

the
common
thread
for the
cure
foundation

*Serving the furnishings and
design industry for 25 years*



Thank You AHFA

- Thank you for letting me introduce you to this foundation
- Thank you for the donation of a page in the directory again this year



In the world of furnishings and design, we know the importance of weaving threads together to create something beautiful.

We invite you to join us in weaving a different thread —
The Common Thread for the Cure.

THE POWER OF YOUR SUPPORT
Every day, individuals within our industry and their family members face the daunting challenge of breast cancer. When it strikes, it doesn't just affect health; it impacts finances, daily life, and the very essence of hope.

A LIFELINE IN TOUGH TIMES
Donations to The Common Thread for the Cure Foundation fund grants that provide financial relief in areas where insurance may not apply. These grants help enhance the quality of life for those confronting the disease by addressing essential household needs including paying bills, paying for transportation to medical appointments and more. By contributing, you will help individuals maintain their normal lifestyle as much as possible during their battle with breast cancer.

BE THE THREAD OF HOPE
Join us in supporting The Common Thread for the Cure. Your donations and sponsorships, no matter how big or small, have the power to uplift lives and strengthen the bonds of our community.

**DONATE TODAY AND HELP US
WEAVE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR
THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST**

 the common thread for the cure



www.commonthreadforthecure.org/donate-now

If you would like to request a call to learn more about sponsorships and corporate donations please email Kathy@tmm.agency

Why I Am Involved

My name is Laura Holland. I am a **breast cancer survivor**.

I am involved because not only am I a breast cancer survivor since 2018, but this foundation also personally helped me when I needed support. In the years, since they have helped countless others... helping individuals I have or currently work with.

For me, it is personal. I want to pay forward the support.

Because our industry needs to know about this foundation.



About The Common Thread for the Cure

The furnishings and design industries are comprised of diverse elements—architecture, interior design, furniture design, lighting, fabrics, wallcoverings, flooring, and accessories—each vital, yet all made stronger by the others.

The same premise holds true in combating breast cancer; rallying together as an industry, our financial support to employees and their immediate family members with breast cancer is profoundly strengthened. The common thread that unites the industry in its business endeavors is aesthetics; the common thread that unites the industry in its battle to beat breast cancer is heart.



Mission

To unite the furnishings and design industries in the battle against breast cancer. We support those individuals who are fighting breast cancer by offering financial assistance through confidential grants to assist in areas where additional financial aid is needed.



Vision

To educate and assist persons within the furnishings and design industries affected by breast cancer. We offer financial assistance to maintain as normal a lifestyle as possible for individuals confronting this disease.



How We Operate As A Foundation

We are all volunteers – executive positions and directors

Our operating expenses are less than 2%

- Investments in our website
- Postage
- CPA fees for tax filing

For every dollar we give, we must raise



Who We Are:

Our Current Board of Directors

Rob Mayer, Chairman - *Mayer Fabrics*

Jane Barea, President – *Pink Salt LLC*

Dee Wyrick, Vice President - *Momentum Textiles*

Linda Higgins, Secretary - *L Higgins Design*

Pam Mathias, Assistant Secretary - *Versteel*

Patty Younts, Treasurer – *Retired Design Professional*

Lori Klem, Assistant Treasurer – *Indiana Furniture*

Mike Blessinger, Director - *Indiana Furniture*

Laura Carlson, Director - *My Resource Library*

Susan Claus, Director - *Ghent*

Laura Holland, Director - *Hickory Chair*

Sasha Ilovic, Director - *Crossville, Inc.*

Evan Lagueruela, Director - *Trinity Furniture*

Jan Ort, Director - *Trendsetter Home Décor Group*

Kelly Ponder, Director - *Crypton*

Margot Shaw, Director - *Flower Magazine*

Adam Stemle, Director - *La-Z-Boy Healthcare/Knu Comfort*

Mark Stuckey, Director - *Retired Furniture Executive*

Lindsey Waldrep, Director - *Caesarstone*

Lesley Zitone-Olson, Director - *Momentum Textiles*



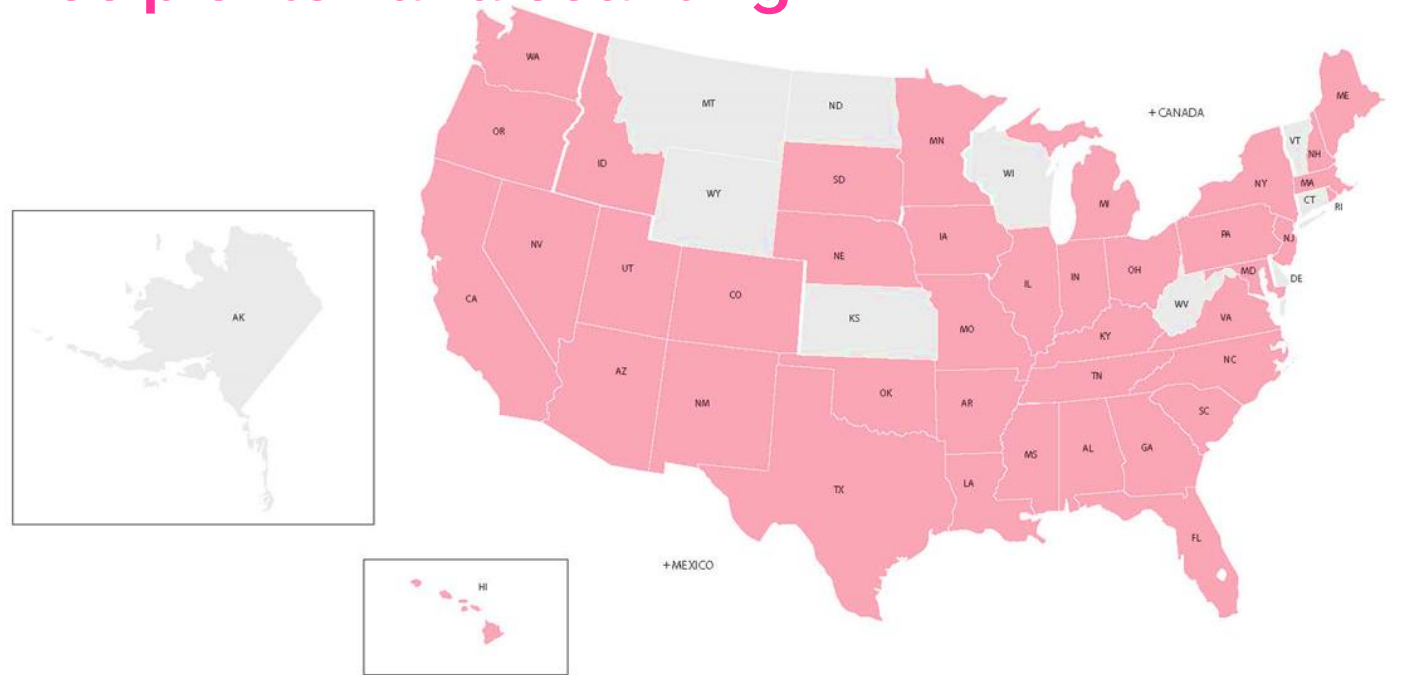
History

The Common Thread for the Cure Foundation was established in **2000** by Suzann Burkhead-Bray and Scott Burkhead in memory of their sister, Sandra Burkhead Campbell, who lost her long-term battle with breast cancer in February 1999. In the years since, we've awarded **nearly \$2,000,000 in grants** to **450** deserving women and men in **41 states, Canada and Mexico**.

2023 was a record year... \$244,900 in grants and 34 recipients.

2024 beat 2023... \$322,200 in grants and 45 recipients.

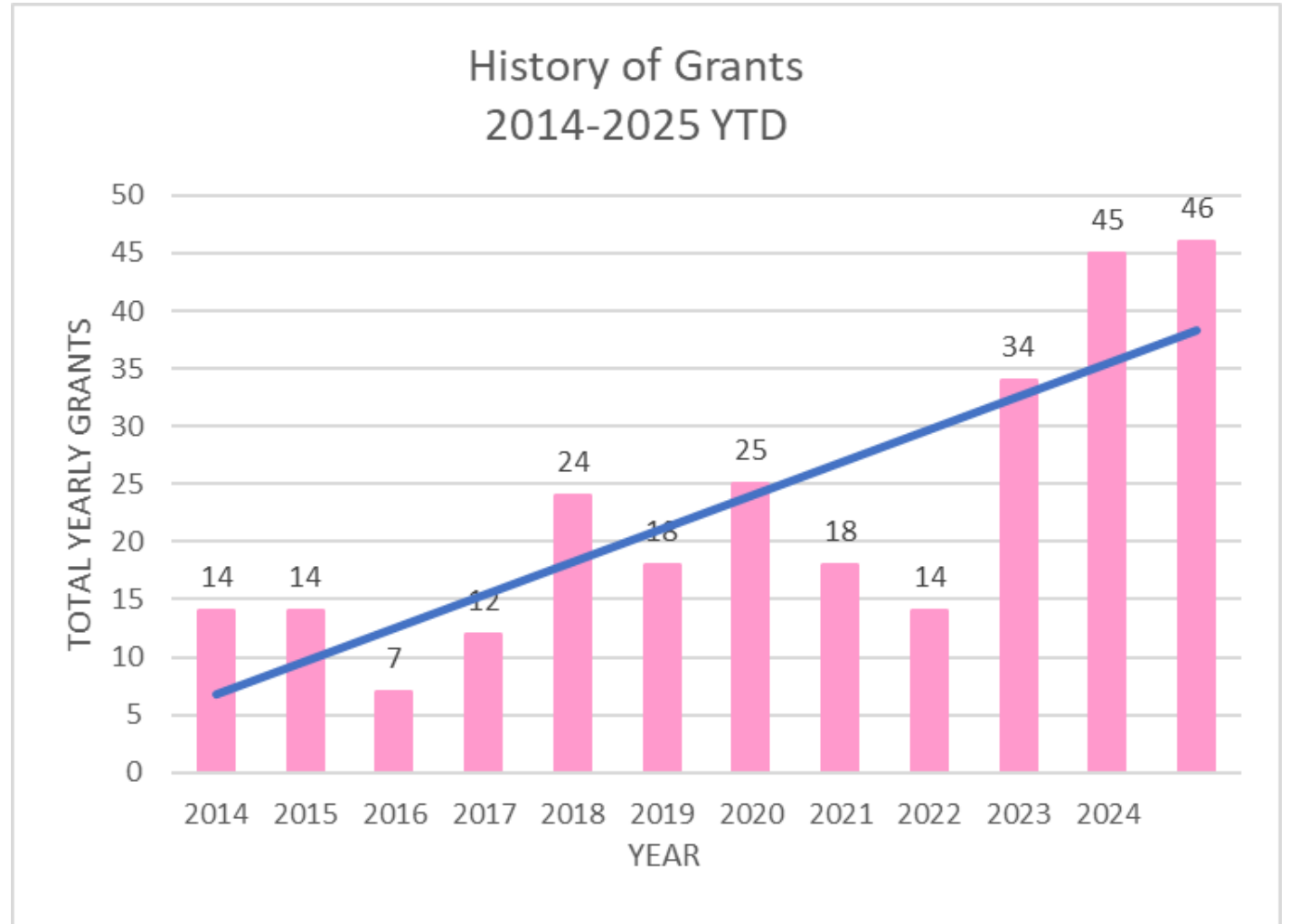
2025 beat 2024... \$331,500 and 46 recipients... and counting



History

The number of grants awarded is growing at a significant rate. **No eligible applicant has ever been refused a grant.** With the current pace, we are struggling to raise the necessary funds each year to fund all eligible grants. **We need your help.**

100% of your grant would be given as support grants to eligible applicants.



What We Do

A 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, The Common Thread for the Cure Foundation is the united effort of the varied businesses and individuals within the furnishings and design industries to support their own in the battle against breast cancer.

The Foundation's grants provide relief from some of the financial stress that comes with the diagnosis. **Anyone affiliated with the industry may request a grant for himself (herself) or for a member of his (her) immediate family (child, sibling, spouse, or parent).** **The grants can be used for whatever the survivor feels will provide the most benefit to himself (herself).** Grants have been used for paying medical deductibles, housing during treatment away from home, mortgage payments, tuition for a child to continue college, to freeze eggs and embryos, lost wages, car and home insurance costs, and taxes.

This is only a small list—think about all the financial obligations you face every day. The Common Thread for the Cure is here to help take care of those things so survivors can focus on what is critical to them—survival.



What Has Changed in 25 Years?

25 years ago, most grants went to women aged 40 to 60 years old working in the residential industry.

Over the years our reach has grown as we have given grants to men and women in commercial and residential sectors of the furnishings and design industry.

The biggest shift is the alarming number of younger women being diagnosed. Many of our grants are now going to women as young as 20 years old. Their needs are different. Many have young families or dream of having a family. Our grants are helping freeze eggs or embryos. Some have been diagnosed while pregnant and blessed to have a healthy baby after receiving chemotherapy.

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We have increased the maximum from \$2,500 to \$7,500 over the years. Today 1 in 8 women and 1 in 726 men will develop breast cancer in their lifetime. The need for support continues to grow.



Why it Matters

“We have received a grant request from an employee at **Precedent Furniture, a division of Sherrill Furniture**, and I have verified her employment. She learned of the foundation from her HR representative, who learned of the foundation from her fellow professional at Vanguard Furniture. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in July 2025 and has just completed round three of her six rounds of chemotherapy. When her treatments are complete, she will have a lumpectomy followed by radiation treatments. Her treatment plan continues to evolve so she could not speak with certainty on how many treatments she would definitely have.

She has been away from work since mid-August and does not anticipate returning until January 2026. She is currently receiving short term disability, but it only covers 50% of her salary. Her maximum out of pocket is \$3500 and she has already surpassed that amount and has paid \$4400. To date she has not been billed for any of the chemotherapy treatments or visits with the oncologist and knows she faces the cost of future surgery and treatments. She has a cancer policy with a payout of \$5000 which will cover the current amount she has paid.

She requested \$5000 to cover current treatments, surgery and radiation treatments to come. Considering the majority of her expenses are still ahead, and she is dealing with a reduced income, I recommend the maximum grant of \$7500. Please let me know your opinions.”

Why it Matters

“We have received a grant request from an employee at **Bernhardt Furniture**, and I have verified her employment. She learned of the foundation from a colleague at **Vanguard Furniture**. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in December 2024. Her port was placed last week, and she had the first of 24 chemotherapy treatments yesterday. Her treatments will be once per week with the drug changing every 3 weeks until she completes 8 rounds. When treatment is complete, she will have a double mastectomy as she tested positive for the BRCA gene. At this time, she has not decided on reconstructive surgery.

She will be out of work 4-6 weeks after her double mastectomy which means a reduction in income.

Her max out of pocket is \$7150 and she requested any amount we felt was appropriate. I recommend the maximum grant of \$7500. Please let me know your opinions.”

Why it Matters

“We have received a grant request from an employee at **Century Furniture**, and I have verified her employment. She learned of the foundation through the HR department at Century. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in July 2025 and has had initial testing including an echocardiogram and an MRI brain scan. She will begin a proposed 6-month regimen of chemotherapy treatments next week and the treatments will be weekly. She hopes they will be completed in February 2026. At that time it will be determined if she is to have a mastectomy or a lumpectomy with radiation treatments to follow.

Her deductible/co-share is \$15,000 and she anticipates she will have to meet this again in 2026. She does not receive pay on the days she is out and has already missed several days due to the testing that has been done. She was told to anticipate at least two days out per week once her treatments begin. She did not know what to request. I recommend the maximum grant of \$7500. Please let me know your opinions.”

We Need Your Help to Fulfill Our Mission

What the person with breast cancer needs most for her or his healing is as little worry as possible, yet serenity—especially freedom from financial stress—can be elusive. **Please donate today. Become a corporate sponsor.** Volunteer to host or assist with a benefit event.

For every dollar we give, we must raise

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Meet Our Sponsors

Lifetime Legacy Benefactor – Over \$100,000



MAYER FABRICS

VERSTEEL



2024 Diamond Sponsor – 20,000

Gensler – Morristown, NJ

2024 Platinum Sponsor - \$15,000

Vanguard Furniture

2024 Gold Sponsor - \$10,000

Furnituredealer.net

2024 Silver Sponsor - \$5,000

La-Z-Boy Healthcare/KNU Comfort
Stylex, Inc.

2024 Bronze Sponsor - \$2,500

Paul Brayton Designs - Dauphin – DPR Construction
Exemplis – Fromkin Brothers – Hickory Chair
IIDA New England Chapter – JC Office Consultants
Lexington Home Brands – Spectra Home
Vanguard Furniture + Team

How companies get involved

- Royalties donated through product sales
- Holding fundraisers or raffles
- Budgeting funds to donate yearly
- Sponsor our events



Register to Win


Website


Venmo

Scan either QR Code, complete the online form, choose your donation amount, specify Hickory Chair Colin Lounge Chair Event and you will be automatically registered for our sweep-stakes drawing that will be held on November 25, 2025. Winner to be notified by December 2, 2025. Donations are tax deductible. All proceeds will be used to provide grants and support to individuals, or immediate family members, in our industry battling breast cancer. No donation necessary to enter. Must be a U.S. resident



Silent Auction


Website


Silent Auction

Scan either QR Code, submit your bid for this Adair Spot Table from Hickory Chair for the Harvesting Hope 25th Anniversary Silent for the Cure that begins on October 17th and ends on October 29th. All proceeds will be used to provide grants and support to individuals, or immediate family members, in our industry battling breast cancer.

HICKORY CHAIR®

All proceeds go to The Common Thread for the Cure foundation to help fund support grants to individuals or immediate family members in our industry battling breast cancer.

Two Things To Remember...

1. We provide support grants to individuals or their immediate family members in our industry battling breast cancer.
 - Know someone battling now?
 - Visit commonthreadforthecure.org
 - Contact us hello@commonthreadforthecure.org
 - Contact me laura.holland@hickorychair.com
2. We Need Your Help to Fulfill Our Mission.
 - Please donate today
 - Become a corporate sponsor
 - Volunteer to host or assist with a benefit event
 - Share our message with your employees

We are looking for volunteers...

Contact us at hello@commonthreadforthecure.org to learn about opportunities in your area.



Grants



Become a Sponsor

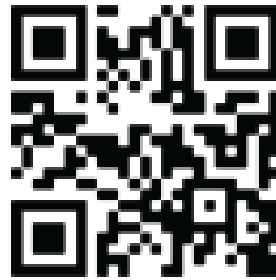


Donate Now

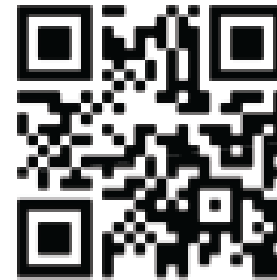
THANK YOU!

We are looking for volunteers...

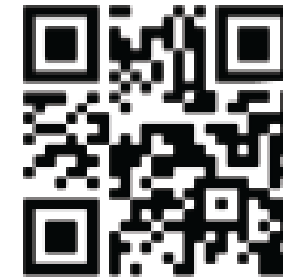
Contact us at hello@commonthreadforthecure.org to learn about opportunities in your area.



Grants



Become a Sponsor



Donate Now

