstone of reducing breast cancer mortality.



Racial Disparities

The disparities in breast cancer incidence and death rates among different racial and ethnic groups are indeed stark and reflect complex factors:

Higher Mortality Among Black Women: Black women in the United States face a higher risk of dying from breast cancer compared to women of other racial and ethnic backgrounds. This disparity is partly attributed to several factors, including:

- **Triple-Negative Breast Cancer:** About 1 in 5 Black women are diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer, a subtype that tends to be more aggressive and less responsive to traditional hormone therapies. This contributes significantly to poorer outcomes and higher mortality rates among Black women.
- **Socioeconomic Factors:** Issues such as limited access to healthcare, lower rates of screening and early detection, higher rates of poverty, and disparities in treatment access and quality all play roles in the higher mortality rates observed.

Impact on Black and Hispanic Women: Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death for Black and Hispanic women in the United States. This highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions aimed at improving access to healthcare services, promoting early detection through screening programs, and ensuring equitable treatment options.

Other Ethnic and Racial Groups: Breast cancer ranks as the second-leading cause of cancer-related death for Asian and Pacific Islander women, American Indian and Alaska Native women, and white women, following lung cancer. Although the incidence rates may vary among these groups, disparities in access to healthcare, cultural factors, and genetic predispositions can influence outcomes.

Higher Risk Among Ashkenazi Jewish Women: One in 40 Jewish people of Ashkenazi descent carries a mutation in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene, compared to 1 in 400 in the general population. Ashkenazi Jewish women have a higher prevalence of BRCA gene mutations, which significantly increases their lifetime risk of developing breast cancer. This underscores the importance of genetic counseling and testing for this population to identify those at higher risk and implement preventive measures such as increased surveillance or risk-reducing surgeries.



Young Women & Breast Cancer

There's a myth that only older women develop breast cancer, and yet it's simply not true. In 2022, it was estimated that more than 56,000 cases of breast cancer (DCIS and invasive) were diagnosed in women 49 or younger.

The CDC estimates about 10% of all new cases of breast cancer in the U.S. are diagnosed in women younger than 45 years of age. And shockingly, women under 40 are nearly 40% more likely to die from their breast cancer than women over 40. Currently, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women ages 15 to 39 and is the leading cause of cancer death in women aged 20 to 49 in the U.S.

Breast cancers in younger women may be more aggressive and have different characteristics compared to those in older women. They may be more likely to be hormone receptor-negative (not fueled by estrogen or progesterone) or HER2-positive (overexpressing a protein called HER2).

Breast cancer in younger people presents unique challenges that can substantially impact quality of life and long-term outcomes.



Early Menopause and Sexual Dysfunction: Treatment can induce early menopause and lead to sexual dysfunction, affecting intimacy and reproductive health.

Fertility Concerns: Breast cancer treatments can impair fertility, posing challenges for women who want to have children in the future.

Parenting Responsibilities: Many young women with breast cancer are also caring for children, which adds emotional and logistical complexities during treatment and recovery.

Pregnancy After Diagnosis: There are concerns and uncertainties about the safety and feasibility of pregnancy after breast cancer treatment, which are important considerations for many young women.

Body Image: Breast cancer-related surgeries and treatments can impact body image, leading to psychological distress and adjustment difficulties.

Intimacy and Relationships: Whether single or in a relationship, breast cancer can affect intimacy and relationships, requiring open communication and support.

Psychosocial Issues: Young breast cancer survivors often experience higher rates of anxiety and depression, which may be compounded by the challenges of diagnosis and treatment at a younger age.

Financial Strain: Young adults may face financial instability due to challenges in the workplace, inadequate health insurance coverage, and the high costs associated with cancer care and fertility preservation.



Heredity

Approximately 5 to 10 percent of breast cancers in the U.S. are hereditary, and about 1 in every 500 women in the U.S. has a mutation in either her BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene.

BRCA1 and BRCA2 Genes: Mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes significantly increase the risk of breast cancer (and ovarian cancer). These genes are involved in repairing damaged DNA and maintaining the stability of the cell's genetic material.

Inheritance: Women with a BRCA1 mutation have a 60-70% chance of developing breast cancer by age 70, while those with a BRCA2 mutation have a 45% chance. These risks are higher than the average population risk of about 12%.

Men and BRCA Mutations: Men with BRCA mutations also have an increased risk of breast cancer, though the risk is much lower compared to women. Additionally, BRCA mutations increase the risk of other cancers, such as prostate cancer in men.

Other inherited gene mutations: Some other inherited gene mutations that can increase breast cancer risk include PALB2, CHEK2, ATM, CDH1, PTEN, and TP53.

Genetic Counseling and Testing: People with a strong family history of breast cancer may benefit from genetic counseling and testing. This helps assess their personal risk based on family history and, if indicated, identify specific genetic mutations that may influence their risk management and treatment decisions.

Preventive Measures: Some people at high genetic risk may choose preventive measures, such as prophylactic mastectomy (removal of breast tissue) to reduce their risk of developing breast cancer.

Male Breast Cancer

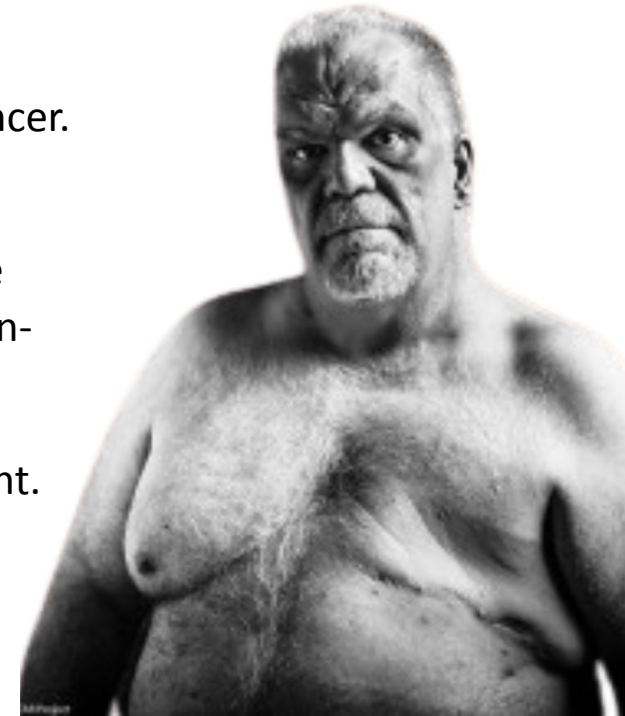
Although breast cancer is more prevalent in women, men have a small amount of breast tissue and can develop breast cancer too. About 2,790 new cases of invasive breast cancer, or 1 % of all breast cancers, are expected to be diagnosed in men this year. On average, men have a lifetime risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer of about one in 1,000.

Risk factors include: BRCA mutations, family history, radiation exposure to the chest, certain conditions such as Klinefelter syndrome (a genetic condition where males have an extra X chromosome) and liver disease (which can alter hormone levels) may increase risk, and conditions that lead to increased estrogen levels, such as obesity, certain medications, and hormonal treatments, may slightly increase risk.

The symptoms and diagnosis of male breast cancer are similar to those in women with breast cancer.

When detected early and localized (the cancer has not spread), the 5-year survival rate for breast cancer in men is 95%, compared to 99% for women. As breast cancer spreads (metastasizes), the survival rate gap between men and women widens. The five-year survival rate for men with advanced breast cancer is 20%, whereas for women, it is 30%.

Awareness about male breast cancer is crucial to encourage early detection and prompt treatment. Men who notice any changes in their breast tissue should promptly consult with a healthcare professional.



UBCF Answers the Call

United Breast Cancer Foundation's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of those affected by breast cancer.

While our mission seems simple and straightforward, it requires substantial effort to achieve, and we cannot do it alone. For nearly 2.5 decades, UBCF has worked diligently to Answer the Call for HELP and HOPE. Thousands of people turn to UBCF every year seeking support, longing for their prayers to be answered, and hope to be restored. And year after year, thanks to the very generous support of our donors, sponsors, and collaborators, UBCF continues to say, ***“YES! We’re here for you.”***

How do we do what we do?

No one should have to face breast cancer alone. Financial barriers, inequality in access to care, and inadequate support are all significant challenges for those affected by breast cancer.

UBCF works to fill in the gaps of cancer care through education, financial help with early detection services, treatment, recovery, holistic therapies, cost of living, support for kids, and high quality donated products to help patients, survivors, and families in their time of need. These solutions provide hope and help when people need it most.

We offer support to women and men during every stage of their journey: from education and early detection screenings, diagnosis, and managing treatment, to “no evidence of disease”, or managing a recurrence.

UBCF supports our clients with financial grants and helpful gifted products like clothing, shoes, household items, and even mattresses.



UBCF is Easing Stress & Improving Quality of Life

Boost feelings of happiness, love, and connection

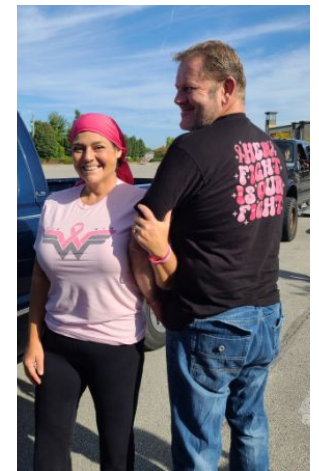
Research indicates that receiving unexpected gifts can have a significant uplifting impact, triggering the release of feel-good hormones like dopamine, oxytocin, and serotonin. These hormones can foster feelings of happiness, gratitude, and self-worth which can be especially beneficial for individuals facing challenges such as breast cancer. Here are some notable findings:

- “Financial Toxicity of Breast Cancer Care: The Patient Perspective Through Surveys and Interviews”, a study published in the *Journal of Surgical Research* in 2022, concluded that many breast cancer patients face considerable financial hardship due to limited access to essential resources. The study emphasizes the importance of financial transparency and the need for supportive financial counseling at the time of diagnosis, throughout treatment, and beyond. UBCF’s generous financial support programs provide considerable assistance to patients, survivors, and families in need.
- “Self-reported financial burden of cancer care and its effect on physical and mental health-related quality of life among US cancer survivors”, a 2016 article published in *Cancer*, emphasizes that cancer-related financial burden was linked to reduced quality of life, a higher risk of depressed mood, and increased concerns about recurrence among cancer survivors. UBCF’s programs aim to help ease financial burdens, thereby increasing quality of life, improving well-being and reducing stress.
- A 2023 article, “Stress Management Interventions to Facilitate Psychological and Physiological Adaptation and Optimal Health Outcomes in Cancer Patients and Survivors” published in the *Annual Review of Psychology*, shows how stress reduction can improve outcomes for cancer patients. Stress-activated hormones like cortisol and norepinephrine have been shown to weaken the body’s immune response to cancer, heighten inflammatory signaling, and potentially accelerate metastasis.
- In a 2021 article by Janis Whitlock, Ph.D., M.P.H., receiving gifts, whether material or experiential, can significantly enhance mental well-being. By consciously acknowledging and being open to the gifts, including connections and shared experiences, individuals can foster positive feelings and increased enthusiasm. Embracing the experience of receiving can help mitigate stress and enhance overall emotional connection. UBCF gifts both financial support and helpful donated products like clothing, shoes, personal care products and mattresses. These gifts are not simply kind gestures, they truly make a difference for people managing or recovering from breast cancer.

What makes UBCF Unique?

There are many organizations doing good work, and UBCF stands out from the pack.

- ★ UBCF offers 7 program services, available to all regardless of age, race, gender, ethnicity, income, or medical insurance coverage.
- ★ UBCF offers superior client care - applicants are guided through each step of the way and receive follow-up support as needed. Our clients are people - not numbers.
- ★ People are welcomed and encouraged to apply for assistance through more than one program at a time.
- ★ We know cancer impacts the entire family - UBCF's program services support family members as well as patients.
- ★ UBCF's grants are generous - the average Individual Grant award is \$1,700.00!
- ★ UBCF offers financial assistance as well as generous, helpful and quality donated products like clothing, shoes, personal care products, makeup, items for kids, and even restorative mattresses. Our gifts lift spirits and shine a beacon of hope for so many, especially when funds are limited and purchasing new clothes, shoes, personal care items, or a mattress is out of the question.
- ★ UBCF has worked hard to reduce overhead to ensure that a greater percentage of donated funds reach those in need. *As of UBCF's most recently reported fiscal year, 86.15% of UBCF's expenses are program service related.*



Highly Rated, Trusted, & Transparent

UBCF is a trusted and transparent charity. A Platinum Seal of Transparency by Candid (previously GuideStar) represents the highest level of transparency, showing the impact UBCF is making over time. UBCF holds the highest 4 star rating with Charity Navigator, earning 97% across 4 assessment areas, so donors can “Give with Confidence!”. UBCF is proud to be a participating charity in the Combined Federal Campaign for charitable giving, #77934.



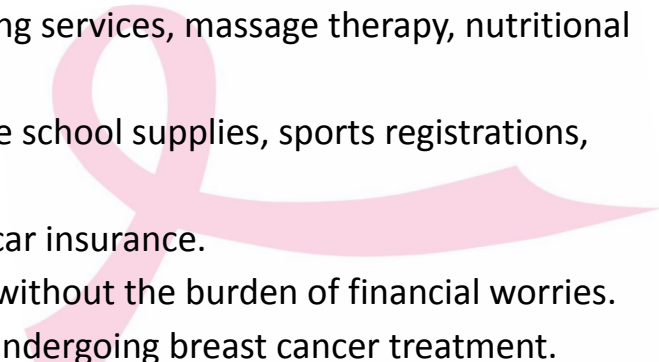
What We Need to Fulfill Our Mission

We Need Your Help.

Our mission drives us to tackle major challenges. We have the power to make a significant impact - but we need to act now - and your support is vital to making this impact a reality.

When you give to United Breast Cancer Foundation, your generosity reaches women, men, and families in your community and beyond. Your gift to UBCF will bring relief and hope to patients, survivors and those in need - touching the lives of so many across all ethnicities, socio-economic groups, and ages.

Here are some examples of how your donations can make an impact, and please know, your gift goes where the need is greatest.

- ★ \$25,000+ Title sponsorship: A partnership for sponsors who act as the major patron of a UBCF event, providing crucial support and gaining valuable exposure for the Sponsor. This helps UBCF reduce costs ensuring more program funds are directed to those in need.
 - ★ \$10,000 helps cover the cost of fertility preservation for young women facing breast cancer.
 - ★ \$5,000 gives a breast cancer survivor the opportunity to receive reconstructive surgery after a mastectomy.
 - ★ \$2,500 provides 2 UBCF clients with financial assistance to cover medical bills, prescription medications, health insurance premiums, and/or rent or mortgage.
 - ★ \$1,000 assists a breast cancer patient or survivor with alternative and holistic care services such as: counseling services, massage therapy, nutritional supplements, nipple tattoos, wigs and more.
 - ★ \$750 provides assistance to a family impacted by breast cancer, helping with expenses related to children like school supplies, sports registrations, healthy food, and medical services.
 - ★ \$500 provides a breast cancer patient or survivor with financial assistance to cover the costs of utilities and car insurance.
 - ★ \$200 can provide 1 screening service, such as a mammogram or thermography, giving access to crucial care without the burden of financial worries.
 - ★ \$100 provides a Care Package filled with items that provide comfort and encouragement to a patient while undergoing breast cancer treatment.
- 
- A large, stylized pink ribbon graphic is positioned in the bottom right corner of the page, partially overlapping the text of the list. The ribbon is a solid pink color and is tied in a loop, with the ends trailing off to the right.

How You Can help!

You can take action right now to help UBCF achieve our mission, and **together**, we can make a positive difference in the lives of those affected by breast cancer. There are many ways to support UBCF, and some of those options are listed below. If you have a question or need assistance with your donation, please contact GiftProcessing@ubcf.org.

Donate Now, Donate Monthly: Visit [UBCF.org](https://www.ubcf.org) to make a gift online and consider making a monthly gift. A small monthly contribution is a simple and affordable way for individuals to amplify their support and make a sustaining impact. Or you can mail your donation to UBCF, P.O. Box 2421, Huntington, NY 11743.

UBCF's Holiday of Hope Premiere Gala: Join us for an unforgettable evening commemorating the inauguration of the first annual Lauren Brohm Legacy Award on November 9th, 2024 at the UBCF Holiday Of Hope Premiere Gala. Ways to support UBCF: Purchase tickets for the gala. Donate to the Silent or Live Auction - you can contribute items or experiences to our auctions to help us raise vital funds. Corporations and groups can sponsor the event, providing crucial support and gaining valuable exposure. Sponsorship packages offer various benefits and recognition. Email CommunityService@ubcf.org for more information.

Start your own fundraiser with UBCF's Peer-to-Peer campaign: Join Team UBCF and get involved! Use your creativity and passion to take an active role by fundraising, donating, or spreading awareness for our cause. Whether you're hosting a bake sale, donating for your birthday, completing a fitness challenge, or hosting a trivia night, there are countless ways to raise funds while enjoying the activities you love. <https://www.ubcf.org/start-fundraising-campaign/>

Donate your vehicle: Donating your unwanted vehicle, RV, motorcycle, big rig, or trailer to UBCF. The process is fast, easy, and free! Visit our secure website <https://www.ubcf.org/vehicle-donation-program/> or give us a call at 1-844-462-4483 to get started, and we'll schedule a pick-up date that is convenient for you.



More Ways to Give

Household donations: Clearing out the clutter? Donate it to UBCF! We accept donations such as clothing, accessories, shoes, bedding, towels, linens, rugs, household goods, electronics, pictures and paintings, antiques, collectables, jewelry, toys, bikes, CDs, DVDs and books! UBCF currently accepts donations in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Visit <https://breastcancerpickups.org/> or call 1-888-233-0856

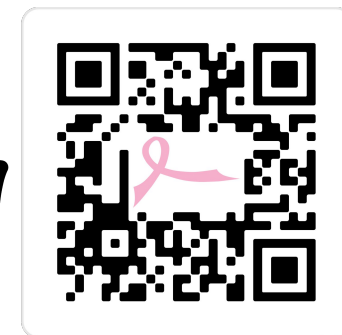
Real Estate Donations: Our program takes any property type (land, homes, commercial) in any location so long as there is equity. Even if you owe back taxes, have a mortgage balance, or deferred maintenance, it's no problem. If you have a real estate asset that is costing you money or not being utilized, donating it is a great way to give back and you may even claim a significant tax deduction! Learn more: <https://ubcf.givingproperty.org/home>

Donor Advised Funds (DAF): You can help UBCF transform and make a positive difference in the lives of those affected by breast cancer by making a grant to UBCF from your DAF (Donor Advised Fund) account. Log into your Giving Account today by using the convenient DAF Direct form on our website to make your grant recommendation to United Breast Cancer Foundation. <https://www.ubcf.org/get-involved/#donor-advised-funds>

Workplace Giving/ Combined Federal Campaign #77934: If your company or government employer has a workplace giving program, please choose UBCF as your charity of choice. Our Combined Federal Campaign number is 77934. Many employers allow contributions either directly or through payroll deductions. Contact your HR or corporate responsibility office to see if this giving opportunity is available at your workplace

Bequests: Consider creating a lasting legacy by including UBCF in your Will or Living Trust. Your gift will impact breast cancer patients, survivors, and their families for years to come. This generous act will help provide ongoing support for those affected by breast cancer, making a meaningful difference in their lives. This gift comes costs nothing today, and you have the flexibility to adjust your plans if your circumstances change. Reach out to Clarence@ubcf.org to learn more.

Volunteer: UBCF hosts various events throughout the year, including our Mattress & Pink Bag Events. Join us and help make our events even more special for those we service! Send a message to info@ubcf.org



SCAN ME

Collaborations

Brookfield Properties:

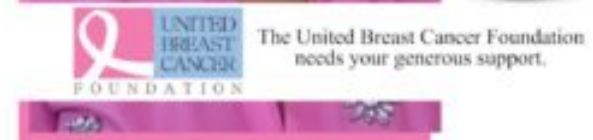
For three years running, UBCF and Brookfield Properties have joined forces to support breast cancer patients and survivors through Pink Bag Events held nationwide each October - Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Attendees are gifted beautifully curated Pink Bags, filled with items designed to bring joy and hope. Over the course of this partnership, we anticipate assisting approximately 10,500 patients and survivors.

Vivica A. Fox:

UBCF worked with Ms. Vivica A. Fox to produce a moving and impactful public service announcement (PSA) featuring the actress. The PSA opens with powerful testimonials from real UBCF clients, each sharing their raw and emotional struggles with breast cancer. Jessica, a recipient of UBCF's Holistic Care Grant, reflects on the shock and disbelief that many young women experience upon receiving such a diagnosis. Shawn, a beneficiary of both Individual and Holistic Care Grants, candidly shares her frustration at the interruption of her life plans.

Vivica A. Fox appeals to viewers, "The United Breast Cancer Foundation needs your generous support," she urges. "Their tireless work to aid breast cancer patients, survivors, and their families lifts the lives of thousands each year." Donations to UBCF can provide grants, gifts, and services that make impactful differences.

Beyond the PSA, Vivica emphasizes her unwavering belief in the strength of women facing this challenge. "I believe that women are capable of ANYTHING, and that includes surviving breast cancer. It's a fight, but it's a fight we can win together,"



UBCF Program Services

UBCF offers a variety of program services designed to help individuals and families touched by breast cancer, as well as those in need of screening services. We aim to assist people by providing education, financial resources, high-quality donated products, and compassionate support as they navigate along their journey to cultivate a less stressful experience.

UBCF Patient & Family Programs:

1. Audrey B. Mastroianni College Scholarship
2. Breast Reconstructive Surgery
3. Breast Screening
4. Child Sponsorship
5. Community Service: includes Network of Giving (gifts-in-kind), Organizational Grants, and Educational campaigns
6. Holistic Care Grant
7. Individual Grant



Audrey B. Mastroianni College Scholarship

UBCF has created a scholarship for college-bound students who have lost a parent to breast cancer. The scholarship is designed to help turn higher education dreams into reality. The scholarship was established in honor of Audrey B. Mastroianni, a firm believer in education and continued personal enrichment.

Breast Reconstructive Surgery

United Breast Cancer Foundation understands that a woman faces many physical challenges and emotional decisions after a mastectomy. It is important for women recovering from breast cancer to have every opportunity to regain their confidence. For many women who've undergone a mastectomy, their natural inclination is to have reconstructive surgery in an effort to regain a sense of well-being, to move forward with their lives. UBCF is there to help make that possible.

Breast Screening Program

The Breast Screening Program offers financial support for free or low-cost breast screenings to women and men nationwide. UBCF contributes to the cost of various screening technologies such as mammography, ultrasound and thermography through a reimbursement program. The Breast Screening Program is open to all and is not based on a prior breast cancer diagnosis.

Child Sponsorship Program

United Breast Cancer Foundation understands that cancer does not simply affect the breast cancer patient. The entire family is impacted by a breast cancer diagnosis. UBCF developed the Child Sponsorship Program to support children directly impacted by breast cancer. UBCF helps support the needs of children 18 and under through this program.

Holistic Care Program

United Breast Cancer Foundation believes it is important that a patient be treated as a whole person, therefore, we approach cancer prevention, treatment, and recovery from a whole-body perspective. Many breast cancer patients choose to pair holistic and complementary techniques with cutting edge western medicine. We support each client in their treatment plan by assisting with the cost of holistic modalities that are generally not covered by insurance and can be quite costly.

Individual Grant Program

The Individual Grant offers customized support geared towards an individual's personal needs and circumstances. Through this program, UBCF is able to assist with a wide range of expenses. Like our clients, no two grants are ever alike. We understand that breast cancer has a far-reaching effect on every member of the family. Therefore, UBCF considers not only the breast cancer patient's needs, but the needs of the entire family when crafting an Individual Grant.

Community Service Program

~ Network of Giving (Gift-in-Kind)

~ Organizational Grants

~ Educational Campaigns

United Breast Cancer Foundation works to not only assist patients, survivors, and families, but to support the community by increasing awareness of breast cancer, health and wellness. UBCF achieves this through educational campaigns, distributing gift-in-kind donations and partnering with other charitable organizations to further extend UBCF's mission and reach.

UBCF believes that communities are stronger, healthier, and better *together!*

Stories & Love Notes

The following pages include poignant testimonials and stories of actual UBCF clients - all assisted thanks to the support of generous donors like you.

When you support UBCF, you're helping real people, and making a genuine difference.

Please consider making your most generous gift today.



thank you

Korinne's Story

Parenting with cancer can be difficult. Being a single parent can be difficult. Being a single parent with Stage IV breast cancer can be nearly impossible! Korinne is a single mother of three who shared that she is no stranger to financial struggle. Now, with her youngest a senior in high school, she has had to take medical leave from work due to her Stage IV diagnosis.

In her Child Sponsorship Grant application, Korinne described her wish for her daughter:

"[The] most important part of my request is that my daughter has a memorable and carefree last year of school. I want her to enjoy herself and not worry about my health issues. [She has] always taken a backseat, never intentional. I was hoping to devote this year to her."

While Korinne waits for her benefits to begin, she has had no income. Korinne explained that her daughter has, "been very patient and has not asked for anything. But I know that she is sad, watching everybody else be excited for graduation, and all the things that senior year brings. I just want her to be able to enjoy this time and not carry the burden of my diagnosis."

How hard it must be to be facing such a tremendous health burden, and worry about what that takes away from your child(ren).

"Receiving this grant would mean so much to not only me but more importantly, my daughter. She would be able to enjoy her senior year carefree. I want her to remember this moment, not just when her mom was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer, but to embrace her achievement in completing high school and moving onto the next chapter of her life. I feel she deserves this opportunity."

Cancer is a family diagnosis and UBCF's Child Sponsorship Grant aims to ease that burden. UBCF supported Korinne and her daughter with a grant for Senior photos, cap and gown, tassel, diploma, graduation announcements, a prom dress, and more!

Korinne shared a note of gratitude and a photo with her daughter:

"Personally, I don't know where I would be without the support from United Breast Cancer Foundation. Not only did they help financially, but spiritually as well. Helping out with my child's expenses during her senior year of high school has been life changing! Thank you!"



Rosemarie's Story



Team UBCF traveled from various locations in the United States and converged in Warwick, Rhode Island to offer Gifts of Comfort and Hope to breast cancer patients, survivors and thrivers in the New England region on April 27, 2024. Weeks of labor intensive planning and set up came to successful fruition as our clients began to arrive for a day of pampering and joy.

Clients came out with family, friends, caregivers and loved ones to enjoy the day. Loved ones who were witness to disease, treatment and suffering finally got to witness pleasure and celebration for a change.

Rosemarie attended with her daughter Marie, and grandchildren who are now grown. They had all been cheerleaders as grandma went through treatment. Marie shared these words of gratitude for what the day meant for the whole family:

"Thank you so much for the event today you made my moms day so extremely special and she so deserved this day I can not thank you enough on how you made her feel today it is the caring and compassionate selfless people in your organization that truly brightened up my moms day and her spirit i can't remember the last time i seen her so happy and celebrating a day all about her was amazing. Thank you again for all that you do."

They also shared this photo of the kids from years ago. These two, now in their teens and twenties, accompanied grandma at the event on the 27th.

Breast cancer is definitely a family diagnosis. We know that no one fights alone. What an incredible day for families and friends to also be able to celebrate their warriors together! I think it is fair to say that our clients left with full hearts AND full shopping bags!



Palyce's Story

Palyce is a 61 year old single woman, widowed since 2011. She lives alone in Texas and was referred to UBCF by a social worker at her cancer treatment center. Her first breast cancer diagnosis was in 2019 and since that time she has had to pay her \$5,400.00 medical deductible FIVE YEARS running.

In her application for the Breast Reconstruction Grant, Palyce explains that in all of these years, she has "exhausted her emergency fund." Palyce explains that since her husband passed away, she has noticed "a real difference when you have two incomes and now only down to one for years. I get paid only once a month so I have to make sure all of the major bills are paid."

The financial burden of a cancer diagnosis is tremendous, but imagine what it means when you are diagnosed with a recurrence after one and a half years of remission. Palyce explained that with the second diagnosis, she had a "fear of my life being taken" It was then that she agreed to the recommended double mastectomy and chose to undergo DIEP flap reconstructive surgery. At that time she acknowledged that she, "had always been a hard worker and never had to ask for anything but with this situation I'm put in this position."

Palyce reached out to UBCF for help and shared, "I stand for this cause and know first hand how it can be devastating but I kept the faith! ***I am putting my faith in you to help me win this race.***"

UBCF paid a large medical bill for Palyce, showing our support for her warrior spirit. As a "soldier" fighting breast cancer, she says "it is hard mentally, physically, spiritually and financially."

Palyce lives her experience by " being an advocate to help others who have to walk a mile in my shoes, encourage other women to get the necessary mammograms... to let young women know how important it is to take care of your health. Without your health you have nothing....I stand for this cause and know first hand how it can be devastating but I kept the faith!"

We stand with Palyce, and with all of our other clients so they know they are not alone.



Breast Cancer Knows No Boundaries



UBCF receives requests for financial support from applicants in their twenties to applicants in their nineties...

One 23 year old applicant was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and on top of treatment decisions, she has also had to make decisions about fertility preservation before undergoing chemotherapy. A 95 year old applicant is a 15 year breast cancer survivor seeking financial support to stay current on her annual screenings.

Breast Cancer knows no boundaries and we are reminded of that everyday at UBCF. *Our clients come to us from around the country, across racial and ethnic backgrounds, gender identities, age and socioeconomic groups.*

The thing we hear from nearly every applicant goes something like this....

"Everything that made me who I was felt like it had been blown out like a flame. I was unable to work consistent hours, if any, due to how sick I became. My near and far future goals seemed to freeze up, unsure of when they would ever be able to be moved towards again. The emotional and physical effects of this diagnosis took a toll on me that I could have never imagined or prepared for. Through all of this, I have been unable to adequately pay my bills. To say my income was negatively impacted would be an understatement." ~ 23 year old Individual Grant applicant

And when asked what the most important part of their support request is, we often hear...

"Any assistance I could receive would be monumentally appreciated and would not go to waste. I want to thank you once more for reading my story and taking the time to consider me."

The need is so great, and every dollar we award our clients is a reminder that they have been heard and they're not alone. UBCF works everyday to make a positive difference in the lives of those affected by breast cancer.

Thank You

The goodwill and generosity of UBCF means everything to me.

Battling breast cancer has been the hardest thing I have ever gone through.

Cancer stole my health, my femininity, my identity and my financial independence. Cancer not only affects me, but my whole family.

Our lives are forever changed from that diagnosis.

As a parent your focus is on your children, taking care and providing for them. The thought of not being able to provide for them is so upsetting.

The support from UBCF not only gives peace of mind to the patient, but also to my husband and children.

This grant eases our financial burden. This grant is a ray of sunshine in the darkest days of the storm.

I can't thank you enough.



~Lucy



HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

Dear United Breast Cancer Foundation,

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful event you organized on September 23rd at the Mall in St. Matthew's in Louisville, Kentucky. It was truly a memorable day filled with warmth, support, and inspiration.

I cannot thank you enough for the personal items, house items, and trinkets that you generously provided. These thoughtful gifts have not only brightened our lives but also served as a reminder that we are not alone in our journey. Your kindness has touched our hearts deeply.

Moreover, the opportunity to meet and connect with other breast cancer survivors was truly invaluable. The chance to share our experiences, hopes, and dreams with others who have walked a similar path brought us immense comfort and strength. It was a reminder that we are part of a resilient and supportive community. I made new friends today!

As I reflect on my own breast cancer journey, which began with a double mastectomy in May 2011 when I was 34 years old with a husband and 3 young children. I am filled with gratitude for organizations like yours. The road has been challenging, with numerous surgeries and treatments along the way, the up's and the downs. However, your organization's unwavering support has been a beacon of hope during the darkest times.

In April 2019, while on the job as a dementia Care Director nurse; I experienced pain in my back and hips, I never expected to receive the devastating news of metastatic breast cancer. It has been a rollercoaster of emotions since then, but your presence and support have given me the strength to keep pushing forward. Your dedication to raising awareness and providing assistance is truly commendable.

Once again, I want to express my deepest appreciation for all the hard work that you do during these events and on a daily basis. Your support and unwavering commitment to the fight against breast cancer give us hope for a better and brighter future. Together, we can make a difference and strive for a world without breast cancer.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Warmest regards,

