

the
common
thread
for the
cure
foundation

*Serving the furnishings and
design industry for 25 years*



Thank You AHFA

- Thank you for letting us introduce you to this foundation
- Thank you for the donation of a page in the directory again this year
- Thank you for this opportunity to share our message



Why I Am Involved

My name is Carrie Dillon.. I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2024, and during a time when there was so much to navigate, Common Thread for the Cure provided me with a grant that helped ease the burden of the bills that came along with my diagnosis and treatment.

That support meant a great deal to me, and it's why I want to pay it forward.

I'm involved because I know firsthand the difference this foundation can make for someone facing cancer. Our industry needs to know that help is out there, and I want to do my part to make sure others receive the same kind of support that was there for me when I needed it.



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.



History

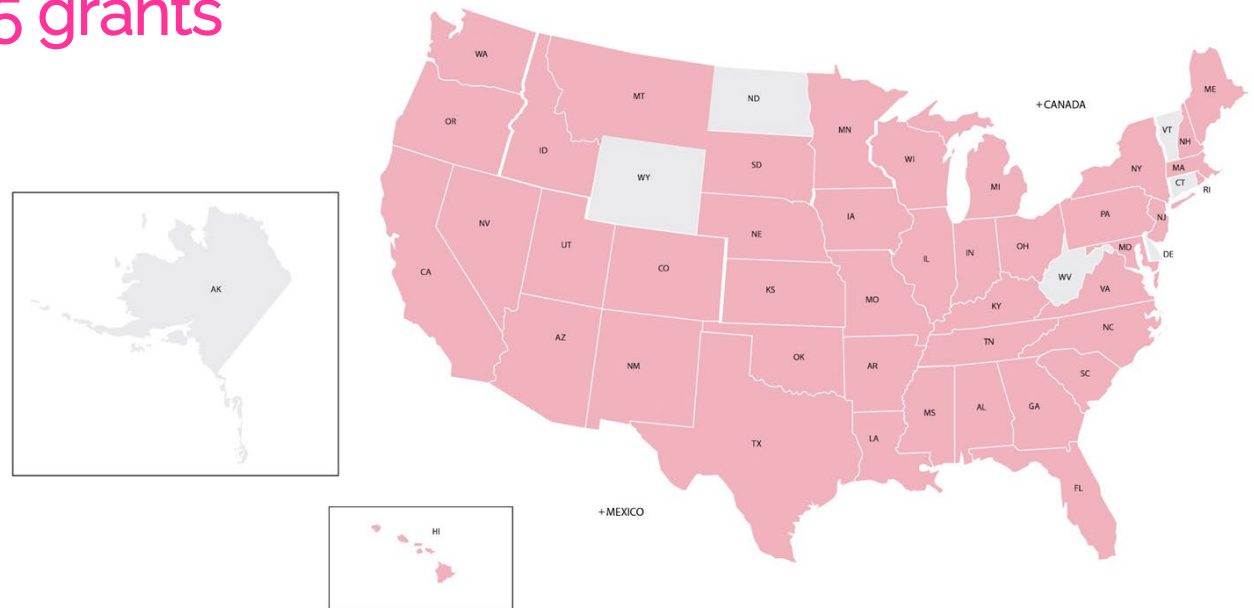
The Common Thread for the Cure Foundation was established in **2000** by Suzann Burkhead-Bray and Scott Burkhead in memory of their sister, Sandra Burkhead Campbell, who lost her long-term battle with breast cancer in February 1999. In the years since, we've awarded **more than 500 grants totaling over \$1,600,000 in grants** to deserving recipients in **43 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... \$414,000 and 57 recipients

2026 We have already awarded 25 grants

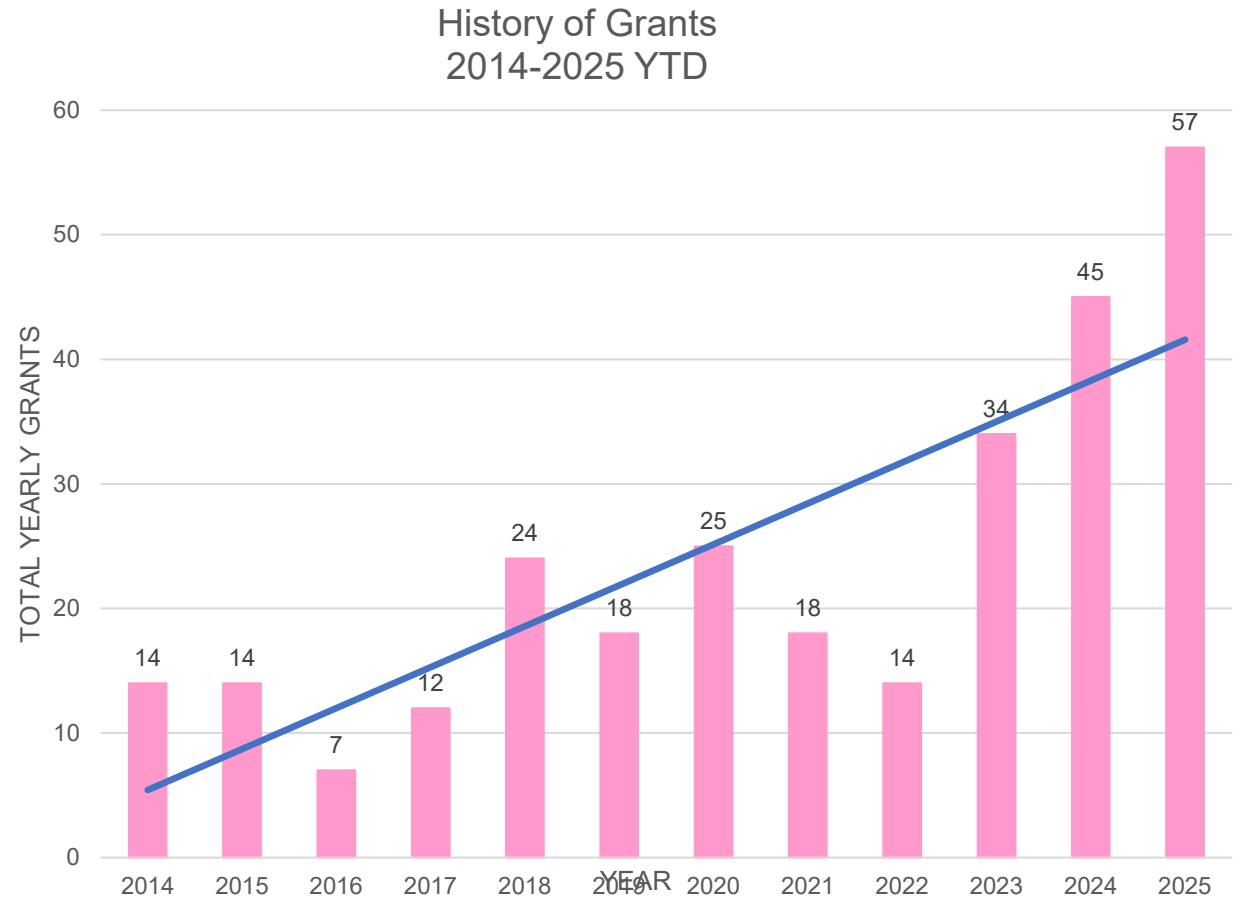


History

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.

Since 1999 through 2024, over 500 grants have been awarded.



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, 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.

A donation in honor or memory of someone you love would help us to provide support to someone in their journey.



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/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

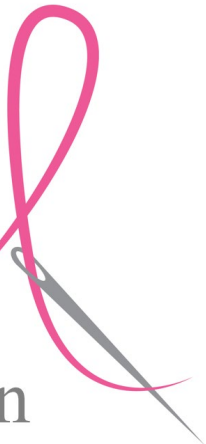
We have received a grant request from an employee at **Century Furniture**, and I have verified her employment. She learned of the foundation through the HR department at Century. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in July 2025 and has had initial testing including an echocardiogram and an MRI brain 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/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 think about joining our mission. Consider a donation in someones honor or memory. **Become a corporate sponsor.** Volunteer to host or assist with a benefit event.

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Meet Our Sponsors

Lifetime Legacy Benefactor – Over \$100,000



MAYER FABRICS

VERSTEEL



2025 Diamond Sponsor – 20,000

CBK2025 Irrevocable Trust - Gensler – Morristown, NJ -
Vanguard Furniture

2025 Platinum Sponsor - \$15,000

Foundation Friend - Anonymous

2025 Gold Sponsor - \$10,000

2025 Silver Sponsor - \$5,000

Indiana Furniture - Summit Health Management

2025 Bronze Sponsor - \$2,500

American Home Furnishings Alliance
Bernhardt Furniture Foundation – Brayton/Castrobran Fund
Crypton – DPR Construction - Flower Magazine
Hickory Chair – La-Z-Boy Healthcare/Knu Comfort
Lexington Home Brands – Paul Brayton Designs

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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
1. Join us so we can help others.
 - Consider a donation.
 - Become a corporate sponsor.
 - Volunteer to host or assist with a benefit event.
 - Share our message!



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

