



# Maine Breast Cancer Coalition News & Views

Fall 2012

[www.mainebreastcancer.org](http://www.mainebreastcancer.org)

1-800-928-2644

## Make a Difference During "Breast Cancer Awareness Month"

**October Special! [Become a member or renew your membership](#)** in the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition at the \$50 or above level before the end of October, and you will receive a free copy of the [Pink Album](#).

Please help us meet our goal of 100 new members! A basic annual membership is only \$15 (or more if you are able) for individuals and \$100 for businesses. Increased membership is critical for our volunteer-based non-profit organization's general operating costs.

[Click here](#) to download a membership form or use the form on the back page of this newsletter to join us.

## Looking For the Perfect Gift?



Your purchase of the [Pink Album](#) directly benefits Maine residents with unmet breast cancer or breast health needs through our [Support Service Fund](#).

This 2-CD set contains nearly two hours of fantastic music by accomplished Maine female singer/songwriters. Available at Bull Moose Music locations statewide and at [mainepinkalbum.com](http://mainepinkalbum.com).

## Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation Seeks Participants for the Health of Women (HOW) Study



In October, 2008, the Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation and the Avon Foundation launched the [Love/Avon Army of Women](#). This groundbreaking initiative

is recruiting one million healthy women of every age and ethnicity, including breast cancer survivors and women at high-risk for the disease, to partner with breast cancer researchers and directly participate in the research that will eradicate breast cancer once and for all. Since the Army of Women was launched, more than 369,000 women have joined.

The Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation and the Beckman Research Institute at City of Hope in Los Angeles have partnered to develop a new model for 21st century research, called the [Health of Women \(HOW\) Study](#).

According to the Health of Women Study/Army of Women website, "the Health of Women (HOW) Study was created as the first-ever global online study designed to examine causes, treatment, and prevention of breast cancer. The HOW Study will follow breast cancer survivors (women and men) to identify predictors of survival as well as consequences of therapy.

In addition, HOW will study women who have not been diagnosed with breast cancer in order to investigate its cause and new risk factors for the disease. Over 70% of women who get breast cancer have none of the known risk factors. Your health information can help us understand why women get breast cancer and ways to prevent it.

Participants in the HOW Study are being recruited from the members of the Army of Women and the general public with extensive use of social media. Any woman over 18 as well as interested men can join this revolutionary effort. Participation in the study is online or through mobile phone, allowing participation from anywhere in the world."

For more information, or to join the [HOW Study](#) or the [Army of Women](#), visit [www.armyofwomen.org/how2](http://www.armyofwomen.org/how2).

## Support Service Fund Update

Our [Support Service Fund](#), which provides financial assistance for Maine residents with breast health or breast cancer needs not covered by any other program, has become very well known as an important resource across the state. So far this year, we have received over 290 applications from women and men in all counties of Maine, and expect to help dozens more people by the end of 2012.

We receive many letters and cards from *Support Service Fund* recipients who let us know about the difference the Fund has made in their lives. Here is an excerpt from one letter. (published with the permission of the writer):

“Thank you for your most recent check. The generosity of the Coalition has been such an encouragement to my family and me.

Our family is large, with ten of us in the house, ranging from my mom, aged 86, to our adopted daughter, age 6. My diagnosis rocked our world; the loss of my job has added stress to an already difficult time.

I have to admit that, prior to my diagnosis and treatment at (names hospital here), I never knew of the Coalition’s existence. I was hesitant to contact you at first, but the social worker at chemo encouraged me to do so.

Not only has the money helped us pay expenses, but your kindness when we spoke on the phone was so pleasant. Because of the money, we have been able to keep things at home pretty much on an even keel, and so the children have not been shaken by my illness and treatment.

Keep up the good work. You are a special blessing to many.

Beth Moseley”

*Please consider a tax-deductible donation of any amount to the [Support Service Fund](#). One hundred percent of donations will go to Support Service Fund recipients, as our low administrative costs are covered by our [Maine Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure](#)® grant. Visit our [DONATE](#) webpage to make a secure online donation or see the back page of this newsletter for the membership/donation form.*

The *Support Service Fund* is supported in part by grants from the Maine Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure®, the Borman Family Foundation, the Maine Breast Cancer Specialty License Plate Program; also funding through DHHS/Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program contract funds supported by a Cooperative Agreement from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; dedicated fundraisers by organizations and businesses including the York Hospital Breast Cancer Survivors Group, the Greater Bangor Women’s Ski/Snowboard Club, the Fraternal Order of Eagles Pink Sock Foundation, Maine Fraternal Order of Eagles Groups, PATCO Construction, St. Joseph Hospital (in-kind donations of printing), and individual contributions by members and supporters of MBCC.

## Sign the Petition! Breast Cancer Deadline 2020: The End of Breast Cancer by January 1, 2020



[\\*Sign the Petition to the President!](#)

“Whoever is elected President this November must commit to a leadership role in Breast Cancer Deadline 2020®.”

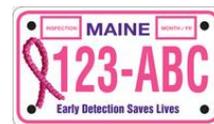
The National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) has a unique history and an unmatched record of accomplishment in breast cancer. Since NBCC’s inception in 1991, the organization’s mission has been to end breast cancer. Now, NBCC has set a deadline: [Breast Cancer Deadline 2020®](#) – the end of breast cancer by January 1, 2020.

Read NBCC’s [2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Breast Cancer Deadline Progress Report](#) for the latest news about the initiative. The report “provides an update with the latest data on incidence and mortality; information on public policy and advocacy; a look at the current research priorities as determined by research funding; an analysis of the breast cancer conversation in the media during 2011 Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and finally, an update on Breast Cancer Deadline 2020 activities.”

\*To participate in the petition, please visit [www.breastcancerdeadline2020.org/act/Presidential-Petition.html](http://www.breastcancerdeadline2020.org/act/Presidential-Petition.html) and either sign electronically or print out signature forms to assist in the signature gathering.

## Reserve Your Motorcycle Plate!

There are now more than 16,000 Maine Breast Cancer Specialty License Plates on the road. Now motorcycle enthusiasts can have breast cancer plates, too, and help support breast cancer education, research, and patient support here in Maine.



*There is a formal legislative process that must take place to obtain final approval for the first specialty motorcycle plate. The next step is to obtain pre-reservations from 500 individuals. For links to the registration site and FAQs go to [www.maineccancer.org/motorcycle](http://www.maineccancer.org/motorcycle).*

## Carmen Darkis, MBCC Volunteer, Among Award Winners to Be Honored

adapted from a 9/4/12 press release by Maine Cancer Foundation

On October 3, [Maine Cancer Foundation](#) will present four individuals with awards at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual “Cure Breast Cancer for ME” Luncheon: Carmen Darkis, Lenore Kraus, Stephanie Freedman, and Dr. Neal Goodwin. The “Cure Breast Cancer for ME” luncheon was started in 2002 by Meredith Strang Burgess as a way to celebrate National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and to raise money for the Women’s Cancer Fund, a source of grants dedicated to cancer research, education, and patient support for Maine women.

This year’s award winners fall into four categories: Community Outreach, Medical Care & Research, Lifetime Inspiration, and the Meredith Burgess Spirit of Life Award. Each award seeks to exemplify an individual or organization that has achieved success above and beyond the ordinary in the fight against breast cancer in Maine.

The Maine Breast Cancer Coalition is proud to announce that Carmen Darkis of Bangor, a long-time Maine Breast Cancer Coalition volunteer, will be presented with the Lifetime Inspiration Award. Carmen was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1988 and has been living with stage IV metastatic breast cancer since 1993, surviving a remarkable nineteen years with the deadly condition. “I don’t let cancer live my life,” says Carmen. “I live my life because I love being alive.” Despite two decades of almost continuous treatment, Carmen is an active volunteer with the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition, where she serves as recording secretary and engages in political advocacy at the state and national level. She has devoted her efforts to putting a face to late-stage breast cancer, advocating for more research and encouraging other women diagnosed with breast cancer, showing them that life can still be lived to the fullest.

(continued in next column)

The Community Outreach Award will be presented to Lenore Kraus, LCSW, OSW-C, a licensed clinical social worker and a certified oncology social worker who has pioneered local efforts to adopt comprehensive psychological care for breast cancer patients.

Stephanie Freedman, RN, of Scarborough, will receive the Meredith Burgess Spirit of Life Award. Freedman is a breast cancer survivor, as well as a survivorship navigator for the Cancer Institute at Maine Medical center.

The keynote speaker and winner of the 2012 Medical Care & Research Award will be Dr. Neal Goodwin, Director of Research and Development for *In Vivo* Pharmacology Services at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor. Dr. Goodwin is at the forefront of a new effort to collect and house a tissue bank of cancer tumors, including samples provided by Maine women, through the Jackson Laboratory.

Since its inception, the “Cure Breast Cancer for ME” Luncheon has raised over \$450,000 to support Maine women by providing grants for patient support programs or by earmarking funds for research programs. The selection and distribution of the grants are overseen by an independent selection committee organized by Maine Cancer Foundation. In 2011 Maine Cancer Foundation distributed more than \$1 million to local organizations.

To find out more about the Maine Cancer Foundation, visit [www.maineccancer.org](http://www.maineccancer.org).

### ***We would like to express our appreciation to the following groups, organizations, or businesses that made donations or held recent fundraising events to benefit the Support Service Fund:***

Bangor Savings Bank  
B.W. Stadium, LLC

Intermed  
PATCO Construction  
Progressive Insurance Company

*Many Eagles Clubs throughout Maine are long-time supporters of the Support Service Fund. The following Eagles groups held fundraising events and made donations totaling over \$20,500 to the Fund:*

Brewer Fraternal Order of Eagles #317  
Brewer Fraternal Order of Eagles Ladies Auxiliary #3177  
Casco Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #565  
Gray Fraternal Order of Eagles # 4131

Lewiston Fraternal Order of Eagles #618  
Rumford Falls Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #1248  
Rumford Fraternal Order of Eagles #1248  
Westbrook Fraternal Order of Eagles Ladies Auxiliary #2977

### ***We are grateful for recent individual donations from:***

Suzanne Brunner  
Nancy Cote  
Mary Beth DiMarco  
Gordon Jeffords

**In memory of Lydia Kim McDonald:**  
Cathi Cyr  
Michael and Caroline Pelletier  
David and Ann Simmons

**In memory of Cheryl Cook:**  
Arlene Nelson  
Ann White

Maine Breast Cancer Coalition  
499 Broadway PMB 362  
Bangor, ME 04401-3460

## How You Can Help

**Join us!** A basic annual membership is only \$15 (or more if you are able) for individuals and \$100 for businesses. **October Special! Become a member or renew your membership in the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition at the \$50 or above level before the end of October, and you will receive a free copy of the Pink Album.**

... or please consider a tax-deductible donation of any amount to the Support Service Fund. One hundred percent of donations will go to Support Service Fund recipients, as our low administrative costs are covered by our Maine Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure® grant. You can donate online by visiting the "Donate" page www.mainebreastcancer.org/donate.cfm of our website to make a secure donation using your credit card or Paypal account. If you prefer to use a check, you can mail it along with the membership/donation form below.

... or hold a fundraiser: If your community group, business, or organization would like to dedicate all or part of the proceeds from a fundraising effort to MBCC or the Support Service Fund, contact grants chairperson Christine Haiss at 207-938-4018 or info@mainebreastcancer.org.

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### Yes! I want to support the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition's work.

- I want to become a member of MBCC.**  
(check membership level below)  
Individual annual membership levels:
- \$15 Basic Membership  
 \$25 Friend  
 \$50 Supporting Member (free Pink Album if you join at or above this level by October 31, 2012)  
 \$250 Sustaining Member  
 Other (minimum of \$15) \_\_\_\_\_
- Business or Organization Basic Membership:
- \$100
- I want to make a contribution.** Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
In honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve.) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you prefer to receive your newsletter via email.

*Please make checks payable to MBCC. Mail your check for membership and/or contribution with this form to:*

Maine Breast Cancer Coalition  
499 Broadway  
PMB 362  
Bangor, ME 04401-3460

*The Maine Breast Cancer Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.*