

April 2017



Breast Cancer Assistance Group of Monterey County April 2017 Newsletter

As president of the Breast Cancer Assistance Group of Monterey County (BCAG), I would like to welcome you to our first quarterly newsletter. We are excited about the work we are doing in support of breast cancer patients throughout Monterey County, and I want to take this opportunity to share with you who we are and why we do what we do.

The side effects of breast cancer treatment will often affect a patient's ability to work, causing stress and financial anxiety. Many of the breast cancer patients we speak with share their fear of losing their home, buying food and paying utility bills while they are undergoing treatment.

For over 20 years, BCAG has made a positive difference in our community by providing monetary grants to qualified applicants for short term living expenses. Generous community donations fund our grants that serve approximately 30% of locally diagnosed patients each year.

Our quarterly newsletters will provide updates on our fundraising efforts, educational and community events, profiles of healthcare providers and applicants who have received BCAG grants.

Please visit our website to learn more about BCAG and how you can help to support our cause.

**Sincerely,
Susan Greenbaum
President
Breast Cancer Assistance Group of Monterey County**

Visit our Website

BCAG 2017 Bowl-A-Thon Grosses over \$20,000!

Thanks to everyone in Monterey County for making the 15th annual BCAG Bowl-a-thon a fantastic success! We raised over \$19,500t which will go directly to young mothers in Monterey County going through breast cancer treatment and recovery.

Special thanks to the students and faculty of Pacific Grove High School who helped organize and staff the event and to the many wonderful merchants of Monterey county that donated items and gift cards to our auction.

Together we are making a difference in the lives of local women going through the challenges of living with breast cancer.



MONTEREY COUNTY **GiVES!**
Joining Together for Big Ideas

In December BCAG was honored to be chosen to participate in the 2016 “Monterey County Gives!” fundraiser campaign. “Monterey County Gives!” is collaboration between the Community Foundation for Monterey, the Monterey County Weekly and the Monterey Peninsula Foundation. It was created to provide financial support to non-profits throughout Monterey County.

Seventy-five businesses and individuals throughout Monterey County donated over \$24,000 to BCAG through the course of the fundraiser. These generous contributions will enable BCAG to expand our assistance level and reach more deserving patients.

Thank you to everyone who participated. Every dollar raised will be used to make a difference in the lives of breast cancer patients throughout Monterey County.



Free Personalized Cancer Care Series in Honor of Women's Health Month

Learn About Personalized Cancer Care in an informal, comfortable environment in these series of 90-minute classes

- Enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles
- Dr. Arina Ganeles of Personalized Oncology Care of Monterey Bay will discuss finding the best course of diagnosis and treatment for each person's unique cancer through all available genomic testing, which helps to improve the outcome of the treatment as well as prevent or minimize side effects.

Personalized cancer treatment is a delivery of the right treatment based on the characteristics of the tumor genetics as well as on individual genetics of each patient. Personalized oncology is an evolving field and is the dream of every oncologist and should be the legitimate expectation of every cancer patient.

These classes are complimentary, but space is limited to 10 people. Classes will be held throughout the month of May in honor of Women's Health Month.

Dr. Ganeles will also discuss:

- Cancer Risk Assessment/Prevention Clinic
- Prognostic Markers
- Markers predictive of drugs sensitivity/resistance
- Markers predictive of adverse events
- Modern technologies such as Whole Genome Sequencing

[Click here to learn more and sign up for the classes](#)

Your donations to BCAG make a difference...

More than \$89,000 has been awarded to 75 local women for food, gas, rent, utilities, and incidentals over the past year. Our applicants come from many walks of life but all share the devastating financial stress of living with breast cancer.

The following profile is the story of a recent recipient of a BCAG grant. (To protect her privacy we have changed her name and personal details.)

Maria is from Seaside and the mother of two young children. She was diagnosed with breast cancer after an annual mammogram. Fortunately her cancer was caught early, and she underwent a lumpectomy on her right breast. She recently started a six week course of radiation.

Maria has worked on the assembly line at a local manufacturer for 18 years. Just prior to her surgery she took a leave of absence and is currently receiving disability payments. Maria's husband is a seasonal farm worker and has only been able to contribute about \$400 a month to expenses due to the recent rainy weather.

Because her job involves heavy lifting, Maria is unsure when she will be healthy enough to return to work. She continues to have pain from her surgery and concerns about the effects of radiation. Her employer has guaranteed her that they will hold her job open for three months. However since Maria has just started radiation, it is doubtful that she will be able to meet this deadline.

Maria is in the situation that is common to most of our applicants. She and her family live paycheck to paycheck. When she was diagnosed with cancer and had to quit working, the family quickly went through what little money they had saved. Now Maria finds herself unable to pay her upcoming rent and utility bills.

BCAG provided Maria with a special needs grant that paid for one month of rent, utilities, and gas. In addition, Maria's family received two months of groceries from the Monterey Food Bank.

The BCAG grant has helped reduce Maria's financial stress. Maria can apply for additional financial assistance if complications from her breast cancer delay her return to work.

If you or someone that you know has been diagnosed with breast cancer and would like to apply for a grant from BCAG, please visit our website for more information and to download an application.

[Apply for a BCAG grant](#)

[Donate to BCAG!](#)



Breast Cancer Assistance Group of Monterey County | Phone: 831-649-6365 | Fax: 866-219-8561 |
Email: contact@bcagm.c.org | [Website](#)

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