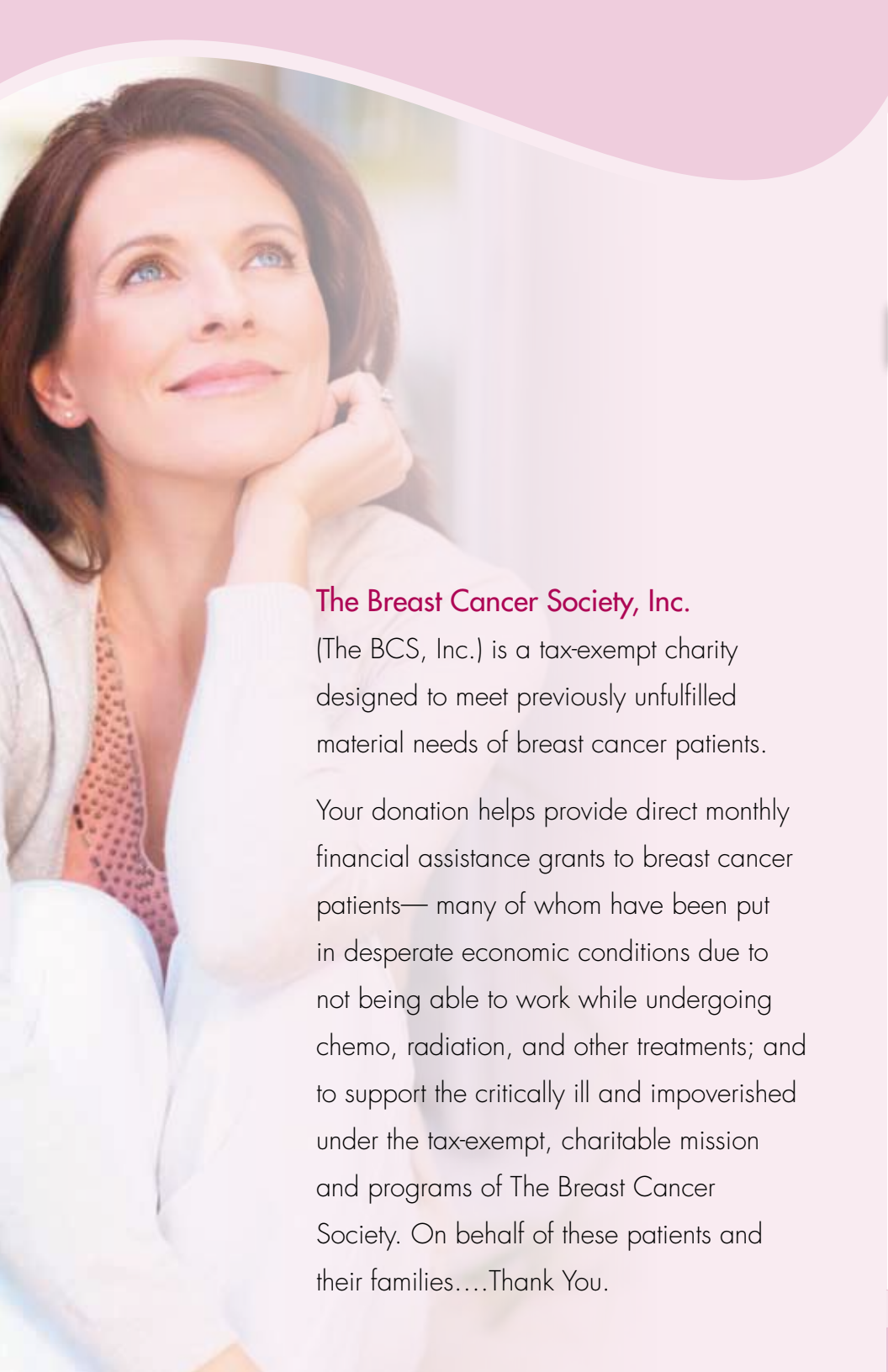




THE
BREAST
CANCER
SOCIETY
INC.



PROVIDING HELP, GIVING HOPE, **IMPROVING SURVIVAL**



The Breast Cancer Society, Inc.

(The BCS, Inc.) is a tax-exempt charity designed to meet previously unfulfilled material needs of breast cancer patients.

Your donation helps provide direct monthly financial assistance grants to breast cancer patients— many of whom have been put in desperate economic conditions due to not being able to work while undergoing chemo, radiation, and other treatments; and to support the critically ill and impoverished under the tax-exempt, charitable mission and programs of The Breast Cancer Society. On behalf of these patients and their families....Thank You.



What Makes TBCS Different:

The Breast Cancer Society Inc. - based in Mesa, Arizona, is one of the only national breast cancer charities in the U.S. with the primary focus on providing direct help and financial aid to those suffering with breast cancer. Services are provided to recipients nation-wide and internationally, based on available resources, need, demand and qualification.

We work closely with breast cancer patients and their families on a case-by-case basis in an effort to identify critical needs and to give meaningful support and aid to alleviate the special needs brought on by breast cancer. Additionally, TBCS provides medicine, medical supplies and equipment to hospitals and clinics who's primary mission is to serve those with breast cancer, the critically ill and impoverished, as outlined below in our mission statement:

Mission Statement

The guiding mission of The Breast Cancer Society, Inc. (TBCS) is to provide relief to those who suffer from the effects of breast cancer now, as well as to work cooperatively with and give support to other personnel, individuals and organizations that share in the goal of helping cancer patients, the critically ill, and the impoverished. This is done through such means as education, direct assistance, financial aid, and the providing of supplies and care-giving products, and referral services. Additionally, The BCS assist in the eradication of breast cancer through education and the support of breast cancer research.

Facts

- Every two minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer.
- One woman in eight who lives to age 85 will develop breast cancer during her lifetime.
- Breast cancer is the leading cause of death in women between the ages of 40 and 55.
- Seventy percent of all breast cancers are found through breast self-exams. Not all lumps are detectable by touch. We recommend regular mammograms and monthly breast self-exams.
- Eight out of ten breast lumps are not cancerous. If you find a lump, don't panic-call your doctor for an appointment.
- Mammography is a low-dose X-ray examination that can detect breast cancer up to two years before it is large enough to be felt.
- When breast cancer is found early, the five-year survival rate is 96%. This is good news! Over 2 million breast cancer survivors are alive in America today.

Signs & Symptoms:

- Lumps. Breast cancer lumps vary and may be hard or soft and have rounded or uneven edges.
- Swelling of part of the breast
- Skin irritation or dimpling
- Nipple pain or the nipple turning inward
- Redness or scaliness of the nipple or breast skin
- Nipple discharge other than breast milk
- A lump in the underarm area

Risk Factors

Age: Half of all women diagnosed are over age 65.

Weight: Being obese or overweight.

Diet & Lifestyle: Lack of physical activity, a diet high in saturated fat, and alcoholic intake of more than two drinks per day.

Menstrual & Reproductive History: Early menstruation or late menopause (after the age of 55), having your first child at an older age or not having given birth, or taking birth control pills for more than ten years if you are under 35.

Family & Personal History: A family history of breast cancer—particularly a mother or sister, or a personal history of benign (non-cancer) breast disease. Never having children or having your first child after the age of 35.

Medical & Other Factors: Dense breast tissue (often identified by a mammogram), past radiation therapy to the breast or chest area. A history of hormone treatments— such as estrogen and progesterone, or gene changes— including BRCA1, BRCA2, and others.



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Breast Cancer Statistics:

- Breast cancer incidence in women in the United States is 1 in 8 (about 13%).
- Approximately 200,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer occurred among women in the US during 2009; about 2,000 new cases of breast cancer developed in men during this same period.
- Close to 40,000 individuals died from breast cancer in 2009 in the U.S.
- The 5-year relative survival for female breast cancer patients has improved from 63% in the early 1960's to 89% today!
- For women in the U.S., breast cancer death rates are higher than those for any other cancer besides lung cancer.
- Besides skin cancer, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among U.S. women.
- White women are more likely to develop breast cancer than African American women, but less likely to die from it. Asian, Hispanic and Native American women have an even lower risk of developing and dying from breast cancer.
- As of 2009, there are over 2.5 million women in the U.S. who have survived breast cancer.
- About 20-30% of women diagnosed with breast cancer have a family history of breast cancer. This means that 70 - 80% of women diagnosed have NO family history.
- About 5-10% of breast cancers are caused by gene mutations inherited from one's mother or father.
- About 90% of breast cancers are due to genetic abnormalities that happen as a result of the aging process and life in general.
- The most significant risk factors for breast cancer are gender and age.
- The 5-year survival rate for all women diagnosed with breast cancer is 89%.
- Women should have a clinical breast exam at least every 3 years between the ages of 20 and 39 and every year starting at 40.



Signs of Breast Cancer

In the early stages, breast cancer may not be painful and there may be no symptoms at all. As the cancer grows, you may start to notice changes in the breast or underarm, such as a lump.

REMEMBER:

These signs and symptoms do not necessarily mean that you have breast cancer. However, you should tell your doctor right away about any lump in the breast or underarm area and any changes in the skin of the breast, nipple, or areola (the area around the nipple).

There is nearly a 100% survival rate when cancer is discovered at the non-invasive stage. This is what makes detecting breast cancer early and receiving appropriate treatment it so important.

Early Detection

- Monthly breast self-examination
- A regular breast exam by a health professional
- Mammography for all women who are age 40 or older
- Personal alertness for changes in the breast
- Readiness to discuss quickly any such changes with a doctor



President's Message

Approximately 200,000 women and 1,500 men are diagnosed with breast cancer in the U.S. on an annual basis. With most of these new cases of breast cancer, the patient is either the sole breadwinner or the primary nurturer in the household. Many of the cases I come across are instances of women being the head of a single-parent home with small children under their care, and who have (with the occurrence of breast cancer) been placed in a terrible situation of no longer being able to work or care for their children due to the rigors of breast cancer treatment (such as chemotherapy, radiation, hospital stays, and so on).

There are several national breast cancer charities in the U.S. performing a wonderful amount of good in regard to research and public education, among other things. While these missions are vital to the public good, I believe that we, as citizens in our prosperous and free society, bear the duty and necessity of providing help to those individuals for whom research and preventative education is not as important as simply acquiring immediate and direct help. If this assistance was not available, many individuals battling breast cancer would have to fight their battle alone. For many of those we help, you (our supporters) stand as their last line of hope!



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TBCS is an IRS tax-exempt organization, and as such donations to the organization are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. EIN 26-0237089