Thank You October Fundraising Partners

WBCC is so appreciative of our corporate and community fundraising partners who stepped up to support us during October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Kudos to:

Carson Wellness, LLC
Flat Rate Home Services of New Berlin
Hair Works of Portage
HerSuppz.com
Lance Thomas Industrial Artwork
Medical Weight Loss & Wellness of Oak Creek and Racine
Park High School of Racine
St Thomas Aquinas Academy of Milwaukee
“Think Pink Milwaukee”
Virginia’s Family Salon of Beloit

I chose to join WBCC to expand my horizons and help my community. As a young adult and student nurse, I am striving to put myself out there more. I have two grandmothers who have gone through breast cancer. One is a survivor and one passed away eight years ago. I love diving into new learning experiences, especially those that have impacted my life.

~ Amy Trentham-Dietz

On Oct. 20, WBCC welcomed participants in our 2016 Speaker Forum on “Obesity and Breast Cancer” at Columbia St Mary’s Hospital in Milwaukee. Amy Trentham-Dietz (UW-Madison Carbone Cancer Center) started the evening with an overview of “Obesity and Breast Cancer.” While for premenopausal women, being obese probably decreases breast cancer risk, this is offset by convincing data that for postmenopausal women, weight gain and more
Our new direction will have greater involvement in research, specifically metastatic disease. From 2000-2013, in the United States and United Kingdom combined, just 7% of the 15 billion dollars invested into breast cancer research went to metastasis. … While cancer care has come far, we have an incredible amount to do.

Under my Presidency, I hope to take the WBCC in a new direction to prioritize our fight against metastatic disease. Metastatic disease is the spread of breast cancer to distant organ sites, like the liver, lung, bones and brain. It accounts for 90% of all cancer deaths, and sadly, less than 8% of research even mentions word metastasis in their grant applications.

The WBCC already is headed in a new direction. This past summer, we worked through Wisconsin’s best weather months to map out a new strategic plan. If there were ever a time to get involved or donate to the WBCC, now is that time. We are bringing in new members and board members and intend to leave our mark on Wisconsin. I see great things in our future, but we can’t do it alone, we need you. I look forward to working hard for all the women and men out there fighting this disease.

The WBCC gratefully receives donations of good quality, solid wood chairs for our Survivor Artists to paint. We particularly desire unique, finely designed pieces of the same puzzle. Please contact us if you have one to donate. We occasionally also accept other smaller pieces of furniture, such as side tables or small shelves.

The 2016 Rare Chair Affair on September 30 concluded with a rousing auction of 18 chairs by 15 artists, including several paired sets.

Daughter/Mom team Wendy Carlson and Roberta Williams evoked giraffes on their Parent/Tot rocking chairs, while another Daughter/Mom team (Amanda Schmidt and Ann Scannell) went with a puzzle theme that was meant to reflect themselves: “Two pieces of the same puzzle.”

Lindsey Nathan O’Connor painted two children’s benches with a Batman and Robin theme signifying courage, and SHERIE DREES painted a set of dreamy chairs with a floral flourish.

The annual auction netted more than $37,000 for the WBCC and more for an entertaining evening at the Wisconsin Club. View more pictures and updates on our RCA Facebook Page and website. Come get involved with this fun event for RCA 2017!
Obesity and Breast Cancer

Obesity is linked with many health problems, including breast cancer risk. Three scientists presented a complicated picture of obesity and breast cancer.

“Obesity and the Normal Breast, Enhancing Long Term Risk.” Her “cage side” work focuses on generating models in mice that can be used to understand breast cancer. Her findings are that obesity in youth can result in an early loss of myoepithelium, reducing the barrier against progression of invasive carcinomas.

Rulla Tamimi, Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at Harvard, addressed “Body Size Across the Life Course and Breast Cancer Risk.” Perhaps counterintuitively, being heavy early in life (adolescence) is associated with a 50% reduced risk of premenopausal breast cancer compared to girls who were lean. Tamimi’s conclusion: What your body size is early in life has a lifelong affect in which overweight size is inversely correlated with breast cancer. She notes that we need more studies to understand this mechanism.

Waukesha School District
Laura Callen
Elementary School Art Teacher

“I joined the WBCC board because, being a survivor, this cause is near and dear to my heart. I am a young survivor who is currently living ‘flat and fabulicious,’ who is passionate about making sure breast cancer research and information stays in the forefront of the public’s mind.”

Sherie Drees
Elementary School Art Teacher

“At 35 my life changed completely when I was diagnosed with breast cancer in May of 2015. Throughout my diagnosis and treatment I’ve been given quite a different perspective on life and a different look into the healthcare system. Married with two young children, my survivalship has fueled a passion in me to do my part to protect others. I want to stand beside WBCC as a passionate advocate for women and men everywhere.”

The Future of the Affordable Care Act:
Next Steps for Advocates
By Hayley Young

With President-elect Trump and Congressional Republicans pledging to repeal the Affordable Care Act, millions of Americans are worried they will lose their only access to health insurance. The landscape is unclear, and experts can only guess at what is to come.

For the immediate future, Obamacare remains intact. Insurers are generally locked in contractually for 2017, according to experts.

While both BadgerCare and the Affordable Care Act were discussed as alternatives to the WWWP, the premiums under the ACA are often cost prohibitive to women who are eligible for the WWWP. This is because Wisconsin did not accept the federal Medicaid expansion funds, which would have covered many women who struggle to pay for premiums.

In short, lower-income Wisconsin women are more vulnerable to breast cancer and other illnesses because the Well Woman Program was downsized while federal Medicaid dollars were rejected, and a Wisconsin Exchange for Healthcare.gov, which has reduced premiums in other states, was not created.

With the potential repeal of the Affordable Care Act, women who had to transition away from the WWWP may get lost in the shuffle, and find themselves without access to life-saving screenings from any healthcare system.

Cross-section model of cancerous breast

Ensure Access to Breast Health Screenings

When the Wisconsin Department of Health Services proposed restructuring the Wisconsin Well Woman Program in 2013, one of the common justifications was that other programs such as the ACA could care for the women who might find themselves needing care after the number of coordinators and providers dropped drastically. The number of WWWP dropped from 72 to 13 coordinators who would run “Multi Jurisdictional Agencies.” The Department of Health Services has noted a decrease in use since 2015, but says women are still being served because alternatives are available.

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Becoming Informed WBCC co-presents event with MCW

By Kathleen Harris, Policy Committee Member

This full-day educational program drew nearly 50 participants to learn about breast cancer science and advocacy on an introductory level. Organized by a team that included WBCC Policy Committee member Kathleen Harris, the event featured thoughtful and interesting exchanges between faculty and participants. The WBCC co-presented the event along with the Medical College of Wisconsin, and WBCC board members Carrie Riccobono and Kris Miller were among the panelists. An example of the collaborative work was a small group breakout session created by Dr. Frank Wilson on evaluating breast cancer clinical research submissions. Faculty members served as discussion leaders and walked participants through the merits and deficits of a sample clinical trial proposal.

Graduates of the program were primed to understand breast cancer research and issues in the media and to become better informed science advocates on the state and national levels. Attendees also learned about the important role we can all play in the political arena, where breast cancer research and issues in the media and to become better informed science advocates on the state and national levels. Attendees also learned about the important role we can all play in the political arena, where breast cancer research and issues in the media and to become better informed science advocates on the state and national levels. Attendees also learned about the important role we can all play in the political arena, where breast cancer research and issues in the media and to become better informed science advocates on the state and national levels. Attendees also learned about the important role we can all play in the political arena, where breast cancer research and issues in the media and to become better informed science advocates on the state and national levels.

Boot Camp participation was free of charge. This event followed a previous Boot Camp event in 2015.

Wisconsin Breast Cancer Research and Advocacy Boot Camp 2016 was held at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee on October 8, 2016, drawing nearly 50 participants.

PERSPECTIVES

“I was invited to speak at Boot Camp 2016 on the role of breast cancer advocates as research reviewers, based on my participation as a Consumer Reviewer for the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program. I firmly believe that having trained advocates serve on review panels with breast cancer researchers helps ensure funding is awarded to projects with the greatest potential to end death from breast cancer.”

— Kris Miller, Breast Cancer Advocate

“I came away thinking that this was a very important exercise for the advocates to have engaged in. Such an experience would strengthen the advocates’ ability to talk to patients about the importance of participating in clinical trials and enable them to help patients understand research protocols.”

— Christopher R. Chittams, MD, Prof. of Medicine, Division of Hematology & Oncology, MCW and Froedtert Clinical Cancer Center

Coming Up: 2nd Annual Wisconsin Review of the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium

Saturday, January 28, 2017
The Pfister Hotel
424 E. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Registration is Open

Complimentary registration can be found on the MEETINGS page online: who.wisconsin.com. Breakfast and lunch provided.

The Review Program is currently being presented from the perspective of survivors/advocates. If you have questions regarding the proposed Advocate Meeting, please contact Kathleen Harris at kathleen.harris2020@gmail.com.