



NEW YORK
CANCER FOUNDATION
Advocates For Hope

Annual Report

**Our
Grant
Recipients**

13

**10th Annual
Patient Celebration
Day**

18

**5th Annual
Raising Hope
Golf Classic**

25

**3rd Annual
Raising Hope
Gala**

36



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Chairman's Statement



My Friends,

The New York Cancer Foundation (NYCF) is proud to report the incredible achievements of 2023. This year, we disbursed a remarkable \$1,099,163 in grants, impacting the lives of 529 patients in the Greater New York Metro area, under care for a cancer diagnosis. In addition to aiding with daily living costs like rent, mortgage, and utilities, we arranged 2540 Uber rides to facilitate patients' transportation to and from their crucial oncology appointments, ensuring they access the necessary care.

Our gratitude extends to our new partners – Morgan Stanley, Fight Like A Girl, North Shore Neighbors, Joe Coffee Company, and others – for their invaluable support. Your commitment strengthens our mission.

The 4th Annual Raising Hope Gala surpassed expectations, raising over a million dollars! NYCF partnered with world-renowned photographer Nigel Barker and Art Bodega Magazine, offering guests an exclusive VIP photoshoot. We are already looking forward to hosting this event again next year in New York City at Ziegfeld Ballroom, as well as our annual golf outing and a variety of new events, such as the Great Gatsby Affair.

Thank you to everyone who contributed or volunteered this year and to the heart of our Foundation – the New York Cancer & Blood Specialists employees. Your direct contributions through payroll deductions and active involvement make the NYCF so special.

Warm regards,

Dr. Jeff Vacirca

Chairman of the New York Cancer Foundation

"The goal is to provide patients with the ability to focus on what's important... healing."

- Dr. Jeff Vacirca



**TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT
DR. VACIRCA**

Scan the QR
Code Above.

The Board



Dr. Jeff Vacirca
CHAIR



Nicole Flores
VICE CHAIR



Todd O'Connell
TREASURER



Mark Santos
BOARD MEMBER



Jim Condrón
BOARD MEMBER



William Peragine III
BOARD MEMBER

The New York Cancer Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization which offers financial assistance grants for non-medical expenses to qualifying patients who are under care for a cancer diagnosis in New York State. The Foundation strives to relieve some of the financial burden patients face so they may focus on their treatment and healing and \$.90 of every dollar donated goes to the patients.

If we can
make the
patients
life easier
during their
treatment...it
makes it all
worth while.

- Tina Toulon

HOW TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER

There are many volunteer opportunities at special events or in our Foundation office. Please fill out a volunteer inquiry form at: www.nycancerfoundation.org/volunteer



Scan to Volunteer

HOW TO DONATE

Support the work of the New York Cancer Foundation by making a donation! Scan QR Code below or visit: www.nycancerfoundation.org/donate



Scan to Donate



"Remember, teamwork begins by building trust. And the only way to do that is to overcome our need for invulnerability."

Our Team

"Sometimes people need someone to get out there and make things happen for them while they're busy fighting cancer."

- Tina Toulon



Tina Toulon
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Victoria Lucido
FOUNDATION SUPERVISOR



Kiely Hagland
EVENT MANAGER



Lucy Diehl
FOUNDATION COORDINATOR

Our mission is to help relieve the financial stresses experienced by patients who are under care for a cancer diagnosis.



Our Mission & Who We Help

Our mission is to help relieve the financial stresses experienced by patients who are under care for a cancer diagnosis.

The New York Cancer Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization which offers financial assistance grants for non-medical expenses to qualifying patients who are under care for a cancer diagnosis in the Greater Metro Area (Manhattan, Long Island, Staten Island, Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx). The Foundation strives to relieve some of the financial burden patients face so they may focus on their treatment and healing.

Eligibility

To be eligible patients must meet the following criteria:

- Be living in the Greater Metro NY Area (Manhattan, Staten Island, Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, Long Island)
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Have no more than \$12,500 total in liquid assets for patients and their household members combined
- Have an annual income at or below 400% of the national poverty level
- Be a U.S resident
- Have a diagnosis of cancer

Once approved, the New York Cancer Foundation may assist with day-to-day living expenses such as:

- Rent or Mortgage payments
- Utility payments (water, sewer, electric, etc)
- Telephone payments (landline or mobile)
- Car payments and insurance
- Life insurance
- Property Tax
- Grocery store gift cards

Our Volunteers



"The level of attention, compassion, and professionalism was life changing."

- Theresa Ryan

Theresa Ryan Volunteer since 2019

"What can I say as a NY Cancer Foundation Volunteer? Proud. It is my honor and privilege to be a part of something so meaningful and supportive of others. I can relate as a patient and a grant recipient in the past. My journey began in 2015 with Breast cancer at 44 years of age. During that time, I was struggling with a sick child, financial and emotional stressors.

The fear and pain I endured were lessened by the care I received. I literally had a family at NY Cancer from the front desk, lab techs, nurses, and doctors at every visit. The level of attention, compassion, and professionalism was life changing. Not only did they get me through that time, they inspired me to make hard life changes.

After many surgeries, infections, and chemotherapy I came to an abrupt halt in my life. The children and I lost our Medical insurance, and were struggling financially. At this time, I was introduced to the NY Cancer Foundation and staff. The Foundation was not only a lifeline, but the reason why I have joined as a Volunteer. The support I was provided propelled me into a mission to assist others in distress in my professional life as well. In 2019, I joined NY Cancer, spoke at three functions, volunteered at events and sent some of my client's there for assistance.

It is so simple to pay it forward. As I have said many times, "no one is immune to hardship and cancer." In the one life we have, to provide basic kindness, time and support will make an impact. I have instilled such beliefs and humility in my children. My daughter is a proud volunteer as well! I thoroughly support and hold a special place in my heart for the NY Cancer Foundation and NY Cancer and Blood Specialists."

VOLUNTEERING QUICK FACTS!

- Over 1 billion people volunteer worldwide.
- One in four Americans volunteer.
- Most volunteers in the States are between 35 and 44 years old.



John Marino Volunteer since 2023

"I'm currently a student at Stony Brook University and I intend to pursue a career in medicine. I love being a volunteer at the New York Cancer Foundation because of how it offers such great aid at a time when patients need to feel supported. Volunteering allows me to be present for others and to work for a greater goal. When my grandmother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer I noticed how it truly takes a village to care for loved ones during these moments, and how much stress it placed on my family. By participating at the foundation, I can help alleviate some of this stress and get to know the patients personally. The work we do can brighten other's days and doing so strengthens my love to help others. I also learned a lot during my time volunteering, such as how to step out of my comfort zone, as I tended to be more shy before starting at the foundation, and I grew to be a more independent individual throughout my months of volunteering."



Rachel Cole Volunteer since 2023

"We all know someone who has battled Cancer, and seen the effects it has on, not only the patients, but the families as well. As an Infusion Unit Coordinator, I see the struggles the families go through first hand, and all while dealing with a devastating diagnosis and life changing treatment plans these patients must endure. On my second day of training with New York Cancer and Blood Specialists, we were shown a highlight video of what the foundation was about. Instantly, I knew I wanted to help in any way I could. I emailed the foundation and found out what events were upcoming, volunteering for as many as I was able to. Seeing the differences the foundation has made in people's lives, tugged at my heartstrings. The most rewarding part of volunteering is seeing the smiles on the faces of those who need it. Patients have expressed gratitude for what I do without even realizing that they are the real heroes and each and every one of them will forever hold a place in my heart. I sincerely look forward to all future events with the amazing team at New York Cancer Foundation and recommend to everyone reading this to reach out to the foundation and help out in any way you can."

Director's Statement

Dear Friends!

Hope Grows Here...this was our theme for our 2023 Raising Hope Gala and it truly reflects how I feel about the Foundation this past year. Our supporters, our contributors, our volunteers have filled our hearts with the hope that we are making a difference in the lives of our patients.

We have grown in number of people we have helped and money we have raised.

- **529 families helped this year and over \$3MM dollars raised!**

We have grown in events.

- **Our community events across Long Island along with our larger events like our Gala brought us all together in the name of helping our patients**

We have grown in volunteers.

- **We are so grateful for our NYCBS volunteers like Jeanette, Candy, Dottie, Lisa and Tara as well as the wonderful crew from Stony Brook University**

We have grown in size.

- **Our newest addition to the team, Rachel, starts in February 2024 making us a 5 strong!**

The New York Cancer Foundation Superstars are the foundation of our...Foundation!

- **Victoria Lucido – Supervisor:** Applications are her priority I cannot thank her enough for powering through so many calls and requests each and every day
- **Lucy Diehl – Foundation Coordinator:** Lucy puts her heart and soul into her work and leaves no stone unturned to try and help
- **Kiely Hagland – Event Manager:** Kiely's superpowers are attention to detail and organization – she brings our events to life and keeps the funds flowing in

As we celebrate our Foundation's efforts, let's also celebrate each other, our collective power to bring hope into the lives of those affected by cancer, and the bright future that lies ahead. We have much to do in 2024 with some amazing events already planned – please join us! We are so grateful for all of you...

Together, our hope truly grows here!

Tina Toulon
Executive Director



Tina Toulon
Executive Director

Meet Our Grant Recipients



Alicia B.
Cancer Survivor

I just want to thank you, and NYCancer, for everything that you have done for me. When I first contacted you, I was in a bad place. I had overextended myself in trying to help a family member experiencing an emergency. The bills were coming due and I was panicking to the point that it was negatively affecting my health. The financial assistance from NYCancer couldn't have come at a better time. It really made a difference in my life. Now that I'm finally catching up with my bills, I feel better emotionally, AND physically! So THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!



Sherell "Rockstar"
Breast Cancer Survivor

"My stage 4 metastatic breast cancer diagnosis has affected me and my family in ways that only people who are experiencing this type of cancer can understand. I'm pretty messed up because the cancer has spread through my body. My body aches sometimes because the cancer attacked my bones too, and I get monthly shots to strengthen my bones. My family are great supporters; they listen to me when I'm feeling down and feel like giving up and we pray together. I do have good days too and when I do... oh boy! I play dress up with my daughter, I watch one of my favorite comedian's Kevin Hart on TV, I go on Zoom with my support group from Cancer Care, and I have Bible Study on Zoom too. But most importantly I have a cocktail too LOL (Apple Martini) I prefer. I am grateful for the New York Cancer Foundation who has helped me and my family during this difficult struggle. They have helped us during a time where we are down and out and have helped us get on our feet. Words can not express how appreciative we are for your assistance!



Silvia V.
Breast Cancer Survivor

"I'm a retired translator –English-Spanish-English. I'm divorced, no children, no siblings. All my relatives are in Argentina. New York City has been my beloved adoptive home for 49 years. But things changed when I was diagnosed with breast cancer in late 2020. And the long and frightening treatment with mastectomy followed, during the isolation of the pandemic. And the medical bills, so many, fell over my small budget –besides struggling with rent and basic expenses. All beyond the limited insurance.

I'm also a writer in English of novels and short stories. And yet I don't have enough words to express my gratitude to the New York Cancer Foundation for the generous support. Not only financially, which was so very needed, but also the kindness, the warmth of the ladies of the foundation, with whom I talked on the phone so many times. They made me feel I was not alone. Not enough words. Only a big Thank You from the deepest of my heart. What you do for those of us struggling with cancer and a limited budget is a blessing beyond description."

Foundation By The Numbers

Total Grants Paid

\$1,099,163.17

Impact

529 Patients Assisted
2540 Uber Rides Provided

Grant Breakdown

Q1	\$312,390.08
Q2	\$238,751.80
Q3	\$249,755.56
Q4	\$298,265.73

Patient Gender

FEMALE	363
MALE	166

Number of Grant Recipients

January	50
February	46
March	55
April	41
May	30
June	48
July	36
August	43
September	40
October	40
November	57
December	43

By Region

Suffolk County	162
Nassau County	29
Manhattan	50
Brooklyn	94
Queens	90
Bronx	92
Staten Island	9
Out of Metro Area	3

By Practice/Hospital

Catholic Health Services	8
Maimonides Cancer Center	7
Memorial Sloan Kettering	60
Mercy Clinic	1
Montefiore Medical Center	25
Mount Sinai	72
Nassau University	1
New York Cancer & Blood Specialists	247
New York Presbyterian	14
New York Proton Center	1
Northport VA	1
Northwell Health	23
NYC Health & Hospitals	11
NYU Langone	33
Private Oncology Practices	2
Quality Cancer Care Oncology	1
St Barnabas Hospital	1
Stony Brook	10
SUNY Downstate	1
Weill Cornell	5

By Cancer Type

Anal Cancer	6
Appendix Cancer	3
Bile Duct Cancer	3
Bladder Cancer	4
Blood Cancer	5
Bone Cancer	2
Breast Cancer	198
Cervical Cancer	8
Colorectal Cancer	39
Endometrial Cancer	4
Esophageal & Esophagogastric Cancer	3
Fallopian Tube Cancer	1
Gastrointestinal Cancer	7
Head & Neck Cancer	12
Kidney Cancer	5
Leukemia	16
Liver Cancer	6
Lung Cancer	54
Lymphoma	32
Multiple Myeloma	48
Ovarian Cancer	10
Pancreatic Cancer	11
Prostate Cancer	35
Skin Cancer	4
Stomach Cancer	4
Testicular Cancer	1
Thyroid Cancer	2
Throat Cancer	2
Tongue Cancer	2
Uterine Cancer	2



10TH ANNUAL PATIENT Celebration Day

In partnership with New York Cancer and Blood Specialists, over 1,500 patients and their families were welcomed to the Bald Hill Amphitheater for our 10th Annual Patient Celebration Day! Attendees enjoyed family-friendly activities, including new rides, live music, games, raffles, face painting, catering by Felicos, sweet treats, and puppies available for adoption! Macy's Smithaven made it extra special this year, providing skincare and makeup demos with their experts and free fragrance and makeup goodies! Thank you to all of our attendees, Bald Hill Amphitheater and JVC Broadcasting, Walk 97.5 Radio Station, Felicos Catering, Macy's Smithaven, Pawsitive Possibilities Rescue Inc, KBK Events, Fred the Human IPOD, Daisy's Art & Magic, Mr. Frostee, and more! We are so grateful to all of our volunteers who help make this day possible every year! It was a beautiful and positive day for all involved!



Brooklyn Half Marathon

We would like to extend our gratitude to Daniel Scarda who raised \$15,000 for the New York Cancer Foundation! Daniel ran 13.1 miles in the Brooklyn Half Marathon on May 20th and reached out to friends, family, and community members to support his efforts by asking them to donate to the New York Cancer Foundation. We are so grateful to Daniel and all who donated to support him in our mission to assist cancer patients with their household bills!!!!

"I have seen them accomplish great things as it relates to the people they support and I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge their hard work and help contribute in any way I could. They focus on assisting cancer patients with the cost and tribulations of dealing with a cancer diagnosis. They do a great job of keeping a granular level of attention on the patients they work with. I hope we can rally around a great cause, and use this opportunity to be thankful for the things that we might otherwise take for granted." *Daniel Scarda*



2nd Annual Top Golf Event

On April 26th, 2023, New York Cancer Foundation hosted its 2nd Annual Top Golf Event! The event was a huge success raising over \$25,000 to help cancer patients with household bills. We are so appreciative of our sponsors, attendees, and community supporters! The night included three hours of golfing fun, drinks, dinner, and everyone's favorite- raffle baskets! Live music was provided by the amazing Mike'd Up Entertainment.



5th Annual

Raising Hope Golf Classic

The 5th Annual Raising Hope Golf Classic, hosted by the New York Cancer Foundation, took place on August 7th, 2023. At Nissequogue Golf Club, over 100 participants enjoyed a day of golf, dinner, raffles, and live music. Despite a rain delay, our committed group persevered on the course. One of our grant recipients, Ellen Kushner, spoke again this year and reminded us that — through events like this one — we can help so many that are struggling. Gratitude is extended to the participants, sponsors, and volunteers who contributed to the day's success. The outcome was impressive, with \$150,000 raised through the event. These funds will offer vital support to cancer patients residing in the greater metro NY area, assisting them with essential household expenses.



Hockey For Hope

The Rubber Match

On May 6th, 2023, the New York Cancer Foundation hosted its 3rd Annual Hockey for Hope Event! The Foundation's team, composed of oncologists, nurses, NYCBS employees, and community members, faced off against the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office in the ultimate rubber match! The on-ice drama entertained the packed house until the final buzzer when the New York Cancer Foundation skated away with a 5-4 win! The game had over 300 attendees cheering on both teams and raised over \$30,000 through the generosity of sponsors and attendees!





5K Run the Vineyard at Pindar Vineyard

We had another great year partnering with Good Day For A Run, LLC for their Run the Vineyard series! All three races were held at the gorgeous Pindar Vineyard in Peconic, NY with a post-race party at the pavilion! We were also joined by Pawsitive Possibilities Rescue Inc, who brought puppies for adoption. A percentage of proceeds from each each went directly to the New York Cancer Foundation with over \$5,500 raised! Thank you to Ken Culbertson and his team at Good Day For a Run!



Laughs for Hope: Comedy Night

CGYS Entertainment and local comedians hosted a Laughs for Hope fundraiser benefiting the New York Cancer Foundation. On July 13th, at the Village Idiot Pub in Lake Grove, we were joined by community supporters for a fun evening with dinner, raffles and jokes! Thank you to all who joined us!



3rd Annual Living With Metastatic Breast Cancer

The 3rd Annual Living with MBC Event: A Day of Love, Support, and Education was recently hosted by the New York Cancer Foundation. Thank you, New York Cancer & Blood Specialists for your support and a huge thank you to Pfizer Oncology for your sponsorship! Over 50 attendees joined us Saturday, May 15th at Danfords Hotel, Marina & Spa!

The beautiful event kicked off with a wonderful panel of speakers for a Q&A, including our very own Dr. Yelda Nouri, Dr. Joseph Cirrone, Dr. Deepali Sharma, Dr. Victoria Shklar, Chief of Wellness Services MaryAnn Fragola, Dr. Nolyn Nyatanga, Dr. Kelly Johnson, and Dr. David Mangiameli. The day continued with speakers Dr. Michael Drabkin, Dr. Richard Zuniga, Director of Nutritional Services Wendy Kaplan, Financial Counselor Arlene Munoz, and Pfizer's Sherri May Rogers and Katrina Johnson. They covered a variety of topics including Interventional Radiology, cutting-edge research, support groups, and managing finances. Thank you to Dr. David Chu for being our official MC and sharing your inspirational words! We had several of our partners there with giveaways and educational materials! Thank you Coastal MD, Mondays at Racine Cancer Care, Tactile Medical, and New York Health. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



The Incredible Sensory Experience... Yoga, Wine & Puppies

The New York Cancer Foundation was thrilled to join forces with Inhales Wellness for a unique and fun fundraiser event, Yoga, Wine & Puppies. The yoga studio was filled with positive energy and laughter as attendees practiced yoga and socialized with adorable puppies. This event brought the community together to take a moment to relax, breathe, and support a great cause. We are delighted to announce that the event was a success, with five applications for the puppies from Pawsitive Possibilities.



Power Events by Schneps Media

Our Executive Director, Tina Toulon and Suffolk County Sheriff, Errol Toulon Jr. were both honored at two separate Power events hosted by Schneps Media! All raffle proceeds from both power events were donated to the New York Cancer Foundation with \$8,500 raised!



3rd Annual Raising Hope Gala

The New York Cancer Foundation was thrilled to welcome all guests to the prestigious Ziegfeld Ballroom for the 3rd Annual Raising Hope Gala on October 13th, 2023! Over \$1 million was raised through the generosity of our attendees and sponsors. The event theme “Hope Grows Here” reminds guests that their attendance and contribution provides hope to all those bravely battling cancer. This evening demonstrated the immense power of community coming together to support one cause.

Over 450 attendees joined us for an evening of elegance and philanthropy. The special honoree for the evening was Mr. Ted Okon, Executive Director of Community Oncology Alliance. His tireless efforts and advocacy for cancer patients have made a significant impact in the field of oncology. We were honored to have Breast cancer survivor and Grant recipient, Lexy Mealing, join us to share her inspiring story, reminding attendees of the profound impact of their support.

For this year's gala, NYCF partnered with world renowned photographer, Nigel Barker and Art Bodega Magazine offering an exclusive VIP photoshoot opportunity to guests!

We can't wait to welcome everyone back to Ziegfeld Ballroom in 2024 for our 4th Annual Raising Hope Gala!





Organizations Who Helped Us Spread Hope

Fight Like A Girl & North Shore Neighbors Donation: \$15,000

The generous folks at Fight Like A Girl, led by Patti Kozlowski, host an annual gala and this year's recipient of the funds raised was New York Cancer Foundation! We were so honored to be selected and it made for a new and wonderful partnership.

Salon Six Twentyeight Donation:

For breast cancer awareness month in October, Salon Six Twenty Eight located in Ronkonkoma, NY donated a portion of the proceeds from every pink hair extension purchased! Thank you Salon Six Twentyeight!

Morgan Stanley's Diversity and Inclusion Group Gift Donation: \$200,000

We were honored and humbled to receive this amazing donation to our Foundation. Through the Diversity and Inclusion Group, NYCF was selected to receive the largest gift based on our accomplishments and dedication to those in our community.

Joe Coffee Company Donation: \$3,000

A family owned coffee shop in New York City with over 20 locations dedicated 10% of their hot and iced coffee espresso beverage sales to New York Cancer Foundation to raise awareness regarding giving back in the community. We are so grateful to Joe Coffee Company for their donation!

Santa's Workshop with SCU & Monday's Donation:

New York Cancer Foundation in partnership with Mondays at Racine Cancer Care & Suffolk Credit Union hosted a Santa's Workshop Toy Drive Event for NYCF grant recipients and Mondays at Racine clients.

We are so grateful to partner with such wonderful organizations to bring holiday cheer to the community! Thank you to all who were involved.

Special shoutout to Suffolk Credit Union for collecting and donating all of the toys!

Serving Our Community Adopt-A-Family Program

In partnership with New York Cancer & Blood Specialists, the Foundation delivered holiday gifts to 34 patients and their loved ones. To help alleviate the stress of the holidays, each family was given gifts hand-picked by the New York Cancer Foundation staff. Smiles, and tears, were shared when delivering these items - we are so grateful to have had the opportunity to provide holiday cheer during a difficult time. All funds were generously donated by NYCBS staff who personally nominated patients that were having a challenging year, \$27,000 was raised!





Become Engaged in 2024

Donate

Support the work of the New York Cancer Foundation by making a donation or visit www.nycancerfoundation.org/donate



Scan to Donate

Volunteer

Please fill out a volunteer inquiry form at: www.nycancerfoundation.org/volunteer



Scan to Volunteer

Become An Advocate

The "Advocate Circle" will be composed of individuals who can help broaden the reach of our Foundation through relationship building, as well as assist with the logistics of special fundraising events.

To Learn More

Please email us at:

hope@nycancerfoundation.org or call us at: **(833)588-6923**





Scan to Donate

HOW CAN I HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

1. Make a **Donation**
2. Raise **Awareness**
3. Become a **Volunteer**

nycancerfoundation.org