



**NO ONE** should face breast cancer alone.

## From The Board President



Twenty years ago, ten awesome women (our Founders) were planning the very first Stepping Out. From a garden party with barely 200 guests, to an event that is now attended by nearly 500 people annually, Stepping Out has grown in reputation and fundraising results. These results have enabled To Celebrate Life to grant \$4.25 million into Bay Area counties, supporting many nonprofit breast cancer programs that serve needy populations.

Through these last 19 years, there have been many milestones. We hope you will read the Fun Facts in this issue of *in the LOOP*. Please feel free to share with us anything we've left off the list!

As we review the past 20 years, we are filled with gratitude for our giving volunteers, generous donors, and the grantees that make certain our hard earned dollars generate much needed emergency and direct services to those traveling the perilous journey of breast cancer.

Cheers to all . . . and a toast to the next 20 years!!

Best,  
Jeanne Capurro, President  
Board of Directors

## IN THIS ISSUE

- From The Board President **1**
- Get Ready to Celebrate - It's our 20th Anniversary Gala! **2**
- Our History - Celebrating Life since 1996 **2**
- Stepping Out - 20th Anniversary Fun Facts **3**
- Twenty Shades of Pink - Stepping Out Model Reunion **4**
- Face of the Foundation - Laurie O'Mara **6**
- How Your Dollars Help - Shanti Project **7**
- Tidbits **8**
- Just Say YES! Become a To Celebrate Life Volunteer **9**

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Stepping Out To Celebrate Life**

Presents

*An Evening of Enchantment*  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

**Saturday, September 26, 2015**

Marin Center Exhibit Hall – San Rafael

**5:30 pm**

Cocktails & Silent Auction

**7:00 pm**

Dinner catered by McCalls

Fashion Show & Live Auction

Dancing to the music of The Fundamentals

Black tie (optional)

**Tickets** - \$250 per person

**Early Bird** - \$230 if purchased by August 21

**Wine, Women & Song**

**Saturday, October 17, 2015**

Marin JCC – San Rafael



**Join Our Facebook Community**

As we Celebrate our **20 Year milestone**, help us reach our **500 milestone** – Like Us on Facebook!

To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation raises funds to help people dealing with breast cancer  
**RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.**

Please **View** the many different ways you can be a part of our mission this year! We invite you to partner with us as a donor. **2015 Donor Opportunities**

To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation gratefully acknowledges our **Major Partners and Donors.**

## Get Ready to Celebrate – It's our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala!

In a nod to our first fashion show fundraiser, Stepping Out To Celebrate Life returns to a magical evening garden in celebration of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Join us as we celebrate this very special milestone event, **An Evening of Enchantment!**

Since that first garden party event in 1996, 665 breast cancer survivor models have emerged as beautiful butterflies and joyfully walked down the Stepping Out runway to celebrate life.

The evening begins with cocktails and bidding on fine dining, wine, jewelry and getaways at the Silent Auction. Guests will enjoy a gourmet dinner catered by McCalls and an exciting Live Auction and Fund A Need. The highlight of the evening — an inspirational fashion show featuring local breast cancer survivors — followed by dancing to the music of The Fundamentals.

Proceeds benefit the Foundation's Grants Program supporting underserved people living with breast cancer in the Bay Area.

**Don't miss Marin's premier gala event!**

**Tickets** - \$250 per person

**Early Bird** - \$230 if purchased by **August 21**



Purchase your tickets today using our convenient **Online Registration** or **Contact us** for information or questions.

## Our History — Celebrating Life since 1996

**From a garden party for 200 to the Bay Area's premier breast cancer organization.**

To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation became a reality in a dance class in 1996. This was no ordinary dance class as it was directed toward breast cancer survivors. From this class emerged ten women focused on giving back to the breast cancer community. Nine of those ten were themselves breast cancer survivors. The first fundraising event, which would go on to become the signature event for the organization, was called *Stepping Out*.

From that very first event, \$42,000 was raised which would become the seed money for the B.R.E.A.S.T. Center in Greenbrae. The organization began as Marin Breast Cancer Committee and went through a second name change before becoming what we are known today — To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation.

In the last 19 years, our annual grants have averaged \$225,000. These grants have been critical in funding direct service nonprofit organizations whose missions focus on the underserved and vulnerable populations living with breast health issues. These services have ranged from transportation to navigation of the medical system to healthy food. Particular emphasis has been placed on services that Annual Needs Assessments predict are most needed.

Through the prudent stewardship of To Celebrate Life and the responsible fund allocation of the direct service nonprofit organizations, thousands of individuals living with breast cancer have been served. As of 2015, To Celebrate Life has awarded \$4.25 Million in grants to provide services to those in need in the greater Bay Area.

**Read More** about how To Celebrate Breast Cancer Foundation is making a difference in the lives of underserved people with breast cancer in the Bay Area.



## Stepping Out — 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fun Facts

- 200** — Number of guests attending the first annual Stepping Out fundraising gala
- 6,650** — Number of guests who have attended the annual Stepping Out fundraising gala since 1996
- \$42,000** — Raised at the first annual Stepping Out To Celebrate Life fundraising gala
- \$225,000** — Average granted to Bay Area nonprofits annually
- \$4.25 Million** — Granted to Bay Area nonprofits since 1996
- \$488,340** — Total raised in Fund A Need (FAN) donations at Stepping Out since 2008
- \$60,000** — Total raised in Sponsor A Model (SAM) donations since 2012
- 37** — Number of breast cancer survivors modeling at the first Stepping Out fashion show
- 665** — Number of breast cancer survivors modeling in the Stepping Out fashion show since 1996
- 9** — Number of male breast cancer survivors modeling in the Stepping Out fashion show since 1996
- 375 feet** — Walked down the runway by each model at the Stepping Out fashion show
- 1875 feet** — Walked down the runway by each model during fashion show rehearsals
- 10.6 miles** — Walked down the Stepping Out runway by the models each year at the fashion show
- 201.4 miles** — Walked down the Stepping Out runway since 1996 — including rehearsals!



## Twenty Shades of Pink – Stepping Out Model Reunion

To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our fundraiser and fashion show, Stepping Out, with a model reunion luncheon held on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Marin Country Club in Novato. The luncheon, focusing on Reunion, Reconnection and Inspiration, was attended by 145 guests including breast cancer survivor models — women and men from 1996 to 2014.

Breast cancer physician escorts, past and present fashion show producers and Foundation board members attended the event. The afternoon was filled with hugs and laughter as models shared favorite runway stories and Stepping Out memories. "It was wonderful to be reunited with the models I know not only through my practice but also through my involvement as an escort in Stepping Out," said Dr. Bobbie Head, a Marin oncologist. "I feel blessed to be a part of this very special event."

Guests enjoyed a video compilation of past Stepping Out fashion show models making their runway debut playing on a large screen and were brought to their feet with the inspirational songs performed by Lynn Asher.

"The day was magical from beginning to end," said event co-chair and former model, Kristen Bennett. "Several models told me how appreciative they were for the opportunity to once again join their fellow models in a celebration of life."

*"It was wonderful to be reunited with the models I know not only through my practice but also through my involvement as an escort in Stepping Out. I feel blessed to be a part of this very special event."*



20th Anniversary Model Reunion Luncheon Committee  
From Left: Victoria Granucci, Kristen Bennett (Co-Chair), Kathy Richards, Terry Nevin (Co-Chair), Lori Smith, Kathy Gallup, BJ Moehnke, Carol Huff — **Photos by Patty Spinks**



## Face of the Foundation – Laurie O’Mara



The name's O'Mara – Laurie O'Mara. You may remember her as one of the Stepping Out Bond Girls when she modeled in 2011. Laurie jumped wholeheartedly into the role, as she does with every role she takes on.

The modeling experience gave her such an adrenalin rush, "I just loved it," she says. "It made me feel beautiful." Laurie has been actively volunteering with To Celebrate Life ever since.

Her outgoing personality drew her to the model committee where she co-chairs the rehearsal sub-committee. "I don't know what is more rewarding, being in the fashion show or being on the other side," she says. She has also worked at the event, in the dressing room, "yelling at everyone to get them out on time," she laughs.

A lot of models catch her enthusiasm and come back to volunteer. So did her teen-age daughter, Paige, who has assisted her mom at rehearsals.

*"I don't know what is more rewarding, being in the fashion show or being on the other side."*

Laurie has also volunteered for Tee It Up, where she was in charge of the silent auction table and delivered coolers to the golfers. "I love the Foundation's mission, the whole concept of what we do for people. It's heartwarming. My hat's off to the group of women who started it," she says.

### Long-time docent

Laurie has volunteered in the Novato schools for 16 years. As a docent in the History Museum of Novato she dresses as an old lady and leads tours for third graders, teaching the kids to love their town. She's also helped out as an art docent in the school.

### Reaching a milestone...

In November, Laurie will celebrate five years of being cancer free! We celebrate you, Laurie!



Above: Laurie O'Mara and daughter Paige

Below: Taping down a practice runway for a Stepping Out fashion show rehearsal at Hospice By The Bay — September 2014



## How Your DOLLARS HELP

### SHANTI PROJECT — a 2015 Grantee

#### Margot Murphy Breast Cancer Program

Established in 1974, Shanti Project is one of San Francisco's oldest nonprofits. The organization originally served cancer patients, then transitioned to AIDS during the scourge in the 1980s. In 2001, the City did a needs assessment and asked Shanti to assist with breast cancer support for underserved populations.

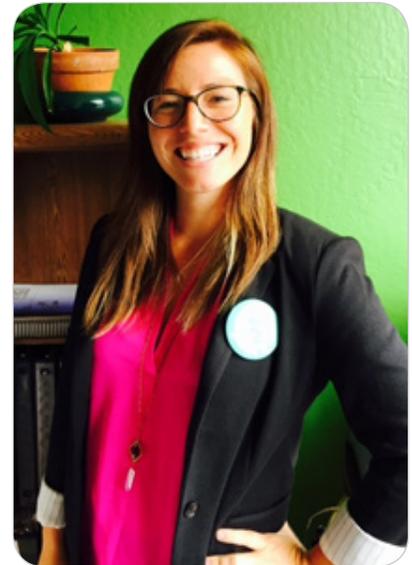
Now Shanti serves 450 people a year. "We try to do for women in need what we would do for a friend or family member," says Kaushik Roy, executive director since 2008. "Our number one goal is to make sure they can access the medical care they need."

Lauren Villa is the director for Shanti's **Margot Murphy Breast Cancer Program** which is supported by a To Celebrate Life grant. "We're able to be the eyes and ears of the medical facility outside of the hospital," explains Lauren. "By meeting with clients in their homes, we can monitor their condition and keep the medical providers informed."

The staff consists of six full time care navigators; two of them are partially covered by the To Celebrate Life grant. One of the navigators, who is from China, speaks three Asian languages. Another, from Peru, speaks Spanish. "By sharing similar cultural and linguistic backgrounds as their clients, Shanti care navigators create unique relationships with the women served in the program. It's very impactful," says Lauren.

Every Shanti client gets a \$25 voucher for groceries as well as taxi vouchers, both supported by the To Celebrate Life grant. The taxi vouchers are a big help for women in treatment who would otherwise have to use MUNI or public transportation.

Shanti also has a wellness program for clients who have finished treatment, and conducts field trips to keep people from being isolated. "As care navigators we are here to literally and figuratively hold their hand through treatment and beyond," says Lauren.



Lauren Villa  
Director, Shanti's Margot Murphy  
Breast Cancer Program



*"We try to do for women in need what we would do for a friend or family member."*

Kaushik Roy  
Executive Director, Shanti Project

Help To Celebrate Life  
continue to  
**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
in someone's life.

**DONATE TODAY!**

## TIDBITS

### Board of Directors — New Members

To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of three new members to our Board of Directors — Shari Dagg, Kristen Bennett and Linda Dowsett.

“The spirit of our founders and their vision for this Foundation is once again mirrored in our three newest Board members — Shari, Kristen and Linda,” said Jeanne Capurro, To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation Board President. “We are delighted and fortunate to welcome them to active leadership roles for To Celebrate Life.”

Meet and read more about our [Board of Directors](#).

### 20 Year Foundation Partner — Price Family Dealerships

To Celebrate Life gratefully thanks Price Family Dealerships, our dedicated partner for 20 years! With the continued support of this generous donor, thousands of individuals in the Bay Area living with breast cancer have been served.

Price Family Dealerships — We celebrate you!

MARIN LUXURY CARS  
PRICE FAMILY DEALERSHIPS



marinluxurycars.com

### Partner With Us — October Community Events

We invite you to partner with us in our 20<sup>th</sup> year and be a part of our growing annual calendar of Community Events. If you would like to hold a fundraising event or promotion and donate the proceeds to benefit To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation, please fill out the online [event application](#) or call 415-455-5882.

If you would like to hold an October Awareness event benefiting the Foundation and be listed in our October emails, please fill out the online [Community Events](#) application and submit event details by **August 31st**.



June 27, 2014 – San Rafael Pacifics played in custom-made pink “A League of Their Own” 1940’s era women’s ballgame dresses for October Breast Cancer Awareness. Proceeds benefitted To Celebrate Life.



Join Our Facebook Community

As we Celebrate our **20 Year milestone**, help us reach our **500 milestone** – Like Us on Facebook!

## Just Say YES! — Become a To Celebrate Life Volunteer

Volunteers are the core of our organization and we're always looking for people to join our Foundation family. Whatever your talent, skills and interests, there are so many opportunities and ways you can contribute and help make a difference. Volunteering is fun and so rewarding!

### Our WISH LIST

Do you have skills in these areas?

- Event planning/production
- Fundraising
- Auction/raffle soliciting
- Videography/video-editing
- General Foundation administration
- Database skills
- Community relations
- Marketing communications
- Project management

**READ** more about how you can make a difference and **Just Say YES!**

Sign up by filling out our **Volunteer** form or **Contact us** for more information.



Foundation Technical Support Team volunteer Martha Auld at guest registration check-in — Stepping Out To Celebrate Life September 27, 2014.

## Make a Difference With a LASTING GIFT



Help ensure that future patients struggling with breast cancer receive the help they need.

Join our **Celebration Circle**. By including a planned gift to the Foundation as part of your estate plan, you'll help ensure the continuation of To Celebrate Life's work for years to come. You can also create a Legacy Fund honoring or in memory of a loved one. **Contact us** for further information.

You can help fulfill our vision that **no one should face breast cancer alone.**

*Your donations enable our grantees to continue their work supporting Bay Area people struggling with breast cancer.*

If you have Foundation updates or meeting information to submit for consideration for the next issue, send to: **in the LOOP**

**Editor:** Kim Wimer **Editorial Content/Writers:** Jeanne Capurro, Lanny Udell, Kim Wimer  
**Graphic Design:** Kim Wimer **Foundation Photographer:** Patty Spinks  
**Photography Contributors:** Patty Spinks, Phyllis Evans, Shanti Project