Dear Friends,

I must say, one of the most insightful tasks during the year is to create this annual report. During the year, the staff and I are so busy managing the organization, fundraising, and providing client care, that it can be hard to see the enormity of our impact.

We are so proud to announce that in recognition of the vitally important and comprehensive cancer support provided to the community, the Healing Garden was awarded 2017 Non-Profit of the Year, by the Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce. I am so very, very proud of the staff and therapist team for all that they give.

As recognized leaders in the field, the Healing Garden was invited to collaborate with the YMCA Livestrong Program and the MA Department of Public Health to provide training for YMCA Coordinators which will enhance their ability to understand and respond to the many side effects cancer patients experience.

As I look through these pages, my heart soars – for we have become leaders in our field, and because there is no more concrete sign of the goodness in our world than when you see the generosity of individuals like you caring for others, improving their quality of life.

I hope you will see the tremendous growth and impact that your support makes possible.

In gratitude,

Meg

Margaret Koch, Executive Director

Healing Garden Staff

(Left to right: Brianne Carter, Co-Director of Wellness and Integrative Care; Maria LaCreta, Lesley University Expressive Art Therapy Intern; Co-Founder Bill Thurston; Leigh Carpenter, Director of Development)

(Left to Right: Nanci Bishop, past Director of Development; Marcia Lewin-Berlin, Co-Director of Wellness and Integrative Care; Ride To Thrive Cyclist; Kelly Marchand, Care Coordinator)

(Center, in grey: Alison Peterson, Business Mgr, CFO)
FY2017 Impact

- 105 new individuals referred for supportive care
- 3,208 visits by Healing Garden clients affected by cancer, with an average of 107 individuals per month—an increase of 13% over prior year
- 426 visits by non-clients, participating in wellness activities that are open to the public—an increase of 20% over prior year
- 155 sessions of psychotherapy, a 78% increase over prior year (new providers added this year)
- 573 sessions of oncology massage
- 295 sessions of Shiatsu
- 290 sessions of acupuncture
- 91 sessions of energy work (Reflexology, Cranio-sacral massage, Reiki)
- 43 sessions of Facial/Skin care
- 22 sessions of Spiritual Direction
- 13 sessions of Personal Training
- 5 sessions of Prepare For Surgery
- 146 Support Group meetings
- 277 sessions of Workshops/Programs
- 855 hours of Volunteer time
- $31,510 in value of pro bono facilitator fees donated by our programs and workshop Leaders and $83,077 in value of pro bono therapy donated by our therapist team, which makes our care affordable for our clients

“The medical community offers medicine, the Healing Garden offers hope. This team of dedicated people work to build up people who have lost their way, derailed by cancer. They offer direction, safety, and community in a beautiful, peaceful setting. I have found their open, loving, compassionate mission invaluable as I find my way to a new life living with cancer.”
A Client Story— Erin

Three years ago, a client - Erin, came to me via the Garden, seeking support for upcoming surgery. She is a young woman in her mid 30’s, mother of two grade school age boys. AND she had recently been widowed. Her young husband had died of a sudden cancer diagnosis two years back, and now she was newly diagnosed and facing her own stage 2 cancer diagnosis. Life can be unbearably Cruel.

Erin had recently relocated to New England, having made the decision to move back to be closer to her mother, so she could receive help. She had little financial or community support and was grief-struck, lonely and scared.

Erin has shared with me countless times how the Healing Garden has been a blessing in the best of ways for her. Within a short period of time, she was receiving a wide-range of supports: individual therapy to help her move through her grief and loss; she joined the young women’s support group and met some like-minded and supportive friends; she was able to get some child care support after applying through Fund-A-Need; and she came to me for energy work, the prepare for surgery workshop, and later, Neuroptimal therapy. She saw Maria Loring for cranio-sacral work, and she took some yoga with Kathie Lee. At the end of treatment, she joined the post treatment group.

Erin shared with me that because of the loss of her husband and her illness, she had lost her faith. She had once been very spiritually connected and was longing to gain back that connection so she could feel close to her husband again. I invited her into the Oneness Circle. Erin credits this involvement for helping her to open her heart to him, to herself and to all that has transpired.

One cool experience she had was a kayak trip with First Descents - This amazing organization, whom she found about through the Garden, offers life-changing adventures in nature for young adults who have been impacted by cancer. I remember how excited she was as it was approaching, as she had never had been camping or kayaking before. She said to me, “the trip was incredible; I wish I could hold on to all the gifts I was given and all I learned. I want to do it all over again. Time on the river brought me peace, something I never thought I’d feel again.”

Today, Erin feels energized and optimistic about her future. From the beginning, she would tell me of how she would one day hope to give back as an expression of gratitude, and to make a difference in the world the way that the Healing Garden has made a difference for her.

Today, Erin volunteers on a local non-profit board for disabled children that is meaningful. And she has been working full time for two years now in the school system doing work she appreciates. So much has changed.

When I saw her last, she told me, “I’m three years of being cancer free. It’s a milestone. I’m so proud of myself. My life has gone from living in a horror movie to an adventure. And I credit the Healing Garden for how it has helped me heal and turn my life around for the better.”

Lisa MacDonnell, Healing Garden Therapist
It has been a great year for the Healing Garden. Early in the year, we received unprecedented donor support. This resulted in our ability to increase staff hours for our Care Coordinator, our Co-Directors of Wellness and Integrative Care as well as our Chief Financial Officer. These added hours means we can care for more clients, more comprehensively. In addition, funding provided for new computers and updated software, allowing us to work more efficiently. The gift also provided for a year of support group stipends, ensuring that we could add new groups that we needed and maintain those that were deeply rooted here.

During the Fall, staff worked diligently to build out our new website which has been optimized to increase traffic for all those in search of services we provide. It offers a spectacular display of images of the facility, our gardens and our clients engaged in our services, rich content that is easy to navigate as well as the capacity to register for our classes online.

This past Spring, a grateful client created a fundraising event at the Whistler House Museum of Art, to benefit the Madonna Fund, which provides resources for support that women who are caring for children might need as they are going through treatment. Her event was so successful, we anticipate that the fund will last for several years!

As summer rolled along, we became the very fortunate recipients of a solar energy system, recommended by the Town of Bolton, and donated by Solar Flair. It is estimated that we will generate enough energy to reduce our energy costs by one third!

And as if this all were not enough, the Healing Garden was awarded free access to an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, allowing us for the first time to keep all of our information in one place, offering our staff and therapists the ability to synthesize a client’s health story, their care plan, visits, goals and outcomes with ease.

We are so grateful for this tremendous support!
Through donor generosity, the Healing Garden is able to offer vital integrative cancer support to members of our community, their families and caregivers. On behalf of all of the clients served, we thank you all for making such a difference to so many, providing clients with a profound improvement in their quality of life.

**Leadership Giving Society**

$50,000 and Above
- Anonymous
- The Just Cause Walk

$30,000 to $49,999
- Mrs Sarah Hindle

$15,000 to $29,999
- Community Foundation of NC MA
- Oliwer S. and Jennie R. Donaldson Charitable Trust
- Nashoba Valley Winery (in kind)

$5,000 to $14,999
- Digital Federal Credit Union
- Expect Miracles Foundation
- Gable Family Foundation
- Mr Thomas Lenke
- Lorraine Mastroperri
- Ms Mary Judith Meelia
- Men with Heart
- Mr and Mrs William Sawyer
- Mr Timothy Clark, and
  - Ms Ruth Silman

$2,000 to $4,999
- Alice Rowan Swanson Foundation
- Mr and Mrs Ken Bishop
- Mr and Mrs Richard Boerner
- Mr and Mrs James Croyle
- Mr and Mrs. Joseph Desmond
- Greater Lowell Community Fdn.
- Mr Kurt Hiler, and
  - Ms Susanne Hanson
- Mr and Mrs Dana Koch
- Mr and Mrs David Martin
- Matec Instrument Companies, Inc.
- Mr and Mrs Charles Parrott
- Mr and Mrs Steven Peterson
- Sera Rosengard Foundation, Inc.
- Sereni Salon & Wellness Center
- Ms Page Wasson
- Thomas Zarrrella

$1,000 to $1,999
- Bauer Fitness LLC, Shelia Bauer
- Bodylines Pilates, Kim Casto
- Bose Foundation
- Ms Dorothy Bourget
- Mr and Mrs James Conniff
- Mr and Mrs Robert Cooperstein

$500 to $999
- 6 Bridges Gallery
- A Beautiful Day Hair Care Studio
- Alcott School
- Mrs Iris Barten
- Bead-It-Forward
- Ms Francis Booth
- Ms Dunuta Bukatko
- Ms Kathleen Carusone
- Mr and Mrs Richard Clawson
- Mr Edward Colbert
- Ms Lauren Corduck
- Ms Rita Di Stefano-French
- Ms Ann-Marie Donnelly
- Ms Elizabeth Doria
- Mr John Duquette
- Mr and Mrs Paul Duquette
- Mr George Elenbaas
- Faber Daeufer and Itrato PC
- Mr and Mrs David Fahey
- Ms Madeline Findlay
- Ms Jacky Foster
- Mr and Mrs Michael Guerin
- Ms Karen Hanson
- Herb Connolly Acura
- Ms Mary Jane Kountz
- Mr and Mrs John LaMothe
- Ms Jennifer Lavery
- Mr Mark Lewandowski
- Mr and Mrs Herbert Loudenslager
- Mr and Mrs Thomas Mackie
- Ms Abigail McLaughlin
- Mr and Mrs Richard Melvoin
- Middlesex Savings Bank
- Ms Amanda Miller
- Mr James Morgan
- Ms Julia Murphy
- Mr and Mrs Richard Nelson
- Ms Marlene Nusbaum and Mr Neville Frankel
- Mr and Mrs Steven Rowe
- Mr Adam Rypinski
- Mr and Mrs Paul Sampson
- Mr and Mrs Duwayne Sayles
- Mr and Mrs Dennis Senecal
- Ms Melanie Seymour
- Mr and Mrs Michael Stansky
- Mr Barry Stell
- Mr Edward Sterling
Mr and Mrs Murray Swindell
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Mr and Mrs Robert Thurston
Mr William Thurston
Ms Elizabeth Tyson-Smith
Vel Consulting
Ms Elizabeth Walker
Ms Karin Whitemore
Mr and Mrs Darrell Wickman
Ms Deborah Woodcock
Mr and Mrs Chester Wroblel-Szczesny
Ms Gail Zwink

Ms Kathleen Kuna
Mr and Mrs Fritz Kussin
Littleton Cultural Council
Ms Kathleen Lemieux
Mr Douglas Maquire
Dr Anne Matthews
Ms Catherine McCarthy
Mr David Metzer
Mr and Mrs Marc Monahan
Ms Leslie Morin
Ms Renee Nadler
Ms Therese O’Connor
Mr Daniel P. O’Connor
Paxton Center School
Mr Bernard Pekala
Mr and Mrs Matthew Pisani
Pojani, Hurley & Ritter, LLP
Ms Ann Read
Mr Paul Resnick and Mrs
Marianne Wessling-Resnick
Senator Pamela Resor
Mr and Mrs Lee Rosenbaum
Mr David Rosenbaum
Ms Carol Sarno
Ms Sarah Shamel
Mr and Mrs Robert Silman
Mr Christian Spear
Ms Amy Stoll
Stow Cultural Council
Sudbury Cultural Council
Mr and Mrs Charles Swaim
M Bonnie Sweeney
Talbots, Acton
Mr John Thompson
Mr and Mrs John Tilney
Tower Hill Botanical
Mr Gregor Trinkaus-Randall
Ms Lorraine Ward
Dr Jon Way
Ms Irene Weigel
Ms Jennifer Werner
Mr and Mrs Helmut Weymar

In addition, we are deeply grateful for the
many smaller gifts we receive. We thank
our many donors who provide in-kind
gifts. Thank you too to the many clients
and donors who solicits gifts on our be-
half. Thank you to our therapists, who
donate 50% of their time, our volunteer
Healing Gardeners, the MA Master Gar-
dener’s Association and The Garden Club
Federation of MA, who join us for special
garden projects, and finally, those volun-
teers who help with our administrative
projects and special events. Every gift
helps us meet the needs of our clients.
Please contact the Healing Garden if you
find any errors in our donor list.

FY 17 Memorial Gifts were made
in loving memory of:

Adam Alesius
Beth Andrews
Wendy Bailey
Kasia Basjon-Ferrara
Stephen Benton
Tricia Castans
Mary Ellen
Connell
James Crowley
Tyke Crowly
Denyse Densmore
Christine Dubois
Susan Duquette
Susan Elenbaas
Judith Hossett-Rodgers
Jean Francolini
Joanne Giacobbe
Francine Gilman-Ormsby
Elly Hamilton
Mary Ann Hanna
Win Hindle
Richard Houle
Sue Infante-Despo
Mary Jo Johnson
Joy Kuna
Ellen Leavitt
Lindy Lewandowski
George Lima

Vivian Lorentzen
Jean Mancini
Ann McEnnis
Hazel Morrill
Cecilia Novak
Leah Parker
Steve Paul Perry
Nancy Pollock
Letitia Reed
Ilana Roman
Melinda Samperi
Joan Scalio Rubin
Mildred Shulman
Michael Spaulding
Nancy Stell-Kiely
Marilyn Strong
William Sullivan
Carol Telsey
Elizabeth Todorov
Constance Walsh
Christine Way
The Virginia Thurston
Healing Garden Cancer Support Center
A community dedicated to improving quality of life

145 Bolton Road, Harvard, MA 01451