

IMPACT: *Going Above and Beyond*

By **Karla Nichols** - Executive Director

To say these last three years have been a challenge, would be an understatement. There have been many difficult and challenging situations to address...and I want to share with you how Cancer Action has risen to meet these challenges and made sure cancer patients in our community receive the services and support they need. I would first like to share gratitude to the board of directors and staff for keeping our organization strong and responsive.

When the pandemic began, Cancer Action immediately pivoted, working with our healthcare providers, to help clients get services without coming to the office. Cancer Action offices remained open, utilizing a revised schedule, to help people get supplies they need, throughout the pandemic. We reduced our overhead expenses to ensure every dollar possible would go toward the needs of cancer patients, “keeping the main thing, the main thing!”

We were even able to expand services to respond to some of the unmet needs and gaps in care. Beginning in 2022, we expanded our service delivery to include Cass County and added a Gas Card Assistance Program to help with the additional gas expenses during the time of treatment. We expanded the medical equipment we purchase to meet some of the needs for clients experiencing weakness and difficulty getting around. These have been beneficial programs for many cancer patients in our community

Some unexpected challenges arose toward the end of last year when there was a national shortage of the nutritional



Shirley Gibson, Program Director delivers boost to Kevin's home

supplement given to our clients. Our vendor was unable to get the products we needed to provide our Boost program. This is the most highly utilized program for our agency, helping hundred of cancer patients each year. One of our longtime partners that helps provide this vital program is the Kansas City Medicine Cabinet.

We collaborated to work through the supply chain issues. Cancer Action was able to order the nutritional supplement directly and then our staff made home deliveries to ensure clients got the nutritional support critical during their time of treatment. We were also able to

partner with another local non-profit, Accessibility Medical Equipment, which became a direct supplier and was able to provide home shipments to our clients. While this was an extremely challenging situation, the collaboration resolved the crisis and our clients did not miss getting the nutritional support needed to maintain their weight and energy during their cancer treatment.

These are just a few ways Cancer Action has been ***Going Above and Beyond*** to ensure cancer patients in our community have had their needs met during this historical and challenging time. We are so grateful to our donors, our healthcare partners and our community partners like the Kansas City Medicine Cabinet, for helping keep Cancer Action strong and accessible through every step of the cancer journey for hundreds of cancer patients in our community.

Cancer Action President's Letter

By Brian Levinson



Spring is upon us, signaling a time when we look forward to blooming flowers and warmer weather. It provides an opportunity to get outside again and feel reinvigorated. It is also a time for hope, which is so important to cancer patients, their families and caregivers.

At Cancer Action our staff works tirelessly every day to provide the critical support that cancer patients need so they can have hope ... hope for the best possible outcome from their cancer journey. Cancer Action is able to do that because of the support we receive year after year from the community. We couldn't do what we do without you!

The board of Cancer Action is also committed to ensuring the organization remains flexible to meet the needs of cancer patients in new, more efficient ways. When the pandemic shut down Cancer Action's

volunteer transportation services, the organization responded by introducing a gas card program to help reduce the financial burden of getting to treatment appointments. In recent years, Cancer Action has also entered into new partnerships to meet the needs for prescription assistance and nutritional supplements.

Partnerships have also been critical in terms of Cancer Action's financial strength, with many generous organizations hosting very successful events and donating the proceeds to the organization. From Sunflowers to Roses, a bike ride that celebrated its 20th anniversary last year, to a horseshoe tournament, silent auction, concerts and more, Cancer Action is extremely grateful for the efforts of so many people who share our commitment to ensuring cancer patients have the support and

assistance they need. These events also serve as important outreach opportunities as they provide visibility for Cancer Action so that more people learn about this valuable community resource.

As a local, independent nonprofit, Cancer Action is a unique organization. Every dollar contributed to Cancer Action stays here in the community to support those around us who receive a cancer diagnosis. Cancer Action has served people across the metro for more than 60 years and with your continued support Cancer Action will continue to provide hope for cancer patients for many years to come. As long as cancer continues to impact people across the metro region, Cancer Action will be here to help cancer patients and fulfill our mission to reduce distress and promote well-being at all stages of a cancer journey.

Sunflowers to Roses Celebrates 20 Years!

In 2022, the Sunflowers to Roses Bike ride celebrated 20 years of supporting those with cancer in the Kansas City area. Cancer Action has been so fortunate to be the recipient of the hard work and commitment of this group of volunteers for many years. They celebrated their 20th year by giving Cancer Action their largest gift ever of \$100,000! Words cannot express our gratitude for their



generous gift of support during this difficult economic time. Since 2007, Sunflowers to Roses (S2R) has donated over \$680,000! It is amazing what a group of passionate people with a heart to help others can do! If you want to join the bike ride or volunteer this

year, mark your calendar for Sunday, August 6th. You can learn more at www.sunflowerstoroses.org



Compassion in Action

Cancer Action has been blessed to have several groups and individuals that have supported us through some unique ways. We are so grateful for everyone who shares their time and talents to offer a helping hand to those with cancer in our community. Here are just a few examples...



Cancer Action Horseshoe Tournament

Since 2002, a group who pitches horseshoes at the Don Harris Arena, has held an annual tournament for Cancer Action, raising over \$50,000 in the 21 years they have held the event!



Maiden Designs

These two wonderful women make jewelry and go to craft shows throughout Missouri to sell their beautiful handmade pieces. They have donated over \$25,000 the past 7 years!



McCurry's

Kimbell McCurry is an artist. Every October he paints a picture a day (or two) and sells them on his Facebook page and donates proceeds to Cancer Action in honor of his wife, Linda who is a cancer survivor. They have donated over \$25,000 the past 10 years to Cancer Action!

One Client's Story...

My name is April. I am a 52-year-old mother of six. I first became aware of Cancer Action in 2016 when I was looking for a wig. I had been diagnosed with breast cancer, had already had surgery and was receiving chemotherapy. At that time, I was only able to receive donated items as I lived in Cass County, which was not a county they provided financial assistance. I received a wig, mastectomy supplies, a few medical supplies and donated Boost. They also provided mastectomy supplies for me in 2018, 2019 and 2021.

My cancer returned in 2022 and had spread to other areas in my body. When I contacted Cancer Action, I discovered they had added Cass County to their approved counties for financial assistance. I have received Boost Glucose Control, medical supplies, a wheelchair, and most importantly a gas card. I live in rural Cass County with no surrounding cancer facilities. With gas prices as they are now, the gas card has been a great help. Cancer Action has impacted me in many ways through the years. I am thankful for all their support!





Ride to Boulevardia
BEAT CANCER ON A BIKE
Saturday, June 17, 2023

For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/Ride2Boulevardia>
Cancer Action is one of the beneficiaries for this event!



Community Partner

Sunflowers to Roses Bike Tour 2023

LIVE TO RIDE

Sunday, August 6, 2023

For more information, visit www.sunflowerstoroses.org
This ride supports Cancer Action!

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