Defeating Lung Cancer, Bringing hope!

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation is improving lung cancer outcomes by funding cutting edge research, raising awareness through education, and supporting patients and families.

**OUR VISION AND MISSION**

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2018 BOARD CHAIR, JULIE OPHEIM

I stepped into A Breath of Hope (ABOH) in 2013 as a volunteer and heartbroken daughter. I had recently lost my mother to stage 4 lung cancer following many months of misdiagnosis, and I was experiencing the various stages of grief. I felt angry and isolated as I grappled with one consistent thought, “How could a perfectly healthy nonsmoking 73-year-old woman die from lung cancer, and why were her symptoms missed over and over again?” It felt unfair and I needed a community that understood.

My values led me to take action and become an advocate and leader for change. When I found ABOH, my feelings were validated, and I knew I had to contribute in any way I could. In 2013, ABOH was a small start-up nonprofit foundation with a courageous executive director and board of directors comprised of doctors, nurses, survivors and family members. They all saw the potential for improving lung cancer outcomes, and they were committed to changing the 15% survival rate of lung cancer.

I organized a team to run in the annual ABOH Lung Run/Walk raising over $3,500 in memory of my mother, Marie Stenglein. I became a speaker in the ABOH Ambassador Program to share my mother’s story and educate others about lung cancer, and I was honored to become a board member in 2014, board co-chair in 2016 and board chair in 2018. I feel privileged to continue serving and supporting the work of ABOH in memory of my mother and all the other lung cancer warriors I have met through this experience. I am grateful to the founders and those who came after them for their courage and commitment to this movement.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NANCY TORRISON

For the first time in my seven years at A Breath of Hope, we are seeing real progress in the lung cancer field, and the survival rate continues to creep upwards. An 18.4% survival rate isn’t good enough, mind you, but tens of thousands of lives are being prolonged or saved thanks to this progress. Saving lives and bringing hope is the ultimate vision for our organization.

In 2018, we collaborated with other cancer organizations to host meetings focused on improving screening numbers in Minnesota. Meeting participants were physicians and nurses from most of Minnesota’s healthcare organizations and the spirit of collaboration rang true at these meetings. Lung cancer screening remains a challenge in America. We continue to focus on getting eligible Americans screened while working to expand preventative screening for a broader audience and earlier detection.

A Breath of Hope’s Animated Guide to Lung Cancer (youandlungcancer.com) saw tremendous growth in 2018 with nearly 80,000 patients and family members visiting the site. Of those, most patients said they learned something new and would talk with their doctor about their treatment. Studies show that a well-informed patient and the practice of shared decision making between healthcare professionals and patients can lead to improved outcomes, including emotional and physical health.

Finally, our amazing A Breath of Hope fellows from University of Pittsburgh and MIT report progress in their studies about immunology and the biology of women and lung cancer. We are now preparing to launch new awards in 2019. Research, education and patient support matter in this fight to save lives, and I am proud of the many ways we are creating change.
OUR PROGRAMS IN ACTION

Research
2018 can best be explained as a year of rebuilding to prepare for expansion of this program with more dollars for greater impact. Along with our attention to developing a robust research committee and expert review panel, we continued to fund Drs. Stabile and Burns at the University of Pittsburgh and began funding Dr. Spranger at MIT.

The Stabile/Burns project reports progress by their multidisciplinary research team in understanding how the female sex hormone, estrogen, promotes a pro-tumor immunosuppressive lung tumor microenvironment that allows the tumor to evade the immune system. Their project strives to improve the activity of immunotherapy using anti-estrogens.

The Spranger project focuses on understanding how the diversity of anti-tumor immune responses influence tumor control by tumor infiltrating T cells. This will be crucial to improve current immunotherapy approaches.

Awareness & Education
Thanks to a restricted gift from a new donor during the summer of 2018, we were able to double our public education impact during National Lung Cancer Awareness Month. We reached nearly 2,000,000 people with important messages about lung cancer, stigma and screening. From presentations by our speaker’s bureau to marketing campaigns that included billboards, radio, print and social media ads to growing awareness events, A Breath of Hope continues to educate for earlier detection and an end to an inaccurate and unkind stigma.

Patient & Family Support
A Breath of Hope (ABOH) provides online, highly visual patient education worldwide at youandlungcancer.com, as well as local direct services such as patient or grief support groups and rides to treatment. In 2018, we gave hundreds of rides making it possible for patients to continue their treatment.

Testimony from Mary Ann, a program participant: “I remember our first ride with A Breath of Hope. Before our driver even picked us up, we were so thankful. Part of me wondered if these free rides were too good to be true - but fast forward to today and Joe and I do not know what we would do without A Breath of Hope and their wonderful Ambassadors. The compassion and care shown by each A Breath of Hope driver truly lifts our spirits. These drivers are a major part of our support system. Each driver is prompt and courteous; it shows that they really do respect and care for us.”

Nonsmokers
GET LUNG CANCER TOO!
EDUCATE YOURSELF AT
A BREATH of HOPE.ORG

SUPPORT UNDERFUNDED LUNG CANCER RESEARCH.
It could save their lives!
A BREATH of HOPE.ORG
Midwest Lung Cancer Summit

Lung cancer is associated with high levels of depression and anxiety which can lead to reduced quality of life and survival. A Breath of Hope (ABOH) partners with professionals to bring needed psychosocial support and a loving community to adults living with lung cancer.

With three large group sessions and eleven breakout sessions, the 2018 summit offered excellent education, tools and resources to help families cope with lung cancer. Presenters were experts from Mayo Clinic, University of Minnesota/Masonic Cancer Center, North Memorial Health, Regions Hospital (HealthPartners), Allina/Courage Kenny/Virginia Piper Cancer Institute, Hennepin Health, American Cancer Society, Cancer Legal Center, Wooddale Church, The Marsh and more. With nearly 100 percent ‘excellent’ ratings, the summit will continue as an annual event offered each fall during Lung Cancer Awareness Month.

Screening

More than 70 percent of lung cancer cases are diagnosed in stage 3 or 4 when it is difficult to beat. Based on the results of the National Lung Screening Trial and the NELSON study, the USPSTF and most professional organizations recommend annual screening for lung cancer with low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) in adults aged 55 to 80 years who have a 30 pack-year smoking history and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years.

Sadly, as much as we work toward expanded guidelines to bring screening to more Americans, less than 5% of currently eligible folks have been screened which hurts the movement and contributes to a high mortality rate. In 2018, ABOH partnered with American Cancer Society and American Lung Association to host ‘Thought Leader’ meetings for healthcare professionals from 25 Minnesota organizations (including ten healthcare organizations). This group of leaders has committed to continue working together to reduce late stage diagnoses through improved awareness and access to lung cancer screening in Minnesota.

Radon

Radon is a cancer-causing radioactive gas and a serious public health concern in the U.S. The average level of radon in Minnesota’s tested homes is 4.6 pCi/L – more than three times the national average of 1.3 pCi/L. Based on epidemiological and ecological studies, it is recommended that we test our homes for radon annually, and mitigate if dangerous levels of radon are found. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that residential radon causes approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the United States each year. Radon is considered the leading cause of lung cancer after smoking.

ABOH is partnering with radon mitigation contractors and the Minnesota Department of Health to educate communities about lung cancer, encourage testing, and help families find affordable mitigation services when unsafe levels of radon are found in their home.
EVENTS IN ACTION
Chelsi began having chest pains and shortness of breath during the spring of 2015. As a healthy 37-year-old wife and mother, she knew something was wrong. It didn’t feel normal. She went to urgent care and was told she had pneumonia. She was prescribed antibiotics and told to come back for a follow-up visit in a few weeks.

Chelsi began feeling better and wasn’t going to return for the re-check, but something nudged her to go back. At this visit, Chelsi was told that since she was feeling better, it was not necessary to do an x-ray. Chelsi was not comfortable with this decision and insisted. Later that day, she received a call from her doctor telling her that something cloudy showed up in her chest x-ray, so she returned the following day for a low-dose CT scan. The scan showed unexplained spots that led Chelsi to a PET scan. It was this scan that finally revealed a mass on her right lung and a smaller mass on her left lung. The cancer had spread to her lymph nodes, and a biopsy of the mass determined that she had stage 3b non-small cell lung cancer - adenocarcinoma.

About 40% of lung cancers are adenocarcinomas. These cancers start in early versions of the cells that would normally secrete substances such as mucus. This type of lung cancer occurs mainly in current or former smokers, but it is also the most common type of lung cancer seen in nonsmokers like Chelsi. It is more common in women than in men, and it is more likely to occur in younger people than other types of lung cancer.

Chelsi’s journey has been challenging. The very chemotherapy meant to destroy the cancer caused her kidneys to fail. This is a rare side effect. The chemo was successful in shrinking the tumors, so she was given a six-month break to recover from the harsh side effects. After six months with no treatment, scans showed the tumors had grown, and the cancer had metastasized to her brain. Immunotherapy was used with no success. Thankfully, gamma knife radiation to her brain was successful. Chelsi is now on a new chemotherapy drug, and she prays that this treatment will be long-lasting and successful.

Lung cancer has not stopped Chelsi from enjoying life. Her two children bring her unending joy. She knows each moment spent with her family is special, and she finds that her work brings a welcome normalcy to the chaotic world of cancer. Chelsi wants everyone to know about lung cancer, be aware of the many causes and symptoms, and advocate for themselves in the doctor’s office. She continues to work with A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation to change the lung cancer smoking stigma, and bring a kinder and more accurate understanding of lung cancer to the public.

“I hate that everyone’s first question is always ‘did you smoke’. Why? Would I then deserve it?”
YOUR DOLLARS IN ACTION

Income

Contributions 380,438.00
Grant Revenue 145,000.00
Circle of Light Donations 59,019.00
Memorial & Honorarium Donations 57,497.00
In-Kind Donations 41,571.00
Special Event Revenue (Net of Expense) 90,688.00
Event Registration Fees 93,177.00
Merchandise Sales (Net of Expense) 971.00
Interest Income 185.00
Total Income 868,546.00

Expenses

Patient Support Expenses 89,421.00
Research Fellowships 151,332.00
WRAP Program (100% Awareness)* 187,503.00
Operating Expenses (80% Program) 66,573.00
Payroll Expenses (80% Program) 413,710.00
Total Expenses 908,539.00

Total Assets 459,494.00
Total Liabilities 30,389.00
Total Net Assets or Fund Balance 429,105.00

2018 Expenses

8% Fundraising
63% Program Services
12% Admin
17% Grants & Fellowships

2018 Program Services Expenses

48% Research
48% Education/Awareness
30% Patient Support/Education

*White Ribbon Awareness Program:
Awareness events, Animated Patient Program, billboards, media campaigns, public speaking engagements, social media outreach, targeted emails

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation (ABOH), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, works diligently to earn the trust of our donors. ABOH is in excellent standing with the Charities Review Council and has earned a Gold Seal of Transparency from GuideStar. For a full report of our 2017 financial activities, view our 990 on our website: abreathofhope.org or visit smartgivers.org.
A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2018 CIRCLE OF LIGHT MEMBERS

**Incandescent Light:** John and Wanda Benjamin, Mary and Bill Zimmer

**Spot Light:** Joan Maclin, Katie Mann

**Key Light:** Curt Anderson, Raymond Byrne, Matthew and Katherine Graczyk, Steve and Kelly Link, Sally Mccabe, Julie and Eric Swedberg, Paul Thurmes

**Reflection Light:** Mary Jane Benjamin, Gary and Rosey Brausen, Steve Dale, Sarah and Jim Diebel, Arkadiusz and Edyta Dudek, Kristi Flann, Georgia and Mark Helvick, Randy Hertog, Janet and Mark Huss, Jennifer Jones, Jeffrey Kendall, Jeff Nybeck, Julie and John Opheim, Mark and Sara Solfelt, Margaret Ungerman, Todd and Beverly Wadsworth

**Ambience Light:** Mark and Anne Bacigalupo, Justin and Shanna Ballsrud, Shelly and Joseph Blanchette, Myrnell and Thomas Brusegaard, Peter and Katie Bucka, Myrna and Harry Camp, Ed and Antoinette Egan, Jody and Paul Eifert, Kiara Ellis, Emily and Jason Elswick, Wendi Engebretsen, Naomi Fujioka, Girl Scout Troop 10181, Bobby and Phyllis Jensen, Shirley Kern, The Mac LeFevre Family, Linda and Bruce Machmeier, Manish and Sheetal Patel, Lynn and Mitch Frust, Lori and Brent Ryan, Len Thayer, Jill and Steve Tigner, Jerry and Nancy Torrison, Ed and Audrienne Vidmar, Chris White, The Family of Ruth Zibble
2018 Foundation, Corporate & Business Gifts

$25,000 - $49,999
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Celgene Corporation
Medtronic, PLC
Northfield Lines, Inc.
The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation

$10,000 - $24,999
Juels Corporation
Karst & von Oiste, LLP
The Robert E. Fraser Foundation
Russell B. Hagen Foundation

$5,000 - $9,999
Great Clips, Inc.
Minnesota Oncology
Mystic Lake Casino Hotel
North Memorial Health

$2,500 - $4,999
Allina Health
Genentech, Inc.
The Merck Company Foundation
Peregrine Capital Management, LLC
St. Paul Radiology
State of Minnesota Department of Health
Suburban Radiologic Consultants, LTD.
Surgical Care Affiliates, Inc.
UBS Financial Services
Unitech Medical, Inc.

$1,000 - $2,499
AJK Cutters
Allianz Life Insurance Company
American Express Foundation
American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation
Bjorn Timeless Portraits
Fairview Health Services
Healthcare Convention & Exhibitors Association
HealthPartners
Hennepin Healthcare
J.K. Medical, Inc
Koch Foundation
L & B Theis Farms
Lancer Insurance Company
Motor Coach Industries, Inc.
Mechanical Systems, Inc.
Micro Control Company
Moss & Barnett
Telin Transportation Group, LLC
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Verizon Wireless
Wells Fargo & Company Foundation
Zinpro Corporation

$500 - $999
Barbara McGraw and Steven Mosow Fund
Eli Lilly & Company
Girl Scout Troop 10181
Grazzini Brothers & Company
Group Delphi
Groves Real Estate
Lee Health
M. Carlson Painting
Pinnacle Building Services, Inc.
Lions Club of Rogers
RSP Architects, Ltd.
Schieman Family Foundation
The Chris Draft Family Foundation
The Randy and Susan Sampson Foundation
Total Wine and More
Eli’s Food and Cocktails

$250 - $499
Abundant Companies
Bremer Wealth Management
Chestnut Cambronne PA
G & O Logistics
Georgetown University
Kennedy & Graven, Chartered
McEllistrem, Farione, Landy, Rorvig & Eken, P.A.
Minnesota Twins Baseball Club
Oberle, Tully & Company
Park-Port Lioness Club
Redfin

Up to $250
Affiliated Insurance Services, LLC
Alex and Ani, LLC
Allodium Investment Consultants
Amazon Smile
American Airlines
Bemis Company, Inc.
Boston Scientific
CA Clips, Inc.
Conversations with Kelly
EnPro Industries
Frank Properties, LLC
Huffman Productions, Inc.
Hugo Painting And Drywall, Inc.
Junk Bonanza
Kalamuna
MEI-Total Elevator Solutions
Mutual Of America
National Network Of Public Health Institutes
Nemer Fieger
Paquette Construction
Pertula Construction, LLC
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Share The Journey, LLC
StuartCo
Sunny Days Home Watch, LLC
Target Corporation
Willis And Moore, Inc.
Zoey
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Beth Nault
Marketing Director
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Support & Outreach Program Coordinator
Anna Hall
Event & Awareness Program Manager

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