

# ELIXIR FUND



LIFE • LOVE • HEALING  

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CANCER COMFORT CARE

## 2018 Annual Report

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## **MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR**

The past year has not been without its challenges. While early feedback for the Elixir Registry has been positive, moving the project forward to meet the needs of the cancer community has been slow. Through the efforts of our Executive Director we are continuing to make improvements in the Registry and making further strides in reaching those in need. We anticipate the rollout of the new and improved version in mid-2019.

In 2018, Elixir Fund saw an increase in donations thanks to the support of our many generous donors. Also, support for our fundraising events, including the annual East Coast Auction at Mercer Oaks Country Club, was wonderful. We're looking forward to some great events in 2019.

I would like to thank our board of trustees for their dedication to the cause. There is more work to be done but together we can make a difference in the lives of the cancer patients we serve.

Tom Mazanec  
Board Chair



## **MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Elixir Fund is inspired by the idea that random and not so random acts of kindness have healing power. Simple acts by family, friends, or even strangers have power. Bringing over a meal, sending a funny card, or being included in a prayer chain; acts of kindness no matter how great or seemingly small, have a huge impact. It is hard to quantify or put in to words, but in my experience, acts of kindness lift your spirits, lighten your day. Not only does it make things a little easier, but it also opens your heart and makes room for hope.

Our programs and services are designed with the goal of making it simpler for family, friends, and well-meaning strangers to provide random, or not so random, acts of kindness for both cancer patients and their caregivers. Specifically, the Elixir Fund Registry allows patients and caregivers to identify their specific needs so that family and friends, or the community can provide direct and relevant support. We have heard from registrants about the overwhelming impact –both practically and emotionally- that results from receiving gifts off of the registry. Our focus for 2019 will be to expand the Elixir Fund Registry and make it more accessible on a national level.

Meg McQuarrie  
Executive Director



## **THE ELIXIR FUND**

### **Vision**

We aim to be a national resource for patients and caregivers to access support through referrals and program development.

### **Mission Statement**

The Elixir Fund is dedicated to improving the comfort and care of cancer patients and their caregivers.

### **Value Statement**

We recognize that the diagnosis of a serious illness can overwhelm and exhaust both cancer patients and their caregivers. We believe that people deserve to take a break from the cancer journey by shifting the focus from treatment to living.



## PROGRAMS

### THE ELIXIR FUND REGISTRY

In 2018 we helped patients in NJ, PA, AZ and CA. Due to the design of the registry, we were able to help a small number of patients on a very specific basis. We found that even something as simple as a grocery gift card or meal delivery had a tremendous impact. As one patients wrote

*I can not express how the gift of meals during my time of treatment blessed my whole family. I am still in awe of the reality that 'what often seems so small' in comparison to something else, such as – say terminal illness diagnosis, absolutely makes a WORLD of difference. Literally brings peace into an uncertain and often chaotic situation. Thank you, really is not enough.*

We quickly realized that what we initially thought, that the need is for support is great, is true. The requests for help quickly outpaced the current design of the registry. At the same time, we met a pair of engineers that offered to redesign the site for us. The goal is to make a more user friendly, scalable site that we will eventually be able to link to Amazon. This will allow us to provide support on a national level at a faster rate. Our plan is to launch this new and improved site in 2019.

### ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

**Hunterdon Medical Center:** We have continued our close relationship with Hunterdon Medical Center. We work with the staff to try to meet the special needs of patients, and thanks to a generous donation we were able to sponsor a bagel cart for patients and caregivers at the end of 2018.

**Cancer Thriving & Surviving:** Our director Meg McQuarrie completed her certification to be a facilitator for Cancer Thriving and Surviving. This six week, evidenced-based program was designed at Stanford and provides tools to patients and caregivers that will allow them to work through issues related to cancer such as pain management, exercise, nutrition, and future planning. Meg facilitated her first series in October, 2018 and has more planned for 2019.





## PROGRAMS (continued)

**National Support Services:** The Elixir Fund serves as a resource for patients nationwide. This year, our director, Meg McQuarrie, completed the George Washington Cancer Center's Oncology Patient Navigation Training: The Fundamentals, so that she could better serve the needs patients and caregivers. Over the last year we have helped to identify resources for a variety of patients and caregivers, including a daughter in NJ looking for resources for her mother; a patient in PA who is on a limited income and needed some help finding grants; and the family of a mother in CA with two young children who had a recurrence of breast cancer. We were able to provide them information on possible grants and additional resources in their local areas, as well as help them through the Elixir Fund Registry.



## EXPANDING OUR REACH

**TCS New York City Marathon:** We were honored participate as a charity partner for the 2018 TCS New York City Marathon. This year's team consisted of new members Michelle D'Antoni a nurse from New York who was running in honor of her mother who passed from cancer in 2017; Maurice Lowman a multi-marathoner from Rhode Island; Max McQuarrie, nephew of Kevin McQuarrie; and filling in for the anchor positions Meg McQuarrie and Kurt Heinrich returned.

Once again, this was a hugely successful fundraiser for us raising over \$14,700. We are excited to be a charity partner again in 2019.

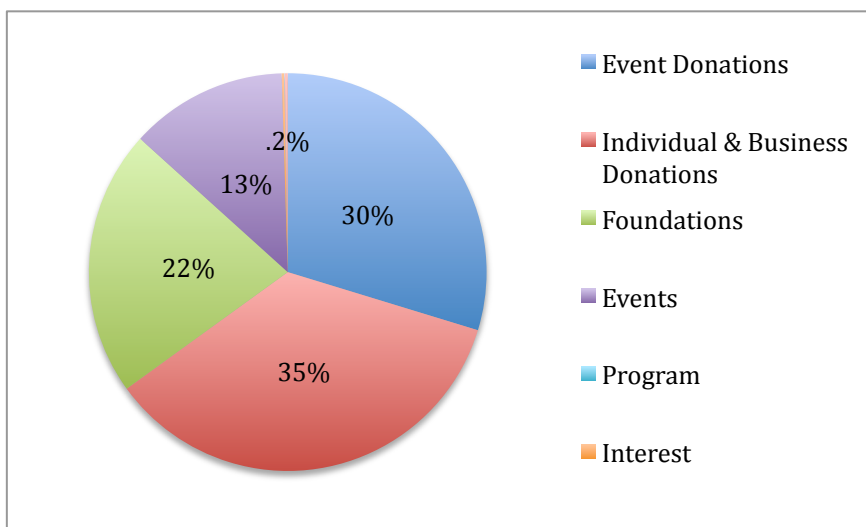




## FINANCIALS

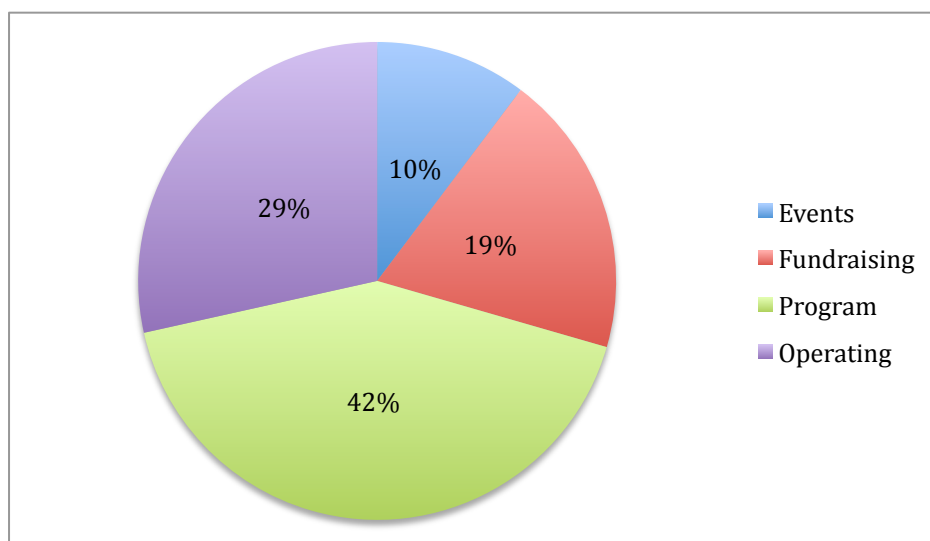
Income \$71,982

<u>Event Donation</u>	<u>\$17,727</u>
<u>Individual &amp; Business Donations</u>	<u>\$24,427</u>
<u>Foundations</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>
<u>Events</u>	<u>\$ 7,620</u>
<u>Program</u>	<u>\$ 1,770</u>
<u>Interest</u>	<u>\$ 216</u>
<u>Merchandise</u>	<u>\$ 80</u>
<u>Misc</u>	<u>\$ 143</u>



Expense \$56,420

<u>Events</u>	<u>\$ 5,791</u>
<u>Fundraising</u>	<u>\$10,835</u>
<u>Program</u>	<u>\$23, 722</u>
<u>Operating</u>	<u>\$16,071</u>







## LOOKING AHEAD

In 2019 our goal is to rebuild the Elixir Fund Registry with a link to Amazon. This will allow us not only to network with local businesses, but also to better meet the needs of patients and caregivers nationwide.

We will continue to rely on our registrants and partners to recommend businesses in their local areas that would be a good fit for the Elixir Fund Registry. If you have businesses or services that you would like to see included in the Elixir Fund Registry, please feel free to send us their information.

We are always looking to spread the word regarding the Elixir Fund Registry. If you know of opportunities whether it be speaking engagements, conferences, or having a table at any event, we are would be interested in hearing about them.

You can also help by spreading the word. Please let friends and family know about the Elixir Fund Registry. Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/elixirfund](https://facebook.com/elixirfund), or @elixirfund on twitter and instagram . Like, share and re-tweet - this will help us to expand our base.



## OUR DONORS

Thank you to our donors:

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