



Greetings! ,

Twenty years ago, a county social worker was contacted by a homeless woman undergoing chemotherapy for stage IV breast cancer. "Mary" was unable to complete her bilateral mastectomy treatment because she lacked stable housing, restroom facilities, and food and medication storage needed for recovery. Mary's financial situation was a barrier to treatment.

The social worker collected funds from colleagues to place Mary in a hotel to recover from her surgery while she secured permanent housing for her. As more breast cancer patients in similar situations contacted the county for help, the social work team found that *no resources existed to provide breast cancer patients with financial aid for living expenses during treatment*. The social worker and four community advocates addressed the problem by creating **Breast Cancer Solutions** in January 1998.

As our 20th anniversary approaches, we continue to work with hundreds of patients annually who are at risk of delaying or stopping their treatment due to financial hardship...clients like "Kelly." Earlier this year, Breast Cancer Solutions provided Kelly with financial assistance for her mortgage and gas cards to ensure stable housing and transportation to her treatment appointments. Kelly wrote to us in her survey:



"Thank you for being there for me! Just knowing there was an organization out there willing to help and lend an ear lifted my spirits! Your assistance with the mortgage payments lifted a huge burden off our shoulders."

Your support of community partner events and our annual fundraiser, *Celebrate Solutions!*, helps make sure clients like Kelly are able to continue their treatment. Thank you for your continued partnership and belief in our mission, and we look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

Warm regards,

Jennifer Anderson, Executive Director
Heather Gilbert, Board Chair
