

# A BREATH of HOPE

L U N G F O U N D A T I O N

2016 was a good year for A Breath of Hope with a 51% revenue gain over 2015. Thanks to your generosity and trust, our ability to impact the lung cancer field is growing. We look forward to reporting back to you later this year as we increase research dollars, reach more people with life-saving messages about lung cancer and screening, and continue to support patients and families who have been hurt by lung cancer.

In 2017, our research dollars will support two exciting young research fellows focused on projects that have great potential to advance the field and save lives. [More about A Breath of Hope Fellows and their work.](#)

Dr. James Tsay of New York University in NYC will be looking at lung microbiomes to evaluate whether lung cancer-associated microbiomes correlate with a patient's clinical prognosis and outcomes. His work ties to exploring ways to detect lung cancer earlier which will lead to lives saved. [Read about Dr. Tsay's research.](#)

Dr. Amanda Redig of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston will use primary tumor specimens from patients with the EGFR biomarker to assess genomic complexity as a biomarker to identify clinically meaningful hallmarks of the disease in women. More on Dr. Redig's research coming soon.



We're excited to announce that registration is now open for the first ever **A Breath of Hope Lung Run/Walk Fort Myers Saturday, Feb. 25th** at Lakes Regional Park in Fort Myers, Florida!

A Breath of Hope is lucky to have many supporters who either winter or live in Southwest Florida. This group will be volunteering and participating in our first Florida event and we hope you will, too! We're looking forward to bringing lung cancer awareness and patient support to Fort Myers. As always, proceeds support research fellowships and lung screening grants at A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation. [More info here.](#)

## What is an A Breath of Hope Lung Run/Walk and why are we expanding this event and programming?

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation began with a simple 5K in Minneapolis in 2007. Around 400 people attended. By 2008, the organizers (our founders) had incorporated and expanded their goals. They knew that lung cancer wasn't getting its fair share of attention or funding and they knew, too, that this lack of awareness was one of the reasons for its 15% survival rate at the time.

As the foundation grew through the hard work of many committed board members, volunteers and eventually staff, so did the conviction that it is only through this grassroots approach to awareness and improved research funding that anything will ever change. This group committed to **become the change** that was so desperately needed to save lives from the world's deadliest cancer. While only three are still with us today, the founding group's vision lives on. We are so very thankful for our still-active founders: **Shanna Ballsrud, MJ McKeon and Lorie Beerling.**

Our Twin Cities event has grown to more than 2000 participants with event revenue over \$200,000. The event allows us vast opportunities to teach the public about lung cancer, while offering support and community to patients and families. This awareness education is the answer to improving an 18% lung cancer survival rate - early detection saves lives.



Mark your calendars for the **5th Annual Women's Wellness Tea – Girls Just Wanna Have Fun - March 18th at the Metropolitan Ballroom** in St. Louis Park.

This beautiful brunch event includes 'healthy living' breakout sessions for all women, including a special session for cancer patients and caregivers, a spring hat contest and Mimosa Bar, the famous 'Bags & Bling Silent Auction', a fashion show featuring lung cancer patients as models, and a vendor boutique filled with the pretty things women love.

We hope you'll join us. [More info here.](#)

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PO Box 387, Wayzata, MN 55391