



TO CELEBRATE LIFE  
BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

*in the* LOOP

News from To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation

SPRING 2015

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

## From The Board President



**APRIL** — this has to be our favorite time of year! Thanks to the tremendous work of our volunteers, and generosity of our donors, funds raised in the previous year have been awarded to deserving and qualifying nonprofits that help underserved recipients throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Women and men undergoing breast cancer diagnosis or

treatment will receive the necessary testing and support that will enable them to regain good health and lead productive lives.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I would like to acknowledge everyone who participated in our mid-year site visits of 2014 grantees, together with all who served on the Grants Review Committee and made recommendations for our 2015 grants awards — and a special nod to our Grants Chair, Jane Pallas, who ably led the grants process.

... and so we begin our 20<sup>th</sup> year. To Celebrate Life continues to support our vision that **no one should face breast cancer alone.**

With gratitude beyond measure, to all who have, and all who will in future support this heartfelt vision.

— Jeanne Capurro, President  
Board of Directors

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### Stepping Out Model Reunion Luncheon

Honoring all past Stepping Out models and physician escorts in celebration of our **20th Anniversary!** Watch for your Invitation with event details.

Sunday, June 14, 2015  
Marin Country Club – Novato

#### Stepping Out To Celebrate Life Gala

*An Evening of Enchantment*  
The 20th Anniversary

Saturday, September 26, 2015  
Marin Center Exhibit Hall – San Rafael

#### Stepping Out Committee Meetings

We welcome everyone to be part of our **20th Anniversary** gala fundraiser!

**6:30-8:00 pm**

Wednesday, April 15  
Tuesday, June 2  
Tuesday, July 14  
Wednesday, August 19

All meetings held at Hospice by the Bay  
17 E. Sir Francis Drake Blvd.  
2nd floor Conference Room – Larkspur

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

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**



Join Our Facebook Community  
Show your love – like us on Facebook!

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## Foundation Awards \$275,000 to 16 Bay Area Organizations

To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation awarded \$275,000 to 16 Bay Area nonprofit organizations which help women and men by providing emergency services and financial support for the underserved, direct and navigational services, complementary therapies, early detection screening and diagnostics and emotional support programs. These awards bring the total granted since the organization's inception in 1996 to over \$4.25 million.

The Foundation's Grants Review Committee is made up of community health and medical leaders, breast cancer survivors, Foundation supporters and past and present directors. Grant awards were presented on April 1<sup>st</sup> at an inspirational reception held at Servino Ristorante in Tiburon. The reception was attended by donors and dedicated Foundation volunteers who worked to raise funding during 2014.

### 2015 GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Alameda County Health Care Foundation – Oakland
- Bay Area Cancer Connections – Palo Alto (formerly Breast Cancer Connections)
- Breast Cancer Emergency Fund – San Francisco
- Ceres Community Project – Sebastopol and San Rafael
- Charlotte Maxwell Complementary Clinic – Oakland
- HERS Breast Cancer Foundation – Fremont
- Institute for Health & Healing – Greenbrae
- Latina Breast Cancer Agency – San Francisco
- Marin Center for Independent Living – San Rafael
- Marin General Hospital Foundation – Greenbrae
- Pilipino Senior Resource Center – San Francisco
- San Francisco General Hospital Foundation – San Francisco
- Shanti Project – San Francisco
- Sunflower Wellness – San Francisco and San Rafael
- Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation – Santa Rosa
- Women's Cancer Resource Center – Oakland



**2015 Grantees – Top row from left:** Juvy Barbonio, Pilipino Senior Resource Center; Cindi Cantril, Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation; Jeanne Hemhauser-Ricci, Institute for Health and Healing; Alison Gause, Marin General Hospital Foundation; Natalie Morales, Bay Area Cancer Connections; Peggy McGuire, Women's Cancer Resource Center; Devereaux Smith, Charlotte Maxwell Complementary Clinic; Linda Dovbish, Ceres Community Project; Fern Orenstein, San Francisco General Hospital Foundation; **Front row from left:** Regan Fedric, Sunflower Wellness; Karen Edwards, Breast Cancer Emergency Fund; Olivia Fè, Latina Breast Cancer Agency; Dr. Vera Packard, HERS Breast Cancer Foundation; Ellen Rinehart, Alameda County Health Care Foundation; Lauren Villa, Shanti Project; Kelly Tyler, Marin Center for Independent Living — **Photo:** Patty Spinks







## Face of the Foundation – Lisa Lucero



Lisa is the face behind the faces that grace the Stepping Out runway every September. As the model trainer for 10 years, she has helped over 300 women prepare for the experience that would help them feel alive and beautiful.

Lisa joined To Celebrate Life after her friend, Monique Bricca, who was model trainer at the time, was looking for someone to take over for her. She asked Lisa to step into the role. "I told her I thought she was crazy," says Lisa. "I didn't think I could teach anyone to model. Then she showed me the video from 2005 and I knew I wanted to be part of this event."

### At home in the breast cancer community

A colon cancer survivor, Lisa feels a real affinity with the women who participate in Stepping Out. "Cancer is cancer," she says. "I tell the models I had the same disease in a different location. I've found a home with the breast cancer community. The models and volunteers help me feel fully alive again."

After a few years, Lisa also became co-producer of the show which allows her to express more of her artistic side. "I love working with Yvonne Robinson – she pushes me beyond my comfort zone," says Lisa.

### Memorable moment

Asked about an incident that stands out for her, Lisa recalls the young woman who came to rehearsal wearing a wig. "I remember walking with her during rehearsal. I asked her if she'd want to model without the wig. She was kind of coy, and said maybe...and walked away." Later, Lisa saw her crying and asked her what was wrong. "She said, I miss me – I just want to be me." Lisa assured her, "this is where you can be." The young woman modeled bald and lit up the runway with her beautiful smile.

What does she like best about her role? "I love to witness the connection as the models bond with one another. And it really warms me when I see those girls coming back as volunteers. That's what keeps me coming back."

Lisa adds, "I love the name To Celebrate Life — every day should be a celebration in some way."



(Above) Stepping Out Model Trainer Lisa Lucero gives runway pointers to breast cancer survivor model Dr. Silvio Margulis during a fashion show rehearsal. — 2012 Stepping Out To Celebrate Life

(Below) Backstage with Stepping Out models at Marin Center Exhibit Hall rehearsal. — 2012 Stepping Out To Celebrate Life



*"I love the name  
To Celebrate Life —  
every day should be a  
celebration in some way."*



## How Your DOLLARS HELP

### SUTTER PACIFIC MEDICAL FOUNDATION — a 2015 Grantee

**Resource Navigation to Latinos:** Ensures women and men will have improved access to breast screening, financial counseling and coordination of cancer support services.

Before receiving the grant from To Celebrate Life, the Resource Center did not have a Spanish speaking patient navigator. Women had to rely on family members or a telephone interpreting agency to translate for them.

The funding enabled them to bring Jordana Martinez on board. A native of Mexico, Jordana graduated from City College of San Francisco as a medical interpreter. "She is passionate, dedicated and an advocate for the Hispanic community diagnosed with cancer," says Cindi Cantril, Director of Oncology Services and Patient Navigation. "Many of these patients are dealing with financial barriers, communication barriers, medical system barriers and a lack of understanding of their rights."

About 140 patients are diagnosed every year and of those, approximately 20 do not speak English. They come from all parts of Sonoma County. Anxiety levels are high and there is often a lack of trust.

"Having someone who speaks their language and understands the culture is invaluable. The impact that Jordana has as Resource Navigator, and the services she provides, goes beyond what we could dream of for our patients," Cindi explains.

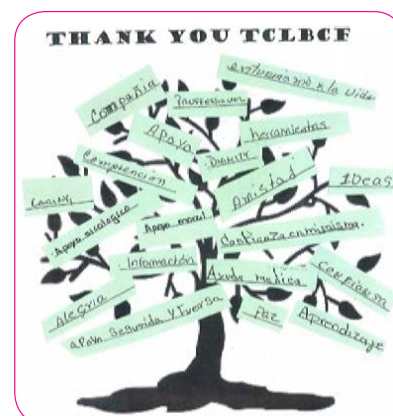
One of their patients was diagnosed when she was 28 years old and had two children, 8 and 2 years old. Her husband left her after she finished treatment. Jordana stepped in to help, and now the single mom is cancer free, goes to school and is back on her feet.

"I am honored to be part of their cancer journey, to guide them through the process and give them the support they need, not just while they're going through cancer but all also after cancer" says Jordana.

"We're grateful for the funding from To Celebrate Life," says Cindi. "The grant enables us to match funds and pool

*"We're grateful for the funding from To Celebrate Life. I don't know of any other program like this in the Bay Area."*

resources to provide these services to Latina women and men. I don't know of any other program like this in the Bay Area."



Patient Survey Tree

Words written by Sutter Pacific Navigation Program patients describing how program support services have helped them.



Healdsburg Breast Education Class – Spring 2014.

Left: Jordana Martinez, Patient Navigator

Third from left: Cindi Cantril, Director of Oncology Services and Patient Navigation

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

**DONATE TODAY!**

## Teen Volunteer Chef **GIVES BACK**

Below is an excerpt from an inspiring college essay written by Ceres Community Project volunteer chef, Alya Bohr. The chef describes her perspective on giving back by preparing healing meals for seriously ill people in her community.

The essay was shared by Cathryn Couch, Ceres Community Project Executive Director. "Alya writes about the difference Ceres has made in her life and it's all thanks to your financial support. Each year you help us engage and empower more than 400 young people like Alya. We couldn't do this work without you."

*Each Thursday when I walk in the door and put on my chef's coat, the chaos of the rest of the world fades, and I find myself utterly engaged in the cooking at hand. I blend hemp milk, bake lentil burgers, and saute onions. I marinate chicken, squeeze kale, and blanch broccoli. I hold gnarled, earthy vegetables in my hands and feel their hearty power pulsing through me.*

*Two years ago my dad was diagnosed with liver cancer. He soon began receiving Ceres meals and I finally saw the program come full circle. When my dad stopped having the energy to cook and was lacking much-needed nutrition, opening the refrigerator to find container after container of gorgeous, healthy food honestly changed our lives. We would serve up mountains of sauerkraut, vats of steaming borscht, and piles of quinoa salad. These colorful dishes warmed our hearts and nourished our bodies. In these moments, delightfully devouring these precious meals, I felt infinitely whole.*

**READ** entire essay.



Ceres Community Project Chef Alya Bohr

## TIDBITS

### Save the Date – It's our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



The Stepping Out To Celebrate Life Gala — *An Evening of Enchantment* — takes place September 26<sup>th</sup> at the Marin Center Exhibit Hall in San Rafael. Guests will enjoy cocktails, a gourmet dinner catered by McCall's, a Live Auction, and the main event — an inspirational fashion show featuring breast cancer survivors as models.

You can participate in our celebration by donating getaways, jewelry, restaurant gift certificates (minimum value \$100) and wine (minimum value \$30) to our Silent Auction. Download the **Silent Auction Form**.

Do you know someone that has a great vacation home, is a private chef who will create a dinner for eight special guests or has box seats for a sporting event? Then contact Pam Tarvar to donate to our **Live Auction**.

**Contact us** for more information or questions.







## 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 help make a difference. Volunteering is a lot of 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.



Stepping Out To Celebrate Life Model Committee Volunteers  
(From left) Laurie and Paige O'Mara  
at 2014 fashion show rehearsal.

## 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**

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