

WYOMING BREAST CANCER INITIATIVE FOUNDATION



Annual Report

July 2023-June 2024



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

This year's annual report is dedicated to the breast cancer fighters, survivors, and those whose lives were taken too soon. They are the women and men who inspire us in our journey to increase quality and accessible breast cancer early detection, patient navigation, and survivor services in Wyoming.

With the incredible generosity of our donors, sponsors, and volunteers, WBCI continues to impact the lives of those affected by breast cancer. The thousands of services highlighted in our annual report would not be possible without the thoughtfulness of individuals and businesses from across the state. To you, WBCI is eternally grateful. Together we are changing how breast cancer affects Wyoming.

We would also like to thank each of the outstanding organizations we are fortunate to call WBCI grantees. We are so proud of the phenomenal work that is being provided within our local Wyoming communities. You are truly providing the services WBCI was created to fund.

Thank you for the critical role you continue to play in our efforts to decrease late-stage breast cancer diagnosis, serve patients, and support survivors. As we continue on our journey, we are honored that you have chosen to join us as a partner, supporter and friend.

Sincerely,

The Wyoming Breast Cancer Initiative Foundation Board of Directors

Our Mission

TO INCREASE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
AND PREVENTION ACROSS WYOMING.

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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2024 REVENUES

- 30%** Grants
- 11%** Sponsorships
- 36%** Fundraising
- 8%** Pink Ribbon Runs
- 11%** Peer-to-Peer Fundraising & Misc.
- 4%** Other

2024 EXPENSES

- 49%** Grants and Vouchers
- 24%** Operations
- 18%** Events
- 9%** Office and Administration

FUNDING THE CAUSE

The Wyoming Breast Cancer Initiative Foundation (WBCI) provides funding through a competitive grant process to support breast cancer services across Wyoming's remote areas. Our goal is to increase survival rates and reduce late-stage diagnoses by enhancing access to critical care.

Community Grants support Wyoming-based organizations providing breast cancer education, screening and diagnostic services, patient navigation, and survivor support.

Mini Grants provide up to \$2,500 for smaller, grassroots projects that promote awareness, access, and survivorship. Applications are accepted year-round with minimal reporting requirements.

Early Detection Vouchers offered in partnership with the Wyoming Cancer Program, these vouchers cover screening mammograms, diagnostic imaging, and biopsies for individuals who don't qualify for state or federal programs—regardless of age, gender, insurance, or income.

\$151,912

(+ Amounts to right)

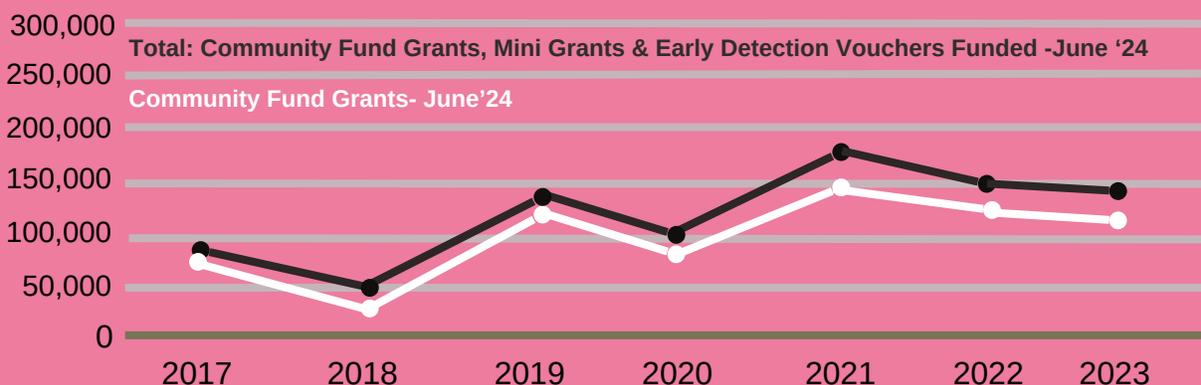
Total Funds Granted in June 2023-July 2024

- \$124,395 in Community Fund Grants
- \$4,000 in Mini Grants
- \$23,517 in Early Detection Vouchers

\$1,058,509

Total Funds Granted since inception

- \$934,140 in Community Fund Grants
- \$ 11,000 in Mini Grants
- \$ 113,369 in Early Detection Vouchers



EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Increasing education and awareness is crucial for early detection of breast cancer. By providing valuable information and access to screening mammograms, cancers are often detected at an earlier stage, when they are most treatable. This proactive approach not only saves lives but also improves outcomes by allowing for more effective treatment options and better chances of recovery. Educating individuals about the importance of regular screenings and self-care is a key step in combating breast cancer and promoting overall health.

Cody, WY

Northwest Wyoming Family Planning/Northwest Health Care continues to emphasize the importance of early education and preventive care with support from WBCI funding.

During a routine annual wellness exam, a woman in her 20s received counseling from a provider on the importance of breast health and how to perform self-breast exams. The patient left the appointment with a greater understanding of proactive breast care, empowering her to take an active role in her health.

This encounter underscores the organization's commitment to early education and lifelong wellness—and how WBCI funding helps make these essential conversations and services possible.



6,250

***CLINICAL BREAST EXAMS**

Laramie, WY

Ark Regional Services' breast clinic supported five individuals experiencing skin breakdown and rashes around their breasts. With the help of funding provided through a WBCI Community Grant, the clinic's provider worked closely with these women, teaching proper breast hygiene practices to prevent further issues.

By the end of the funding period, all five reported a significant reduction in rashes and skin breakdown. They also gained confidence and developed lasting daily care routines, taking greater control over their health.

This success underscores the clinic's dedication to providing essential education and resources that promote long-term well-being.

COMMITTED TO EARLY DETECTION

When diagnosed early, patients have more treatment options, most treatments are less invasive, and more importantly - survival rates are much higher.

Rock Springs, WY

With support from a Wyoming Breast Cancer Initiative (WBCI) grant, Sweetwater Memorial Hospital expanded access to breast cancer screenings through a series of health fairs and after-hours clinics. These initiatives provided critical services to community members who may have otherwise delayed or forgone a mammogram. Local partners expressed deep appreciation for the program's impact in improving healthcare accessibility.

To accommodate those with limited availability during regular clinic hours, screenings were offered every third Tuesday evening after 5 p.m., adding 52 additional days of service for Sweetwater County and the surrounding areas. One attendee, who had postponed her mammogram for an extended period, was finally able to receive this essential screening.

This initiative exemplifies the importance of expanded access to preventive care, ensuring more individuals receive timely screenings that support early detection and improved health outcomes.

Rawlins, WY

A program at Carbon County Memorial Hospital, funded by a WBCI Community Grant, helped a 45-year-old patient with a family history of breast cancer and no health insurance navigate a stressful recall after a routine screening mammogram. Advanced diagnostic imaging and ultrasound confirmed no signs of concern, allowing her to return to recommended annual screenings. The patient expressed deep gratitude for the accessible care and early detection services that provided reassurance and peace of mind.

Casper, WY

At a recent screening event with Casper-Natrona County Health Department, 13 uninsured women received life-saving breast cancer screenings. Of these, 11 were preapproved for the Wyoming Cancer Program, while 2 qualified for support through WBCI funds. Without this initiative, these women may not have had access to critical screening services, reinforcing the importance of community-driven healthcare programs.



2,051

***SCREENING MAMMOGRAMS & DIAGNOSTIC TESTING**

COMMITTED TO EARLY DETECTION

Expanding Access Through Partnership: WBCI and the Wyoming Cancer Program

The Wyoming Breast Cancer Initiative (WBCI) partners with the Wyoming Cancer Program (WCP)—part of the Wyoming Department of Health—to expand access to vital breast health services across the state. WCP is supported through the CDC’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Program, which allows them to serve many Wyoming residents. However, federal guidelines—such as age, insurance, gender, and income requirements—can limit who qualifies for assistance.

To help close these gaps, WBCI provides additional funding to WCP to support individuals who may not meet the federal eligibility criteria but still need care. This collaboration enables a more inclusive approach, ensuring access to breast health services regardless of a person’s age, gender, insurance status, or location.

Through WCP’s established statewide provider network, the program offers a wide range of services, including:

- Clinical breast exams
- Screening and diagnostic mammograms
- Breast ultrasounds
- Breast biopsies
- Provider visits



By leveraging WCP’s infrastructure and WBCI’s flexible funding, this partnership delivers timely, coordinated care—especially in rural and frontier communities where access can be limited.

In addition to early detection efforts, WBCI and WCP also work together on patient navigation and survivorship initiatives. These programs offer one-on-one support to help individuals overcome barriers to care, complete screenings, and access needed resources. Survivorship services—such as support groups, counseling, and breast boutique fittings—further empower individuals to heal physically and emotionally.

Together, WBCI and WCP are building a stronger, more responsive system of care that reaches underserved populations and supports Wyoming residents through every stage of their breast cancer journey.

SERVING THE WARRIORS IN THE FIGHT

Navigators play a crucial role in guiding patients through the complexities of their treatment journey. They not only facilitate care by coordinating appointments and advocating for the patient, but also meet patients where they are emotionally and physically. By addressing obstacles that may lead to avoidance or non-compliance with treatment recommendations, navigators help ensure that patients stay engaged with their care plan. Their support fosters trust and empowers patients to overcome challenges, improving adherence to treatment and overall outcomes.

Laramie, WY

Through a WBCI Community Grant, the Meredith & Jeannie Ray Cancer Center highlights the impact of compassionate, community-driven care. A patient diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer relocated to Wyoming to care for her elderly mother but found herself without insurance. With the support of the Wyoming Cancer Program, she was able to secure Medicaid, ensuring access to the critical treatment she needed.

Her journey began with radiation therapy, but transportation challenges made attending daily appointments difficult. To address this, the cancer center coordinated transportation through the local senior center, providing a reliable way to reach treatment. As she transitioned to chemotherapy, ongoing transportation support remained essential.

Throughout her treatment, she faced additional hardships, including hair loss and multiple neutropenic events that required hospitalization. During these hospital stays, her mother was temporarily admitted to a nursing home for her safety. Despite these challenges, she remained resilient. When the time came to shave her head, a local beautician visited the cancer center, providing two high-quality wigs along with hats and wig-care supplies—donated through the center's breast cancer boutique.

Before undergoing a bilateral mastectomy, she was fitted with a post-mastectomy pillow, handcrafted and donated by a local volunteer. These specialized pillows, designed with pockets for drains and cooling packs, continue to be provided to breast cancer patients at no cost. She also received post-mastectomy shirts, and after surgery, was fitted for bras and breast forms to support her recovery.

Now in the surveillance phase, she attends the Cancer Crusaders Club support group, where she continues to find strength and community. Her experience underscores the Meredith & Jeannie Ray Cancer Center's commitment to providing comprehensive, patient-centered care, ensuring that no one faces breast cancer alone.



SUPPORTING SURVIVORS—BODY & SOUL

Statewide

With support from a WBCI Community Grant, the Wyoming Foundation for Cancer Care (WFCC) continues to provide vital resources and personalized support to individuals navigating breast cancer.

One woman, who had worn the same size HHH bra for ten years and used a beach towel as a makeshift prosthesis, received two new bras and a properly fitted prosthesis—restoring both comfort and dignity. In another case, a young mother received a custom fitting and was provided a prosthesis in her skin tone. That thoughtful detail, made possible with the help of an Angel Volunteer, offered her a deep sense of recognition and empowerment during a difficult chapter in her life.

WBCI funding allows WFCC to respond to urgent, individual needs with compassion, ensuring that women across Wyoming have access to the support they deserve.



5,850

***PATIENTS HAVE
RECEIVED NAVIGATION
ASSISTANCE**

Jackson, WY

St. John's Health continues to serve breast cancer survivors at every stage of their journey—including long after active treatment ends—thanks to funding from a WBCI Community Grant.

One participant, more than 10 years post-diagnosis, was referred to a Pilates class by a fellow survivor. She was surprised by how much the class improved her strength and mobility, even a decade after surgery. Her story highlights the lasting value of movement and rehabilitation programs made possible through WBCI-supported initiatives.

Statewide

Bosom Buddies of Wyoming, supported by a WBCI Community Grant, continues to provide breast cancer survivors with lightweight, handmade alternatives to traditional prosthetics.

One recipient, unable to wear standard prosthetics after a double mastectomy due to their weight and heat, shared that receiving a Bosom Buddy made her feel “normal” for the first time in years—highlighting the significant impact on comfort, confidence, and quality of life.

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS-BODY & SOUL

Evanston, WY

Funded by a WBCI Community Grant, Uinta County Public Health continues to provide vital support and resources to individuals navigating a breast cancer diagnosis.

One client was first introduced to available services by staff member Angelica at the Women's Conference. Angelica scheduled an appointment where the client received education about her upcoming treatment and was fitted with a preoperative camisole. After surgery, she returned to exchange her camisoles for a better fit and, once healed, came back for a personalized fitting for prosthetics and bras. Throughout the process, she expressed deep appreciation for the guidance and care she received.

Another client learned about the Breast Boutique during the Breast Cancer Comedy program. She had never used prosthetics and was awaiting reconstructive surgery but saw this as an opportunity to explore her options. She requested a larger prosthetic size than she had previously worn, and the team ensured she was fitted comfortably and confidently.

These stories demonstrate how funding from a WBCI Community Grant enables Uinta County Public Health to deliver compassionate, patient-centered care and empower individuals throughout their breast cancer journey.



2,051

***BREAST BOUTIQUE
SERVICES**



956

***\$25 GAS CARDS**

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS-RETREATS

Research has shown that participation in cancer retreats can significantly reduce depression and anxiety, even after accounting for life events such as cancer progression. These retreats provide a supportive environment where individuals can share experiences, gain emotional support, and develop coping strategies, all of which contribute to improved mental well-being. By connecting with others who understand their journey, participants often experience a sense of empowerment and healing that helps alleviate the emotional burden of cancer treatment.

Dubois, WY

With funding from a WBCI mini grant, Casting for Recovery Wyoming hosted a powerful and restorative retreat for 16 women diagnosed with breast cancer. Held at the scenic Absaroka Ranch near Dubois, the weekend combined fly fishing instruction, wellness education, emotional support, and the healing power of nature. Participants, ranging in age from 42 to 75 and from all corners of Wyoming, arrived as strangers and left as a united, supportive community.



Over three days, the women engaged in fly fishing lessons, wellness workshops, and group reflections designed to foster connection and self-discovery. Each participant received her own fly rod and reel to continue her journey after the retreat.

One participant shared, “I can’t thank the staff enough for all the work that went into providing such a life-changing experience. When I was first diagnosed, I felt fear and anger. But I moved to acceptance and to spend whatever time God has given me left on this earth in a positive and caring way... The calmness and serenity—shared with fellow survivors—made me feel truly part of the group. When I drove home, I spent the first three hours in quiet reflection. My heart was overflowing from the weekend. I felt joy and love and didn’t want it to end. This is the best cancer experience I’ve had. I finally got to spend time learning about myself and share my story.”



WBCI funding helps make this unique and healing experience possible for Wyoming women impacted by breast cancer.

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS-INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP COUNSELING

Counseling offers a safe and supportive space for individuals to process their emotions, identify effective coping strategies, and build a sense of camaraderie. This support can significantly reduce feelings of isolation, anger, and fear, helping individuals navigate their challenges with a greater sense of resilience. By providing emotional guidance and connection, counseling plays a key role in the healing process, empowering individuals to resume living their best lives with renewed strength and perspective.

Jackson, WY

Breast cancer affects more than physical health—it often brings profound emotional and life changes. With WBCI Community Grant funding, St. John’s Health offers counseling services that support survivors through these complex challenges.

One survivor’s story illustrates this deeply. After her diagnosis, she faced significant upheaval: ending a difficult marriage, relocating across the country, and stepping away from work to focus on treatment and healing. These life changes contributed to a period of deep depression and hopelessness, making it difficult for her to imagine life returning to “normal.”

Thanks to counseling services supported by WBCI funding, she was able to find renewed hope and develop coping skills to process the grief and loss she experienced.

Today, she and her daughter actively give back to the community by assembling chemo care packages for new patients starting treatment at the clinic—a meaningful expression of resilience, compassion, and the healing power of support.



1,781

***COUNSELING SESSIONS**

THANK YOU PARTNER SPONSORS

Wyoming Cancer Program

PREMIER (\$15,000+)

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**reporting data since 2016*

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