



*Wyoming* BREAST CANCER INITIATIVE

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022



# 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 nonprofit 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 Board of Directors

Bobbi Barrasso  
Cathy Holman  
Cara Nett  
Charles Pelkey  
Heather Schutz  
Jen Ostermiller  
Karen Rossetti

Kari Brown-Herbst  
Kelly Miner  
Kelly Willmarth  
Kristi Weidenbach  
Kristin McLean  
Laurie Heath  
Lorrell Walter

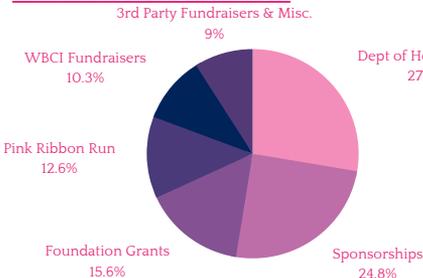
Mary Throne  
Martie Curl  
Nancy Knaub  
Pam Myrum  
Patricia Will



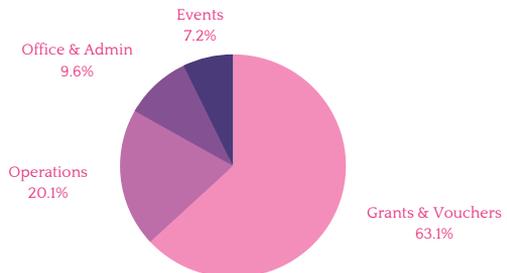
Governor & First Lady Gordon with WBCI Board Members

**63%**  
of WBCI's budget goes toward funding grants & early detection vouchers

## 2021 REVENUE



## 2021 EXPENSES:



# Funding the Cause

\$177,069

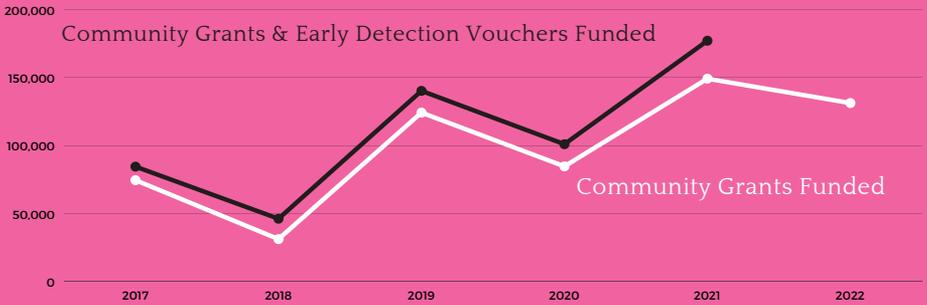
Total Funds Granted in 2021

- \$149,147 in Community Grants
- \$27,922 in Early Detection Vouchers

\$679,934

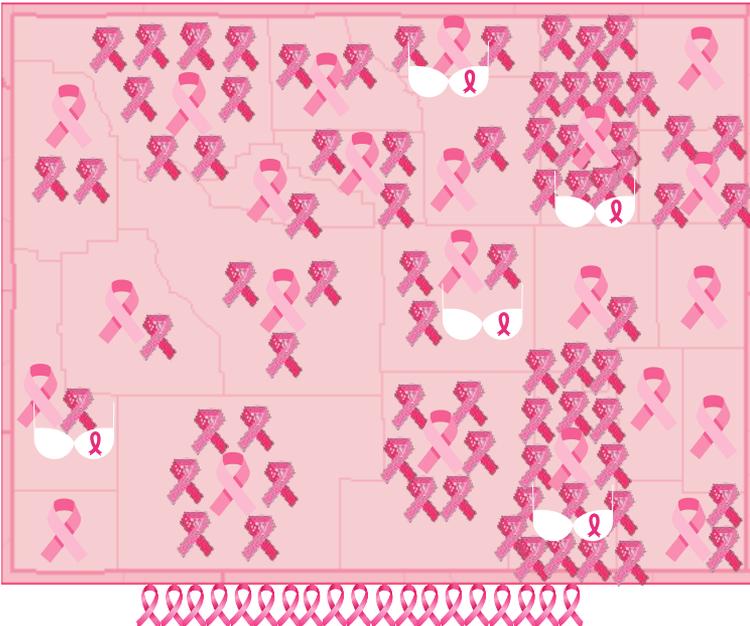
Total Funds Granted Since WBCI Started

- \$594,709 in Community Grants
- \$85,255 in Early Detection Vouchers



WBCI Community Grants are competitive grants awarded to Wyoming organizations providing breast cancer education, screening & diagnostic services, patient navigation, and survivor support services.

WBCI Early Detection Vouchers are available for screening mammograms, diagnostic mammograms, and ultrasounds for individuals who are ineligible for state funds, regardless of income, age, or gender.



## Statewide Services

 74 Community Grantees Serving Local Area

 19 Community Grantees Serving Statewide

 Early Detection Vouchers Available Statewide

 5 Breast Boutiques

# Stories From the Front Lines

WBCI is committed to increasing the early detection of breast cancer. When diagnosed early patients have more treatment options, most treatment is less invasive than when diagnosed later and most importantly - survival rates are much higher.

A woman in her 40s attended the WBCI funded monthly clinical breast exam clinic at Ark Regional Services. The examiner detected an anomaly that her medical physician did not previously discover during a mammogram. The individual was encouraged to see another physician who noted that she needed ultrasound mammograms rather than regular screening mammograms during her physicians' visits. Luckily the anomaly was found to be non-threatening.

During a routine clinical breast screening, funded by WBCI, Gillette Reproductive Health (GRH) found a lump in the breast of a 22-year-old female. The GRH staff helped navigate the patient through ultrasound and biopsy appointments, ultimately learning of a positive diagnosis. The patient received the immediate care and help she needed when it mattered most. Patient navigation continued until she felt more comfortable with the staff at the oncology center.

A woman in her mid 40s was refusing to have her annual mammogram because last year she had to have 3 repeat mammograms. Although they came back normal, she was anxious about the repeated stress. WBCI funded Northwest Health Care referred her to a new provider, stating the importance of annual screenings. The referral works, she reported not only did she have a normal finding, but also an improved experience with the screening process.

The Memorial Hospital in Carbon County received an order for a diagnostic breast mammogram and ultrasound for an uninsured 18-year-old patient with a palpable lump. WBCI grants funded two procedures that detected an irregular mass. The radiologist immediately recommended a biopsy. Pathology of the mass indicated it was not cancerous. The radiologist recommended continued clinical observation of the lump and that the patient begin screening mammograms at the age of 30, due to a family history of breast cancer in a first-degree relative. The WBCI grant helped navigate the patient from clinical findings to diagnosis while ensuring the patient received the quality care she needed without the extra anxiety of not being able to pay for the high medical bills.



4060

CLINICAL BREAST EXAMS



765

SCREENING MAMMOGRAMS



342

DIAGNOSTIC TESTS & BIOPSIES

# Serving the Warriors in the Fight

Navigators not only facilitate the treatment process by coordinating the patient's care and advocating on their behalf, but they also meet patients where they are and address obstacles that could lead to avoidance or non-compliance with treatment recommendations.

This year the Meredith & Jeannie Ray Cancer Center had a young veteran referred from the VA after she stated she had found a lump during her self-exam. The referral included a screening and diagnostic mammogram with a biopsy. The Oncology Nurse Navigator (ONN), partially funded by WBCI, was notified by pathology of the positive biopsy. The ONN supported the patient through all stages of treatment, including coordinating with the provider to inform her of the cancer diagnosis, discussing the next steps, and answering questions. The ONN coordinated care with the surgeon, medical oncologist, and her primary VA provider to ensure timely appointments in order to determine treatment options. The ONN was instrumental in reassuring the patient and decreasing the time to treatment. The ONN helped coordinate genetic testing and a breast MRI since the patient had an extensive family history of breast cancer. The ONN followed the patient through consults and surgery, coordinating care with a mental health counselor, social worker, physical therapist, dietician, and provided services through the breast boutique.

The Wyoming Foundation for Cancer Care (WFCC) helped a patient diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer with funding from the WBCI Community Grant. The patient was struggling to afford the cost of traveling from Saratoga to Laramie for her oncology appointments. WFCC provided the patient with \$200 dollars in gas cards and overnight hotel stays at the Laramie Holiday Inn. The WBCI grant money was instrumental in reducing her stress of travel and a place to stay while she received treatments.

**4271**

PATIENTS HAVE RECEIVED  
NAVIGATION ASSISTANCE



**399**

\$25  
GAS CARDS

**327**

NIGHTS OF  
LODGING



Invinson Oncology Nurse Navigator Laurie Heath with a Patient



# Supporting the Survivors

Counseling and groups can provide those diagnosed with breast cancer a safe place to process their feelings, identify coping skills, and offer a sense of camaraderie that can reduce feelings of isolation, anger, and fear. Ultimately, supportive services help the patient in the healing process, so they can resume living their best life.

At the Wyoming Art Therapy retreat this year, a woman in her early 70s shared that she almost backed out on the way to the retreat, nearly asking her driver to take her home. The woman is currently in treatment for her breast cancer and struggled to share her feelings with other participants during the retreat. Initially, she made it clear to the other participants she wasn't sure she belonged at the retreat. However, as the retreat progressed she said that being with the other women and having her feelings normalized was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. She expressed never feeling so connected with other women, saying that the women at the retreat are now in her 'pearl jar' of trusted friends. A few weeks after the retreat she sent a card, writing she has been more willing to connect with other breast cancer survivors because the retreat, "made it easy to open up and share things that I've never shared (with anyone). This is a big step for me."

A 62-year-old female patient, who had a bilateral mastectomy at age 55, came to the WBCI grant-funded breast boutique in South Lincoln Medical Center for a fitting for a new prostheses. Her only prior fitting was done six weeks after her mastectomy. She stated she was still using the original prostheses, extending their usability by only wearing them for special occasions. Since one side of her chest had significantly more tissue on one side than on the other, selecting the correct prostheses was a bit more difficult. Luckily she was able to try on multiple styles of bras and a combination of prosthetics, paid for by the WBCI grant. She smiled and laughed during her fitting and time was also spent discussing the importance of seeing her doctor about the lymphedema present in one of her arms. At the end of the visit, she looked at herself in the mirror and was so happy that she became tearful.

**1323**

SURVIVORS HAVE  
RECEIVED SERVICES

**839**

COUNSELING  
SESSIONS

**171**

GROUP  
SESSIONS



Daring Way™ & Rising Beyond Breast Cancer  
2021 Retreat Attendees

A 56-year-old woman with Stage IV breast cancer was referred to LIV Health for individual counseling after being diagnosed with breast cancer. Using WBCI grant funding, she was able to receive free individual mental health treatment and group therapy. She expressed relief, gratitude, and an improved mood after working with the LIV therapist. She was able to connect with other people going through breast cancer treatment and gain a support network. She developed better coping skills, learned how to listen to internal queues, and set boundaries for herself to reduce stress.

"I was diagnosed in January 2021 with Stage 1 invasive ductal carcinoma. My diagnosis threw my already crazy life of a single mom with two boys into a whirlwind of surgeries, chemo, and doctor appointments. I applied to Casting For Recovery on a whim when I saw the post on a group Facebook page. I had no idea that I would be chosen and how much I needed to participate... I am so glad I didn't listen to my anxieties and cancel attending. It was truly the most amazing weekend I have ever experienced in my life. Only battling cancer for a few months, I was suddenly adopted into a fierce warrior-type family of survivors who had lived and thrived after cancer for many years. I was inspired by the beauty of the Absaroka Ranch and the kind hearts of the retreat's volunteers... With the wonderful patience of Jean Bruun and almost two dozen different fly combinations, I was finally able to hook and land my first fish. The feeling was overwhelming relief and excitement. I knew then, that my perseverance and support of others was how I was going to win this battle over cancer. It is a weekend filled with tears, laughter, singing, learning, and fishing. The experiences and memories that I have of my weekend at the retreat will live with me for a lifetime. I now have sisters to help carry me through any challenges life decides to throw my way."

From a survivor who attended the 2022 Casting for Recovery Retreat



Surviving & Thriving After Cancer Participant



Heather Hronek & ReaAnna Peltier posing by the WBCI Funded Breast Boutique Supplies at South Lincoln Medical Center.



Casting for Recovery Participant

590

BREAST BOUTIQUE SERVICES

A 69-year-old survivor's breast cancer treatment left her feeling significantly fatigued and weakened after the treatment ended in April 2021. Surgery and radiation left scar tissue that restricted her range of motion and she felt mentally depleted. She joined the WBCI funded Surviving & Thriving After Cancer (STAC) summer session where she found a support system of other patients who had been through many of the same difficulties. Not only was she able to get her energy back, but she was also able to return to work full time. During the fall session, she reported she was strong enough to schedule a knee surgery she had been putting on hold since her breast cancer diagnosis. In January 2022 she returned for the winter session, crediting STAC for her speedy recovery from knee surgery.

# Increasing Educating & Awareness

Increasing education and awareness surrounding breast cancer is incredibly important as early detection, often through screening, can catch the disease when it is most treatable. Early detection also increases life expectancy rates.

## 552

INDIVIDUALS ATTENDING  
EVENTS TO REDUCE BARRIERS



Sweetwater Regional Cancer Center staff Ramona Allen and Lacey Reddick invite the community to join them for the WBCI funded Sweetwater County Paint the Town Pink.

On the morning of the WBCI funded Brunch & Breast Health, hosted by WCRS and Casper Medical Imaging, WCRS Coordinator Haley McKee tested out a new project. The new process allowed Haley to 'pre-approve' mammogram vouchers at the event, using state and/or WBCI funds. This test project served to eliminate the 5-7 day approval wait period. An attendee at the event was approved that day for a WBCI funded screening voucher using the new process. It is likely the patient may have put off receiving her mammogram screening without this service, since she was uninsured and stated her inability to pay for the service.

As a result of increased education and awareness at Powell's Paint the Town event hosted by Heritage Health, the number of women applying & qualifying for Wyoming Breast and Cervical Cancer Program breast health screenings have increased over 50% in one year.

During the WBCI funded event Ladies Night, hosted by Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County, a woman stated she knew she needed to get a screening because she was older and had friends and family diagnosed over the years. However, she explained that she couldn't afford a screening which is why she had never gotten one. Staff referred her to the local Wyoming Cancer Resource Services (WCRS) coordinator, who helped her get approved with the Wyoming Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. She has since completed her mammogram. This was a very exciting moment since the Sweetwater hospital staff have worked so hard spreading screening education & awareness in-house and to the community. The staff shared their appreciation to the WBCI and WCRS for collaborating to build a sustainable platform to increase breast cancer early detection.

During the WBCI funded Girl's Night Out Screening Event, staff from Weston County Health Services talked to a woman in her 60s. She reported that although she was a financially stable and educated woman, she had never had a mammogram. She agreed to schedule an appointment that day and had her first mammogram within days of the event.

# Funding Quality Equipment & Services

Whether diagnosing breast cancer or lymphedema, state of the art equipment can help diagnose abnormalities sooner so treatment can begin immediately.

## 376

3D SCREENING  
MAMMOGRAMS



Radiology staff at Hot Springs Memorial Hospital stand beside their new 3D Mammography Machine, funded in part by WBCI.

## 94

3D DIAGNOSTIC  
MAMMOGRAMS

## 5

INDIVIDUALS SCREENED  
FOR LYMPHEDEMA



A patient being screened with a SOZO Lymphedema Screening Machine.

A female in her 60's undergoing treatment for left breast cancer began to experience new symptoms of achiness in her left shoulder. She was seen prior to starting her radiation treatments by physical therapy for lymphedema education and for the shoulder discomfort. Arm circumference measurements were taken at that time, however, the measurements did not demonstrate any size difference in the arms left to right. The patient was screened post-treatment using the WBCI funded SOZO equipment, indicating a score of 5.4. Since this was close to the caution threshold of 6.5, combined with achiness symptoms, the doctor prescribed 4 weeks of compression garment use with the assumption that latent lymphedema was present. After four weeks, a second SOZO test was performed revealing her score had significantly reduced 11 points to -5.4. This second assessment was determined to be her true baseline and indicated that the latent lymphedema was successfully treated. She continues with 3 month follow-ups at her medical oncology appointments. To date, there has been no recurrence of lymphedema.

Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital states they have received countless positive comments on the new 3D mammography equipment, purchased with funding from WBCI. The radiology staff states the equipment is much less onerous to use and it also makes it much easier to find potentially worrisome abnormalities during screening and diagnostic mammograms. Patients have shared how grateful they are to have the state-of-the-art equipment available to access so close to home and are relieved they no longer must travel to get 3D mammograms.

# Thank You For Supporting WBCI &

## PREMIER (\$15,000+):

Cheyenne Women's Imaging Pavilion  
 Kristi Weidenbach, Kathy's Friends  
 McMurry Foundation  
 Wyoming Cancer Program  
 Wyoming Community Foundation

## HOT PINK (\$10,000 - \$14,999):

KFBC/CSNN  
 McDonald's of Cheyenne  
 Myriad Genetics, Inc.  
 Outpatient Radiology  
 Prevent Cancer Foundation  
 Townsquare Media  
 Union Pacific Railroad Company  
 Warren Ranch

## ULTRA PINK (\$5,000 - \$9,999):

Anschutz Foundation  
 First American Title  
 First Interstate Bank of Cheyenne  
 Ivinson Memorial Hospital  
 Lucie Osborn  
 ARCH Resources/Thunder Basin Coal Company  
 Wyoming Bank & Trust

## PINK TOPAZ (\$2,500 - 4,999):

Amy Majewski Agency Farmers Ins.  
 Breck Media Group  
 Dr. Jeff & Lynne Carlton  
 Dr. Lisa Burton  
 Etchepare Family Foundation  
 En Avante Dance Studio Event  
 Lorrell Walter Fundraising Events  
 Memorial Hospital of Sheridan County  
 Microsoft  
 Premier Bone & Joint  
 SageWest Health Care  
 Triple J Pumping  
 Upslope Media



## PINK BLUSH (\$1,000 - \$2,499):

ANB Bank  
 Andi Berry  
 Anonymous Donor  
 Billy Balthrop  
 Blueprint Energy Partners  
 Casper Women's Care, PC  
 Charles Taylor  
 Cheyenne Frontier Days  
 Cheyenne OBGYN  
 Cheyenne Regional Medical Center  
 Cheyenne Women's Clinic, PC  
 Dazbog Coffee North #29  
 Dazbog Coffee on Pershing #39  
 Donna Moulton  
 First Education FCU  
 Frederick & Patricia Supper Foundation  
 Glenn & Kari Brown-Herbst  
 Hammer Time Custom Construction  
 Healthy Lifestyle Medicine  
 Heather Schutz  
 Home Depot  
 Jonah Bank of Wyoming  
 Kim Sutherland  
 Laramie County Community College  
 Laurie Heath  
 Margaret D Lauer  
 Mary Throne  
 Midtown Tavern  
 Northeast Wyoming Community Health  
 Otto Road Shooting Range  
 Propathology of Wyoming  
 Robert Jensen  
 S & J Signs  
 Save the Rack 8 Ball Tournament  
 Stephanie Barrett-Zebre  
 Stitches Acute Care  
 The Mortgage Source  
 Trihydro Corporation  
 Western Coffee Co.  
 WyHy Federal Credit Union  
 Wyoming Surgical Associates, PC



# Wyoming's Fight Against Breast Cancer!

## FRIENDS (\$500 - \$999):

Anonymous  
 Blue Ridge Coffee  
 Bradley Cave  
 Bruce & Martie Curl  
 Carol Holland  
 Cherry Creek Mortgage, Megan Nelson  
 Dan Lloyd  
 Dr. Maristela Batezini  
 Dr. Tom Nachtigal  
 Gold's Gym Spin-a-Thon, Cheyenne  
 Gov. Mark & Jennie Gordon  
 Hat Six Travel Center  
 High West Energy  
 Kelly Willmarth  
 Lori Schoene  
 Matthew Willmarth  
 Metro Coffee Co.  
 Nancy Reno  
 Neil & Kay Emmons  
 Paula Poythress  
 Rebecca Shwen  
 Sandy Patrick, CFP  
 Senator John & Bobbi Barrasso  
 Sherry Haag  
 Storyteller  
 Suzie Mahon  
 The Little Wyo Things  
 The Perch Coffee House  
 Walmart  
 WyoGives Donations



## BIRTHDAY FUNDRAISERS ON FACEBOOK

Cecilia Cortes-Pavey  
 Heather Morrow  
 Hope McKay  
 Jennifer Duncan  
 Jerusha Olivas  
 Kristi Weidenbach  
 Mary Throne  
 Pam Myrum  
 Sarah L Spieker  
 Sheila Johnson  
 Sue Chambers  
 & Lots of Pink Ribbon Run Fundraisers!



## GIFTS MADE IN HONOR/CELEBRATION OF:

(Space limits that gifts \$100 and over are listed)

Brooke  
 Becky Elam  
 Bud Ross  
 Carbon County Survivors  
 Carmen Grubbs  
 Carmen Loyd  
 Dixie, Susie & Annie Muir  
 Gretchen Lilley  
 Heather Heiduck  
 Jen Taylor  
 Judy Cummings  
 Judy Hargis  
 Karen Pope  
 Kathy Weidenbach  
 Kristi Weidenbach  
 Laurie Johnson  
 Margaret Balthrop  
 Maggie Porter, Pattie Klingensmith  
 Meredith & Jeanie Ray Cancer Center  
 Patients  
 Michele Jensen  
 Michelle McCallum's Mother & Sister  
 Pam Fredrick  
 Shawna Colleen Johnson  
 Sheila Coe  
 Sherrie Thresher  
 The caregivers, supporters, and survivors  
 The Jensen-Ryan Family  
 Victoria Fry



# HOW WILL YOU HELP WBCI FIGHT BREAST CANCER IN WYOMING IN 2022?

## Sponsorship

Year-round recognition at countless events across Wyoming.

## Friend of WBCI

Recognition in our annual summary report & social media posts.

## 365 Donors

Did you know that on average, every single day, a Wyoming woman or man receives a breast cancer diagnosis? Wyoming, we can do better. We are seeking 365 new donors to commit to a donation of \$1 a day for 365 days in order to maintain WBCI's current state of growth and continue saving the lives of Wyoming men and women. This will allow us to change the future for Wyoming women, men, and their families through WBCI community grants and vouchers.



## THANK YOU TO THE 2021 WBCI 365 DONORS

Angie Parks  
Barb Redder  
Billy Balthrop  
Brooke Cheney  
Bruce & Martie Curl

Candace Benedetta  
Carol Holland  
Kelly Willmarth  
Laurie Heath  
Lori Schoene

Neil & Kay Emmons  
Roz Schliske  
Sheila Johnson  
Sen. John & Bobbi Barrasso

## 2022 Events



Statewide  
TBA



Cheyenne  
May 12, 2022



Cheyenne Frontier Days  
July 27, 2022



Riverton - July 30, 2022  
Cheyenne - August 6, 2022  
Casper - August 13, 2022



Laramie  
October 11, 2022

### PINK-tober Events:

UW Pink Game  
Drink for Pink



*Wyoming* BREAST CANCER INITIATIVE

info@wyomingbreastcancer.org | www.wyomingbreastcancer.org | (307) 840-WBCI