

Support / Compassion / Understanding



Celebrating the Present, Envisioning the Future

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



(401) 861-4376, GLORIAGEMMA.ORG

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ERNEST PRICE, LLC

Joan Coken, breast cancer survivor.



CHARITY HOPE PHOTOGRAPHY



COVER: Michael Montville Photography

Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,
Gloria Gemma was my mother. She was a loving, kind and devout woman who was dedicated to her family. She taught my eight siblings and me the importance of helping others through her actions, and she always had an extra seat at the kitchen table for anyone who needed support. When she was diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer in 2001, my family and I didn't know where to turn for information and support.

That's why establishing a foundation that provides comprehensive resources and support services was so important to us, after our mother passed away. We didn't want anyone else to have to face this dreaded disease alone, and since the foundation was established fourteen years ago, we have provided help and hope to people touched by cancer through restorative, holistic and spiritual health programs.

I have a small and dedicated staff who believes in the mission of the foundation, and we are always aware that all of our achievements are only possible with your support and commitment, and that of a compassionate community.

On behalf of the Gloria Gemma team, the Gemma family, our board of directors, and our community of amazing volunteers, we thank you for your continued support and wish you all a healthy and happy 2018.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M Corcelli".

Maria Gemma Corcelli, Executive Director

GLORIA GEMMA ARCHIVES

AT THE GLORIA GEMMA BREAST CANCER RESOURCE FOUNDATION, we understand the emotion and confusion that happens when you or a loved one is diagnosed with cancer. It is one of the most stressful and difficult experiences in a person's life. If you or someone you know is diagnosed with cancer, the Foundation is here for you. We provide support, resources and programs that empower individuals to become emotionally and spiritually stronger.

The Foundation was established in 2004, after Gloria Gemma, a wife and mother-of-nine lost her courageous fight to breast cancer. Although her family felt blessed to have the support of each other and their extended family and friends, they were struck by the incredible, lasting impact cancer had on their family and the challenges everyone faces when they are dealing with treatment, healing or loss from the disease.

For fourteen years, the Gloria Gemma Foundation has offered FREE holistic programs and resources for patients, survivors, families and friends. The Foundation's staff and volunteers have stood witness to thousands of individual cancer journeys. Through support, compassion and understanding, the Foundation has helped thousands of men and women embrace a path towards hope and healing from cancer. While the Gloria Gemma Foundation was originally formed to support breast cancer patients and survivors, it has always embraced individuals and families faced with any cancer diagnosis. Over the years, it has become clear that resources needed for support, comfort and healing are the same, regardless of the type of cancer. Today, almost all programs offered by Gloria Gemma assist survivors and their families who have encountered many types of cancer.



Free holistic programs to help people on their cancer journeys

THE GLORIA'S ANGELS PROGRAM was developed to give cancer patients and survivors a little extra help when they need it most. The services presently available under the wings' expanse of the Angel's program include Comfort Care Bags for newly diagnosed patients, Healthy Meals Delivery service for in-treatment patients, and Oncology Massage for survivors who suffer the lingering effects of cancer therapies.

Comfort Care Bags are delivered to breast surgeons' offices throughout the state, who then distribute them to their newly diagnosed patients. The bags are filled with useful information and products most needed by women when they are going through a very difficult time and are most vulnerable. During cancer treatments, eating well can be a struggle for many patients and poor nutrition can result in low blood counts which are a major cause of treatment delays. The Healthy Meals Delivery service is the most popular of the three services offered by Gloria's Angels, and it provides cancer patients and their families freshly prepared and nutritious meals that are tailored to the dietary needs of the individuals who receive them. Finally,

500+ COMFORT CARE BAGS are distributed to newly diagnosed patients annually.



Comfort care bags are delivered by Gloria Gemma staff to doctors' offices.

3,400+ HEALTHY MEALS were delivered in 2017.



Staff members Jane and Vinny Iannetta deliver healthy meals to a local family.

Oncology Massage provides relief for post-treatment survivors who suffer lingering, often permanent side effects from chemotherapy and radiation. Oncology massage is provided to increase range of motion, improve lymphatic drainage, alleviate the symptoms of neuropathy and relieve general pain.

Metastatic Program

Patients with metastatic breast cancer have unique physical and emotional needs relating to their disease. The Foundation offers a program designed specifically for metastatic patients, because it was designed by metastatic patients. Private chat groups give individuals the ability to be open and honest and never judged. Resources on legal documents and advanced directives, special spa services, video messaging, and healing arts projects are some of the services offered.



Katy Bell, Stage IV cancer survivor.

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Cooking and Nutrition

Maintaining a healthy diet beyond cancer is extremely important, and that's why Gloria Gemma offers nutrition series classes at its center, and interactive cooking classes. Some people think they can't fit healthy eating into their schedule, because it takes too much time. The free nutrition and cooking classes teach people that healthy eating is much more than gnashing on nuts and berries, and provides the know-how to create simple and tasty healthy dishes.

Young Survivors

Young women don't think about developing breast cancer, yet nearly 11% of all women diagnosed with breast cancer are under the age of 44. The Young Survivor Program supports the challenges and emotional struggles women in this age group encounter after a diagnosis. Young cancer patients face a host of issues, such as dating, sexuality, fertility, and interruption of careers. The Young Survivor Program provides a comfortable atmosphere where young women can share their concerns with each other and offer each other support. It also provides a place where young women can just be young women.

Support Groups

Even with a strong support system, cancer patients can sometimes feel lonely because the people that love them don't understand what they're going through. Receiving emotional support from people who have been where you're going is incredibly healing, and cancer patients have an unspoken bond. The Foundation offers day and evening drop-in support groups at its center and throughout Rhode Island. It also offers therapeutic art classes, yoga, Zumba, and nutrition classes—to name a few, and the Foundation has a patient navigator on staff to help connect you and your family to the resources you need.

100+ PHYSICAL THERAPY/
ONCOLOGY MASSAGE

sessions have been provided post-treatment.



The Young Survivor Program sparks new friendships and support as they connect over shared experiences.

20+ CUSTOMIZED
FREE education, wellness/support programs.



Gloria Gemma staff member, Carol Donnelly teaching a cooking class on healthy eating.



Gina Bailey 2-time cancer survivor.

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Hope Bus

The Hope Bus is a mobile resource and wellness unit that serves Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts, with a special focus on traveling to underserved areas. The Hope Bus team offers educational classes, healing arts, group support and one-on-one care and compassion. They also provide access to the Women's Cancer Screening Program to help uninsured and underinsured women qualify for free cancer screenings.



Patty Sousa, breast cancer survivor.



L-R: Longtime volunteer and survivor, Carolyn Waddington; community outreach & education assistant, Tel Gingras; Hope Bus driver, Vinny Iannetta; community outreach & education manager, Maureen DiPiero at one of more than 190 sites it visits annually.

More than 190+ sites visited annually
with 5,000+ Visitors
THE HOPE BUS DELIVERS PROGRAMS, EDUCATION, RESOURCES, AND SUPPORT

CHARITY HOPE PHOTOGRAPHY

The Gloria Gemma Hope Bus helps to promote education and support.

Our Financials

THE GLORIA GEMMA FOUNDATION COULD NOT DO ALL THAT IT DOES without the generous support of individual donors and corporate partners that enable us to fulfill our mission to celebrate and nurture life in our local community before, during and after a cancer diagnosis by providing education, access to wellness resources and support programs to all those touched by cancer. There are many ways people support the foundation and the work it does to help those touched by cancer. Some people host fundraisers, some donate through our secure online giving, some participate in our fundraising events, and some volunteer.



Simone Dupuis

We sincerely appreciate any and all help, no matter how great or small, because it all has a positive impact on the programs and services we offer to people touched by cancer. Please visit www.gloriagemma.org for more information on how to become involved.

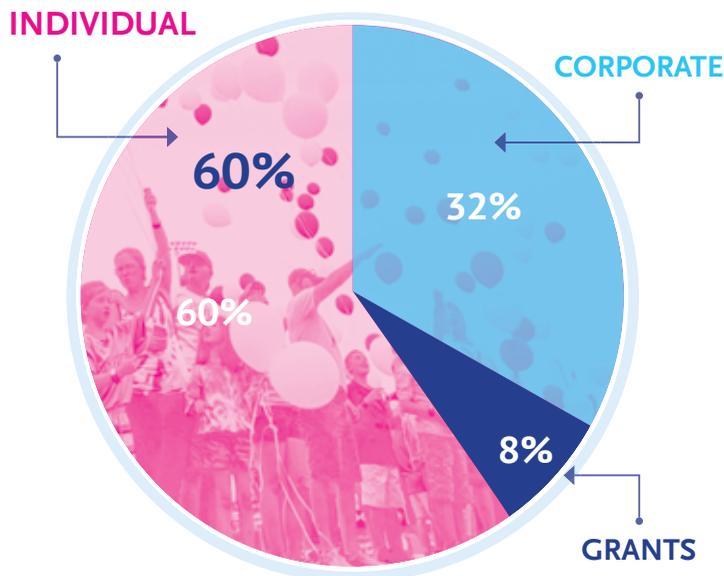
Fundraiser Highlight

Since 2012, Simone Dupuis, a breast cancer survivor has raised over \$70,000 with an annual golf tournament she plans and hosts with a small committee of friends. We are truly grateful for Simone's support and dedication to help the foundation provide necessary and much needed programs and support services to people in our community.



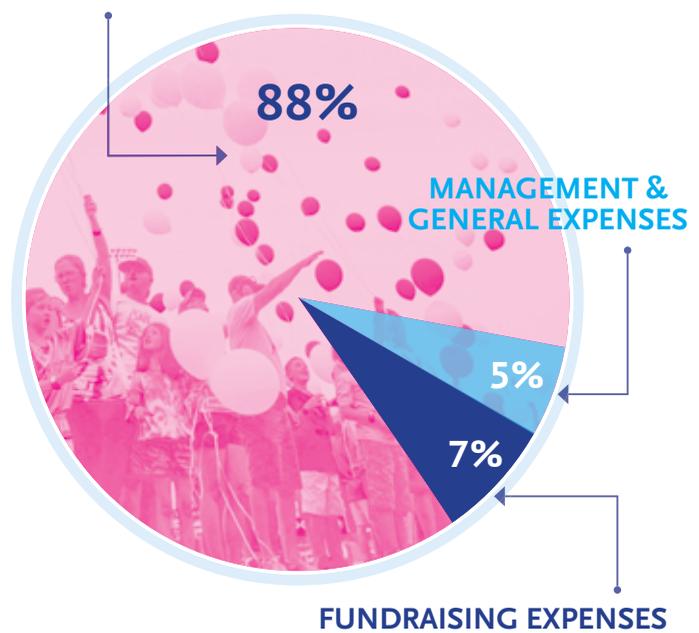
Mona Dumais, 21-year Stage IV cancer survivor.

FUNDING SOURCES:



EXPENSES:

PROGRAMS & SERVICES



*In-kind donations not included in Funding Sources.

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Envisioning Our Future

Our journey began fourteen years ago with a mission to provide access to free wellness programs and support services to people affected by breast cancer, because the Gemma children knew how difficult it was to get reliable information and they understood, all too well, the lack of support services. Over the years, we have helped thousands of people with breast cancer and we have never turned away anyone, regardless of their cancer type. We have expanded the number of free education, integrative services and health and wellness programs we offer at the foundation's center and in the community. We have come to understand those affected by cancer share a common bond, which is why we want to create a safe and peaceful environment to help all those touched by cancer heal mind, body and spirit. We are actively seeking a centrally located property to create a new Resource and Wellbeing Center that will offer education and support services to patients, survivors and their loved ones. Renderings of conceptual designs by Gary Graham, owner of GMI Architects and a professor at Roger Williams University's School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation, include a friendly and embracing entryway, a relaxing and safe support room, a sleek and modern demo kitchen and a calm reflective interior garden. The idea is to create a calming space that feels less like a facility and more like a destination. A center like this is needed in Rhode Island with the number of cancer survivors increasing every year. Currently, there are an estimated 43,000 Rhode Islanders living with cancer, or 4-percent of the population. The Gloria Gemma Foundation has been a leader in providing free holistic wellness programs and integrative therapies throughout the state, and we will continue to lead by offering a healing and compassionate experience to those touched by cancer.

Gloria Gemma[®]
Breast Cancer Resource Foundation
A FOUNDATION OF HOPE

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ILLUSTRATIONS BY GMI ARCHITECTS.