



# THE HOPE CHEST FOR WOMEN

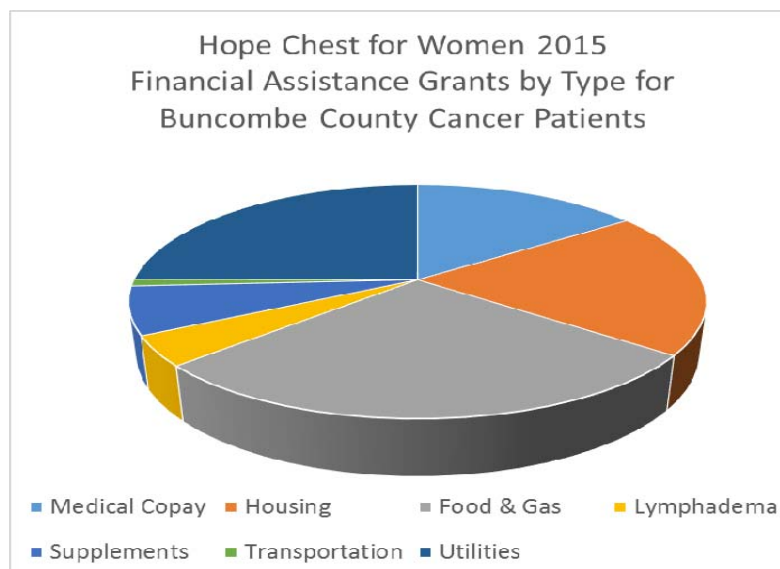
## BUNCOMBE COUNTY COMMUNITY FUNDING FY 2017

The Hope Chest for Women WNC cancer patient support program. A request for funding to support and assist residents in Buncombe County diagnosed with breast or gynecologic cancer.

HCW Executive Director, Sara Laws

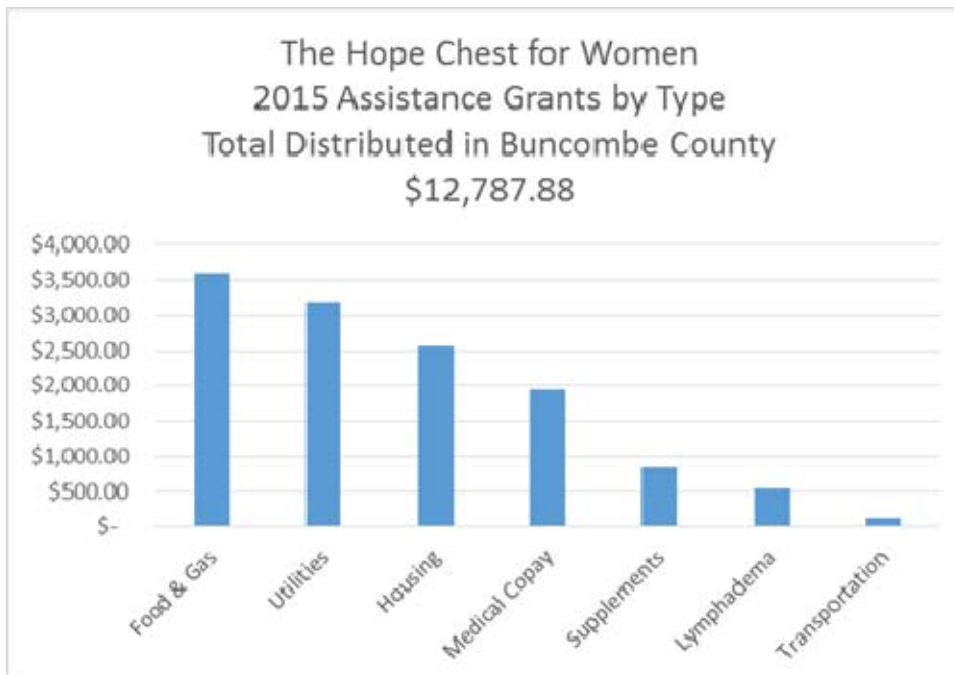
## How we support women in Buncombe County

- We provide medical and nonmedical bill pay assistance to women diagnosed with breast or gynecologic cancer. In 2015 we awarded \$28,404 in assistance grants, \$12,787 was given to women living in Buncombe County.
- We case manage each applicant to maximize support for emotional and financial needs. We work with patients to focus support on paying for basic needs first (housing, food, gas, utilities) we also pay towards medical copays, supplements, medication copays and nutrition assistance requests.
- We refer patients to local support agencies and help them apply if they are eligible (211, Manna, Eblen, ABCCM, and Salvation Army).
- We refer patients to national cancer assistance and support agencies (Pink Fund, Patient Advocate Foundation and Cancer Care).
- Our assistance grants are awarded by type: Housing, Utilities, Food & Gas, Medical Copays, Lymphedema supplies and Transportation Expenses.
- Each month we budget \$2500 for WNC cancer patient assistance grants, each month we have to turn women away due to lack of funding.



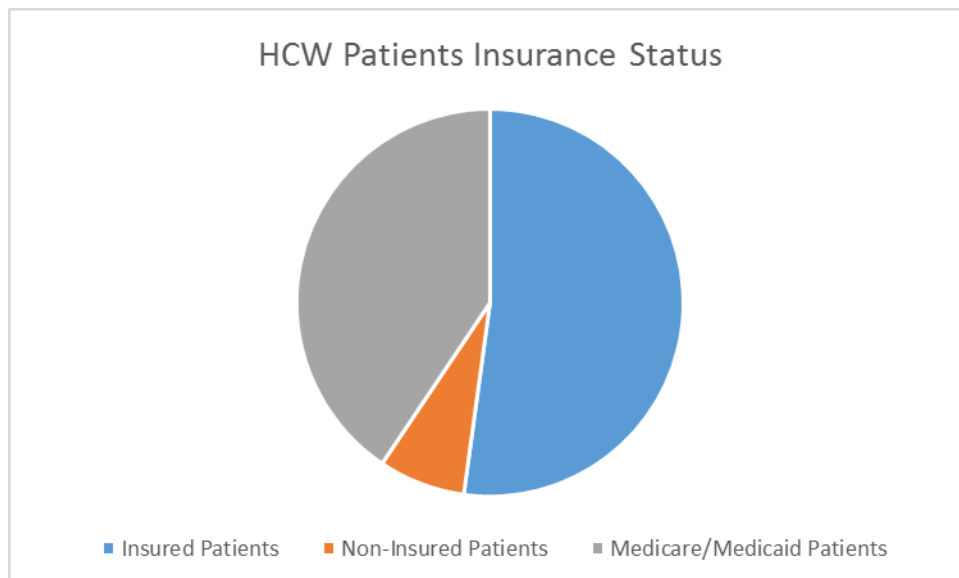
## How we will use the FY2017 money requested

- Increase monthly assistance amount given and the total number of women served in Buncombe County, approve more requests each month.
- Focus on growing our outreach and community support programs in Buncombe County to support more patients in treatment.
- Increase wellness and cancer prevention in Buncombe County by recruiting trained health and wellness practitioners for wellness education workshops and health fairs.
- With a part time volunteer coordinator we be able to train volunteers to give support to those in our community in cancer treatment, Funding for this would enable us to utilize volunteers as chemotherapy room visitors, trained volunteers in hospitals, speakers at cancer support groups).
- We will promote civic engagement by increasing our current number of volunteers, improve volunteer training, increase hours served and giving Volunteers more opportunities to volunteer in Buncombe County.
- Increase our volunteer base by 25% from 200 to 250 in FY2017.



## About the women we are serving

- We serve women living at risk or diagnosed with breast or gynecologic cancer in financial crisis due to the cost of cancer treatment.
- The average out of pocket cost for Cancer Treatment with private insurance is \$712 per month according to Duke University Medical Center.
- 52% of the women we serve have private health insurance.
- Extra medical copays, loss of income due to medical leave, nutritional supplements and basic household expenses make this additional cost of \$8544 annually for women diagnosed with cancer a financial burden.
- The financial burden of the cost of treatment causes women to go without or discontinue cancer treatment, skip doctor appointments, avoid filling prescriptions, scale back on food or other necessities.
- 40% of female cancer patients we support are living over the poverty level therefore do not qualify for other local or national financial assistance programs.
- Last year \$12,787 in Hope Chest for Women assistance grants were distributed to 56 Women living in Buncombe County.



## **The Hope Chest for Women, 2016 Fact Sheet**

The Hope Chest for Women's mission is to support women living in our community diagnosed or at risk for breast and gynecologic cancer. Our community based program focuses on financial assistance, community outreach, disease prevention and emotional support for breast and gynecologic cancer patients. We were incorporated as a 501C3 in 2003, our tax ID number is # 33-1033038. We have three primary objectives per year.

1) We provide medical and nonmedical bill pay assistance to women diagnosed with breast or gynecologic cancer. We serve an estimated number of 150 women a year with direct financial assistance. We budget between \$30,000.00 and \$35,000.00 a year for mini-grants to pay providers on behalf of cancer patients. On average we provide \$250-350 in assistance per women a year. Our maximum assistance per patient is \$500 a year. We refer patients to local and national support agencies for additional resources.

2) Our goal is to educate an estimated 1500 WNC residents per year on the importance of cancer screening and early detection. We advocate to under-insured women on programs that provide free or reduced cost cancer screening. We attend health fairs, workshops and events to promote cancer awareness and prevention.

3) To provide outreach and support to an estimated 500 cancer patients per year. We attend and organize cancer support groups. Our cancer patient referral and program services provide local and national support to women with breast or gynecologic cancer diagnosis. We visit local chemotherapy treatment rooms to comfort and provide emotional and financial assistance to patients in treatment.

Who we are helping. We support women living in all 22 counties of WNC. We serve on average 2500 women per year. Most patients we serve are living in Appalachia and having to travel to Buncombe County for medical care. These women have financial difficulties due to the cost of cancer treatment.

Referrals from 43 medical providers have increased the demand for our assistance. The number of women served and programs we offer each year vary based on funding.

We rely heavily on our board of directors, volunteers and part time staff to support our programs. We have a strong level of support from the local community. Community volunteers host a variety of fundraisers to benefit us throughout the year. We have over 200 volunteers who are committed to support our mission each year. We create opportunities for civic engagement

The Hope Chest for Women FY2017 Buncombe County Community Funding Grant

by partnering with local businesses and community groups to support our local residents by fundraising and promoting our program services throughout our community.

We are community funded. Most of our revenue is provided by individual donors, local businesses and community fundraising events hosted to benefit our organization. We believe in transparency regarding our fiscal management. Financial data is available by request.

Our board of directors is committed to the success and sustainability of our organization. Many of them are founding board members and very invested in our mission. Sara Laws, our executive director has a Bachelor's of Science in communications, leadership certificate in nonprofit management from Duke University and over 15 years of nonprofit experience.

We collect data for program evaluation to measure our three primary objectives monthly. A report is shared with our board of directors each month. Our advocacy and education programs poll participants in the beginning and end of each workshop. We use participant feedback to gauge the effectiveness of our prevention and awareness training programs.

Thank you for your consideration and willingness to support our mission!

Sincerely,

Sara Laws

Sara Shuster Laws

Executive Director

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