

2019 Annual Report

Organization

2019 Board of Directors

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Committees

Communications

Development

Finance/Operations

Teen Support

Thyroid Cancer Research

Wine Dinner

Message from the Founder

2019 was a strong year for Bite Me Cancer.

September was the 9th anniversary of Bite Me Cancer! I'm overwhelmed by the success and growth of my foundation.

As an all-volunteer organization, I know how important our volunteers are to the foundation's success. I really appreciate how our volunteers, sponsors and donors came together to help to keep Bite Me Cancer moving forward to help so many cancer survivors and even their families and friends.

Bite Me Cancer experienced continued growth in programs and funds during 2019 to meet our two primary goals:

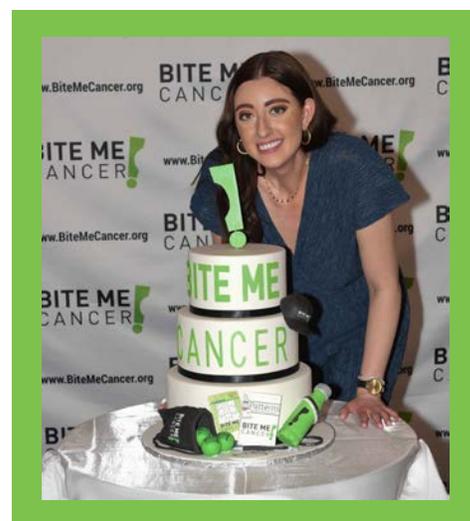
1. *Support teenagers dealing with all cancers*
2. *Raise research funds and awareness for thyroid cancer*

Our Teen Support Bag program has grown significantly. We increased the number of hospital partners across the country to 125 and shipped out 1,700 bags in 48 states and DC!

During 2019, we added some items to the bag to include ear buds and fuzzy socks.

We reached our goal to fund our sixth thyroid cancer research grant by December 2019. This is so important as we need better treatments and even cures for all the variations of thyroid cancer. We are in direct contact with our researchers and are excited about their progress.

As I deal with my own cancer journey, I am grateful that my story and my vision can help others. Bite Me Cancer and I are proud to present the 2019 Annual Report.



Nikki Ferraro, Founder

About Us

Bite Me Cancer is devoted to supporting teenagers with all cancers and funding meaningful research for thyroid cancer.

Bite Me Cancer is an all-volunteer nonprofit foundation in Fairfax County, Virginia, founded in September 2010 by Nikki Ferraro, five months after she was diagnosed with a rare form of Thyroid Cancer. At the time, she was 17 years old and a junior at Chantilly High School in Virginia. Nikki was determined to lead a Relay for Life team just two weeks after her diagnosis. She named the team Bite Me Cancer and experienced immediate success raising over \$20,000! When Nikki decided to create a foundation a few months later, she wanted to continue the legacy of her team name and thus her foundation became Bite Me Cancer.

The foundation began with a small board of directors and a focus on Nikki's 2 goals: (1) to support and inspire teenagers battling all cancers through Teen Support Bags and other programs (2) to work towards new treatments

and a cure for thyroid cancer through directly funding thyroid cancer research grants.

In June 2012, after raising enough funds for 100 Teen Support Bags, Bite Me Cancer began distributing the bags to teens dealing with all cancers. The program grew quickly in numbers of bags and number of hospitals who wanted the bags. The foundation was also able to fund its first of many direct research grants in 2014.

As the foundation grew, the need for a storage space and a small office outside of the Ferraro home was needed in 2015. Currently, the foundation is in a building owned by Service Source (a national nonprofit) at a generous discounted rate and use of all conference rooms and facilities.

Bite Me Cancer continues to be an all-volunteer organization.

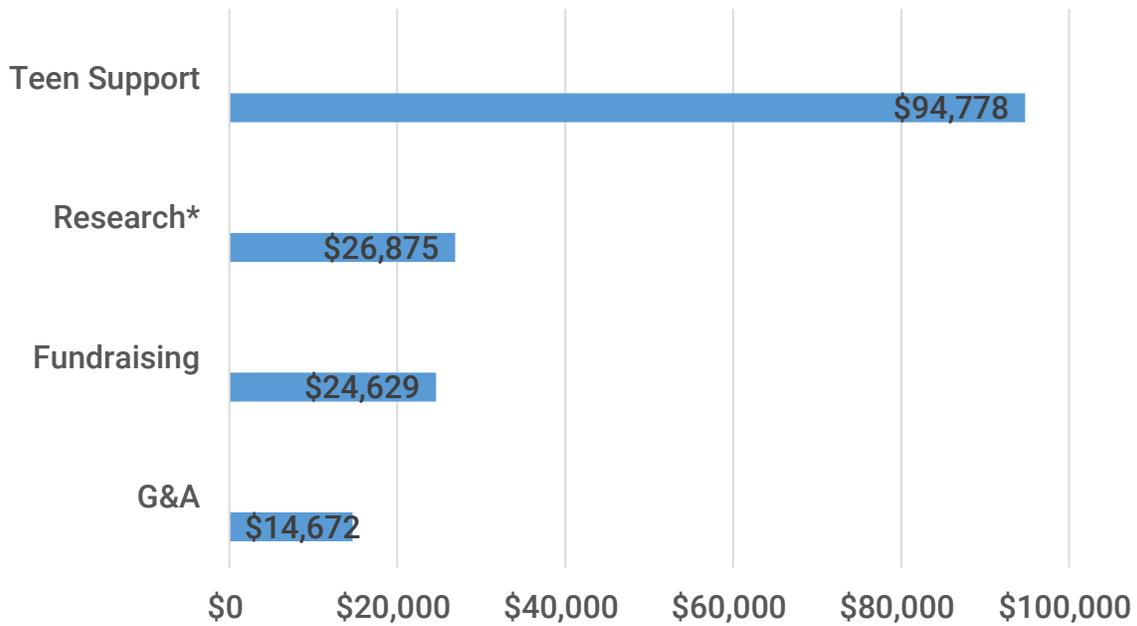
The beginning of Bite Me Cancer.

Financials



Revenue = \$168,494

Expenses = \$160,954



*Research payout amount was raised in 2018.

Inspiration

Teen Support Program

When Nikki was diagnosed with cancer at age 17, she realized that there was not age-specific support for teenagers as they fell between the younger pediatric groups and the adult patients. She felt strongly that a Teen Support Bag was needed that would contain age-appropriate support when battling cancer.

During 2019, Bite Me Cancer distributed another 1,700 Teen Support Bags across the country to teenagers dealing with all cancers. The bags were shipped to our hospital partners and a few nonprofits who hand out the bags to their teen patients. We increased our hospital partners to 125 during 2019. We increased the number of states we now reach to 47 (plus DC). From inception in June 2012 to December 2019, Bite Me Cancer has reached almost 7,200 teenagers with cancer – each teen receiving

a Teen Support Bag. That means 7,200 opportunities for us to help teenagers with cancer to smile, feel supported and even inspired. Many of their families have also shared their positive feedback with us.

Also, once a month a small group of our volunteers serves dinner to the families battling cancer on the Pediatric/Oncology Unit of INOVA Children's Hospital.



Bite Me Cancer volunteers assembling Teen Support Bags.



Help us to support them!

"Thank you so much for putting this bag together for the teenagers. It's so hard on them; they want to be independent at this age. To imagine my 17-year old daughter who has lost a significant amount of weight, all of her hair, and struggles to walk, is surreal. The items in your bag have helped her – and me! I even wear a few of the items from her bag to support her!"

"I am 18 years old. Thank you for the awesome support bag! I'm dealing with my 2nd battle with cancer, and I appreciate your Bite Me Cancer bag to help me!"

"Thank you for your Teen Support Bag! My daughter didn't smile once while in the hospital for 3 months until she received your bag!"

"Thank you for the cute Bite Me Cancer bag and items inside! I just finished my last round of chemo yesterday! My scans are clear...now on to RECOVERY and LIFE! Your support bag really made me smile and feel better!"

"We love the bags – they are a tremendous hit with our teenagers!"

"We think your Teen Support Bag is great! My son is currently doing 'color therapy' with the adult coloring book while he's receiving transfusions! Thank you so much!"



Awareness

The fifth Teen Cancer Awareness Week was held the 3rd week of January 2019.

Bite Me Cancer is proud to have successfully achieved an annual Teen Cancer Awareness Week across the Commonwealth of Virginia during the 3rd week of January each year that began in 2014. Delegate Tom Rust and Delegate Ken Plum helped achieve a unanimous vote of the entire Virginia House of Delegates in 2013 to make this happen. This awareness week serves as a positive force for Virginia teen cancer patients. (Photo below is from 2013.)

Bite Me Cancer continues to spread awareness to the specific challenges of teenagers who battle cancer. Teenagers dealing with cancer have many unique challenges: they understand the seriousness of cancer and the possibility of death, the loss of friendships, the missing of school and activities, the increased need for parents, the loss of independence, the question around getting through middle school, high school or college, and even more.



Research

Our grants make a positive impact in fighting thyroid cancer.

When Nikki formed Bite Me Cancer, she felt strongly that thyroid cancer research needed to be a focus for the foundation since it had been the fastest increasing cancer for many years and that her rare kind of thyroid cancer had no treatment options other than surgery. In 2013, Bite Me Cancer was able to be an Alliance for Patient Education Member of the American Thyroid Association (ATA) and become a partner in their thyroid cancer research program. ATA's grant program is for younger researchers

who receive a two-year grant if their proposals are accepted after extensive reviews. Bite Me Cancer is proud to be part of this important program that funds new and innovative research.

In 2019, Bite Me Cancer successfully raised the required funds (\$50,000) to fund our sixth thyroid cancer research grant. This grant will be appointed by June 2019. Thank you to our donors for being so generous!

Grants:

6th grant, start 7/2019:
(to be designated in May 2020)

5th grant, start 7/2018:
Dr. Wayne Miles, PhD
The Ohio State University Medical Center, OH

4th grant, start 7/2017:
Dr. Yu Qin
MD Anderson Cancer Center, TX

3rd grant, start 7/2016:
Dr. Irene Min
Weill Cornell Medicine, NY

2nd grant, start 7/2015:
Dr. Laura Boucai
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NY

1st grant, start 7/2014:
Dr. Ramona Dadu
MD Anderson Cancer Center, TX

Annual Wine Dinner

On April 6, 2019, the 6th Annual Wine Dinner was held with 225 guests attended (our highest number every) at Westwood Country Club in Vienna, VA.

This event brings the community together to support and inspire teenagers fighting all cancers while raising funds for the Teen Support Program.

Nikki gave her emotional speech sharing her experiences and perspectives, and there were other inspirational speakers who shared their stories.

A delicious wine dinner was served. There was a small but “mighty” silent auction as well as a “live ask” so guests could donate to “buy bags” for the teenagers.

**Special thank
you to the
Host Committee:
Bev Gray
Bobbie Kilberg
Monica Tressler-Chandler
Danny Vargas
Ed Zigo**

Thank you to our Wine Dinner Committee, table sponsors, volunteers and all who made this event a huge success. The 2019 dinner raised over \$85,000.



Annual Wine Dinner Sponsors

Gold Sponsor

The Clarke-Hook Family
Lisa & Jean-Paul Martin
Training Solutions, Inc.

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Bronze Sponsors

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In-Kind Sponsors:

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Photo Booth – Exhibit Edge
Wine Bag Holders – Custom Ink
Key Chain Gift – Karin's Corporate Images
Keyboardist – Frank Napoli

Partners:

Cake – Eloise's Pastries
Flowers – Open Blooms
Wine – Wine Styles
Venue – Westwood Country Club

9th Anniversary Party

On November 8, 2019, Bite Me Cancer held its anniversary party.

Many people attended to celebrate with the foundation. There was a DJ, raffle, food, drinks, sponsors, Nikki's speech and more!

The party took place at the Arlington Rooftop Bar & Grill in Arlington, VA and was possible due to the gracious generosity of the establishment owners. Over \$7,500 was raised.



Events

Team Bite Me Cancer events are a strong segment of the fundraising opportunities for Bite Me Cancer. We are so grateful for all the help to raise funds! There are 2 kinds of events:

- 3rd party events held by other organizations, retail outlets, restaurants
- Individuals who run their own fundraising campaign (for their birthday, for a race, in honor of someone, etc.)

In 2019, a variety of events were held which included:

- The National Association of Broadcasters donated 3 corporate suites for Washington Nationals games. Tickets were sold, and some families with teens having cancer were invited. \$2,550 was raised.
- An individual raised over \$1,700 while he trained for an Ironman running event.
- An individual set up a donation game during NCAA March Madness raising over \$3,600.
- There were individuals who ran their own Facebook birthday campaigns totaling over \$7,000.



Annual Sponsors

Impact: \$5,000

Brambleton Soave Real Estate
Map Your Show

Inspire: \$2,500

Allegiance Advisory Group
KT Enterprises
TM Associates
Training Solutions, Inc.

Support: \$1,500

Aquarian, A Shepard Company, LLC
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Stuart Stafman
The Freeman Group
Tom Coughlin Jay Fund
Trade Show Logic
Urban Ltd.
Ventera



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Instagram - [@bitemecancer](https://www.instagram.com/@bitemecancer)

YouTube - youtube.com/bitemecancerorg

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Bite Me Cancer Foundation is a 501(c)3 - Federal ID 27-3554181

Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law

BITE ME
CANCER!