

The Breathing Room Foundation

2012 Report to Donors, Volunteers & Referral Partners

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide care and support to families affected by cancer. We recognize that a cancer diagnosis affects every aspect of a family's life; emotional, physical, spiritual and financial. We strive to provide a family with whatever it is that will allow them a bit of "breathing room" from their daily struggle against cancer. It is our hope that this will allow them to concentrate all of their efforts towards regaining their physical health.

Introduction

At the Breathing Room Foundation we try to say thank you to our donors, volunteers and referral partners as often as possible. Without you our work could not exist. It is the remarkable integration of caring and generous neighbors meeting the needs of families dealing with cancer that makes our work and deeds so special. Through this report I trust that you will share in our pride, be encouraged to continue your support and perhaps invite others to join this important work.

Mary Ellen Fitzgerald

Executive Director

The Breathing Room Foundation, Inc.

Summary

Clients

A total of 450 families (314 female and 136 male patients) were provided with various forms of service. Our clients span every age group and are being treated for dozens of types of cancer. They reside in one of the four counties that we serve– Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery and Delaware County.

Services

41% received volunteer services that included transportation for treatment, companionship, childcare or house maintenance. 57% received regular meals, grocery gift cards or groceries. Other services provided included help with utility bills, prescriptions and medical supplies, rent, transportation, clothing and cleaning.

Donors & Volunteers

Over 300 individuals provided a total of 4336 volunteer hours

Value of donated goods totaled \$171,873

Family Services 2012

Recipient families were assisted with the following benefits:

- Medical bills/prescription co-pays/necessary garments: 82
- Household Needs:
 - Utility Bills: 122 Rent: 21 Repairs: 4 Cleaning: 19 Appliances/Furniture: 6
- Clothing: 24 Wigs: 6
- Food and groceries:
 - 66 families received regular meal deliveries
 - 114 families received grocery gift cards
 - 75 families received deliveries of snacks and grocery items
- Medical Support (Prescriptions, co-pays, bills, supplements, supplies and equipment): 82
- Referrals/Support: 58
- Gas Cards/Cab Vouchers/Bus Tokens: 48
- Volunteer Services (transportation, deliveries, companionship, child care): 185

Family Programs 2012

Valentine's Program – Delivery of cookies, treats and greeting cards

50 received packages, 250 received cards

Volunteer hours 125, Dollar value \$1,500

Easter Basket Program – Provides children of recipients with Easter baskets and families with items for Easter dinner

Families 120, Baskets 278

Volunteer hours 375, Dollar value \$4,500

Summer Fun Program – Gives families opportunities for camps, amusement tickets, zoo passes, camps, movie tickets, books and games

Families 64, Participants 272

Volunteer hours 146, Dollar value \$3,503

Back to School Program – Provides backpacks with all supplies requested by each child's individual school

Families 96, Children 217

Volunteer hours 195, Dollar value \$ 21,700

Family Programs 2012

Steps to Success - Each child receiving a backpack also received a \$25 gift card to Payless for new shoes

Dress for Success – 38 needier families received \$25 to \$100 for school clothes

Thanksgiving Baskets – Ingredients for a complete dinner were assembled and delivered

Families 109, People 615

Volunteer hours 450, Dollar value \$14,600

Holiday Party for Families and Their Children – A festive lunch is provided while children play games and select and wrap gifts for their parents. Santa Claus makes a special appearance for photo ops.

100 people attended

Volunteer hours 200, Value of goods and food \$4,100

Holiday Gift Program – Families provide a wish list, volunteers adopt an entire family's needs or provide a part of the list. Following assembly and wrapping of gifts they are delivered to each family.

Families 132, People 536

Volunteer hours 1073, Value of goods \$115,750

Notes of Appreciation from Clients

Please know that you all will forever be in our prayers. I could have never provided my babies with all that you've done. Our only support is each other. I'm grateful that they understand there are still good people in the world. The cancer was certainly a journey for me and my family. Through organizations like yours, it was a much easier journey to take knowing people like you do care. Thank you for all you do. You truly make a difference

You are so amazing and there are no words to really express my gratitude. I had no energy at Christmas and money was so tight . The gifts were so overwhelming. It was everything we needed. It was such a relief as I watched Shay open presents, that if it ends up being my last Christmas he had a great one filled with happy memories. You took so much of the burden off of me as I was able to sit back and enjoy the family. I really love you all and I am so grateful.

I can't begin to express my thanks in words for everything that all of you and your families did for us. You are the best people I think that I have ever met.

Being diagnosed with cancer at the age of 37 is not an easy thing. It was such an unexpected blow to our family – what do we do next? It seems we had more questions than answers. The amazing group of people at the breathing room always has the answer – even to questions we had not asked yet – What do we do about Easter baskets? How are we going to entertain the kids this summer? How do we afford schools supplies? We appreciate everything that you have done for us – including the hand made cards we receive that are currently on our fridge. We could not have made it through without you. I tell everyone that will listen, that if they are looking for a charity to donate to – I have a great one.

Thank you does not seem like enough

In one short week, you have already made a huge difference in my mom's life and you have made her smile again. We don't see enough of that. So, again, THANK YOU!