The Year in Review

**by Karla Nichols**

The year 2005 will be remembered in Cancer Action’s history for many significant reasons.

2005 will be remembered as a year of great accomplishments as the agency had another record-breaking year, serving 3,670 persons with cancer.

2005 will be remembered as a year of new beginnings. Through the generosity of Back in the Swing, we began several new Wellness Programs including Pink T’s, Comfort Massage, Moving Into Wellness, Restorative Balanced Moves and Art Classes that benefited so many who are coping with the daily challenges of a cancer diagnosis.

2005 will be remembered as a year of realizing dreams. We opened an office in Johnson County at 95th and Metcalf after two years of hard work and planning. We had a grand opening ribbon cutting with special guest Dennis Moore helping to celebrate the day.

2005 will be remembered as the year of “the flood.” We learned how quickly dreams can become a nightmare when just three months after opening our doors in Johnson County a water line break flooded our new home and permanently closed this office. This unexpected tragedy was very challenging and costly for the agency. But, we also learned that strength, friends and a determined spirit can see you through tough times.

We will remember 2005 as a year of great loss, as we said goodbye to our friend, and former director of Cancer Action, Maxine Bowers. Maxine lead the agency for 23 years and provided the strong foundation on which to build and expand our services. Her passion to develop and sustain a strong volunteer program has been at the heart of the agency’s mission for the past 47 years. In her memory, the agency established the Maxine Bowers Legacy of Service Award to honor her commitment to volunteerism.

Even through the challenges that we faced during the course of the past year, Cancer Action continues to be the heart of cancer support in Kansas City. As we have since 1959, the agency remains committed to it’s mission of improving the quality of life for those living with, through and beyond cancer. The programs and services provided by the agency are so vital to those living with cancer receiving the care they need throughout their difficult journey.

We are so appreciative to our donors, volunteers and professional staff who make it possible for Cancer Action to be the beacon of hope, encouragement, comfort and support that it has been for 47 years!

As a caring community of professionals and volunteers, Cancer Action is dedicated to reducing distress and improving the quality of life for those living with, through and beyond cancer; and promote education, prevention and early detection to reduce the impact of cancer in the greater Kansas City area.
3,670 Clients Served

Cancer Action served 3,670 cancer patients and their families in 2005. This represents a two percent increase from the previous year. Of the total clients served, 1,782 clients were new to Cancer Action programs and services.

All of Cancer Action’s programs and services continued to have significant growth in 2005. The two programs with the greatest growth were prescription assistance and the nutritional supplement program. In 2005, Cancer Action began many new wellness programs that touched the lives of hundreds of cancer survivors.

Financial Assistance
- 254 clients received 1,585 cancer-related medications
- 10 women received 26 prosthesis and bras
- 12 women received 22 lymphedema sleeves/gloves
- 44 clients received 176 oral chemotherapy medications

Direct Services
- 1,290 clients received 89,821 cans of nutritional supplements

465 clients received 687 pieces of medical equipment
102 clients received 1,477 rides to and from cancer-related medical appointments
351 women received 463 wigs
375 women received 1,519 turbans and scarves
737 clients received 34,058 medical supplies
1,395 clients received 9,480 comfort items

Emotional Support
- 53 clients attended support group 237 times
- 318 clients attended 712 wellness program offerings
- All clients received a thorough assessment when they begin receiving services

Community Education

Cancer Action is committed to promote education, prevention and early detection to reduce the impact of cancer in the greater Kansas City area. Through our community education program, Cancer Action collaborates with numerous agencies and healthcare organizations and service providers to provided educational opportunities throughout the metropolitan area.

During 2005, the agency provided leadership for the Minority Cancer Awareness Coalition that organized educational sessions about health and cancer prevention for minority and medically underserved populations in the Kansas City area. The agency also continues to co-chair the Kansas City Cancer Coalition that has collaborated with cancer-serving organizations throughout the city to design and promote a website (www.kccancer.info) that provides local information to cancer patients and their families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Education</th>
<th>Number Provided</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature Dispensed</td>
<td>19,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Fair Displays</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletters</td>
<td>32,000</td>
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Volunteers have been the very heart of Cancer Action since the agency’s beginning 47 years ago. Caring friends and neighbors began meeting to make comfort items and offer support to those facing cancer. They expressed their concern through acts of kindness. To this day, this tradition continues. Our volunteers are still at the very heart of the agency. They make comfort items, assist our staff in doing office tasks, drive clients to their appointments and represent the agency at health fairs and fundraising events. Cancer Action volunteers are people guided by compassion.

Cancer Action celebrated its volunteers with an annual volunteer recognition banquet. Chief meteorologist, Gary Lezak emceed the event. The agency established the Maxine Bowers Legacy of Service award in memory of her strong support to volunteerism. This award was presented to Barbara Unell for her community wide efforts to improve the lives of breast cancer survivors.

Mary McIntyre was the 2005 Volunteer of the Year. Mary has been a dedicated volunteer of Cancer Action for several years. You will find her at Cancer Action on her day off from her full-time job. Mary brings technical and computer skills to the agency. In this high-tech world, computer expertise is a priceless gift. As an eight-year cancer survivor, Mary offers hope and support to women newly diagnosed with breast cancer. Mary’s positive attitude and compassion are apparent in all she does. She is an inspiration to all of us and a tremendous example of the compassionate dedication of our volunteers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteer Type</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comfort Items</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>67,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>3,716</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraisers</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>1,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drivers</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1,521</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Projects</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Fairs</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Delivery</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>988</strong></td>
<td><strong>77,178</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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“I recommend that people come to Cancer Action as early as they can.”
-Lisa Coyne, Cancer Action Client, Nurse, Mother, Wife

**Volunteer Program**

**Financial Overview**

**2005 Sources of Support**

- Support from Investment Fund: 48%
- Donations: 21%
- Special Events: 5%
- United Way: 10%
- Grants: 10%

**2005 Expenses**

- Management & General: 18%
- Fund Raising: 4%
- Programs and Services: 78%
The Cancer Action Board, Staff and especially the clients the agency is privileged to serve, wish to thank the following donors for making the 2005 patient, volunteer and community education programs possible - those who named Cancer Action to receive a bequest, our many individual donors who gave throughout the year to improve the quality of life for those diagnosed with cancer and the following groups, foundations and corporate sponsors.