

Annual Report 2017



LIFE • LOVE • HEALING
CANCER COMFORT CARE

Elixir Fund, Inc
elixirfund.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A diagnosis of cancer can be overwhelming, but living with cancer doesn't have to be. The Elixir Fund is inspired by Kevin McQuarrie and his life-affirming approach to cancer treatment. While Kevin set the tone for his treatment, he also surrounded himself with people that supported that vision. It was that support that allowed him not only to greet each new challenge, but also to live fully. It in that spirit that we created the Elixir Fund Registry. The goal of the registry is to provide a resource to patients and their caregivers that enables them to empower their support network to help in the way that is most beneficial. The registrants will not only have their needs met but they will also receive many less quantifiable, but equally important benefits.

In 2017 we focused on adding patients and caregivers to the registry slowly and consciously. We focused on the two states where we have the strongest networks- New Jersey & California. We wanted to insure that we are meeting the greatest needs of our registrants in the most direct and effective way possible. At the same time, we continued to serve as resource for patients and caregivers nationwide.

We have learned a great deal in the past year and are looking forward to putting all of that into an updated version of the Elixir Fund Registry in 2018.

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

The Elixir Fund Registry has continued to grow. We added 6 new patients this year and 13 new businesses in two states. While those numbers may not seem dramatic, we are steadily gaining momentum and have started off 2018 with a list of meetings and prospects to discuss possible partnerships.

Grant from the Mary Anne Mazanec Ovarian Cancer Foundation (MAMOCF): We were able to utilize the MAMOCF grant to provide additional support to 2 applicants to help with car repairs and paying rent. We have made it a condition of the grant that applicants must be actively using the registry in order to receive additional assistance. The assistance will be for items beyond what is currently available on the registry. Applicants can request a one-time grant of up to \$500.



Elaine H. reached out to us for help through the Elixir Fund Registry. Our generous supporters purchased gift certificates for food and helped subsidize an MAMOCF grant we gave to Elaine to help with much needed car repairs.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Headsets for Cancer Institute of New Jersey: The Elixir Fund has worked with the Cancer Institute of New Jersey in a variety of ways over the years. This year, we donated 100 headsets to the Patient Education Department for use with their ipads. Patients who are coming in for treatment have access to the ipads to help them pass the time listening to music or watching movies.

National Support Services: The Elixir Fund continues to serve as a national resource helping patients and caregivers to identify support services in their local areas. We have heard from people across the country including a man in Florida who has brain cancer looking for financial support for him and his family, a woman looking for resources for her mother on hospice in Pennsylvania, and daughter in California looking for some pampering for her dad who was in the hospital waiting to see if the treatment was working. The majority of requests we receive are for financial assistance and there are few, if any, organizations that offer meaningful financial assistance. Our goal in creating the Elixir Fund Registry was to find a way to help meet some of the day-to-day needs of cancer patients and their caregivers so that they could put their financial resources towards treatment and some of their larger bills.



EXPANDING OUR REACH

Once again, in 2017 third party events helped us expand our reach, introduce our programs to a variety of new donors and raise over \$21,000. We would like to thank:



John & Kate Finnegan of The MAX checking in guests at the MAX Day of Giving event to benefit The Elixir Fund.

The MAX of East Windsor choosing the Elixir Fund as the beneficiary of their “MAX Day of Giving” event for the second year in a row. This year they hosted a special class and raffled off incredible prizes.

TEAM KEVIN reunited for a fourth triathlon. This year they chose the Lobsterman Tri in Maine. The course was challenging, making the post race Lobster Bake well worth it. This was the largest TEAM KEVIN with 3 relay teams and one individual racer.



TEAM KEVIN (top l to r): Bill Clifford, Jill McConnell, Suzie Baer, Shelly Moore, Kurt Heinrich & Abby Bliss (bottom l to r) Susan Clifford, Jenny Godnick, Meg McQuarrie, & Rebecca Goodwin



EXPANDING OUR REACH (continued)

TEAM ELIXIR took on the TCS New York City Marathon once again. This year our team was comprised of Jason Reilly, Kurt Heinrich, Shannon Moore, Brian Cross, Meg McQuarrie & Myriam Oliver.



Jason Reilly, of The MAX of East Windsor, ran his first marathon with TEAM ELIXIR.



Myriam Oliver, who benefitted from Elixir Fund's comfort services back in 2010, ran the TCS New York City Marathon for the Elixir Fund as a way to give back.

Our team was extra-special this year because of the variety of personal reasons that members were running. Myriam Oliver was a patient that we were introduced to back in 2010. She received one of our “Elixir Comfort Kits” that included a DVD player, Netflix subscription and a handmade blanket. She wanted to do one more marathon, her first post treatment, and decided to do it as a fundraiser for the Elixir Fund as a way to give back.

Shannon Moore has long been a friend of the Elixir Fund. She and her dad Jack used to come to our west coast events as a way to celebrate his recovery from cancer. Shannon ran the Boston Marathon as a fundraiser for us and had wanted to do the TCS New York City Marathon but scheduling conflicts hadn't allowed it. In December 2016, Jack's cancer returned. As a way to honor her father, Shannon and her brother Brian decided that they would run the TCS New York City Marathon for him. This plan was even more poignant because Jack is from New York. They were able to tell their dad of their plan shortly before he passed in January, 2017. We were honored to be able to continue to share Jack's incredible spirit through their race.



Members of TEAM ELIXIR from (l to r) Kurt Heinrich, Shannon Moore, Brian Cross, & Meg McQuarrie. Shannon & Brian ran in honor of their dad Jack.



FINANCIALS

Income \$73, 829

Event Donation \$21,945

Individual &
Business Donations \$26, 063

Foundations \$16,000

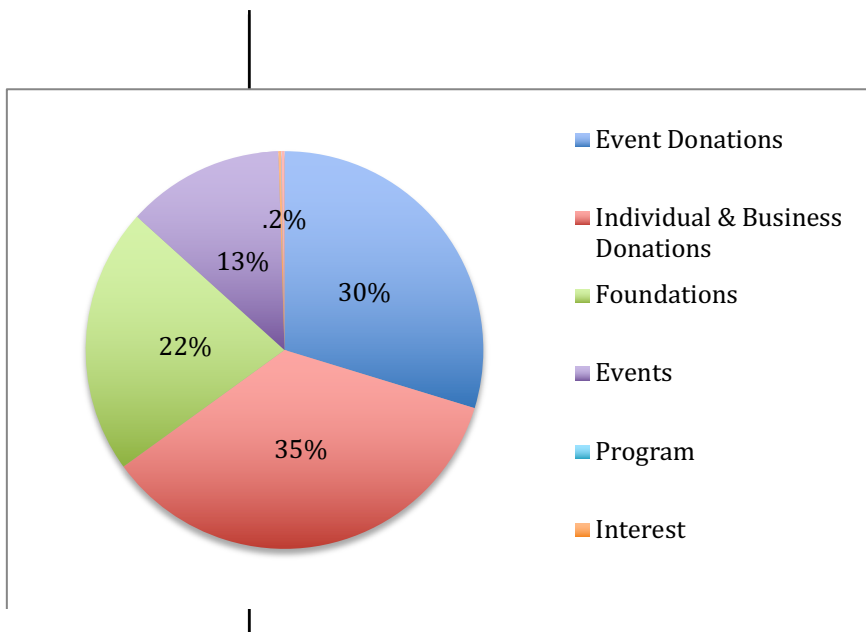
Events \$ 9,460

Program 0

Interest \$ 159

Merchandise \$ 30

Misc \$ 172



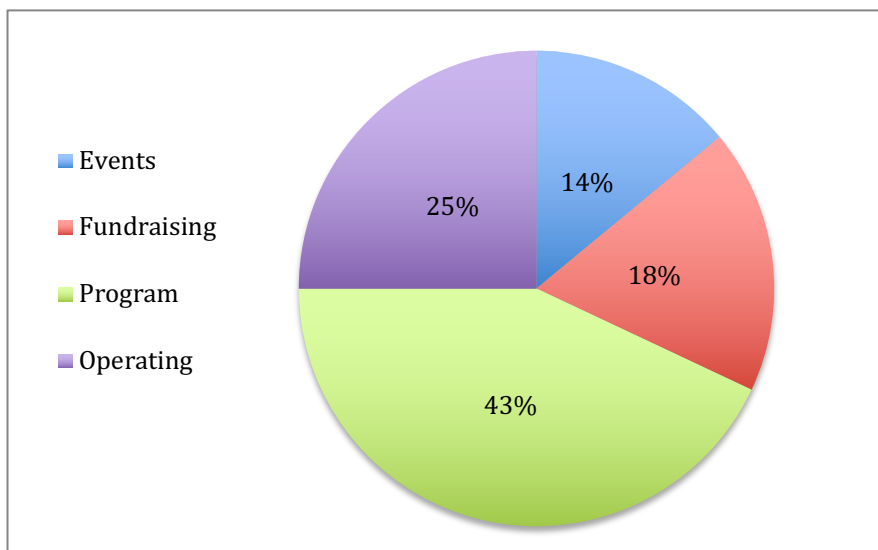
Expense \$53, 664

Events \$ 7,309

Fundraising \$ 9,843

Program \$23, 239

Operating \$13. 273





LOOKING AHEAD

In 2018 we plan to continue to expand the Elixir Fund Registry. As we continue to work with hospitals and community groups in New Jersey, we are also beginning to reach out to our contacts in the Philadelphia area. If you know of a patient or caregiver that could use support whether it be short or long-term; due to a chronic illness, surgery or other care need, please refer them to us.

As we register patients, we will look for them to recommend businesses in their local areas. However, in the meantime, 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, or on twitter at [@elixirfund](https://twitter.com/elixirfund). Like, share and re-tweet - this will help us to expand our base.



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