



No one should face breast cancer alone.

From The Board President



I am reflecting on my first year as President of To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation Board of Directors and all that this wonderful organization accomplished in 2017. With our vision of raising more funds to help provide more services to breast cancer patients, our volunteers once again created magic with the enormous success of the Stepping Out gala. Guests were brought to their feet as 33 beautiful and courageous models strutted

down the catwalk. A life-affirming celebration for each of them! And, because of the generous support of our many gala sponsors and guests, last year was one of our most successful yet.

To Celebrate Life community fundraising events included the 2017 season success of the Novato High School Girl's Lacrosse Team as well as *Wine, Women and Song*, sponsored by our very good friends at Harbor Point Charitable Foundation. With their continued hard work and generosity we will make an impact on many more lives in 2018

I am so proud to be a part of the To Celebrate Life organization and to work alongside our grantees who are in the trenches helping to ease the physical and emotional burdens of Bay Area women and men facing the challenges of a breast cancer diagnosis. To quote a 2015 Stepping Out model and recipient of services from a grantee, "You gave me a beautiful dose of confidence that I wasn't sure I could have again, living in this battered body. It was an incredible gift. I'm honored to have been a part of such an important organization."

As long as there is breast cancer, there is a need for us to continue our work. And, with the uncertain state of healthcare coverage for people living with breast cancer, the work becomes an even greater emergency. Without you, we cannot move toward our vision that **no one should face breast cancer alone.**

We are looking forward to 2018 and all the opportunities it will bring to help us reach out further into our communities. Please join us now by volunteering or signing up for our Monthly Giving program. We thank you for your continued support and want you to be a part of our celebration of life! May you be blessed with love and good health in the New Year!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Kristen Bennett
President, Board of Directors



SAVE THE DATE!

23rd Annual

Stepping Out
To Celebrate Life

Gala Fundraiser

September 29, 2018

Marin Center Exhibit Hall
San Rafael

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22nd Annual Stepping Out Gala – Passage to India

Over 450 guests joined together at To Celebrate Life's Annual Stepping Out Gala, September 23rd to honor this year's class of survivor models. The gala raised \$328,654 which will support underserved breast cancer patients throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Guests were dazzled by the opulent Indian decor—including the Taj Mahal and an elephant bar—and enjoyed lively entertainment. Prominent local physicians escorted 33 beautiful models down the runway in our annual fashion show — always emotional and the inspirational highlight of the evening.



The event started with cocktails and a Silent Auction featuring up-scale items and luxurious getaways. While guests enjoyed a gourmet 3-course dinner catered by McCall's, the show opened with an exciting Bollywood-inspired performance by Nachle SF Dance Company.

Paddles raised quickly during a high energy Fund A Need and Live Auction with getaways including Cannes, Tuscany, Punta Mita Mexico, Hawaii and a Las Vegas/Sir Elton John concert (with backstage Green Room passes). We are grateful for two very generous friends of the Foundation who matched \$100 Fund A Need donations — raising \$122,700 which will benefit the 2018 Breast Cancer Grants Program. The celebration continued with dancing to the music of Entourage, generously underwritten by the Blanche Thebom Trust Fund.

The 2017 Stepping Out models, with donations from friends and family, raised \$27,992 in our Sponsor A Model program. These funds will enhance grants awarded in the Spring of 2018 — our 22nd year of helping fund Bay Area nonprofits that provide emergency and direct services to breast cancer patients.

Special thanks to the Stepping Out Gala committee leads, who together with our talented and hardworking volunteers, dedicated thousands of hours creating this spectacular and memorable event. We also thank gala photographers Glen Graves, Stephani Baker, Sarah Ferris and Linda Tanner for capturing the emotion, beauty and joy of the evening!

[Click here](#) to enjoy their photos!





Shared Thoughts From a Stepping Out Model

Dear Kristen,

wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed being a model in the 2017 Stepping Out event. You mentioned at the first lunch/get-together, "to enjoy every minute of it" and you were so right. From the first lunch to the event itself, every part of the experience was special.

I was bathed in positive energy from the hard working TCL volunteers, the board members I met, Yvonne, Margie, Laurie, Chris, Carla, Dawn, Cooper Alley staff, the personal shoppers at the stores, the doctor escorts, the loving audience and all the other models I met.

My most favorite moment was seeing a very shy model blossom and bond with us during the rehearsals. She confessed that she had never in her life worn a short skirt until the fashion show. We were all delighted and proud of her. Yvonne gave me the confidence to take off my head cover in public! It was so nice to be surrounded by women who "understood". I appreciate your time and the many tasks you do to make this event happen each year.

With much gratitude from my heart,

Mary



Face of the Foundation – Dianne Sheridan



Dianne is one of those volunteers who prefers to work behind the scenes. We call her the Queen of Data because she loves working with the To Celebrate Life database.

Dianne was a Stepping Out model in 2011. “I had such a good time, I wanted to stay involved,” she says. And so she came to the Volunteer Kickoff in 2012 to find out where she could put her skills to good use.

Her first job as a volunteer involved calling sponsors to confirm their reservations and food choices for Stepping Out. The following year she added data entry, and then when her fellow model, Claudia Gardner, asked her to help recruit models Dianne eagerly agreed. And, oh by the way, she entered the models’ names into the database.

Best part of her Stepping Out role

As a model recruiter, Dianne enjoys interacting with the models. She also keeps a list of people who indicate an interest in modeling the following year (data entry!). She already has 28 names for 2018.

“We have to be sensitive to their feelings,” she says, describing how she and Claudia call and reassure people who have concerns about modeling. “They may still be in treatment and don’t know how they’re going to feel by the time rehearsals start.” She also looks forward to watching rehearsals. “I like the level of commitment,” she says.

But her volunteering doesn’t stop there. Dianne also serves on the To Celebrate Life Volunteer Committee. “It’s important not to let people who want to volunteer fall through the cracks,” she explains. “We need to follow up with those who come through the website, and we’re always looking for ways to get—and keep—more people involved.”

Background in education

During her teaching career, Dianne taught third grade Special Ed, then taught regular third grade before moving to a charter school. Since retiring she has been a classroom assistant teaching science.

A highlight for Dianne was attending her first Grants Reception. “It really got me, seeing first hand where the money goes. I can’t tell you how much that means to me.”

Our Data Queen also volunteers with Project Open Hand. Her job? You guessed it—data entry.

Our heartfelt thanks to Dianne for the tremendous work she does as a To Celebrate Life volunteer.

“It really got me, seeing first hand where the money goes. I can’t tell you how much that means to me.”



Claudia Gardner and Dianne Sheridan
Stepping Out To Celebrate Life – 2017

How Your DOLLARS HELP

BAY AREA YOUNG SURVIVORS (BAYS) — a 2017 Grantee

Writing Retreats for Young Women



Meaghan Calcari Campbell
Board President

When breast cancer happens to younger women, their needs are special. It often hits them at a time when they are embarking on new careers, or they may be newly married, having children...and contemplating their futures.

Bay Area Young Survivors (BAYS) was formed to offer support and information to women in this situation. The all-volunteer group now has over 500 members who were diagnosed before age 45.

The nonprofit's goal is to break the isolation of living with breast cancer by providing a community built on compassion, understanding, hope and inspiration.

How it started

In 2003, Angela Padilla and Deb Mosley, both in their early 30s, were diagnosed with breast cancer. They tried various support groups, but being the youngest person in the room—often by several decades—they found their issues weren't being addressed. So they partnered to create Bay Area Young Survivors. They invited young women they met in the chemo infusion centers and radiation waiting rooms to join them, and word of the new group spread quickly.

"We're so grateful for this grant that gives our members the healing tool of writing about their cancer experience."

Writing for Recovery

BAYS offers monthly support group meetings, maintains an online network and holds community-building events. Their writing retreats, supported by the To Celebrate Life grant, are one of their most popular programs.

"There's a huge appetite for storytelling around our experience," says Board President Meaghan Calcari Campbell who was diagnosed when she was only 32. "In the two writing workshops, 20 members came together in a safe space to fully express themselves, help process their disease, and capture their stories."

As one participant described: *"The [writing] prompts and group interactions helped me unearth unexpected stories, emotions and memories about my cancer—all cathartic, helpful, needed and appreciated."*

"We're so grateful for this grant that gives our members the healing tool of writing about their cancer experience. Without the grant, we wouldn't be able to offer these workshops," adds Meaghan.

BAYS members have written three anthologies, *Agony and Absurdity: Adventures in Cancerland*, *Shivering in a Paper Gown – Breast Cancer and its Aftermath*, and *The Day My Nipple Fell Off*. All three are available at amazon.com.



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

DONATE TODAY!

COMMUNITY EVENTS — Supporting To Celebrate Life

Novato High School Girl's Lacrosse Team Raises \$23,146 for the Foundation

Novato High School Girl's Lacrosse Team is proud of many accomplishments over the recent past. They have been MCAL Champions, NCS Division One Champions and ranked 1st in the West according to *Inside Lacrosse*, *USA Today* and *LaxPower.com* — three years in a row. In 2016, they became the first California girl's lacrosse team to be ranked Top 25 nationally. Only three years ago no Novato Girl's Lacrosse player had played in college. Now, Novato has girls playing at UCLA, Cal Poly, Stanford, Cal, Davis, Colorado, Oregon, Butler and Navy.

But there is one accomplishment that the Novato High School Girl's Lacrosse team, as well as supporting parents and friends are most proud. Last season, all home games against MCAL

teams were played in support of To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation.

Coach Rory Daly worked with Nike to design special pink uniforms and Cherie Level, mother of the talented Level sisters, organized fundraising such that every goal scored contributed to the donation. She also had large buttons made for player backpacks in honor of friends and family members whose lives have been impacted by breast cancer.



BRAVO and our heartfelt THANK YOU to Coach Rory, Cherie and this outstanding group of young women for taking the success of Novato Girl's Lacrosse beyond the field of play. To Celebrate Life is inspired by your efforts and so grateful for your dedication and support of our organization!!



Above and left: 2017 Novato High School Girl's Lacrosse Team. Below: Kristen Bennett, To Celebrate Life Board President and Jeanne Capurro, Community Events Chair receive a check presented by the team. Proceeds from the team's fundraiser benefits the Foundation's 2018 Breast Cancer Grants Program.



Thanks to Our 2017 Community Partners

To Celebrate Life is grateful to our dedicated community partners for their support and fundraising efforts this year. Funds raised will benefit our 2018 Breast Cancer Grants Program which helps underserved people in our community struggling with financial and health emergencies after a breast cancer diagnosis. Thank you for supporting our mission!

- Amazon Smile Foundation
- Athleta
- Harbor Point Charitable Foundation – 19th Annual *Wine, Women and Song*
- Jonathan Marks Realty Group
- Marin Power Yoga
- Meadow Club Women's Golf Association
- Mill Valley Market eScrip
- Mollie Stone's Markets eScrip
- Novato High School Girl's Lacrosse Team
- Ruth Taubman Jewelry Design

TIDBITS

It Takes a Village — Foundation Honors Dedicated Volunteers at Annual Thank You Dinner

To Celebrate Life volunteers celebrated results of their hard work and successful Stepping Out gala on November 13th at the annual Thank You Dinner held at Harbor Point Club. To Celebrate Life Board of Directors presented awards to four volunteers for their dedication and outstanding service to the Foundation in 2017.

Special thank you to Phyllis Evans, our photographer for the evening! Enjoy her great photos [Here](#).

Above and Beyond

Lori Ling — As if being To Celebrate Life's webmaster and serving on the Volunteer and Model committees doesn't keep her busy enough, Lori cheerfully makes time for anyone needing help or any task that needs to be done. Lori wears so many hats and always goes "above and beyond" and then some, with a smile on her face.



Ilene Pearce, Dianne Sheridan, Marjorie Pioli, Laurie O'Mara, Julie Hornsby

2017 Stepping Out Volunteer of the Year

Marjorie Pioli — If you've attended Stepping Out in recent years, you've enjoyed the results of the vision and artistic talents of Marjorie, our Stepping Out Decor Chair. Guests at this year's gala, *Passage to India*, were amazed at Marjorie and her team's transformation of Marin Center Exhibit Hall into an opulent Taj Mahal setting with brightly colored table decor, silk panels and a magnificent elephant bar.

Heart of the Foundation



Jeanne Capurro — A very familiar face around the organization, Jeanne has been a volunteer and sponsor since 1997. Jeanne attended the second Stepping Out to support her friend, Elaine McCarthy, who was modeling. She called Elaine and offered to help, but to her dismay, was told she didn't qualify because she wasn't a breast cancer survivor. Jeanne encouraged the Committee to change their policy, and the rest is history.

Jeanne joined the Board of Directors in 2000 as Recording and Corresponding Secretary and has since served in many roles - Executive Committee, Board President, Communications Committee and Community Events Chair. Jeanne has been involved with every Foundation fundraising event for the past 20 years including Stepping Out, Rally, Tee It Up and Board liaison for community events benefiting the Foundation such as Harbor Point Charitable Foundation's *Wine, Women and Song*.

Lifetime Achievement



Martha Auld — For over 18 years, Martha's "behind the scenes" efforts have contributed enormously to the Foundation's success. Martha served on the Board of Directors for three years, where she used her corporate work experience to help the Foundation operate more efficiently. While Treasurer, she organized the Foundation's finances and used her technology expertise to set up our online database.

An invaluable advisor to the Board, Martha continues to guide decisions on technology issues, helps train volunteers in the use of software programs, manages the database and supports the Stepping Out reservations team. In her spare time, Martha may be found teaching knitting to breast cancer survivors, quilting or working on sewing projects for her own enjoyment and loves being a grandmother.

TIDBITS

Shop and Support To Celebrate Life — Community Fundraising Partners

Don't forget to
SMILE!

- Start your shopping on smile.amazon.com
- Choose To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation as your beneficiary charitable organization
- Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchases
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

New Foundation Video — See Who and How Your Donations Help

Watch Our New Video



Producer/director: Allen Bronstein, Your Life Matters Video
Scriptwriter/co-producer: Lanny Udell

We raise money and give it away to Bay Area nonprofits.

No one should face breast cancer alone.

WE CELEBRATE LIFE!

DONATE TODAY!

SHOP AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Support To Celebrate Life through your purchases on Amazon.com and many Bay Area grocery stores. It's easy — simply select **To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation** as your beneficiary organization and the Foundation receives a percentage of your purchase every time you shop.

Amazon: Access via smile.amazon.com each time you shop and choose To Celebrate Life.

Mill Valley Market: Tell the cashier to ring beneficiary code **7050** (To Celebrate Life) at the time of purchase.

Bay Area eScrip Markets: Show the cashier your store community or rewards card each time you shop. A form to initially register To Celebrate Life is available at your grocery store or online at www.escrip.com.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Bianchini's | Lucky |
| Cal-Mart Market | Mollie Stone's Markets |
| Delucci's Market | Molsberry Market |
| Diablo Foods | Nugget Markets |
| Draeger's Markets | Oliver's Market |
| Fairfax Market | Petaluma Market |
| Fircrest Market | Piazza's Fine Foods |
| Gene's Fine Foods | Piedmont Grocery |
| Glen Ellen Village Market | Scotty's Market |
| Key Markets | Sonoma Market |
| Luonardi's Markets | Trag's Market |
| | Woodlands Market |

Your donations enable our grantees to continue their work supporting underserved Bay Area patients coping with overwhelming health and financial emergencies after a breast cancer diagnosis.

Make a Difference — Join Our Monthly Giving Program

Monthly Giving is an easy way to set up small recurring donations that are automatically processed on your credit card, on the same date each month. This is a special way to give regular, small amounts over a long period of time.

Monthly automatic giving allows for consistent revenue that we can count on to support our Breast Cancer Grants Program. At To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Foundation, we believe that everyone can make a difference, from large gifts to small.

The motivation for each and every one of our gifts is our vision—**No one should face breast cancer alone.**

Pay it forward and **Join Now** or

Contact us for questions or further information.



Just Say YES! — Become a To Celebrate Life Volunteer



Volunteers are the heart of our organization and we are always looking for people to join our Foundation family. Whatever your talent, skills and interests, there are many opportunities and ways you can contribute and help make a difference. Committees are now forming for our annual gala, Stepping Out To Celebrate Life — contact us if you are interested in being a part of Marin's premier gala. Volunteering is fun and so rewarding!

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

Sign up by filling out our **Volunteer** form or

Contact us or call **415-455-5882** for more information.



Join Our Facebook Community

Like us, Like our grantees. Please join our community on Facebook and show your support for our **grantees** by liking their pages, too.

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

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