

HOPE Retreat

Infinite Strength

OVERVIEW: In the US, many single mothers with mBC are below the federal poverty level. This initiative provides financial and emotional support to these women and their children through a series of one-day retreats, including speaking with licensed social workers and therapists, art therapy, breakfast & lunch, and a grocery card to take away.



Area of focus:

Support for patients with ABC/mBC



Target population:

Underserved single mothers with mBC that are below the federal poverty level

Objectives: Offer community support to underserved single mothers with mBC and their children. Educate patients on the disease and teach them how to advocate themselves. Provide healing time through art therapy and creative activities they would not necessarily have access to without the program

Unmet needs addressed:

- Lack of financial and emotional support for single mothers with mBC
- Poor understanding of the mBC diagnosis
- Limited opportunity for children of single mothers with mBC to engage in activities with other children in a similar situation

Key components:

- Time with a licensed social worker/therapist specialized in oncology support (mothers)
- Creative art therapy with a professional art therapist (children)
- Breakfast & lunch and a \$100 grocery card to take away to help them get through the month until the next retreat

Challenges: The pandemic prevented opening a Retreat House, so community centres were used instead

Outcomes: Families who were part of the first retreat are returning for a second event, alongside additional families. The women value the support group aspect, as they cannot afford to see a therapist, and this therapist specializes in family grief/oncology

Development: The initiative was developed with social workers at the healthcare organisations in the state of Connecticut along with oncology family therapists, art therapists, and grief support therapists

Cost: <€5,000

Timeline: Launched on October 3rd 2021; to run once a month during Covid-19 and twice per month in the future

Targeted to reach: 60-150 underserved single mothers with mBC

The **HOPE** Retreat

HEALING · OPENHEARTED · PATIENT · EMPOWERMENT



For more information:

https: www.infinitestrength.org/the-hope-retreat

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Based on written submission from Roberta Lombardi, Infinite Strength, 2021. The Hard-to-Reach ABC/mBC Communities Toolkit was developed as a collaboration between Pfizer Oncology and the ABC Global Alliance, with funding and support provided by Pfizer. ABC Global Alliance members and Pfizer colleagues were invited to submit breast cancer community-based initiatives that address specific needs of underserved patient populations with advanced/metastatic breast cancer. Initiatives were evaluated against criteria determined by a steering committee with members from both Pfizer and the ABC Global Alliance. Initiatives were selected for inclusion in the toolkit to highlight best practices in addressing the unique needs of this patient population. All organizations who submitted their initiatives for consideration have provided permission for the initiative information to be included in the toolkit and shared publicly. Pfizer and the ABC Global Alliance bear no responsibility for the contents of the toolkit.

| Ethnic, religious, indigenous/native populations and/or other historically marginalised groups | Younger patients | Older patients | Men | LGBTQ+ patients | **Low health knowledge patients** | **Patients who lack an adequate caregiver or support system** | Patients who mistrust conventional treatments | **Low income patients** | Patients a long distance from a specialist centre | Patients with uncontrolled comorbidities | **Mental health patients** |