

# FRONTLINE™



Summer 2019

## PBCC Conference 2019: Why YOU (and your friends) Need to be There!



Empowering Connections

Supportive Networking

Cutting-edge Workshops

The PA Breast Cancer Coalition invites you to attend the 2019 PBCC Conference **Friday, October 18** at the Hilton Harrisburg! Don't miss the opportunity to hear from breast cancer experts like **2019 Potamkin Prize Winner Dr. Gabriel Hortobagyi**, an internationally recognized breast cancer researcher whose discoveries have advanced breast cancer treatment around the world. Spend the day with nearly 1,000 fellow breast cancer survivors, nurses, doctors, radiologists, social workers, caregivers, researchers and advocates. Bring your friends for the connections, the networking, the workshops, the shopping and the fun! [Learn more at pbcc.me/conference](http://pbcc.me/conference)

REGISTER  
TODAY  
for \$35

Meet our  
**2019**

## AWARDEES



**Gabriel N. Hortobagyi, MD, FACP**  
University of Texas  
MD Anderson Cancer Center

POTAMKIN PRIZE



**Robin Shine Maddox**  
Breast Cancer Survivor  
Women's Health Advocate

PINK RIBBON

*Thank you, PA. Sen. Mario Scavello*  
for your commitment to co-sponsor this  
life-saving legislation for the women of PA!



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



# ACTION UPDATE



**Pat Halpin-Murphy**  
President and Founder

**Things are happening!** Because of YOU, additional breast cancer screening legislation that will save the lives of women in Pennsylvania now has the attention and support of 23 out of 50 state senators. But... **we need more**, and we can do this together.

Here's what you need to know about the legislation that is soon-to-be introduced by Chief Sponsor **PA Sen. Bob Mensch**. The bill calls for:

► **Insurance coverage of additional breast cancer screenings including ultrasound and MRI for PA women with dense breasts or women considered at high risk for breast cancer**

- As you may know, traditional mammograms may not show breast cancer in women with dense breast tissue. Additional screenings like ultrasound or MRI may be necessary in those cases, but often require high out-of-pocket costs. Under this bill, these screenings will be at **no cost** to the woman.

## HOW to HELP

### CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATOR TODAY!

- 1 Find your senator at [pbcc.me/findmylawmaker](http://pbcc.me/findmylawmaker)
- 2 Call, visit or email him/her and tell them why it is **so important** to co-sponsor this legislation for women in PA

**IS YOUR SENATOR ON THIS LIST?** Say *Thank you* for co-sponsoring!

**Chief Sponsor: Sen. Bob Mensch (R- Montgomery)**

**Sen. Mario Scavello (R-Monroe)**, Chair, Senate Banking and Insurance Committee  
**Sen. Sharif Street (D-Philadelphia)**, Minority chair, Senate Banking and Insurance Committee

#### **Republicans**

Sen. Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne)  
Sen. Carmen Bartolotta (R-Washington)  
Sen. Mike Folmer (R-Lebanon)  
Sen. Thomas Killion (R-Delaware)  
Sen. Daniel Laughlin (R-Erie)  
Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York)  
Sen. Robert Tomlinson (R-Bucks)  
Sen. Judy Ward (R-Blair)

#### **Democrats**

Sen. John Blake (D-Lackawanna)  
Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Northampton)  
Sen. James Brewster (D-Allegheny)  
Sen. Maria Collett (D-Montgomery)  
Sen. Jay Costa (D-Allegheny)  
Sen. Lawrence Farnese, Jr. (D-Phila.)  
Sen. Wayne Fontana (D-Allegheny)  
Sen. Art Haywood (D-Montgomery)

Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-Phila.)  
Sen. Steven Santarsiero (D-Bucks)  
Sen. Judith Schwank (D-Berks)  
Sen. Christine Tartaglione (D-Phila.)

## SURVIVOR SPOTLIGHT

# MEET *Elaine Shields* Bucks County

*Six months after a clean mammogram, Elaine Shields felt something. Her dense breast tissue was hiding cancer on her mammogram. Now she's on a mission with the PA Breast Cancer Coalition to ensure the same thing doesn't happen to any other women.*

### Tell us about learning you had breast cancer.

**ELAINE:** After having my mammograms annually since the age of 38 (I'm 55 now), I was surprised to find a dent in my breast (March of 2018) six months after my annual exam. After I found the dent, I had my mammogram followed by an ultrasound and it was recommended that I contact a breast surgeon. I had a biopsy and was diagnosed with Stage 2b Invasive Lobular Carcinoma.

The cancer was a slow growing cancer. I underwent a unilateral mastectomy and the pathology report showed cancer was found in all four quadrants of my breast, axillary tail and lymph nodes. The largest tumor was 5 cm. I didn't understand how such a slow growing cancer could have been everywhere. After researching, I found that invasive lobular carcinoma does not grow in a discreet lump like ductal carcinoma but the cells grow in a row so they don't show up as well in mammogram. To make things worse for me, I had dense breast tissue. Through research, I've learned that dense breast tissue and cancer both show up white on a mammogram. I believe that my cancer had been hiding in my breast for years.

### What was the biggest unexpected change in your life after your diagnosis?

**ELAINE:** I've had to learn to be more patient. I have also learned that researching my type of breast cancer was important for me to be able to advocate for myself. I was not able to return to work because of complications that I had with chemo, radiation and hormonal therapy.



### How do you feel your diagnosis would have been different if you had an MRI or ultrasound?

**ELAINE:** I was told for years that I had dense breast tissue but never told what that actually meant or what to do with that information. It wasn't until my diagnosis that I realized that had I had an MRI or ultrasound, my cancer may have been found sooner.

I had 3D mammograms for years and they did not find my cancer. I believed that 3D mammograms were the gold standard for breast cancer screening. This was not the case for me.

**I believe my cancer  
had been *hiding* in  
my breast for *years*.**

“

You have now become an advocate for women with dense breasts, calling on state senators to co-sponsor legislation that will provide insurance coverage for breast density screenings. How can other women get involved?

**ELAINE:** Contact your local state senator and ask him/her to co-sponsor PA Sen. Bob Mensch's proposed legislation regarding MRI and ultrasound coverage! I contacted my state senator, Sen. Tommy Tomlinson (R-Bucks County) and he graciously decided to co-sponsor Sen. Mensch's proposed legislation.

I hope that more women with dense breast tissue reading my story will have access to better screening in the hopes of avoiding an advanced cancer diagnosis and all that goes along with it.

Take action. Save lives. 

## **Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community - \$6,627**

special thanks to our PBCC Captain Marilyn Fuller-Smith and the Breast Friends Walking!



## **GRASSROOTS PARTNERS**



1



2

### **1. Ride 4 Life - \$1,880**

### **2. One Lap of America - \$3,670**



3



4



5



6

- 3. Pucks with Pros - \$6,036** | **4. Royer's Flowers & Gifts - \$160**  
**5. Sofa Selections - \$540** | **6. Cumberland Valley Hitmen - \$417**



## Budmen for Boobies

York, PA

### Shining Light AWARDEES



## Dance for Life

Pittsburgh, PA

Honor our two Shining Light Awardees, our dedicated Grassroots Partners and survivors at the **PBCC Pink Party!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**PBCC Photo Exhibit Opening**  
Friday, September 6  
Mifflin County Courthouse  
Lewistown, PA  
[pbcc.me/Mifflin](http://pbcc.me/Mifflin)

**PBCC Photo Exhibit Opening**  
Tuesday, October 8  
Penn State Schuylkill  
Schuylkill Haven, PA  
[pbcc.me/psuschuylkill](http://pbcc.me/psuschuylkill)

**Turn the State Capitol Fountain Pink**  
Tuesday, October 1  
State Capitol East Wing Fountain  
Harrisburg, PA  
[pbcc.me/pinkfountain](http://pbcc.me/pinkfountain)

**PBCC Pink Party & Conference**  
Thursday, October 17 - Pink Party  
Friday, October 18 - Conference  
Hilton Harrisburg  
Harrisburg, PA  
[pbcc.me/conference](http://pbcc.me/conference)



Host an event in your community! Visit **[pbcc.me/hostevent](http://pbcc.me/hostevent)** and get started!

## Breast Cancer and Social Security Disability: What You Need to Know

**Joanne Grossi, MiPP**

Executive Vice President  
**PA Breast Cancer Coalition**

Pennsylvania State President  
**AARP**



When a woman is fighting breast cancer, she knows she is battling on **three fronts**: the **medical**, the **emotional**, and the **financial**. For those especially with metastatic breast cancer, she may no longer be able to work and could be faced with the fear of lost income.

The good news is that some women who can no longer work may qualify for Social Security Disability. To qualify for Social Security disability benefits, you must first have worked in jobs covered by Social Security. Then you must have a medical

condition that meets Social Security's definition of disability, which includes some types of breast cancer. In general, Social Security will pay monthly benefits to people who are unable to work for a year or more because of a disability.

While applying for Social Security disability can require filling out a number of forms and waiting months for a decision, some cases can be expedited through a Compassionate Allowance. Compassionate Allowances are cases where individuals have medical conditions so severe they obviously meet Social Security's disability standards,

allowing Social Security to process the cases quickly with minimal medical information. There's no special application or form you need to submit for Compassionate Allowances. Simply apply for disability benefits using the standard Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) application. Once you have been identified as having a Compassionate Allowance condition, Social Security will expedite your disability application.



## APPLY *for* **SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY**



Online at **[pbcc.me/SSD](http://pbcc.me/SSD)**



Call **1-800-325-0778**



Find an office  
**[pbcc.me/ssoffice](http://pbcc.me/ssoffice)**

*If your application is denied the first time, don't give up; you have the right to appeal.*

# OUT & ABOUT

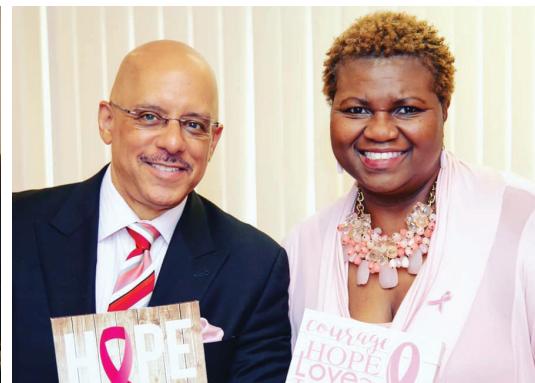
with the PA Breast Cancer Coalition



## Real Women, Real Stories: Celebrating Life, Courage, Hope and Dignity in Philadelphia & Monroe Counties

### PHILADELPHIA PHOTO EXHIBIT

Thank you, Philadelphia, for welcoming the PBCC for a special presentation of our photo exhibit, **67 Women, 67 Counties: Facing Breast Cancer in Pennsylvania** at 30th Street Station! The exhibit features faces of real women from each of PA's counties who have faced breast cancer along with quotes about their personal journeys. Special thanks to **Sen. Vincent Hughes, Sheryl Lee Ralph** and **2019 Pink Ribbon Awardee Robin Shine Maddox** for helping us to bring this educational and inspiring message to Philly!



### MONROE COUNTY PHOTO EXHIBIT

What a wonderful evening of education and empowerment at the **Western Pocono Community Library** opening reception of our traveling photo exhibit! Thank you to the breast cancer survivors who shared their stories - **Honi Gruenberg** and **Vivian Vega** - and to the members of the community who welcomed us for this special event!



*Want to host the exhibit in your community?  
Visit [pbccexhibit.org](http://pbccexhibit.org) for more information!*



2397 Quentin Road, Suite B,  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
800-377-8828  
[PABreastCancer.org](http://PABreastCancer.org)

**Be a driving force  
in the fight against breast cancer**



Order a Pink Ribbon License Plate & support PA breast cancer survivors!

[pbcc.me/plate](http://pbcc.me/plate)



REGISTER NOW!  
[PBCC.ME/CONFERENCE](http://PBCC.ME/CONFERENCE)

PA BREAST CANCER COALITION  
**2019 CONFERENCE**

— Friday, October 18 —

HILTON HARRISBURG

