

# **Barnett-Searing**

National Cancer Foundation



# **2024 Annual Report**

# LEGACY AND HISTORY

**The Barnett-Searing National Cancer Foundation (BSNCF) was founded in 2001 to honor two courageous women and carry on their legacy through philanthropy.**

Mary Barnett was a devoted teacher and mother. She inspired her students with her love of learning and positivity. Her family was the most important thing in her life. Mary bravely fought uterine sarcoma and passed away in 2002, at age 55.



Jennifer Searing was known for her kindness, warmth and contagious laugh. Always offering a smile, words of encouragement, or a spirit of service, she made a lasting impact on everyone she met. In 1995, Jenny passed away from ovarian sarcoma at the age of 26.



*Oh! I wish I were a butterfly  
To be free to go and fly high.  
I would spread my wings, my beautiful wings,  
And do all sorts of silly things.  
And when it was time to go,  
I would soar high,  
And the wind would blow.  
And if I were to die, deep down I would know  
That everyone loves a butterfly!*

Poem written by Jenny Searing at age 13



# MISSION STATEMENT

For over two decades, BSNCF has been on a mission to stand alongside women facing cancer, offering them comfort and support. Our goal is to lift spirits, spark hope, and remind these courageous women that they are not alone -- they have a whole community cheering them on.



# MEET THE TEAM



**Brett Fox**

Serving as Outreach Director for BSNCF since 2023, Brett takes pride in providing comfort to women fighting cancer.



**Kara Manton**

Since 2023, Kara has been the web designer for BSNCF, helping to boost its online presence and share its mission in a meaningful way.

# BSNCF LEADERSHIP



BOARD SPOTLIGHT



**John Searing**  
John co-founded BSNCF in 2001 to honor the legacy of his sister, Jenny.

Chairman of the Board



BOARD SPOTLIGHT



**Kevin Barnett**  
Kevin co-founded BSNCF in 2001 to honor the legacy of his mother, Mary.

Vice Chairman



BOARD SPOTLIGHT



**Kevin Edwards**  
As the Treasurer of BSNCF, Kevin is committed to furthering our mission to bring comfort and care to women battling cancer.

Board Treasurer



BOARD SPOTLIGHT



**Amy Warner**  
Amy, a close friend of Jenny Searing, joined the Board to honor her legacy. She now serves as a mentor to the staff.

Board Secretary



BOARD SPOTLIGHT



**Mike Cummings**  
Mike is an avid sailor and most recently sailed his boat, Challenge Accepted, from Newport, RI to Bermuda to raise awareness for BSNCF.

Board Member



BOARD SPOTLIGHT



**Alejandra Jensen**  
Alejandra is a passionate advocate and supporter of women battling cancer.

Board Member



BOARD SPOTLIGHT



**Jen Marden**  
Jen has been a valuable member of the BSNCF Board of Directors since 2022.

Board Member



BOARD SPOTLIGHT



**Athena Scalise Waitt**  
Athena is a Thriver and wellness professional on a mission to bring hope to other Thrivers.

Board Member

# THRIVERS



**THRIVER OF THE MONTH**

Kimberly A. from New York

FEBRUARY



2024



**THRIVER OF THE MONTH**

Beth V. from Iowa

MARCH



2024



**THRIVER OF THE MONTH**

THERESA from ILLINOIS

APRIL



2024



**THRIVER OF THE MONTH**

KENDRA from GEORGIA

MAY



2024



**THRIVER OF THE MONTH**

ROBYN from WASHINGTON

JUNE



2024



**THRIVER OF THE MONTH**

Valerie from St. Louis, MO

AUGUST



2024

Our reigning 2024 Thriver of the Year, Kelly, has had an incredible year! From crossing countless finish lines to saying "I do" at a Thanksgiving Turkey Trot, she's truly unstoppable!



**2024**

**THRIVER OF THE YEAR**

Kelly Russo



**THRIVER OF THE MONTH**

Toshika from North Carolina

JULY



2024

"My cancer journey has taught me that I am much stronger than I think. I get up each day and thank God for allowing me to see another day. My advice to others is keep fighting, keep going because you never know who your strength may encourage!"

- Toshika

# SMILE KITS

BSNCF Smile Kits are carefully curated care packages filled with items to bring comfort and joy to women battling cancer. This year, we delivered Smile Kits to cancer respite centers and chemo clinics, providing comfort when women need it most. Additionally, we mailed Smile Kits to 185 cancer heroes nominated by loved ones.



“[My friend] received the Smile Kit in the mail yesterday. She said it was very sweet and made her whole day better. She really needed a pick-me-up. Thanks for all you do.”



# 5,016

The total number of care packages that have been gifted to cancer heroes since the inception of the Smile Kits program. This year, we held collection and assembly events at Congregation Sha'are Shalom, Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center, and Loudoun County High.



# 1,500+

Cards of encouragement created by students, volunteers, students, and other survivors in 2024. Special shout-out to Dell Medical School, Catholic University Delta Sigma Theta, Starz Gold-Fishburn 16U softball team, Girls on Top of the World, Jennifer and Abby.



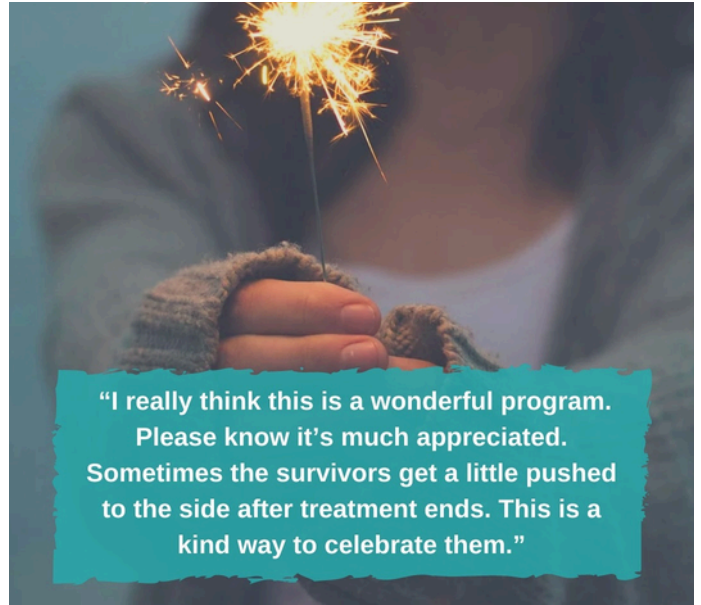
# ANNUAL SMILE KIT DAY WITH LCHS

Students from Loudoun County High School in Leesburg, VA collected and packed over 150 Smile Kits. 2024 marks the seventh year of teamwork among NHS, FBLA, and Interact students. We are so grateful for their support.



# CANCERVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

In 2024, BSNCF launched a program to celebrate cancerversaries, marking significant milestones like date of diagnosis or treatment completion. Each year, BSNCF will send a gift to commemorate this meaningful day, filled with thoughtful items to celebrate strength, resilience, and courage. This special package is our way of recognizing a victory over cancer and a reminder of an incredible journey.



## 616

We have collected over 600 pairs of sneakers since January 2024, raising \$140 (and doing our part to be green!)



Volunteer efforts included sneaker collections, card-making, Smile Kit assembly, and Captain Mike's boat race.







My inspiration is:  
**HAVING NO  
 CANCER FOR  
 3.5 YEARS!**  
 Barnett-Searing  
 National Cancer Foundation  
 www.bsncf.org

**BSNCF  
 THRIVERS 5K**



**BARNETT-SEARING NATIONAL CANCER FOUNDATION**

**THRIVERS  
 RUN/WALK**

**MEMORIAL  
 DAY  
 WEEKEND**

**ANY DISTANCE, ANY TIME, ANYWHERE  
 VIRTUAL RACE**



- FREE for Thrivers
- Cool Swag
- Support women with cancer

Register TODAY at:  
<http://bit.ly/3xGkdo1>

John Searing running in the Patriots Triathlon in September 2024, raising awareness for BSNCF.



In May, Thrivers and their families participated in the Thrivers Run/Walk. Racers received a swag bag with a T-shirt, race bib and more. The virtual event raised \$925.

# ANNOUNCING THE 2025 SMILE AWARDS



**Amber Forehand-Hughes**  
Thrifer of the Year

**Roy Zaletski**  
Team BSNCF Athlete of the Year

**Riverside High FBLA/Interact**  
Youth Inspire Award

**Annapolis Parrot Head Club**  
Partner of the Year

## TEAM BSNCF ATHLETE OF THE YEAR: ROY ZALETSKI

We are thrilled to highlight our dear friend Roy Zaletski from San Diego, CA. For over ten years, Roy has participated in races to raise funds, awareness, and support for BSNCF.

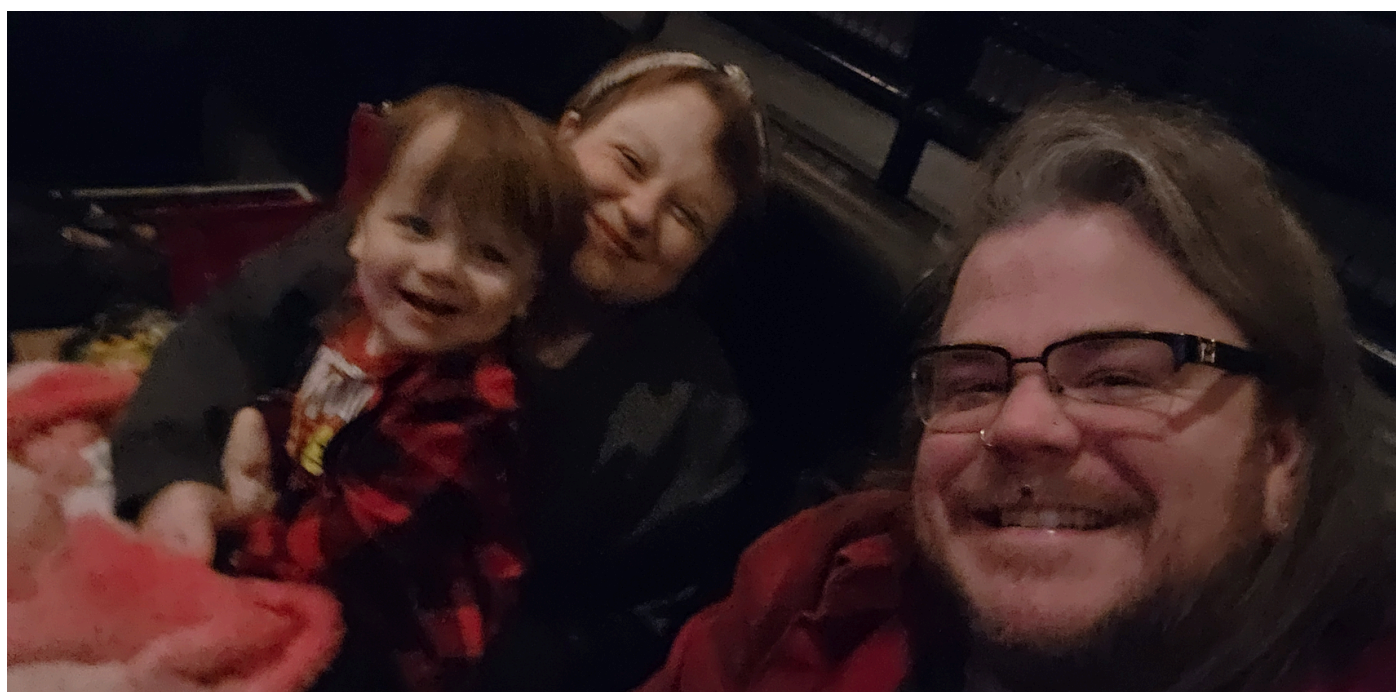


# THRIVER OF THE YEAR: AMBER FOREHAND-HUGHES

## Meet BSNCF 2025 Thriver of the Year!

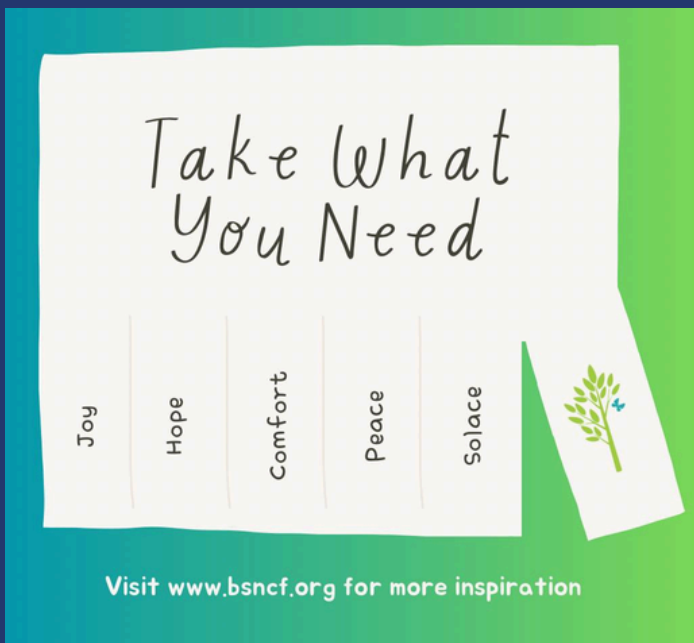
Amber, from Portsmouth, Virginia, was nominated by her husband and high school sweetheart, Donald. In his heartfelt nomination, Donald shared: “Amber is so special in so many ways. She was diagnosed with Stage IV triple positive breast cancer in 2023. She has fought through 6 months of harsh TCHP chemo and transitioned into maintenance chemo regiment in a way that I know I never could. She always has so much grace, composure, and humor especially when she's around her fellow patients who all see her as a great source of encouragement and laughter. She has been through so much and never missed a beat.”

Whether she's keeping up with her energetic two-year-old son or advocating for fellow breast cancer patients, Amber truly embodies what it means to be a thriver!



# YOUTH INSPIRE AWARD: RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL FBLA/INTERACT

For Adolescents and Young Adults (AYAs) facing cancer, the journey is filled with unique physical and emotional challenges. BSNCF's Shine Kits are made especially for these resilient young patients. Created in collaboration with Riverside High School's FBLA/Interact students, Shine Kits are specially curated care packages designed to bring comfort, hope, and encouragement to those who need it most. We are truly inspired by the dedication and compassion of these remarkable students, whose efforts have made the Shine Kits a reality. We are proud to call them the 2025 Youth Inspire Award winners!



“Thanks SO much for thinking of me. Saturday was my ickiest post-treatment day so far, but your Smile Kit literally made me smile. It has a lovely fleece blanket, some cozy socks, lip balm, several handmade cards, and a wonderful famous world cities coloring book and pencils that reminded me that better days will (hopefully) be ahead. You made my day!”

# ANNAPOLIS PARROT HEAD CLUB

The Annapolis Parrot Head Club once again stepped up to support women with cancer. We raised a glass and bid on prizes at the Federal House Restaurant for a happy hour, followed by Jimmy Buffett's "Escape to Margaritaville" at the Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre. The event brought in over \$4,900 for BSNCF. We are so grateful for the support of Richard and the Annapolis Parrot Heads!



**ANNAPOLIS PARROT HEAD CLUB BENEFIT**  
**JIMMY BUFFETT'S ESCAPE TO MARGARITAVILLE**

**SATURDAY**  
**JULY**  
**13TH**  
**8:30PM**



**\$50**  
**SHOW**

**\$50**  
**HAPPY HOUR**

PRESENTED BY  
THE ANNAPOLIS  
SUMMER GARDEN  
THEATRE

BENEFITTING THE  
BARNETT-SEARING  
NATIONAL CANCER  
FOUNDATION

"What a fun night! It was so nice to see everyone again and help support a great cause!"

With your support, we can keep growing and spreading comfort and joy to women facing cancer. Every contribution helps us make a difference in the lives of these incredible women. Thank you for being such an important part of the BSNCF mission!

### GET INVOLVED WITH BSNCF



Donate to fund Smile Kits and other BSNCF programs



Volunteer to make cards or start a fundraiser



Nominate a cancer hero for a Smile Kit



Share your Thriver story



# Barnett-Searing National Cancer Foundation

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BSNCF has been awarded the Platinum Seal of Transparency with Candid (formerly GuideStar).

When you donate, you can feel confident your donation is going toward trustworthy initiatives for women with cancer.