

BREAST CANCER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION - 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Founded in 2001, the **Breast Cancer Education Association (BCEA)** is committed to educating the community by providing support and information about detection, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship. At local community events, through educational webinars and at an inspiring annual conference, volunteers connect those whose lives are impacted by breast cancer with support resources and the latest information on research, prevention, treatment and care.

EDUCATING survivors, health care professionals and caregivers — our annual conference is the only event of its kind in the Twin Cities. This full day of learning empowers survivors, caregivers and health care providers with the knowledge and resources to live with, through and beyond breast cancer. Scholarships are provided to those who need financial assistance.

A survey of the **22nd annual conference attendees** indicated that **100% would recommend the conference** to others.

"Would absolutely recommend! Packed full of relevant breast cancer topics for newly diagnosed and survivors young and old!"

"These conferences are powerful. Reinforces that you are not alone."

EMPOWERING people with actionable information about breast cancer detection, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship. BCEA volunteers and Breast Cancer Champions reached more than **10,000 individuals** at more than **60 events** in 2023. Mobile mammography was available at 26 events, and referrals to local clinics and health centers resulted in more than **500 confirmed screenings**. Volunteers engaged with **3900 people** over 3 days at the Minnesota State Fair, sharing breast cancer screening guidelines and survivor resources in the HealthFair 11 building.

BCEA volunteers and Breast Cancer Champions dedicated over **2,800 service hours** throughout the year – developing educational programs, engaging people in communities at higher risk for breast cancer incidence and mortality, staffing events, fundraising, and filling essential roles on our board and volunteer committees.



OUR MISSION

"To educate the community by providing support and information about breast cancer detection, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship."



COLLABORATING with community-based organizations such as the Native American Community Clinic, The Center Clinic in Dodge Center and the LAO Center of Minnesota to reach Minnesota's underserved communities. BCEA is at the forefront of efforts to reduce mortality rates by increasing the number of breast cancer screenings. Generous grants from the Randy Shaver Cancer Research and Community Fund have made it possible to expand our outreach to Native American, black and immigrant African, Asian American and rural Hispanic communities. Access to convenient, free mammograms is offered through the Sage Screening Program of the Minnesota Department of Health in neighborhood clinics and health organizations.

Our **Breast Cancer Champions (BCC)** program is an innovative approach to improving breast cancer screening rates and outcomes for women of African heritage. Nationally, women of African heritage die at higher rates from breast cancer than women of other races or ethnicities. The BCC program recruits and trains women who are influential leaders in their own communities to offer peer-to-peer culturally appropriate education and referrals to essential health resources, including free mammograms. The program is supported by multiple community organizations and health centers. Partners include African American Breast Cancer Alliance, Health Partners Park Nicollet, Masonic Cancer Center (UMN), Neighborhood HealthSource, NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center, Pillsbury United Communities and Sage Screening Programs at the Minnesota Department of Health.