



2019 Annual Report

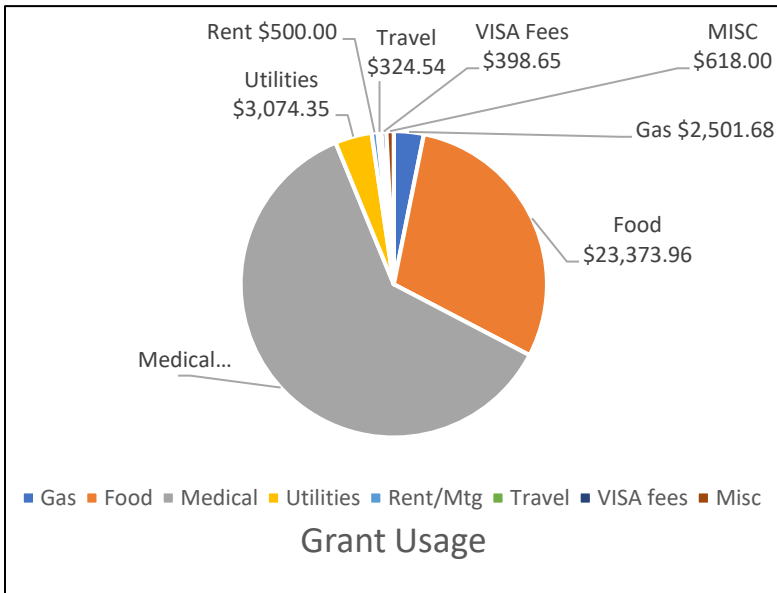
Serving the Greater Cedar Valley Area For 31 Years

Recently a survivor commented “I thought all the Beyond Pink TEAM did was offer grants.” This financial assistance is extremely important, but that is only a part of what we do.

The Beyond Pink TEAM is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable organization with no office and no paid staff. Our mission is to *provide breast cancer prevention, education, support and advocacy for comprehensive health care for all in the Cedar Valley and surrounding communities.* The Beyond Pink TEAM has gone beyond pink ribbons and pink trinkets to Take action, Educate, Advocate, and Make a difference.

Take Action

Beyond Pink TEAM (BPT) took action by turning donations into financial assistance, support groups, a free newsletter, education, prevention, and political action. More than ever, we need to fight for comprehensive, quality healthcare for all. Since BPT is an all-volunteer organization with no office or paid staff, all donations are used to further our mission.



As breast cancer incidence continues to rise, we deal with the ever-increasing number of those needing financial assistance during treatment from the Beyond Pink Fund. In 2019, we eased the burden for 89 individuals in Black Hawk and 11 surrounding counties with \$79,236.84 towards medical bills and/or essential living expenses. Even with health insurance, the deductibles and co-pays are overwhelming and continue throughout their extended treatment. Your donations stay local to make a real difference.

Educate

For 23 years the Beyond Pink TEAM has provided the community with a FREE quarterly educational newsletter. We print and distribute 700 newsletters to individuals, breast centers, surgeon offices, cancer treatment centers, mammography offices in six counties, and prosthetics providers. We control postage costs by having current and past issues available on our website.

Using an interactive activity, we educated wellness fair attendees at the University of Northern Iowa and the W in Waverly. We used questions about their knowledge of breast cancer, statistics and our organization and shared important information with our answers.

Our *Ignite the Cancer Conversation* group took on the task of showing our community and the 1000+ runners/walkers at the Pink Ribbon Run that the Beyond Pink TEAM (BPT) does more than you think. A series of signs along the route showed how BPT RETHINKS prevention, influence, healthcare, research, local education and local support. We want everyone thinking how we can end this disease. Plans are in place for a 2020 event focusing on discussions of “Body, Mind, and Soul: During and After Cancer”.



Advocate

Cancer prevention and eventual eradication of breast cancer is part of our mission. The Beyond Pink TEAM has been an organizational member of the Washington DC based National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) since 2005 and is in a third three-year term on their board. We are fortunate to have a group of dedicated advocates who keep our Iowa Senators and Representatives focused on the goal of ending this disease.

In addition, the Advocacy group keeps the Cedar Valley and Iowa updated on the latest in research, upcoming legislation and how they can help.



Make a difference



We have made a difference in many ways. One of our initial projects in 1988 was a breast cancer support group. Touch of Courage has continued to meet monthly for 31 years. The group's 4th year *Hearts of Hope* pillow project brought much comfort to those recuperating from breast surgery. They made 60 pillows for local breast centers this year. Their patients use them to cushion surgical sites.

Since 2006, the Beyond Pink TEAM has also hosted Young Cancer Survivors, a meet, mingle and learn event, four times a year for all women with any type of cancer. They keep in touch with one another between meetings

with our private Facebook group. It is held later in the day so working women have the opportunity to talk and learn from others living with breast cancer. The group decided to rename themselves the BPT All Cancer Support Group, in order to be more reflective of the women who attend the group.

Another major difference we have made is the financial assistance through our Beyond Pink Fund. We established the Fund at the Northeast Iowa Community Foundation with a \$1,000.00 gift from the Allen College of Nursing's student association. Because we receive no government funding, we depend on donations, both large and small, from our community and beyond. Besides personal donations, the BPT received donations from events sponsored by individuals, groups, businesses and other organizations. From school-age children doing lemonade stands to the Pink Ribbon Run, the BPT has benefited.

Fundraisers and Volunteers Make it Work

From that initial \$1,000.00 gift, we have grown from the generosity of the Cedar Valley and Northeast Iowa, allowing us to assist 89 individuals totaling \$79,236.84 in 2019. It has also required our Beyond Pink TEAM members giving more than 1,500 hours of their time and talents. Besides our support groups, newsletters, educating and advocacy work, we attend events that are raising funds for us.

To learn more about the Beyond Pink TEAM, visit our website – beyondpinkteam.org or follow us on Facebook.

