

# Cancer Action 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

## A GLANCE BACK AT 2015

By Karla Nichols, Executive Director

Support throughout the cancer journey... that is what Cancer Action is committed to providing for every person in our community who hear those frightening words “you have cancer”. A cancer diagnosis can turn a person’s world upside down, impacting not only them but their family and friends. At Cancer Action, we believe that no one should face the challenges of cancer alone. During the past year, our services and support helped over 3,000 cancer patients face the challenges that cancer brought into their lives. We meet a person wherever they are when they come to us and walk alongside them throughout their cancer journey.

Our support provides essential practical services, financial assistance and the professional guidance, education and emotional support to help families navigate this difficult journey. Our individualized, personal approach to care is what makes Cancer Action a unique and vital organization in Kansas City.

2015 was another busy year for our organization! Cancer Action’s practical and financial assistance programs provided

critical, often life-saving services to cancer patients. Help with prescriptions, nutritional supplements and rides to life-sustaining treatment appointments were three of the



Karla with Molly Hammer, singer/performer and Larry Moore, Anchor Emeritus KMBC 9 News

most utilized service during the past year. We continue to increase our survivorship and wellness programs to help address the emotional impact that cancer has on the lives of survivors.

Cancer Action’s fifth annual Champion for Survivorship Breakfast, was a highlight of the year. Larry Moore, Anchor Emeritus for KMBC 9 News and cancer survivor was our special guest emcee. Molly Hammer, singer and breast cancer survivor shared her musical talents during the event. Both of them shared their cancer journey, providing hope and inspiration! A moving

video featuring personal stories of Cancer Action clients was shown during the event. Cancer Action, along with RPM Photography + Cinematography, earned a prestigious Gold Award for the video, “Making it to the Finish Line,” in the MarCom Awards 2015 competition. You can view the video at

[www.canceractionkc.org](http://www.canceractionkc.org)

Cancer Action continues to be blessed with so many dedicated volunteers who assist us in our mission. Our agency boasts one of the largest volunteer programs in the Kansas City area, and these committed people provided over 36,000 hours of service this past year! Our longtime friend and emcee Gary Lezak, chief meteorologist for 41 Action News and Stormy helped us recognize and celebrate their work at our annual volunteer reception.

Cancer Action continues to be a vital and needed partner with the cancer care providers in our community. I am so grateful to everyone who gave their time, talents and treasures to lift up thousands of cancer patients who come to Cancer Action for support, hope and comfort during the toughest time of their lives. As a local organization, every dollar Cancer Action receives remains here in our community helping our families, friends and neighbors. Cancer Action – support throughout your cancer journey!

## COMPASSION IN ACTION

### A CANCER ACTION STORY

**A**t 46, Chris had a busy and active life. He was a successful entrepreneur, a husband and father of four who enjoyed spending time with his children. When he wasn't feeling up to par, Chris went to the doctor. In just a few days he found himself in the hospital with AML, a type of leukemia. Months of aggressive treatment, including a bone marrow transplant, placed a great deal of stress on Chris and his family.



Fortunately, Chris comes from a large family and his brother was a match for him. His close-knit family supported him throughout the long months of treatment and recovery. However, the financial strain from his inability to work began to take its toll. When he left the hospital he needed a very

expensive medication. Chris was referred to Cancer Action for help and we paid the cost of the medicine. We were able to relieve some of Chris' stress during this critical time of recovery, assistance that he greatly appreciates. Cancer Action was a game changer for Chris!

Chris is just one of over 3,000 patients who Cancer Action was able to help during this past year. If you have given your time, talent and financial support to us YOU are also a part of our team. You have helped be a game changer in the lives of so many in our community. You have enabled Cancer Action to offer support throughout their cancer journey ~ and we are grateful!



Cancer Action's new board members include Christie Sheldon, Marcia Valera, President Molly Buchanan, Katherine Girgis, Barbara Flowers (nominating committee) and Karla Nichols, executive director

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITY IN 2015...TOGETHER WE CHANGE LIVES

For over **56 years**, Cancer Action has been dedicated to improving the lives of those with cancer in our community. We are grateful for the support of every person! We want to share with you the impact we made together this past year:

- Served over **3,071** cancer patients and their families, providing ongoing emotional support and guidance; including registering **1,392** new clients during the year.
- Provided over **17,500** "touchpoints" ~ caring support by our professional Case Manager's to patients and their families throughout every step of their journey
- Supplied over **70,000** servings of nutritional supplements to more than **800** cancer patients to help them maintain their weight and energy during the rigors of cancer treatments
- Provided over **700** rides to life-saving or life-prolonging treatment and doctor appointments
- Filled over **2,200** prescriptions for those who could not afford their medication to relieve pain, nausea, treat infections and meet other supportive care needs
- Helped women going through treatment by providing **370** wigs and over **1,500** turbans and scarves
- Gave over **600** pieces of medical equipment to help families members care for their loved ones during their cancer journey
- Distributed over **33,000** medical supplies to support cancer patients and decrease the financial burden of cancer
- Assisted **90** women with mastectomy supplies, lymphedema sleeves or breast prosthesis
- **43** families were adopted through our "Making Wishes Come True" holiday adoption program, touching **153** adults and children that were financially impacted by a cancer diagnosis.

## CANCER ACTION VOLUNTEERS GIVING TIME AND TOUCHING HEARTS

Cancer Action volunteers are dedicated, compassionate and faithful in giving of their time and many talents to offer support to cancer patients and their families. Cancer Action couldn't do our work without you! Here are just a few examples of how Cancer Action Volunteers gave of their time in 2015 lifting spirits and touching hearts:

In 2015, volunteers gave over **36,551** hours of service!

Volunteers donated **352** hours supporting special events and fundraising

Volunteers drove over **12,371** miles and spent over **680** hours transporting cancer patients to their doctor and treatment appointments

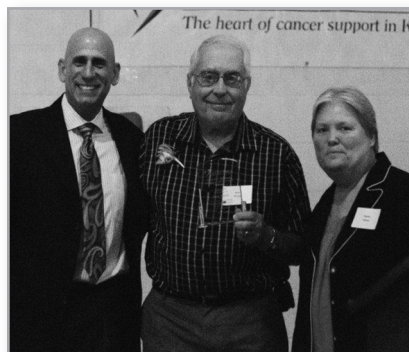
Over **2,304** hours were donated by those helping our three offices run smoothly and bulk mail volunteers.

Approximately **33,202** hours were given to provide comfort and care items to our clients through individuals and our service groups

Several hundred hours moving office space, organizing store room, health fairs, and courier work.

*The Heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.*

Anonymous



MAXINE BOWERS LEGACY AWARD presented to Bob Werly, shown with Chief Meteorologist for 41 Action News Gary Lezak and Shirley Gibson, Cancer Action Program Director



OUR 2015 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR- Carol Kabler with Gary Lezak and Shirley Gibson

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>	<b>\$653,824</b>	
Donations/Memorials	\$200,506	30.6%
Patient Services Grants	\$276,463	20.7%
United Way/CFC	\$135,551	20.0%
Interest and dividend income	\$18,669	02.1%
Unrealized Gain on investments	\$(21,076)	(03.2%)
Realized Gain on investments	\$2,535	0.03%
Special Events	\$36,404	04.6%
Other Revenue	\$4,901	00.7%
<b>Operational Expenses</b>	<b>\$643,244</b>	
Programs and Services	\$552,098	85.8%
Management/General	\$56,908	08.8%
Fundraising	\$34,237	05.3%

A full copy of the audited financial report may be obtained upon request.

*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.*

Helen Keller

*Special thanks to the following for their partnership with Cancer Action:*

**Foundations and Businesses**

Addington Design  
 American Multi Cinema  
 ArtBra KC (now Bra Couture KC)  
 AT&T United Way Employee Giving Campaign  
 Bank Of America United Way Campaign  
 Brotherhood Bank & Trust  
 Aileen V. and Redman Callaway Fund  
 Cancer Treatment Centers of America  
 Centerpoint Medical Center Auxiliary  
 CertainTeed Corporation  
 Commerce Bank  
 Cremation Society of Kansas and Missouri  
 Driscoll's  
 First National Bank  
 GE United Way Campaign  
 Greater Twin Cities United Way  
 Hallmark Cards  
 Healthcare Foundation Of Greater Kansas City  
 Heartland Combined Federal Campaign  
 HNC Living Foundation  
 Honeywell Hometown Solutions  
 Jewish Heritage Foundation  
 Kross Family Fund  
 KC Cause, Inc  
 Lathrop & Gage  
 Midwest Cancer Alliance  
 Mile High United Way  
 OTSI  
 R A Bloch Cancer Foundation  
 Recycle Pink  
 RPM Photography and Cinematography  
 Sara's Floral  
 Sarah Cannon Cancer Centers HCA Health  
 Skradski Funeral Home  
 Stephenson & Meyer Insurance  
 Susan G. Komen Greater Kansas City Affiliate  
 The Andrew J. Somora Foundation  
 The Benevity Community Impact Fund  
 Travelers Community Connections  
 Truman Heartland Community Foundation  
 Truman Medical Center  
 Turf Tek Lawn & Landscape  
 United Way of Greater Kansas City  
 United Way of Wyandotte County  
 University Of Kansas Division Of Hematology and Oncology  
 University Of Kansas Cancer Center

US Bank  
 US Foodservice  
 Wyandotte Health Foundation  
 Your Cause

**Community Groups**

9 Round KC/Liberty  
 Avondale United Methodist Church  
 Bikers for Boobies KC  
 Farmers Insurance Company  
 First Christian Church, Christian Women's Fellowship, Independence, MO  
 First Presbyterian Church, Independence, MO  
 Fort Osage Athletic Booster Club  
 GNO-4-BC  
 Greater Kansas City Chapter of American Payroll Association  
 Greater Kansas City Chapter of Oncology Nursing Society  
 Heartland Indoor Horseshoe Association  
 Heather Parris Memorial Breast Cancer Awareness Fund  
 Hoops 4 Hope  
 Independence Square Association  
 Independence Young Matrons  
 KC Century Bike Ride (Ride to Boulevardia)  
 Kimbell McCurry Paintings  
 Maywood Community Church Ladies Council  
 Merriam Christian Church  
 MODE  
 National Horseshoe Association  
 Olathe Parks & Rec  
 Oliver's Hair Salon  
 Oncology Nursing Society KC Chapter  
 P&D School of Dance  
 Raymore-Peculiar Schools  
 Rod Rogers Memorial Golf Tournament  
 SCAR (Support Cancer Action Ride) Poker Ride  
 Sunflowers To Roses Organization  
 Torchbearer Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, Independence, MO  
 Woods Chapel United Methodist Church



**2015 Board Officers**

Molly Buchanan - US Bank  
 PRESIDENT  
 Barbara Flowers - Community Volunteer  
 RECORDING SECRETARY  
 Jo Beth Herrick - Truman Medical Center  
 VICE-PRESIDENT  
 Joe Otey, Treasurer - Fidelity Bank  
 TREASURER  
 Melanie Simpson - University of Kansas Hospital  
 PAST PRESIDENT

**2015 Board Members**

Mary Calys - North Kansas City Hospital  
 Patricia Caruthers, Ph.D. - Community Volunteer  
 Elizabeth Chilcote - Community Volunteer  
 Dave Harris - US Bank  
 Clayton Harper - Attorney  
 Amanda Hartman - HCA Midwest Health  
 Kimberly George - University of Kansas Cancer Center  
 Eric Jacobson - Ascend Media  
 Randy Kancel - Bank Midwest  
 Elaine McIntosh - Kansas City Hospice and Palliative Care  
 Vangie Rich - R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation  
 Mary Shafer - Lathrop & Gage  
 Dr. Peter Van Veldhuizen - Sarah Cannon Cancer Center HCA  
 Mary Williams - WireCo WorldGroup  
 Lizzie Wright - University of Kansas Cancer Center



**OFFICE LOCATIONS**

EASTERN JACKSON COUNTY  
 4010 S. Lynn Court  
 Independence, MO 64055  
 816-350-8881

JOHNSON COUNTY  
 10520 Barkley, Suite 100  
 Overland Park, KS 66212  
 913-642-8885

WYANDOTTE COUNTY  
 1600 Washington Blvd.  
 Kansas City, KS 66102  
 913-321-8880

[www.canceractionkc.org](http://www.canceractionkc.org)

**MISSION STATEMENT**

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 promoting education, prevention and early detection to reduce the impact of cancer in the greater Kansas City area.