

I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Support Service Fund.

name _____

address _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

phone _____

Enclosed is a check or money order payable to "MBCC Support Service Fund" in the amount of:

___ \$10 ___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$250
___other _____

* _____ I am making this contribution as a gift in honor of:

name _____

address _____

city _____ state _____ zip _____

**MBCC will send a card telling your recipient about the gift you have given in his or her honor.*

Please send your check and this form (or a photocopy) to:

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

The **Maine Breast Cancer Coalition** (MBCC) is a non-profit, grassroots, volunteer-based organization established in 1992.

We are a partnership of breast cancer survivors, health care professionals, representatives from cancer-related organizations, and supporters. We share a common vision.

We are dedicated to making a positive difference in the health of Maine people through:

- Financial support for underserved people with breast health or breast cancer needs
- Advocacy for breast cancer research and legislation
- Education to promote knowledge about breast cancer and quality care

The Support Service Fund is currently supported by generous contributors including the Maine Affiliate of Susan G. Komen For the Cure®, the Maine Cancer Foundation, the Borman Family Foundation, the Maine Breast Cancer Specialty License Plate program, York Hospital Breast Cancer Survivors Group, many Maine Fraternal Order of Eagles clubs and their Pink Sock Foundation, the Greater Bangor Women's Ski and Snowboard Club, PATCO Construction, Stonewall Kitchen, Inverness Medical Innovations, dedicated fundraisers by individuals, organizations, or businesses, and individual contributions by members and supporters of MBCC.

The Maine Breast Cancer Coalition has been the recipient of many honors for our Support Service Fund, including:

Maine Lymphedema Network "Lymphedema Patient Advocacy Award" (2006)

WLBZ "2 Those Who Care Volunteer Agency of Distinction Award" (2005)

Maine Cancer Foundation "Citizen Advocate Award" (2004)

National recognition as an innovative breast cancer project supported by the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® grant programs (2003)

Maine Breast Cancer Coalition

Support Service Fund Contributor's Guide

1-800-928-2644

www.mainebreastcancer.org

It is estimated that more than 1,200 Maine residents, most of them women, will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year and 170 will die of this disease.

A diagnosis of breast cancer is a life-altering event. When this diagnosis is accompanied by financial difficulties, it is a crisis for the patient and her or his family.

You can make a real difference!

Consider making a tax-deductible gift of any amount to the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition's *Support Service Fund*

Recipients of the Support Service Fund have written:

"I was really feeling overwhelmed and desperate financially. Thank you for your help."

"I cannot thank you enough for your generosity. When I opened the envelope I cried tears of joy that I finally had some help. Keep up the great work you do."

"Without you I don't know how I would have made it to my treatments or got my phone back for doctors' calls or how I would have kept my lights on. Thank you very very much."

"Thanks you so much for the financial help you have provided to help us through the breast cancer expenses. In addition to the reality of your help, the knowledge that there are caring people who have contributed to your fund as well as you who volunteer proves there is still goodness in the world. Thank you all."

"Words cannot express how very grateful and thankful we were for the check for gas for my many treatments. I praise this coalition for reaching out to us when many won't."

Frequently asked questions about the Support Service Fund:

What is the Support Service Fund?

The Support Service Fund provides financial assistance for breast health or breast cancer-related services or items to underserved people throughout Maine. Since the fund was established in 2000, the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC) has awarded grants in all counties of Maine ranging from less than \$25 to \$1,000 to more than 1,700 low-income, uninsured, or underinsured people who didn't qualify for, or whose particular needs weren't covered by other assistance programs.

What kinds of services or items does the fund cover?

The Fund covers a wide range of items and services. It has covered breast imaging (mammography or ultrasound), chemotherapy, radiation, lab/pathology fees, radiologist readings, physician/surgeon, hospital bills, lymphedema compression garments, prescriptions, genetic testing, prostheses/bras, wigs/turbans, travel expenses to treatments, and temporary emergency living expenses for people in breast cancer treatment, to list a few.

How is the Support Service Fund different than other charitable assistance programs?

The Fund is unique in that it meets the applicant at her or his point of need. The Support Service Committee reviews each request carefully. The items or services requested, financial need, and required documentation are all considered according to established criteria and individual situations. During the application process, MBCC often directs applicants to existing programs that will cover their needs. But in many cases, the Support Service Fund is truly a program of "last resort", for those who have nowhere else to turn.

What portion of my contribution will go to grant recipients?

Our low administrative costs are covered by our Maine Affiliate of Susan G. Komen For the Cure® grant, so *100% of individual donations go to grant recipients.*

Are donations to the Fund tax-deductible?

Yes. Maine Breast Cancer Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Examples of how donations to the Support Service Fund have been allocated:

\$25 donation will cover:

- one or two turbans, hats, or scarves for a chemotherapy patient
- one physician visit co-pay

\$50 donation will cover:

- one mastectomy bra
- payment for 156 miles of travel to and from treatments

\$100 donation will cover:

- physician copays for nearly a week of radiation treatments
- clinical breast exam

\$250 donation will cover:

- mammogram (average cost)
- lymphedema gauntlet or sleeve (compression garment)

Examples of Support Service Fund Recipients:

A 60 year-old woman from Oxford county, who needed lymphedema (side effect of breast cancer surgery) compression garments not covered by her insurance. Awarded \$298.62.

A 39-year-old from Kennebec county with metastatic breast cancer had to stop working and was on disability, but was not able to afford expenses for a trip to Boston for a second opinion. Awarded \$300 for travel expenses.

A 50 year-old from Aroostook county was awarded \$337.34 for a prosthesis and two mastectomy bras. She has no insurance and doesn't qualify for MaineCare. Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program, for which she qualifies, does not cover the items.

A 30-year-old from Somerset county was awarded \$350 for genetic testing. Many of her relatives had died from breast cancer and her mother had been diagnosed at age 37. She has MaineCare, but it does not cover the testing.