

The Breathing Room Foundation

2013 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

As we have all been made aware, either through our own personal experiences or by listening to the astounding statistics, cancer has become somewhat of an epidemic. With so much time and money going into the research to find a cure, I am feeling positive that this will happen someday. However, until then it is critical that there are resources available to those who are continuing to be newly diagnosed and those who are sadly re-diagnosed with this horrific disease that touches so many lives. We cannot allow these individuals to feel alone in their fight. The mission of the Breathing Room Foundation is to be a resource of support for each and every family that is referred to us as we have been for 542 families in 2013. There is no debate, cancer is a difficult battle much easier fought with the support of caring and compassionate people. It is for this reason that we ask that you to consider supporting our efforts as a donor, a volunteer or as a referring partner. Until a cure is found, BRF will continue to work to be sure that not a single person feels alone in their fight.

With Great Hope,

Mary Ellen Fitzgerald

Director

The Breathing Room Foundation, Inc

2013 Overview

Clients

378 female and 164 male patients were provided with service. Our clients span every age group with 70% being between the ages of 41 and 70. BRF recipients were being treated for 43 types of cancer with the most prevalent being Breast, Lung, Leukemia/Lymphoma, Cervical/Uterine/Vaginal/Endometrial, and Colon/Rectal. Clients reside in one of the four counties that we serve – Philadelphia 71%, Montgomery 12% ,Bucks 10% and Delaware County 7%.

Services

Depending upon need, clients received support in one or more areas: grocery/necessity items (prepared meals, grocery items, gift cards), medical needs (nutritional supplements, equipment/medical supplies, medical co-pays/prescriptions), transportation to treatment, utility bills, clothing and wigs, rent/mortgage, appliances/furniture and home repairs.

Program Donors & Volunteers

Over 400 individuals provided approximately 10,000 volunteer hours

Value of donated goods exceeded \$250,000

Family Programs 2013

Valentine's "Share The Love" – Delivery of cookies, treats and greeting cards

80 families received packages

Volunteer hours 354, Dollar value of goods \$2,000

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

Families 140, Baskets 270

Volunteer hours 540, Dollar value \$10,800

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

Families 61 , Participants 293

Volunteer hours 183, Dollar value \$14,700

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

Families 93, Children 198

Volunteer hours 719, Dollar value \$ 29,865

Family Programs 2013

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

Dress for Success – Depending upon need additional support was provided to each student for back-to-school clothing.

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

Families 122, People 611

Volunteer hours 555, Dollar value \$12,200

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.

125 people attended , Volunteer hours 200, Value of goods and food \$5,125

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 145, People 586

Volunteer hours over 1700, Value of goods \$146,250

Notes of Appreciation from Clients

My family and I are grateful beyond words for the outpouring of care and generosity that has come from you. We had nooooo idea that we would receive so much from you in all facets of our lives. I heard you were great, but I didn't imagine you were this great!

Words cannot express how thankful and grateful we are to you and all the volunteers! All the gifts were wonderful and we really cannot say thank you enough. You guys helped make this a great Christmas! You guys are angels and we are just so thankful for you! Thank you Thank you again!

Thank you so much!!! I found my comfort bag of goodies and the beautiful afghan when I came back from treatment feeling a bit uncomfortable. You made my day and made me smile! I am truly grateful and feel so blessed by this amazing group!!

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. Stevie received gifts and clothes and we received food and plates. It was everything we needed. It was such a relief as I watched Stevie open his 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 I was able to sit back and enjoy the family. This year, due to my being so sick, we kept it low key, just the 4 of us. It was perfect! I appreciate you helping us out.

I just went to our bin of your donated school supplies to get more pencils and paper. It's nice when you are tired to know that all is taken care of for you. One less thing we have to face and deal with in our day. I really love you all and I am so grateful.