Creating Change: Thousands of stakeholders support the mission and work of A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation. Most of us are here because the disease has caused suffering in our family or among our friends. We are a growing community—a grassroots movement committed to changing lung cancer outcomes and saving lives. We won’t give up.

This year, A Breath of Hope is focused on increasing research dollars and improving access to preventative screening. Late stage diagnoses are an ongoing problem in the lung cancer field. With increased research dollars, we discover new treatments to prolong or save lives. With improved access to low dose CT scans, we diagnose lung cancer earlier making it easier to treat. Both focus areas are critical to saving lives.

In 2011, the National Lung Screening Trial (NLST) published results of its study to compare two ways of detecting lung cancer: CT scans and chest X-rays. The study findings reveal that participants who received low-dose helical CT scans had a 15 to 20 percent lower risk of dying from lung cancer than participants who received standard chest X-rays.

Smoking is only one of many causes of lung cancer, but it happens to be the primary criteria used in determining who can and who cannot receive preventative screening. Wondering if you are eligible? Visit abreathofhope.org/home/screening to find out if you should talk to your doctor about receiving a low-dose CT scan.

Interested in learning the basics about a lung cancer diagnosis? Visit abreathofhope.org/patient.

Collaborating for better results: A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation is working hard to expand the limited lung screening eligibility criteria in this country, yet we know that preventative lung cancer screening has to start somewhere. We are thankful for the work that was done to approve LDCT scans for those at highest risk of lung cancer.

Thanks to a recent grant from the MN Department of Health, A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation (ABOH), along with its partners at American Cancer Society and American Lung Association, hosted the first MN Thought Leaders Meeting. The group met to address the Minnesota Cancer Plan’s recommendations for improving lung cancer screening numbers among eligible Minnesotans.

Mary M. Pasquinelli, MS, BA, FNP-BC and Director of the Lung Cancer Screening Program at the University of Illinois, gave an excellent, evidence-based presentation about creating a successful, sustainable and centralized screening program. ABOH Board Treasurer, Curt Anderson provided a survivor’s view of lung screening and helped identify barriers to screening.

Despite a BIG snowstorm and bad roads, twenty-three meeting attendees participated from eight healthcare organizations. The group was composed of physicians and nurses who are critical to screening programs in Minnesota’s hospitals and cancer centers. The synergy in the room was exciting and left attendees feeling hopeful that the trajectory of this terrible disease can be changed. Currently, less than 6% of eligible Americans are screened for lung cancer. Collaborative efforts among and within healthcare systems will lead to earlier detection and improved patient outcomes. The group will meet again this fall.
A Breath of Hope Research Program—Focus on Women

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in both men and women, however new diagnoses are on the rise for women and declining for men. Many healthcare organizations report seeing a growing number of younger nonsmokers (ages 30 to 50).

Lung cancer kills more women each year than breast, uterine and ovarian cancers combined. Sex differences in non-small cell lung cancer and survival suggest that estrogen plays a critical factor in the formation of tumors in women’s lungs. It is for this reason, that ABOH is excited to announce the winners of the Tona Vives Women & Lung Cancer Research Award.

Laura Stabile, PhD and Timothy Burns, MD/PhD (pictured at right) from the Hillman Cancer Center at the University of Pittsburgh will use the award to fund their research project that focuses on providing a mechanistic understanding of:

- The role of estrogen on immune suppression; and
- Whether hormonal blockade can improve the response rate or durability of response in female lung cancer patients that are treated with targeted immunotherapy.

ABOH board member and Chair of the Research Committee, Dr. Arek Dudek points out that “there are multiple scientific clues that suggest a unique biology of lung cancer in women, but this question has not been adequately studied."

A special thank you goes out to Ricky Rubio, Lucas Chartes and their friends and family for fundraising in support of this important research award. We are honored to remember Ricky’s late mother, Tona Vives.

Patient & Family Support Program—Introducing Mary

Need a lift? A Breath of Hope’s Ambassador Program provides rides and companionship for lung cancer patients.

Mary uses the A Breath of Hope Ambassador Program when her family and friends are not able to drive her to her cancer treatments. Our volunteer drivers describe Mary as delightful, uplifting, sweet and funny. The first time Mary received a ride to radiation through our driving program, she called our staff afterwards and it went something like this:

Mary (patient): “Amanda, I’m really disappointed.”
Amanda (staff): “I’m sorry, Mary. What went wrong?”
Mary: “I ordered a tall, dark and handsome driver.”
Amanda: “Mary - I’m not a match-maker!”

Mary loves the A Breath of Hope Ambassador Program. She and her daughters like to call the volunteers 'life-savers'. Mary said, "Everybody is SO nice - like little angels. They try hard to be accommodating and make me feel good."

We’re always looking for volunteers for this Twin Cities program. Whether you drive monthly or quarterly, lung cancer patients need ‘angels’ to help them out during the journey and it’s fun, too! Email ambassador@abreathofhope.org for more information.

White Ribbon Awareness Program—Multicultural Outreach

Lung Cancer Education and Support for Everyone.

Lung cancer statistics show a higher incidence and mortality rate among certain ethnic groups, and half of our diagnoses happen in low income communities. The goal of A Breath of Hope’s Multicultural Program (funded by a Diversity Grant from the Medtronic Foundation) is to provide information, education and support in communities that are traditionally underserved. Working with faith communities, businesses, healthcare organizations and other trusted community groups, A Breath of Hope will offer its vital core services and promote screening to remove barriers and close the gap.
Partnerships—Medtronic

By Emily Elswick, Vice President & General Manager, Lung Health

Medtronic is beginning a new fiscal year and with that comes much reflection. I think about what we’re trying to accomplish in the lung cancer field, the progress that’s been made, and the work that’s left to be done. Our mission as a company hasn’t changed for over 60 years – Alleviate Pain, Restore Health, and Extend Life.

In Medtronic’s Lung Health business, we aspire to fulfill the company’s mission by taking lung cancer from a death sentence to a managed condition where patients have what matters most—more quality time. We know we can’t change this disease by ourselves. If we’re going to find patients earlier, improve diagnostics, optimize treatment and accelerate recovery, we need partners. We couldn’t be prouder of our relationship with A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation. This organization plays a vital role in improving access to preventative screening, supporting patients and caregivers, increasing research dollars, raising awareness and eliminating the stigma. We can go further when we work together.

Medtronic is a Minnesota-based company and our local community is of particular importance to us. The partnership we’ve grown over the years with A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation is meaningful and we continue to be committed to our shared goals and support of Minnesota’s lung cancer community. We return as Title Sponsor at the 12th Annual A Breath of Hope Lung Run/Walk Twin Cities. Stop by our tent to say hello!

Volunteer Highlight—Meet Anne

Anne has been following A Breath of Hope since its inception and was present at the first volunteer-led Lung Run/Walk in 2007. Her good friend and a founding member of the organization, MJ McKeon, had recently been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer and Anne wanted to help. Anne understands the importance of this work. She lost a brother-in-law to lung cancer when he was only 44 years old. She knows firsthand what families go through. Anne says she feels inspired by A Breath of Hope’s events and shared, “This disease touches way too many families. We need to work together to find a cure.”

Anne retired in January of this year. She finds that she now has the time and flexibility to volunteer. She has always liked to help others. “I’m happy I made this decision to help where I can. I look forward to driving lung cancer patients to appointments.” We are excited to welcome Anne as one of our newest Ambassadors.

Actively show your support at a 2018 A Breath of Hope Event!

Join the Minnesota lung cancer community August 11 to celebrate ten years of research, awareness and support! REGISTER or FUNDRAISE at: abreathofhope.org/events

Birthday Bash for Grownups

Shining Bright Gala
November 9 at Aria, Minneapolis
2018 A Breath of Hope Summer/Fall Events

- June 8: Golf Classic at Deer Run Golf Club
- August 11: Lung Run/Walk Twin Cities at Lake Harriet
- September 22: Lung Run/Walk Duluth at Brighton Beach
- November 9: Shining Bright Gala at Aria, Minneapolis
- November TBD: FIRST PATIENT HOPE SUMMIT

A Breath of Hope Merchandise Store– Open!

A Breath of Hope launched an online store to continue branding the fight to end lung cancer! Buy a sweatshirt, bandana, hat, shirt, quarter-zip jacket, or Yeti Mug as a show of unity.

To shop online, visit abreathofhope.org/merchandise

Contact us! Get involved! Volunteer!

Phone: 952-405-9201
Email: info@abreathofhope.org