



# Making a Positive Impact: Life After Breast Cancer

A single individual can make a large impact, no matter the cause or the charity. In just five months since Jamie Newberry started her job as program manager at the United Breast Cancer Foundation (UBCF), she has already personally worked with 87 individuals and their families who have had their lives turned upside down by breast cancer. Even more encouraging, Newberry says “it has truly been one success story after the next.”

Take Tina M., for example, who received an individual grant from UBCF. Tina’s mastectomy left her feeling beyond defeated. The way she described it to Newberry was that she felt how she looked – “totally annihilated.” To make matters worse, she was even homeless and living out of her car at the time when she applied for financial assistance from UBCF. “She had been trying to move from California to Maryland so she could be closer to her mother, and start over,” Newberry recalls. In just one month, UBCF’s grant helped Tina move across the country, transport her vehicle and pay for a new apartment in the area she wanted to live in.

There was also Brenda T., whose story really stood out to Newberry. “She started by sharing that she had lost a child, she had a handicapped son and a husband that is disabled,” Newberry says. “As a woman who had breast cancer and a double mastectomy after her treatment was over, she longed to feel ‘whole again.’”

Many women lose their self-confidence after having a double mastectomy, and they find it difficult to gain it back.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADRIANE BROOKS

◆ **Brooks Family-David, Adriane, Anthony, Adino and Alessio. Individual Grant and Child Sponsorship recipients. Adriane Brooks was a 2015 recipient of both the Individual Grant and the Child Sponsorship programs.**

Reconstruction surgery can help, but the cost is high. For Brenda, it started at \$28,000. That’s where UBCF came in. The organization worked with the plastic surgeon’s

office to reduce the cost of the procedure from \$28,000 to \$10,000. Brenda was awarded a breast reconstruction grant, which paid for the entire surgery. Newberry plays a large role



PHOTO COURTESY OF UBCF

◆ **Team UBCF gathers after a successful Tempur-Pedic® mattress donation event, distributing 100 twin, 80 queen and 20 double-size mattresses to breast cancer patients and survivors in Melville, NY, May 2017.**

“I get more appreciation and self-worth from hearing my clients say things such as: ‘receiving this grant is like being told the cancer is gone’ and ‘all those that work for UBCF are actually angels in disguise.’”

JAMIE NEWBERRY, PROGRAM MANAGER AT THE UNITED BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

in all of her clients’ success stories. It’s the nature of her job, though she doesn’t necessarily see it as work. “We live in a society that gets caught up in pursuing careers that are oftentimes title-driven or alluring because of a salary amount,” she says. “We need to condition ourselves to give back to those that are in need. I get more appreciation and self-worth from hearing my clients say things such as: ‘receiving this grant is like being told the cancer is gone’ and ‘all those that work for the United Breast Cancer Foundation are actually angels in disguise.’”

Charity takes many forms, and there are other opportunities available for those who want to give back. Monetary donations of all amounts are vital – they’re what help make UBCF’s grant programs possible. Those who want to do even more and see their impact firsthand can also donate their time. “Volunteering time can have a tremendous effect on our organization and on our clients,” Newberry says. “We welcome anyone that is willing to help set up for an event, organize inventory and help to load and unload trucks for distributions.”



PHOTO BY BETH REICHAUT

◆ **Deborah (l) is a recipient of UBCF’s fall 2016 mattress donation event. Maggie (r), Deborah’s care provider, helped her apply for and pick up the mattress.**

Unfortunately, the need for aid and charity won’t be going away in the near future. About 12% of women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. That’s a one-in-eight chance. The disease is more rare among men, with only 2,600 being diagnosed each year compared to 246,660 women. Still, both men and women die from breast cancer every year.

But there is hope, and Newberry sees it firsthand in her work. There’s Tina, there’s Brenda and there are nearly 3 million other breast cancer survivors in the United States. With organizations like UBCF supporting men and women with grants and free or reduced-cost services, there’s even more hope for early detection, affordable treatments and helping cancer patients and their families land on their feet after a hard-fought battle.

**Story by Tara Shubbuck  
United Breast Cancer  
Foundation CFC #77934**