



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



A BREATH OF HOPE LUNG FOUNDATION MISSION & VISION

DEFEAT LUNG CANCER AND BRING HOPE

A BREATH OF HOPE LUNG FOUNDATION IMPROVES
LUNG CANCER OUTCOMES BY FUNDING CUTTING-EDGE
RESEARCH, RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH EDUCATION,
AND SUPPORTING PATIENTS AND FAMILIES.

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STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP



NANCY TORRISON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I reflect on 2021 and our unprecedented success in building our program reach and fundraising efforts, I feel deep gratitude for the many supporters who continue to believe in our work. Thankfully, we greeted 2022 with a sense of hope and optimism, knowing we had thrived through the worst of the pandemic (fingers crossed as I write this).

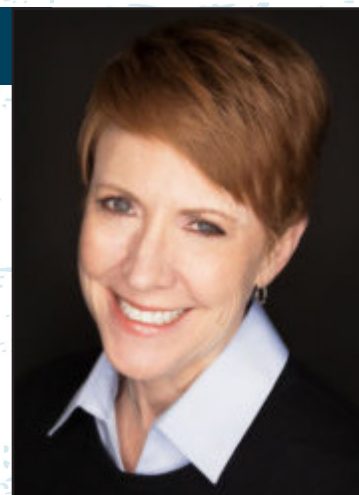
Through the program closures, lockdowns, remote office shuffles, staffing changes and tremendous shifts in nonprofit giving, our small but mighty staff and our board had to get creative to safely serve people in the lung cancer community, educate a society that was tired and distracted, and raise the funds needed to continue advancing some of America's most important research. I am so proud of our team for their vision, perseverance and creativity.

Here we are in 2022, on track to increase our research impact, educate 20 million people, introduce new patient learning resources at YouandLungCancer.com, and give hundreds of rides to patients who might otherwise not receive their treatment in a timely manner.

Thank you to all who are on this journey with us. When it comes to this important mission of saving lives, we are strongest together.

JULIE OPHEIM, 2021 BOARD CHAIR

As 2021 kicked off, the ABOH board of directors felt a sense of gratitude and relief that 2020 was not only over, but we maintained our footing and continued to serve our community despite the chaos and disruptions locally and worldwide. As we entered 2021, we made the mindful decision to continue to lead with optimism and hope, assuming the disruptions would continue. We worked diligently with our executive director and her staff to prioritize and deliver programs that would continue to impact those living with lung cancer, and I could not be prouder of all we accomplished. ABOH continues to be a place where patients, caregivers, friends, and families can show up and be fully seen without feeling the stigma of this disease. This is a community where we share our stories and believe in our vision to Defeat Lung Cancer and Bring Hope Worldwide!



2021 was also my third and final year serving as board chair. Our family recently hit the 10-year anniversary of my mom passing away from lung cancer and I will continue to honor her memory and work to improve outcomes for all by serving on the board in a different capacity as chair of the board governance committee. On the anniversary of my mom's passing, my daily devotional said this: Hope isn't a fragile wish or a dream that fades, it's an anchor of the soul, held secure by the unchangeable promises from God.

I look forward to all ABOH will do in the years ahead to bring hope and peace to our community.

MEANINGFUL PROGRAMS

SUPPORT SERVICES

Studies that investigate lung cancer stigma, anxiety, depression, and quality of life among lung cancer patients consistently show greater levels of psychological distress than any other cancer. The findings are especially significant for long-term lung cancer survivors, whose numbers are increasing due to prevention and treatment advances.

To address quality of life issues, A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation offers support programs, including free rides to medical appointments, companionship visits with unbiased and caring volunteers, and support groups that focus on learning for a better quality of life.



A BREATH OF HOPE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

From cancer centers to patients to caregivers, the challenge most often named was finding rides to the treatments, medical appointments and support group meetings that are important to a patient's successful outcomes.

A Breath of Hope relaunched its patient transportation program in June of 2021 and was able to safely provide nearly 100 rides in Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN. 2022 finds this same program growing rapidly with a 97% close rate on requests, and a new program launched in Lee County, Florida.

"Our patient lives alone and does not drive. Most of the family and extended family and friends work full-time. In the beginning, we didn't know how we would manage to get him to/from appointments five days/week for eight weeks. The task appeared daunting. All said, the ABOH rides were a godsend! The drivers were personable, dependable, on-time, and extremely supportive of him. They were always happy to meet and spend time driving them. Their company boosted his morale and spirits during these difficult days, and their service enabled him to keep almost all of his appointments. We cannot thank your volunteers enough!"

- Angela, Patient Caregiver

A BREATH OF HOPE COMPANIONSHIP PROGRAM

ABOH companions provide support to patients and caregivers through texts, phone calls, coffee dates or regular virtual or in-person meetings. Their role is to listen and offer hope and companionship during the emotional roller coaster of a cancer diagnosis.

ABOH HOPE, EATS, AND JOY CAMPAIGN

The Hope, Eats, and Joy Campaign was created early in 2020 to address the many challenges our lung cancer community faced during the difficult early days of the pandemic. We delivered thousands of dollars of free groceries to lung cancer patients and their families. The groceries and flowers were delivered to the patient's doorstep at no cost to the patient.

The program was phased out in May 2021 when program funds were exhausted. Our efforts helped families with safety and/or financial concerns and gave them the comfort of not having to visit grocery stores during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

IMPACTFUL RESEARCH



KIPP WEISKOPF, M.D., PH.D

Our 2021 A Breath of Hope Peg Fisher-Jullie Fight for Life Research Award Recipient was Kipp Weiskopf, MD, PhD from the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dr. Weiskopf's proposal focuses on the interaction between EGFR mutant lung cancer cells and the immune system.

Although therapies that activate the immune system have been effective for some types of cancer, their use remains limited for EGFR mutant lung cancer. Prior studies have mainly focused on immunotherapies that target T cells and the PD-1/PD-L1 axis.

In contrast, this project will investigate how immune cells called macrophages can be used to attack and eliminate EGFR mutant lung cancer cells. Macrophages are often the most common immune cells in tumors, and they can be provoked to attack cancer cells when provided with an appropriate stimulus.

This study will investigate how macrophages can be activated to enhance conventional therapies for EGFR mutant lung cancer. The goal of this research is to provide the scientific rationale for testing these therapeutic strategies in patients with EGFR mutant lung cancer.

TARGETING MACROPHAGES TO ELIMINATE EGFR MUTANT LUNG CANCER, PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: KIPP WEISKOPF, M.D., PH.D.

FEBRUARY 2022 PROGRESS REPORT:

During the reporting period, we have continued our studies to examine ways to stimulate immune cells called macrophages to attack and eliminate EGFR mutant lung cancer cells. We have focused the majority of effort on evaluating the combination of lung cancer cells and macrophages in petri dishes. We have combined EGFR mutant cancer cells and macrophages together with different drug therapies and then measured the growth of the cancer cells over time. We have found that certain combinations of drugs can make the cancer cells more vulnerable to being engulfed and destroyed by macrophages. This combination strategy seems to be effective when we test multiple different specimens, including established EGFR mutant lung cancer cell lines or patient-derived specimens. We have also begun to investigate whether the combination strategy can be effective when administered in mouse models of cancer. In collaboration with the laboratory of Dr. Aaron Hata at Massachusetts General Hospital, we have found that our combination strategy may enhance the ability of the immune system to recognize EGFR mutant lung cancer cells as foreign and fight them off. We will continue to study this combination strategy in the upcoming award period in additional cell culture models and mouse tumor models.

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY

Like most strong and supportive communities, the A Breath of Hope community shares certain values and goals. But more importantly, this community creates vital educational opportunities, a chance to learn from others, and social connections that leave us feeling less alone during the difficult months and years following a lung cancer diagnosis.

The A Breath of Hope community has been there for lung cancer patients since the beginning and as we grow, we are able to provide more of what we all hope for. Whether it's a public presentation about lung cancer, social activity, support group meeting, volunteer experience, or business opportunity, the connections that come from our community make the cancer journey a little easier.



SHARED LESSONS AND EXPERTISE TO SUPPORT PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS



MORE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS FOR EARLY DETECTION



GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES AND A CHANCE TO GIVE BACK



INSPIRING SURVIVOR STORY



In early 2015, Andrew was a healthy and active 27-year-old who loved to golf, had a great job and was enjoying life. By September of that year, Andrew began experiencing an intense cough accompanied by bloody discharge. He didn't think much of it but went to the ER at the suggestion of a coworker. After tests and X-rays, he was told to go home and follow up with his primary care doctor in the next few days. Since his cough got better and being the young active person he was, he brushed it off and went about his daily routine. He never followed up.

Over the next year, the cough and bloody discharge returned many times, along with several bouts of pneumonia. In November of the following year, Andrew's first child was born. A family friend who was visiting Andrew and his wife in the hospital to congratulate them on their new arrival noticed the cough. This friend, who happened to be a medical resident at the time, urged Andrew to be seen by a doctor as soon as possible. Sitting in the hospital with his new daughter and wife served as a wake-up call and he scheduled an appointment.

After Andrew went through a series of x-rays and a chest CT scan, he received the news that a nodule was found on his left lung. A bronchoscopy was scheduled for the following day. The procedure was challenging because of the size and placement of the nodule in the airway, so Andrew was advised to have the nodule removed.

Following a lengthy surgery and hospital stay, Andrew's doctor let him know that the margins were clear and they had removed all of the cancer. Andrew continues to receive good news and clear follow-up scans yet today. He recently celebrated his five-year anniversary of clean scans.

Andrew works in the lung cancer field now and brings a unique perspective to his company. He is also on the A Breath of Hope Board of Directors. While he may never know what caused his lung cancer, he is grateful to be an advocate and source of hope for others living with lung cancer.

Thank you to Andrew and the McPherson family for sharing their story



POWERFUL EVENTS



LUNG RUN/WALK TWIN CITIES



PURPOSEFUL FINANCIALS

INCOME

Contributions	\$560,186
Grant Revenue	268,231
Circle of Light Donations	58,500
Memorials & Honorarium Donations	69,351
In-Kind Donations	4,980
Special Event Revenue (Net of Expenses)	150,403
Event Registration Fees	82,338
Merchandise Sales (Net of Expenses)	247
Interest Income	70

TOTAL INCOME **\$1,194,306**

EXPENSES

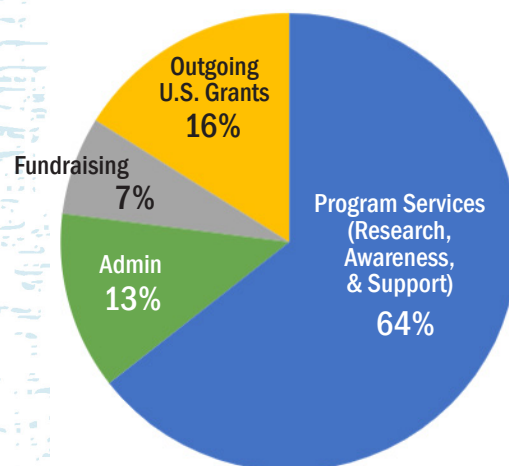
Patient Support Costs	\$119,275
Research Program Costs	153,290
Awareness Program Costs* (100% Awareness)	145,655
Operating Expenses (75% Program)	52,423
Payroll Expenses (75% Program)	462,312

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$932,955**

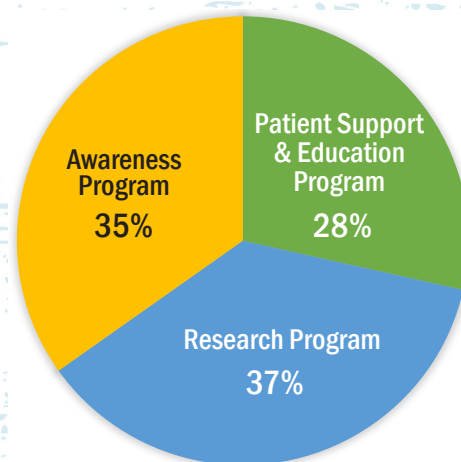
Total Assets	\$1,150,164
Total Liabilities	28,050

TOTAL NET ASSETS OR FUND BALANCE **\$1,122,104**

2021 EXPENSES



2021 PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES



*Awareness Program - WRAP: White Ribbon Awareness Program includes awareness events, billboards, media campaigns, public speaking engagements, social media outreach, targeted email campaigns, Minnesota Screening Meeting for earlier detection.

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 2021 financial activities, view our 990 on our website abreathofhope.org, or visit smartgivers.org.

COMMITTED BOARD & STAFF

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Vice Chair

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Secretary

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Abbie Begnaud, MD

Emily Elswick

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Manish Patel, OD

Lori Shipman

Nancy Torrison
Ex-Officio

2021 STAFF

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Executive Director

Nancy Holden
Development Director

Nang Her
Accounting & Administration Manager

Jill Tigner
Patient & Family Support Manager

Jennifer Carr
Marketing & Community Outreach Manager

Lindsay Lockman
Events Manager

Bonnie Mueller
Office Manager

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