

## A Glance Back at 2018 - *We Rise by Lifting Others*

By Karla Nichols, Executive Director

**“We Rise by Lifting Others”**... one person, one gift, one caring heart can make a huge, life-sustaining difference in the life of another. We see firsthand how we lift others every day at Cancer Action offering support to cancer patients in the Kansas City area. Support throughout the cancer journey... that is what Cancer Action is committed to providing for every person 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 2018, our services and support helped over 2,300 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 wherever their journey takes them. During 2019, Cancer Action will celebrate six decades, yes, 60 years of being a place of hope, comfort and support for those with cancer in our community!

Our support provides essential practical services, financial assistance and the professional guidance, education and emotional support to help



**Molly Buchanan, Cancer Action Board Member and Cancer Survivor, Karla Nichols and Molly Hammer, Singer and Cancer Survivor**

families navigate this difficult journey. Our individualized, personal approach to care is what makes Cancer Action a unique and vital organization in Kansas City.

Cancer Action’s practical and financial assistance programs provide critical, often life-saving services to cancer patients. Help with prescriptions, nutritional supplements and rides to life-sustaining treatment appointments were three of the most utilized and costly services 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 8th annual Champion for Survivorship Breakfast, “Journeys” was a highlight of the year. Molly

Buchanan, a board member and cancer survivor was our special guest speaker. She shared her cancer journey, providing hope and inspiration! Molly Hammer, wonderful musician and cancer survivor once again shared her beautiful voice with us.

Cancer Action continues to be blessed with so many dedicated volunteers who assist us in our mission. Our committed and compassionate volunteers provided over 30,000 hours of service this past year! Our longtime friend and emcee Gary Lezak, Chief Meteorologist for 41 Action News and his weather dog, Sunny helped us recognize and celebrate their work at our annual volunteer reception

Cancer Action continues to be a vital and needed partner with the medical care providers in our community. I am so thankful to everyone who did indeed “rise” by giving their time, talents and treasures to “lift” thousands of cancer patients who come to Cancer Action for support during the toughest time of their lives. As a local organization, every dollar Cancer Action receives remains here in our community. You have demonstrated that “**We Rise by Lifting Others**”. We are so grateful for your support!

## Serving Our Community... Lifting those with cancer in Kansas City

A diagnosis of cancer is overwhelming for those who are living with, through and beyond the disease and its treatment. Cancer Action is here to help meet those challenges throughout every step of the cancer journey. But we couldn't do it without the help of our volunteers and donors! Together, we helped **over 2,300** cancer patients on their journey during 2018. We want to share with you some of the impact we made together this past year...

- Supplied **80,984** servings of nutritional supplements to more than **630** cancer patients to help maintain their weight and energy during cancer treatment
- Arranged **434** rides to life-saving or life-prolonging treatment and doctor appointments
- Filled **1,299** prescriptions for those who could not afford their medication to relieve pain, nausea, treat infections and meet other cancer supportive care needs
- Helped women going through treatment by providing almost **200** wigs and over **800** turbans and scarves
- Gave over **433** pieces of medical equipment
- Distributed **33,274** medical supplies to support cancer patients and decrease the financial burden of cancer
- Our case managers provided emotional support, guidance and education and also helped hundreds who called requesting assistance



The 16th Annual Sunflowers to Roses Bike Ride raised the largest donation to date for Cancer Action!

## Leaving a Legacy Helps Lift Others for Years to Come

What will your legacy be? What a deep question to ponder. What type of legacy you leave takes thought, discussion and planning. But what a difference you can make in the lives of others with thoughtful planning and preparation! You could continue to “Lift Others” in the years to come through a legacy gift.

One such lady that “Lifted” cancer patients through her support to Cancer Action was Fern Jewell. She lived out her compassion to others throughout her lifetime. Fern was a faithful donor to us, but she also “outlived her life” by making a legacy gift to our organization. Through her thoughtful planning, she left a legacy of hope and care touching lives in important, even life-sustaining ways.

There are many ways you can leave a gift to Cancer Action. Whether your gift is large or small, every gift will help us make a difference. If you would like more information on making a legacy gift to Cancer Action, please contact Karla Nichols at 913-642-8885. I would be glad to share with you, how you can make a meaningful difference in the lives of cancer patients for generations to come.

## Cancer Action Volunteers – Always Needed, Forever Appreciated

Cancer Action Volunteers play an important role in serving and caring for our clients by providing **over 30,500 hours of service in 2018!**

- Volunteers drove clients over **5,487 miles** to and from their doctor and treatment appointments.
- Volunteers spent approximately **500 hours** transporting cancer patients to their doctor and treatment appointments
- **Over 2,050 hours** donated by those helping our offices run smoothly and with bulk mailings
- Approximately **25,250 hours** were given to provide comfort items and care to our clients through individuals and our service groups
- Many others gave around **2,500 hours** helping with special events, health fairs, organizing storage rooms, courier work, and a host of other activities to help us make a difference!

*Thank you for serving and caring for cancer patients and their families in our community!*

### MAXINE BOWERS LEGACY

**AWARD** presented to Dee Koeppen, shown with Karla Nichols, Executive Director, Cancer Action and Gary Lezak, Chief Meteorologist for 41 Action News



**CANCER ACTION 2018 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** Judy Cantrall with Shirley Gibson, Program Director

## Financial Overview

**Total Support and Revenues \$646,895**

Donations/  
Memorials \$ 453,895

Patient Services  
Grants \$ 173,885

United Way/ CFC \$ 86,129

Interest and  
dividend income \$ 24,366

Unrealized Gain  
on investments \$ (92,388)

Realized Gain  
on Investments \$ 18,219

Special Events \$ 42,608

Other revenue \$ 5,608

**Operational Expenses \$612,025**

Programs and  
Services \$ 477,230

Management/  
General \$ 80,423

Fundraising \$ 54,372

A full copy of the 2018 audited financial statements may be obtained upon request

*“We rise  
by lifting  
others.”*

Robert Ingersoll

*Special thanks to the following for their support of Cancer Action:*

**Foundations and Businesses**

Addington Design  
 AT&T United Way Employee Giving Campaign  
 Bank Of America Employee Giving Campaign  
 Bank of Labor  
 Blue Ridge Bank & Trust Co.  
 Bra Couture KC  
 Aileen V. and Redman Callaway Fund  
 Cancer Treatment Centers of America  
 Cerner Corporation  
 CertainTeed Corporation  
 Coram/CVS Speciality Infusion Services  
 Cremation Society of Kansas and Missouri  
 GE United Way Campaign  
 Haldex Brake Products Corporation  
 Health Forward Foundation  
 Heartland Combined Federal Campaign  
 HNC Living Foundation  
 Independence Health Department  
 Kansas Society of Clinical Oncology  
 Lathrop & Gage LLP  
 Menorah Heritage Foundation  
 Meyers Funeral Chapel  
 Midwest Cancer Alliance  
 No Risk Enterprises  
 One Community Hospice  
 Print Graphics  
 Richard and Annette Bloch Family Foundation  
 R&D Leverage Company  
 Realm Construction  
 RPM Photography and Cinematography  
 Sara's Floral  
 Sarah Cannon Cancer Centers  
     HCA Midwest Health  
 The Andrew J. Somora Foundation

The Benevity Community Impact Fund  
 The Greater Kansas City Sports Commission  
 Travelers Community Connections  
 Truman Heartland Community Foundation  
 Truman Medical Center  
 United Way of Greater Kansas City  
 United Way of Wyandotte County  
 University Of Kansas Cancer Center  
 US Bank  
 US Foodservice  
 WireCo World Group

**Community Groups**

Asbury United Methodist Church  
 Beyoutify  
 Blue Springs Ladies Elk Club  
 First Christian Church, Christian Women's  
 Fellowship, Independence, MO  
 First Presbyterian Church, Independence, MO  
 First United Methodist Church, Friendship  
 Class, Blue Springs, MO  
 GNO-4-BC  
 Heartland Indoor Horseshoe Association  
 Hoops 4 Hope  
 Independence Young Matrons  
 IO Maiden Designs  
 Ride to Boulevardia  
 Kimbell McCurry Paintings  
 Maywood Community Church Ladies Council  
 Merriam Christian Church  
 National Horseshoe Association  
 Raymore-Peculiar Schools  
 Poppy's Handmade Creations  
 Sunflowers To Roses Organization  
 Woods Chapel United Methodist Church

**2018 Board Members**

**BOARD OFFICERS**

DAVID HARRIS, President  
 US Bank  
 ERIC JACOBSON, Vice President  
 Ascend Media  
 ELAINE MCINTOSH, Recording Secretary  
 Retired CEO Kansas City Hospice  
 JOE OTEY, Treasurer  
 Fidelity Bank

**BOARD MEMBERS**

MOLLY BUCHANAN - US Bank  
 MARY CALYS - North Kansas City Hospital  
 PATRICIA CARUTHERS  
 Retired, Administrator KCK Community College  
 RHONDA CHERRY  
 University of Kansas Cancer Center  
 KATHERINE GIRGIS  
 University of Kansas Medical Center  
 KIMBERLY GEORGE  
 University of Kansas Cancer Center  
 CLAYTON HARPER - Attorney  
 MARY LOU KEGLER - Minister, KCMO  
 BRIAN LEVINSON - Neighborworks America  
 VANGIE RICH - Community Volunteer  
 MARY SHAFER - Lathrop & Gage  
 CHRISTIE SHELDON  
 Sarah Cannon Research Medical Center  
 MELANIE SIMPSON  
 University of Kansas Health System  
 SUSAN STILES - Cerner  
 SARAH TAYLOR, M.D.  
 Oncologist, University of Kansas Cancer Center  
 MARCIA VALERA  
 Community Volunteer

**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.



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