## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**



# Providing Help and Hope

### **Mission**

We believe no cancer patient should fall behind on treatment because they struggle to afford their everyday expenses. Our mission is to provide practical and immediate financial assistance to eligible cancer patients in our community so they can focus on what matters most: healing.

## **Message from Jim Essay**Board President

#### **PROVIDING HOPE**

## Empowering the Heartland to Heal

We aspire to provide compassion and hope and remove barriers to care by covering home, auto, gas cards, and utility costs for local cancer patients in need of additional support during their treatment journey.

#### **Collective Impact**

Chances are, cancer has had an impact on your life. Over 10,000 Nebraskans received a cancer diagnosis this year. That includes our neighbors, co-workers, friends, and family. Our wonderful circle of donors and supporters come together to care for those in our community facing both a cancer diagnosis and a financial hardship.





Jim Essay

The Heartland Cancer Foundation (HCF) was founded in 2006 by dedicated individuals who had vision, drive, and passion to make a difference in the lives of cancer patients in the heartland.

Reflecting on our most successful year, I am proud of the great work

achieved by Heartland Cancer Foundation. I want to thank our generous donors, our dedicated staff, the Impact Guild, and our dedicated Board of Directors. Together, we are helping to make lives better for cancer patients.

Please join us in this work. In this report you will see a few examples of how we are working to accelerate the pace of grants and programs at HCF and to ensure that we are here to serve our region for generations to come.

Together, we will continue to change the story for every patient and family across the heartland that needs our help.

Thank you.

Jim Essay

**Board President** 

"We are proud of the role we play in getting people back on their feet"

Jim Essay

#### **PROVIDING HELP**

#### Pasju Kubert's Story



Pasju Kubert, a professional artist, two-time cancer survivor, and Heartland Cancer Foundation grant recipient explains what the Heartland Cancer Foundation has done for him. "They have helped me to pay my rent and to get to my multiple doctor's appointments and helped

me to feel as though I am a part of an organization that understands and wants to support my healing process."

"If it wasn't for organizations like the Heartland Cancer Foundation, it would not be possible to go through all the things I have to go through. To know that I am supported and cared for allows me to focus on what I love, which is making art. You need somebody to turn to, to help you live a comfortable life, and Heartland Cancer Foundation has been a lifesaver for me."

- Pasju Kubert

## MEETING BASIC NEEDS THROUGH GRANTS

#### **Utility Assistance**

**\$25,391.11** provided in utility assistance to ensure that water, electricity and phone service remain turned for patients.

#### **Housing Assistance**

**\$119,605.40** was issued for rent and mortgage payments to keep cancer patients in their home.

#### **Transportation Assistance**

**\$19,986.46** was issued in car payments to make sure cancer patients had transportation.

#### **Gas Cards**

**\$40,725.00** was given out in the form of gas cards to keep vehicles running.

#### **TOTAL PATIENT GRANTS:**

\$205,707.97

#### **Mardi Gras Supports Heartland Cancer Foundation Grants**

The Heartland Cancer Foundation raised \$135,500 from the Mardi Gras event. This festive event is a fan favorite with a packed audience of stakeholders, donors, supporters, and friends. Participants come from several cities to attend. The next Mardi Gras will be virtual so stay tuned for more information.



#### **Heartland Cancer Foundation Guild**



Heartland Cancer Foundation is fortunate to have a dedicated, talented, and creative guild. The guild brings in major funds. Each year the guild successfully organizes and coordinates the Mardi Gras Gala which brings in thousands of dollars in

fundraising for the organization. Thanks to the work of the guild, the Mardi Gras event has grown every year.

## Golf Tournament Increases Funds for Patient Grants

The golf tournament raises nearly \$37,000. The funds support grants cancer patients.



#### **Testimonial**

"Just wanted to share with you that on Dec 23rd I was praying. It came to me that no matter what situation we find ourselves in, the light of Christ is always shining on us. Later that day on the way to my treatment I opened my mail and found the generous gifts that Heartland Cancer Foundation had given to me. I was in one of those moments when you are half crying and half laughing with gratitude. Thanks for shining light on me!"



#### **FINANCES**

Income \$499,725.90 Expenses \$280,747.40

Heartland Cancer Foundation provided additional grants to cancer patients due to receiving the \$105,000 CARES grant from the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jim Essay, President
Tracie Hrnicek, Vice President
Michael Henkenius, Treasurer
Jason Cetak, Community Volunteer
David Reese, Community Volunteer
Jim Sizemore, Community Volunteer
Larry Albers, Legal Counsel
Shannon Booth, Board Member
Leslie Bargen, Board Member

#### Danny Can Enjoy His Grandson Now

Danny was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer. His greatest desire was to be available for his sweet grandson Brandon. Danny's grandson would come over to spend time with him. Since Danny was unable to work due to his treatments he was worried about having to pay the utilities. Heartland Cancer Foundation provided grants for utility assistance and mortgage. Now Danny had peace of mind and can enjoy spending time with his grandson.



#### **Testimonial**

"It is hard to express in so many words the heartfelt thanks for all of the financial help that your foundation has given us in our time of need. It was a real blessing. Thank you from the bottom of my heart"

