



# Maine Breast Cancer Coalition News & Views

Winter 2013

[www.mainebreastcancer.org](http://www.mainebreastcancer.org)

1-800-928-2644

## When Getting There *Is* Half the Battle . . .

With high gas prices and the great distance many Maine residents must travel to medical facilities, getting to breast cancer treatment or services can create a financial hardship.

If you (or someone you know) need to travel to and from breast cancer treatment, support services or diagnostic services, and live in any of the counties listed below, you may be able to receive free transportation or mileage reimbursement.

Volunteer drivers can pick up individuals at their homes and bring them to treatment or services. The programs also provide mileage reimbursement for those who transport themselves or are transported by a family member or friend. **Contact the individual program to find out more.**

### **Androscoggin, Franklin, or Oxford Counties: Community Concepts**

800-866-5588 or 207-795-6073

<http://www.community-concepts.org/transportation/susan-b-komen-for-the-cure/>

**Hancock or Washington Counties: Sunrides to Wellness** 877-374-8396 or 546-7547 or 664-0012

**Penobscot or Piscataquis Counties: Ride To Wellness** 973-3695 or 1-866-853-5969.

**York County: Connecting to Cancer Care** 207-324-5762

<http://www.yccac.org/yccac-transportation-home.html>

## Maine Breast Cancer Coalition Representatives to Take Part in *Breast Cancer Deadline 2020*<sup>®</sup> Advocate Leadership Summit



Photo: Laurel Bezanson (left) and Bethany Zell, Maine Breast Cancer Coalition representatives, at the 2012 NBCC Advocate Leadership Summit in Washington, DC

Every 14 minutes, a woman dies of breast cancer in the United States. Worldwide, nearly half a million women and men will die this year from the disease. *This must change, and with the help of trained advocates, it will.*

[Breast Cancer Deadline 2020](#)<sup>®</sup> is the National Breast Cancer Coalition's global initiative to end breast cancer by January 1, 2020. As a leader in the breast cancer movement and a supporter of Breast Cancer Deadline 2020<sup>®</sup>, the [Maine Breast Cancer Coalition](#) is committed to being a part of this important work. As leaders, we do all that we can throughout the year to support the plan of action to achieve our common goal of ending breast cancer.

We will not end breast cancer unless we have the right leadership . . . and that includes advocate leaders! We need educated, trained advocates to lead the Breast Cancer Deadline 2020<sup>®</sup> plan of action. And, we need to learn from one another.

Leaders in the breast cancer movement will gather in Washington, DC, May 4-7, 2013, to demonstrate their support for Breast Cancer Deadline 2020<sup>®</sup>. **Maine Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC) plans to send two representatives to represent Maine at the Summit and continue their training, but we need your help to raise the funds to make this happen!** Please make a donation of any amount on the Advocate Leadership Summit fundraising pages of MBCC volunteers [Laurel Bezanson](#) or [Bethany Zell](#). As advocate leaders, MBCC representatives Laurel and Bethany will:

- Learn the details of the Breast Cancer Deadline 2020<sup>®</sup> Blueprint and plan of action.
- Interact with scientists, thought leaders and innovators in small, intimate groups.

(continued on next page)

- Sit down with top researchers in prevention and metastasis.
- Discuss the post-election White House and Congress with public policy experts and then apply their knowledge on Capitol Hill in meetings with their members of Congress on Lobby Day.
- Develop life-long leadership skills and create individual year-long action plans to mobilize and engage their communities in Breast Cancer Deadline 2020®.

You can find out more about [Breast Cancer Deadline 2020®](#) or the National Breast Cancer Coalition at [www.stopbreastcancer.org](http://www.stopbreastcancer.org).

### *The PINK ALBUM: Great music for a great cause!*

**VETERAN PERFORMERS,  
GRAMMY NOMINEES,  
RISING STARS ...**



This fantastic double CD featuring performances by top-notch Maine female singer/songwriters benefits the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition [Support Service Fund](#).

**Nearly 2 hours of music!**

Available at all Bull Moose Music locations and for online purchase at [www.mainepinkalbum.com](http://www.mainepinkalbum.com).

**"Like" the PINK ALBUM on [Facebook!](#)**

## Motorcycle Season is Just Around the Corner!



**An exciting effort is under way to create the first ever Maine specialty license plate just for motorcycles!**

Just like the companion specialty plate for automobiles, the beneficiaries of this effort will be the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition's [Support Service Fund](#), the [Maine Cancer Foundation](#) for their Women's Cancer Research Fund, and the [Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program](#) for their mammogram fund. Since the pink ribbon specialty plate for cars was released in October 2008, more than 18,000 plates are now on the road, and over \$542,000 has been raised for these important programs!

There is a formal legislative process that must take place to obtain final approval for the motorcycle plate. **The next step is to obtain pre-reservations from 500 individuals during this legislative session.** [Click here](#) for FAQs and a reservation form. You can also go to [www.maineccancer.org](http://www.maineccancer.org) and reserve your plate online.

## Inside the *Support Service Fund*

by Ro LeGassé, *Support Service Fund*  
Program Assistant

Have you ever wondered what happens when a person applies to the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition's [Support Service Fund](#) (SSF)? Do you know what would prompt a woman (or a man) to ask for financial assistance from an organization or group they don't know? Many people go through the process, and sometimes that process begins with dialing 800-928-2644. We always listen to messages and return calls as soon as possible, even though the office is open on a part-time basis.

What we hear people say is that they have tried to get help from several sources and have met with disappointment. Most of the time we can find a way to provide a resource, either by giving out information about a program that can be more helpful than we can be, or by suggesting that a SSF application should be submitted, and then offer ideas as to how to complete the application.

A committee of five people (all volunteers) reviews a written summary of your application information that they receive via email. The committee members know you only as a number that has been assigned to your application. They respond within a couple of days, and we proceed by calling you if additional information or documentation is needed. You will always receive a letter from the committee explaining the decision. We try to assist applicants respectfully, kindly, and quickly. We believe we are not here to add more stress to your life, but rather to ease some of life's more difficult challenges.

We follow strict policies that protect your identity and keep your application confidential. The amount of money we can provide fluctuates due to our funding sources and calendar. We started the *Support Service Fund* program thinking we would mainly help women pay for mammograms. We have expanded our activities to include financial help for people with breast cancer who may have an acute and strong need for assistance with expenses like medical co-pays, travel funds, or lymphedema compression garments, for example.

You can learn more about the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition and the *Support Service Fund* by visiting us at [www.mainebreastcancer.org](http://www.mainebreastcancer.org), or you can call us toll-free at 800-928-2644.

# Support Service Fund Annual Summary

The Maine Breast Cancer Coalition [Support Service Fund](#) provides financial assistance for breast health or breast cancer related needs to qualified Maine residents. The Fund assists low-income, uninsured, or underinsured people who don't qualify for, or whose particular needs aren't covered by other assistance programs.

## Support Service Fund milestones:

- Number of years since the Fund was started: 13
- Number of applicants the first year: 50
- Number of applicants in 2012: 392
- Total amount awarded to qualified applicants in the past 13 years: more than \$1,200,000
- Number of Maine people helped by the Fund: 2,500+

## Statistics from the 2012 Support Service Fund program:

- Number of approved applications: 367
- Counties represented: all 16 Maine counties
- Total amount awarded: \$147,014
- Average grant amount: \$400
- Age range of applicants: 25 to 87

## Representative items and services funded in 2012:

- breast imaging (mammography and ultrasound)
- lab/pathology
- radiologist readings
- surgeon/physician fees or co-pays
- lymphedema compression garments
- prescriptions
- prostheses
- wigs
- temporary emergency living expenses for people in breast cancer treatment
- travel expenses to treatments
- many other support services

The Support Service Fund is currently made possible by grants from the [Maine Affiliate of Susan G. Komen For the Cure®](#), the Borman Family Foundation; the [Maine Breast Cancer Specialty License Plate Program](#); also funding through DHHS/Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program contract funds supported by a Cooperative Agreement from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; dedicated fundraisers by organizations and businesses, including the following long-term donors: the York Hospital Breast Cancer Survivors Group, the Greater Bangor Women's Ski and Snowboard Club, [PATCO Construction](#), [Maine Fraternal Order of Eagles Clubs](#) and their "Pink Sock Foundation", Acapello Salons; also individual contributions by members and supporters of MBCC.

## **We would like to express our appreciation to the following individuals, groups, organizations, or businesses that held recent fundraising events to benefit MBCC or the Support Service Fund:**

Acapello Salons and the Mensroom Salon "Get Pink'd" fundraiser	PATCO Construction - "Pink Album" project sponsor
Bangor Area Women's Ski and Snowboard Club	Peapod Jewelry
Bangor Savings Bank "Dress Down Day"	Peoples United Bank
Brighton Collectibles "Power of Pink" bracelets sale	Pepsi Beverages Company, Auburn, employee fundraiser with a PepsiCo Foundation matching grant
Shon Ellis annual pig roast fundraiser	Portland High School Boys Soccer
Independence Association "Pretty in Pink" Campaign	Charles Ruff, DMD, dental office
Kennebec Federal Savings	Sia Bello Salon and Spa
Steven Kerner fundraiser	Studio 59 Pilates and Fitness "Yogathon"
Kitchen Chicks Catering, DBA Cape Porpoise Kitchen	York Hospital Breast Cancer Survivors Group
Old Town High School Boys and Girls Soccer	
Oxford Federal Credit Union	

## **We are grateful for recent individual donations from:**

John and Lynn Edgecomb  
K. Mann  
André and Sandra Plette

Patti Pratt *in honor of Jeannette Pratt*

Allen and Nancy Cotter *in honor of Courtney*

MDI Medical Imaging *in honor of Jeff*

### **In memory of Nancy Oliveri:**

Thomas and Margaret Brannen  
Elsie Brown  
Sally and Gordon Brummer

Robert Carp  
Olivia Chappell

Dave and Marian Crossman  
Kyle Kane and Bill Henry  
Genevieve and Dan Leach

Janet and Michael Vermehren

### **In memory of Lillian Anderson:**

Cynthia and Wayne Cunningham  
Wayne and Frances Upham

### **In memory of Evelyn Dana:**

Terrence Sutton

### **In memory of Candace Allen:**

Connie Allen

## How You Can Help

**Join us!** A basic annual membership is only \$15 (or more if you are able) for individuals and \$100 for businesses.

... or please consider a tax-deductible donation of any amount to Maine Breast Cancer Coalition or our [Support Service Fund](#). Make a donation of \$50 or more and you will receive a free copy of the [Pink Album](#). One hundred percent of donations will go to *Support Service Fund* recipients, as our low administrative costs are covered by our [Maine Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure](#)® grant. You can [donate online](#) by visiting the "Donate" page [www.mainebreastcancer.org/donate.cfm](http://www.mainebreastcancer.org/donate.cfm) of our website to make a secure donation using your credit card or PayPal account. If you prefer to use a check, you can mail it along with the membership/donation form below.

... or hold a fundraiser: If your community group, business, or organization would like to dedicate all or part of the proceeds from a fundraising effort to MBCC or the *Support Service Fund*, contact grants chairperson Christine Haiss at 207-938-4018 or [info@mainebreastcancer.org](mailto:info@mainebreastcancer.org).

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### Yes! I want to support the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition's work.

- I want to become a member of MBCC.**  
(check membership level below)  
Individual annual membership levels:
- \$15 Basic Membership
  - \$25 Friend
  - \$50 Supporting Member
  - \$250 Sustaining Member
  - Other (minimum of \$15) \_\_\_\_\_
- Business or Organization Basic Membership:
- \$100
- I want to make a contribution.** Enclosed is a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ In honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you prefer to receive your newsletter via email.

*Please make checks payable to MBCC.* Mail your check for membership and/or contribution with this form to:

Maine Breast Cancer Coalition  
499 Broadway  
PMB 362  
Bangor, ME 04401-3460