Gateway to hope

IMPACT REPORT
2020

Gateway to hope

“Her first words were, ‘Karen, you’re going to be ok.’ She kept her word. Worried about surgery, getting well, on top of your finances—Gateway to Hope took that worry, stress and burden off of me.”

-Karen,
Gateway to Hope Recipient

“I didn’t want cancer to define me. And it hasn’t.”

-Stacy,
Gateway to Hope Recipient

A BREAST CANCER LIFELINE

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear friends and supporters,

As we head into one full year of the global pandemic, this report celebrates the impact we had together in 2020. It also summarizes the challenges we will face ahead of us, and what Gateway to Hope is doing to tackle those challenges with both compassion and relentlessness. I hope you will read the highlighted statistics in this report, as they highlight urgent community needs we should all be focused on. As we continue to weather this pandemic of a respiratory virus, we're also entering another pandemic-one that will create healthcare challenges for thousands if we don't act quickly. Together, we face a never-before–seen multi-layered crisis, rooted in historical healthcare inequities and lack of affordable, quality, healthcare for all. I know that sounds like a lot to face, and it is. But the good news is, because of your support, Gateway to Hope is already making headway toward a positive impact on these challenges. I am proud to share last year's results with you and look to the future with a sense of hope. After all, that is what we do here together-we are empowering people in our community to live healthy, hopeful lives because we create greater access to healthcare. You make that possible. Thank you for all you do, and for standing alongside the people we serve.

Katie Manga

Marci & Family
Gateway to Hope
Recipient

Gateway to Hope's mission is *to remove barriers to affordable, timely, quality healthcare, empowering people* with breast cancer to face the disease and focus *on healing.*

COMMUNITY NEED

1:8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetimes

BY THE NUMBERS:

- 16 women in our community will be diagnosed with breast cancer every day. That is 6,000 women a year.
- ½ of these women will face impossible decisions – like choosing between life-saving healthcare and keeping food on the table.
- A Black woman with breast cancer in Saint Louis County is 2x more likely to die than her white counterpart.

WHAT IS FINANCIAL TOXICITY?

Financial toxicity is the financial burden combined with the overall distress from cancer treatment. The emotional, mental, and physically debilitating financial side effects of treatment reduces quality of life and hinders delivery of care. This results in unnecessary deaths from breast cancer.

Screenings & Prevention

- Experts believe that there are over ***40,000 cases of undiagnosed breast cancer*** in the United States due to the delays in care caused by the pandemic.
- According to the American Cancer Society, an ***estimated 2 million cancer screenings*** were skipped or canceled between March and June of 2020.

The pandemic, coupled with existing disparities in care, has created a new crisis we must be prepared to solve.

NATISSIA'S STORY

Natissia, a Gateway to Hope recipient and North St. Louis County resident, is the definition of resilience and determination. Natissia never felt sick or found a lump. She just had a gut feeling that something was not right. She went to three different specialists that told her that she was worrying over nothing, but she continued to advocate for herself and her health. When she received confirmation of her Stage I, Triple Negative breast cancer diagnosis from a fourth physician, she was overwhelmed with a roller coaster of emotions. But, she decided to "fight and not give up."

Gateway to Hope's professional staff supported Natissia throughout her treatment – a duration of more than seven months, which included surgery and a variety of other treatments. Gateway to Hope also provided financial assistance to Natissia, paying for her health insurance premiums so that she could remain insured during treatment. Through monthly calls and visits, her case manager helped her confront her treatment and manage her financial stress at the same time. By removing these barriers to care, Gateway to Hope's services empowered Natissia to access the timely, quality, affordable healthcare she needed to thrive beyond her cancer diagnosis. Today, Natissia is cancer–free and able to work full time.

Despite ongoing side effects from her treatment, she reports feeling strong and is an advocate for others—sharing her story and encouraging women to seek medical care, early and often. Like Natissia, our community has prevailed over so much this year, but there is even more work to be done to ensure access to healthcare and basic necessities for breast cancer patients and their families.

OUR IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS

$269,830
distributed in patient assistance

358 Women
recieved services from Gateway to Hope in 2020

2,948 Points of Contact
with patients in 2020 through phone calls, emails, text messages, meetings, ect.

772 Referrals
were made from Gateway to Hope to local and national community organizations, nonprofits, and community resources to help fulfil the unmet needs of the individuals we serve.

1/3 of ALL Black Women
diagnosed with breast cancer in Saint Louis City and County were served by Gateway to Hope in 2020.

Financial Assistance Provided

- Insurance Premium Payments
- Mortage/Rent
- Utilities
- Compression Garments
- Patient Transportation/Gas Card
- Vehicle Payment
- Other

IMPACT

05% of Gateway to Hope patients report skipping doctor's appointments **compared to the national average of 22% of patients**

03% of Gateway to Hope patients report skipping dosages of medication **compared to the national average of 18% of patients**

86% of Gateway to Hope patients report that they are less worried about finances

92%
of Gateway to Hope patients report less stress during treatment

84%
of Gateway to Hope patients report feeling better able to cope

92%
of Gateway to Hope patients report being more focused on treatment

Together, We Can Make Change Happen

In addition to continuing to meet the needs of our community through our current services, we're launching ***three new efforts*** that will expand GTH's impact in response to pandemic-driven, long standing community needs.

We're focusing on early detection and prevention.
Mammograms save lives, but too many women have lost access or have never had access to this important care. GTH now provides navigation support to ensure women can access affordable, quality, timely early detection care.

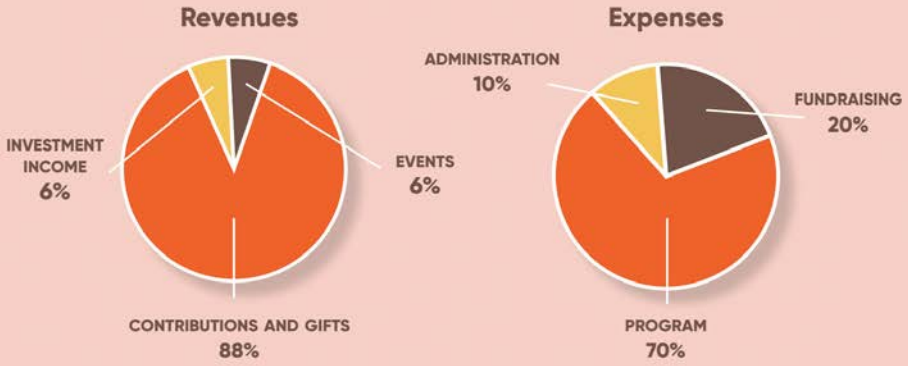
We're increasing our support for women with metastatic disease. Late-stage cancer comes with a unique set of challenges, and GTH is now able to offer grief counseling and additional emotional support to those who need it.

We're advocating for our community.
GTH is honored to receive funds from Missouri Foundation for Health in 2021 that will launch a new community engagement arm of the organization, allowing us to lift up the voices of the women we serve and advocate for more equitable, patient-centered care across our service area in Missouri and Illinois. For more information, please email **coalition@gthstl.org.**

Learn more, join and support our work with patients and community, at www.gthstl.org

Heather
Gateway to Hope Recipient

2020 Summary Statement of Activities



Gail
Gateway to Hope Recipient

To view our audited financials visit this link:
http://www.gthstl.org/pdfs/gth-2020-financial-report.pdf

THANK YOU, DONORS

Honoring Karen Tulper & Her Legacy

In 2020, Gateway to Hope was grateful to receive a transformational gift from long-time supporter Karen Tulper. A breast cancer "thrivor" who gave back to her community in her years after treatment, Karen lived a life filled with friendships and kindness toward others. She was known for her attention to special gifts and mementos that were unique to each recipient, and her generosity was unmatched. She believed strongly in our mission and wanted, more than anything, for her gift to propel our work to serve more women. Karen understood the hardships of cancer treatment and identified closely with the challenges of navigating treatment without social and financial support. Because of this, she leaves a legacy that will ensure thousands of women will have the support they need to face this disease and focus on healing.

The Karen Tulper Legacy Circle

Karen's legacy will live on in the lives she has already touched as well as all of those she will touch in the future. Through this gift, she's also launched a community of supporters who wish to see their own legacies working toward making Gateway to Hope's long-term vision a reality. The Karen Tulper Legacy Circle will bring together individuals who have indicated to us that GTH is included in their estate plans. We welcome all who are interested in learning more to email us at **development@gthstl.org**.

$25,000+

Anonymous

Centene Charitable Foundation

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To view the entire 2020 donor list, please visit **www.gthstl.org**

*** Donation to Thelma's Gift in honor of Thelma Muskin**
**** Donation to Gail's Legacy in honor of Gail Gast**
***** Donation to Stephanie's Wish in honor of Stephanie Simon Allen**

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