

Cancer Action is . . .

## *Stepping on the Gas and Going the Extra Mile*

By Karla Nichols

Dealing with a cancer diagnosis is difficult for the patient, the family and friends. In addition to the emotional trauma, the financial impact of fighting a life-threatening illness can be overwhelming—and the major costs of cancer treatments, such as surgeries, radiation, chemotherapy and scans, may seem insurmountable.

Managing the **daily costs** of related expenses is also challenging. Can you imagine having to drive to and from radiation treatments every day for six weeks? What if your treatment protocol includes months of chemotherapy with weekly lab work? Chances are the related, or indirect costs, of the gasoline needed for those trips was not in your budget. Unfortunately, you may find you are barely able to make ends meet because of the additional day-to-day expenses. Now you are in the fight of your life and need some financial support **just to get to your treatment**. Where would you turn for help? Well, in Kansas City, the answer to that question is **Cancer Action!**

We are pleased to announce that Cancer Action is **“stepping on the gas”** to meet one of the critical needs cancer patients experience today by starting a **Gas Card Assistance Program!** This pilot program will provide a gas card to help cancer patients with the related expenses of gasoline to get to and from their treatments. In addition to providing support to some of the most financially challenged cancer patients in our city, it will also help those who depend on family and friends to get them to treatment by assisting with their expenses. **The Gas Card Assistance Program**

could literally be a lifesaver to some of the most vulnerable cancer patients in our community.

**Cancer Action didn't stop there . . .** in addition to **“stepping on the gas”** we are also **“going the extra mile”** to reach out to cancer patients by increasing our service delivery area to include Cass County! As our community continues to expand, the need for support in Cass County has grown significantly. Our health care partners have identified this area as one where Cancer Action's support is vital. There are no other services offered to cancer patients living in this area of the metro. Beginning in 2022, Cancer Action added Cass County as one of our service areas! Cancer Action now provides services and support to six metro counties: Jackson, Clay, Platte and Cass counties in Missouri; and Wyandotte and Johnson Counties in Kansas.

There is no doubt that this is a challenging time for all of us. The added stress cancer patients and their families have in dealing with the major expenses **and** the indirect expenses of cancer can be difficult or even insurmountable.

In Kansas City, Cancer Action is the place of hope and help for hundreds of cancer patients each year. As a local organization we are uniquely positioned to meet the needs of **THIS** community. We are so pleased to be able to help meet these two vital needs at this historic time, ensuring that those with cancer in Kansas City do not face their challenges alone! **As we have for 60 years, Cancer Action is here for every step of the cancer journey!**



# A NOTE FROM KARLA: The “heart” of our organization remains the same

By Karla Nichols, Executive Director

The global pandemic continues to bring unparalleled challenges, and with each passing day, we live daily with the stress and uncertainty of what the future may hold. Living with uncertainty is what those living with cancer struggle with each day as well. As I thought about last year, I was reminded of how cancer can turn a person’s world upside down, seemingly overnight. Many cancer patients are facing financial, physical and emotional difficulties that are overwhelming.

Cancer Action has continued to stand in the gap. We are a critical support for cancer patients and their families, offering much-needed financial assistance,

practical services, emotional support and guidance to help them navigate these uncertain times. We continue to look for ways to expand our support to meet more of the needs being experienced by cancer patients in our community.

***During these uncertain times, we have kept our mission and vital services strong.***

As a local organization, we are uniquely positioned to pivot resources and expand services that are needed right here in our hometown. Caring for our neighbors, friends

and family members has been a driving force for our organization for more than 60 years. During these uncertain times, we have kept our mission and vital services strong. While much has changed, the “heart” of our organization



remains the same, sustained by compassionate caring people who have stepped up to make a difference!

2022 will continue to have many challenges for those facing a cancer diagnosis. If you are able, a financial gift at this time will help offer the services and support needed as cancer patients battle their personal journey. You can see what your dollars will do as we step up together to meet the challenge so no one with cancer in our great city fights alone!

*Karla Nichols*

## The Power of Your Gift

Your financial support is such an important part of winning the toughest, most challenging journey that many people will ever face! Every dollar stays right here in our community! Here are a few examples of how your dollars can impact the life of a cancer survivor:

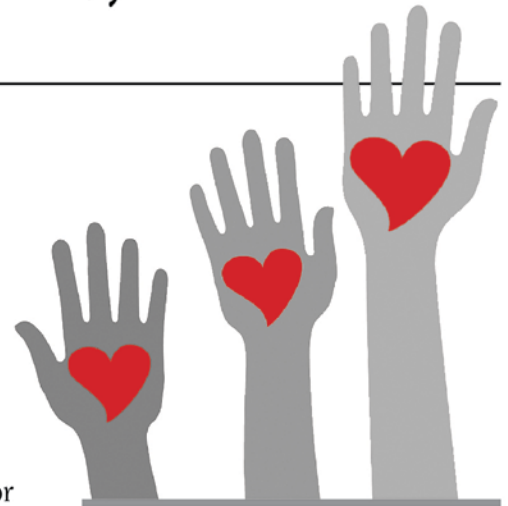
- \$25** Provides a case of nutritional supplement
- \$50** Provides a gas card or purchases a wig
- \$75** Provides medical equipment to help with care, such as a rollator
- \$100** Provides 4 months of nutritional supplements during chemo
- \$250** Provides Tube- Feeding supplement for two months to a head and neck cancer patient
- \$500** Provides medication assistance for one cancer patient

**You may give by: Returning the enclosed envelope**

**Make a gift online at [www.gothextramilekc.org](http://www.gothextramilekc.org)**

**Text CancerAction to 913-285-8655**

**Thank you!**



**We appreciate the work and support of our many volunteers.**

*We know that many of our volunteers are still unable to meet together, and our office volunteers are still on hold. Know that we are thinking of each of you. We miss you and are so grateful for you!*

*Whatever amount you give will make a difference!*

# Compassion in Action

Cancer Action is grateful for the individuals and groups that stepped up to help us continue to provide the support and services so desperately needed during this past year.

*We appreciate the efforts of many of our friends and supporters!*

*Here are some pictures of just a few of those who helped!*



## Sunflowers to Roses Bike Ride

Sunflowers to Roses gave the largest donation ever of **\$75,000** from their 2021 ride!



## Pay It Forward Nick's Way

Raised over **\$30,000** through a virtual auction!



## H8 Cancer Foundation

The H8 Cancer Foundation gave Cancer Action a **\$25,000** grant through their TOMSTOCK event!

## Midwest Krawlers

the largest and most active off-road club in Kansas City, gave Cancer Action more than **\$6,200** in donations for the year!



## First Federal Bank of Kansas City

The bank named Cancer Action one of their charity partners last year and gave **\$4,800** in donations last year!

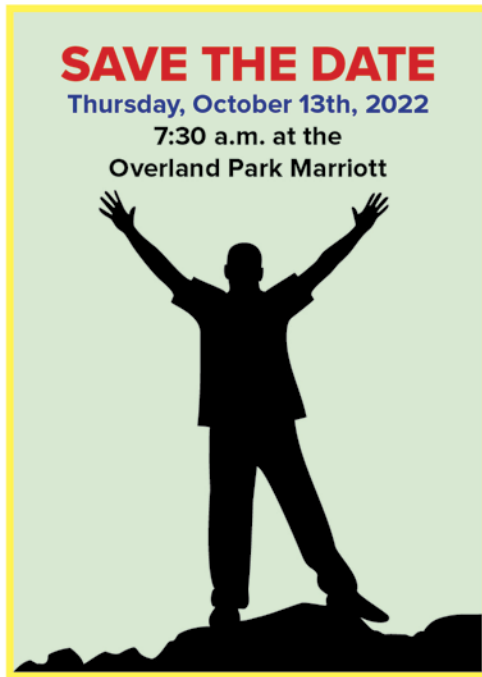
## Serving Our Community... Cancer Action's Impact in 2021

Cancer Action continues to have a significant impact serving cancer patients in our community. The health pandemic continues to take its toll in many ways. The pandemic led to a decrease in screenings and new cancer diagnosed, which decreased the number of new clients we registered in 2021. However, for many of those we served, they had greater financial and practical needs and relied on us for more emotional support due to the isolation caused from the pandemic.

Cancer patients and our health care partners were very grateful Cancer Action remained opened and able to meet the many physical and emotional needs, and alleviate some of their financial burdens during this tumultuous time. Cancer Action continued to be a tremendous resource that those with cancer could count on to be there! We could not have accomplished our mission without the help of our volunteers and donors!

Last year, Cancer Action served **1,298 cancer patients** within the Kansas City metro. We want to share with you some of the impact we made **together** this past year...

- Supplied over **30,000 servings of nutritional supplements** to more than **265 cancer patients** to help maintain their weight and energy during cancer treatment. **20% of these patients were on tube feeding** with the supplement being their only source of nutrition.
- Filled over **815 prescriptions** for those who could not afford their pain, and nausea medications, antibiotics, and other cancer supportive care needs.
- Helped women going through treatment by providing **110 wigs and over 385 turbans and scarves**.
- Issued over 200 pieces of medical equipment to help families members care for their loved ones
- Distributed **approximately 8,000 medical supplies** to support cancer patients and decrease the financial burden
- Gave out approximately **1,475 bed pads and 1.703 comfort items** (afghans, pillows)
- Case managers provided ongoing emotional support, guidance and education. They helped **approximately 100 families with referrals** who called requesting financial assistance with daily needs such as rent and food.



**Ride to Boulevardia  
is back in 2022!**  
**BEAT CANCER ON A BIKE**

Saturday, June 18, 2022

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

**Sunflowers to Roses Bike Tour 2022  
Celebrating its 20th Year!**

**LIVE TO RIDE**

Sunday, August 7, 2022

For more information, visit [www.sunflowerstoroses.org](http://www.sunflowerstoroses.org)  
This ride supports Cancer Action!



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