BY THE NUMBERS - Fiscal Year 2018-19

$686K  Total financial aid distributed

332  Number of breast cancer patients funded

1851  Number of bill payments made

1639  Number of hours volunteered

58%  for housing

20%  for transportation

19%  for utilities

3%  for health insurance premiums

When lost income collides with high deductibles and co-pays, patients and their families are catapulted into a financial abyss.

-Molly MacDonald, Founder and CEO, The Pink Fund

The Pink Fund provides financial support to help meet basic needs, decrease stress levels and allow breast cancer patients in active treatment to focus on healing while improving survivorship outcomes. Our 90 day grant program allows us to meet their critical expenses of housing, transportation, utilities, and health insurance.

Although progress in breast cancer treatment is laudable, the results of the current study demonstrate that we have gone only part of the way toward our goal... Efforts must now turn to confront the financial devastation that many patients face, particularly as they progress into survivorship. To cure a patient’s disease at the cost of financial ruin falls short of the physician’s duty to serve, and failure to recognize and mitigate a patient’s financial distress is no longer acceptable.

- Reshma Jagsi, MD, DPhil, University of Michigan

DID YOU KNOW...

- 1 in 8 U.S. women (about 12%) will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime
- In 6 months, a health crisis can throw a family into bankruptcy or homelessness

THE PINK FUND 2018 SURVEY

In 2018, The Pink Fund conducted a survey to gather insights on the financial burdens faced specifically by breast cancer patients who were under 40 years of age at the time of diagnosis.

Young breast cancer survivors pay more out-of-pocket for treatment:

- More than 50% incurred expenses of $5,000 or more.
- 27% incurred expenses of $10,000 or more.

Young survivors were often sent into debt because of medical expenses:

- 46% depleted their savings accounts.
- 25% defaulted on current debt payments.
- 50% went into actual debt.

Comparing Younger Breast Cancer Survivors to Their Older Counterparts

When it came to paying out-of-pocket costs for their treatments, younger breast cancer patients are twice as likely to pay up to $20k more than older patients.

- 2X of patients under 40 pay between $10 and $20k for out-of-pocket medical costs.

While only 22% of breast cancer patients older than 40 report having to pay that same amount.

- 41% of breast cancer patients under 40 have trouble finding new work after treatment, compared to 16% of older survivors.

Removing Transportation Barriers

Breast cancer patients are often prescribed treatment protocols that require multiple visits or procedures which can lead to significant challenges in travel, preventing them from effectively completing treatment. Through the applications and patient responses The Pink Fund receives, we have seen how important vehicle access is to breast cancer patients undergoing active treatment. As Dr. Samina Syed of the University of Illinois puts it, "You can provide the best care in the world, but it doesn't matter if the patient has no way to get to it."

As a thought leader in mobility and transportation, Ford Warriors in Pink is helping us reach our goal to fully fund financial assistance for transportation through a designated transportation fund to assist breast cancer patients in active treatment with car payments.

"I AM IN TEARS BECAUSE WITHOUT YOUR HELP I WILL BE WITHOUT A CAR. WITHOUT MY CAR, I AM NOT ABLE TO GO TO MY DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS AND TRAVEL TO OTHER PLACES. I AM SO THANKFUL FOR THE HELP OF THE PINK FUND. I AM IN TEARS OF JOY FOR THE HELP YOU ARE GIVING ME. THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART."

-Sonji J

HOW YOU CAN HELP

It takes so little to give ONE LESS WORRY to a breast cancer patient in active treatment, but the impact is monumental.

DONATE

As a non-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of donors to carry out our mission. Become a monthly donor and provide ONE LESS WORRY to breast cancer patients in active treatment. Help us meet their basic needs and allow them to focus on healing and improving their survivorship outcomes. You can make a donation or explore all the ways to give at www.pinkfund.org/donate.

HOST A FUNDRAISER

From bake sales to indie rock concerts, walks and runs, car washes, jean days, or pink outs, volunteer fundraisers turn their passions into tangible support for breast cancer patients in treatment. For more information on hosting an event to benefit The Pink Fund, contact Debbie at Deborah@ThePinkFund.org.