



The Virginia Thurston

Healing Garden Cancer Support Center

Providing education and therapeutic services to those affected by cancer



Annual Report

2022-2023

A message from
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Dear Healing Garden Friends,

As I reflect on my time as Managing Director for the Healing Garden, I am proud of the work we have accomplished. Inspired by the clients we serve and with deep gratitude for our community of staff and supporters, I am taking this opportunity to honor all who have made this year a success.

I am grateful for the Healing Garden team, who work tirelessly to provide a safe, supportive, healing community for our clients, their caregivers, and those who have lost loved ones to cancer. This year, we saw a substantial increase in the number of clients served and welcomed 207 new clients. The most people ever in the Healing Garden's 22-year history.

My appreciation extends to our amazing volunteers. Our event committee brought our Garden Gala back in-person at the Nashoba Valley Winery. That night we introduced new friends to our important work and celebrated those who have been with us since the beginning. Our dedicated supporters, Board of Trustees, and Advisory Council came together to exceed our fundraising goal, these funds allow us to continue providing our services free of charge.

I have gratitude for our integrative care providers who aid our clients by providing acupuncture, massage, reiki, yoga, expressive arts classes, educational lectures, and other services, much of this with donated time.

This year, the Healing Garden experienced a 100% increase in the utilization of our bodywork services as we safely brought back these crucial in-person practices so our clients can find relaxation or symptom relief.

By the time you read this, the leaves will be changing, and we will have celebrated our Perennial Walk Ride. During this event, we honor our volunteers who help maintain our grounds, lend their technical expertise, paint or hang a shelf, and help with office administration. We also thank the people who support our work by fundraising for an individual walk or ride on behalf of the Healing Garden. Without these people, we couldn't keep our programs running and our doors open.

At the heart of all these moments of reflection is a common thread - that no one should be without support and community during a cancer diagnosis. It brings me inspiration and gratitude knowing that together we understand that the Healing Garden's mission is crucial and necessary, so I extend my sincere thanks to you and share my excitement for what's ahead.

With care,

Kelly Marchand

Managing Director



Kelly Marchand, Managing Director

This year's annual report is focused on gratitude. We want to share perspectives from our community to help you understand the true impact of your support. Too often, we are daunted by our work and the challenges cancer presents, but if we have learned anything from our clients it is that where you find gratitude you also will discover strength.

Grateful Families

Being able to count on this time in the Post Treatment Group, having it to look forward to is essential to mine and others' well-being. I have had the pleasure to work with Brianne Carter, Christine Zinke, and Erin Raber. They do an amazing job facilitating the groups and building our spirits especially, when things just seem too much.

I have also been able to access acupuncture support through the Healing Garden to help with the side effects of medications. There are so many programs the Healing Garden offers to clients such as myself as well as our caretakers. Cancer does not only invade the patient lives but also that of their families and friends.

When I just need a break in a beautiful place, I stroll the property of the Healing Garden. Now is the time of year when the gardens are in full bloom. I feel thankful for this peaceful place. I feel this community, the community which I reside, is blessed by its presence. For this and many other reasons I have abundance of gratitude for the Healing Garden.

-Cara M.

As a family member and caregiver, I support The Healing Garden because this team and this beautiful place have been a source of strength for someone I care deeply for during a very difficult time. My sister has told me that as much as she is grateful for the family and friends that got her through cancer treatment, the Healing Garden offered her a place to be with others going through the same thing she was, an opportunity to take off the armor she put on to battle the disease and be wrapped in a blanket of deep understanding, and resources that gave her the courage to keep battling. The Healing Garden balances the rigorous clinical information with emotional support that both clients and caregivers need.

-Gina A.



Grateful Clients

Given limitations in my mobility subsequent to surgery, the Qigong classes are perfect in their gentle movements and the channeling of energy throughout the body. Angela is very thoughtful in modifying her instructions so as to accommodate a range of abilities. It's a great way for me to start the day!

-Frank M.



"After months of trying to face cancer on my own, I realized I needed more support. So I reached out to the Healing Garden Cancer Support Center -- and it's made a huge difference for me. Their In Treatment support group has provided a safe, caring environment to share the many ups and downs of the cancer journey with others who truly understand - and often provide very helpful coping insights. And the Music Therapy support group has taught me new and effective ways to deal with the often intense stress of cancer treatment. The staff at Healing Garden Cancer Support Center have been wonderful both in their compassion and professional guidance. I only wish I had joined sooner."

-Red G.

Sept 14
2023

I want to thank everyone at the Healing Garden for helping me cope with my recovery from cancer.

In helping me heal my body you have also given me the faith and courage to face each day with hope and peace of mind.

Thank you
Nan





Grateful Supporters

This year we returned in person to celebrate the accomplishments of our walkers and riders at the Perennial Walk/Ride. On this day we recognized all volunteers who donate their time and talents to our mission, and honored Cynthia Burghard with the Steward of Hope award, for her exemplary generosity and commitment to the Healing Garden.

Grateful Caregivers

As a cancer caregiver member, I am grateful to the Virginia Thurston Healing Garden for its inclusivity. Only a few organizations offer support to caregivers; that alone is special. Moreover, I don't know of another place that enables client, caregiver and grieving members to pursue healing and wellness together. The genuine welcome I receive from staff, providers and all members has enabled me to participate in therapeutic and supportive experiences including guided art-making, outdoor yoga, a focused book group, bodywork and an ongoing twice monthly caregiver support group. And I have been a member for only four months! I feel comforted and strengthened because of my relationship with the Healing Garden and I appreciate the reassuring stability it offers me. Thank you.

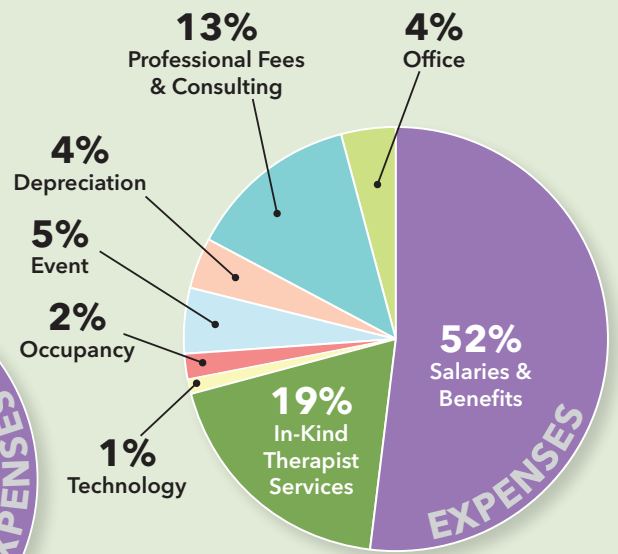
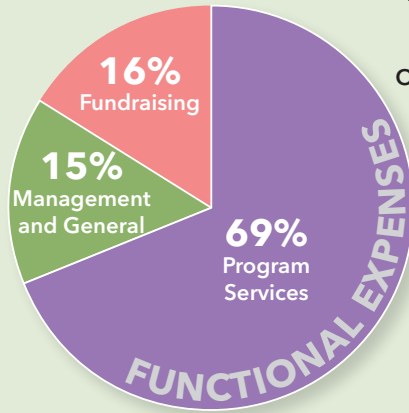
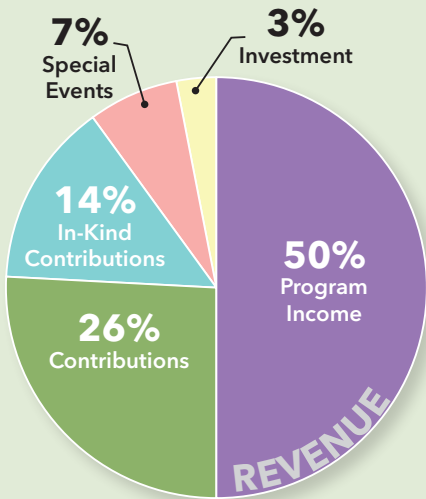
-Cathryn S.

Thanks to the generous support of Cindy and Rich Pelletier and their team at Nashoba Valley Winery the Healing Garden resumed their annual Garden Gala. This year's event yielded the most funds in our history of the event. The engine behind this event was our dedicated committee who put together a fantastic silent auction. Additionally client Tris W. recruited her talented cadre of artist friends to expand the silent auction into an Art Gallery with proceeds to benefit our programs and services.



FY23

Our Financials



In FY23 The Healing Garden

served over **442** clients from **128** different towns in Massachusetts

Our overall reach:

Towns with ten or more households served

ACTON	40	ARLINGTON	16	HUDSON	10
HARVARD	19	BOLTON	11	LEOMINSTER	10
CONCORD	17	STOW	11	LUNENBURG	10
LITTLETON	17	WESTFORD	11		



6,211 client visits (clients, caregivers, bereaved), **74.2%** increase from Pre-Pandemic utilization



422 Individual clients and caregivers served
207 new clients



44.5% of clients served by support groups

43.44% of clients have breast cancer
11.99% are caregivers or bereaved
44.57% have other cancers

755 Bodywork sessions, **110%** increase from last year



177 clients served per month, **56.6%** increase from Pre-Pandemic



50% of clients participated in programs



OUR DONORS

On behalf of the clients we serve, we thank you all for helping to provide a unique community of compassionate understanding and support.

Floral Leadership Giving Society



The Healing Garden's Floral Leadership Giving Society recognizes those individuals and corporations who demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the Healing Garden through their accumulated gifts of \$1,000 and above.

Nasturtium Giving Society (\$10,000 and above)

Aegon Transamerica Foundation
Anonymous
Jeanne and John Bowers
Concord Carlisle Community Chest
Marcia and Jim Croyle
Daymarc Foundation
Mrs. Winston Hindle
Unite for Cancer: Fred Lucey Program

Jasmine Giving Society (\$7,500-\$9,999)

Cindy and Richard Pelletier
Nashoba Valley Winery
Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA Foundation

Passionflower Giving Society (\$5,000-\$7,499)

Andy and Gina Ashe
Ken and Nanci Bishop
Oliver & Jennie Donaldson Charitable Trust
Madeleine and Rick Findlay
Fred Hamilton
Gail E. Hindle
John and Shannon Kelley
Morton and Susan Levine
Julie Murphy
Nixon Peabody
Ross Family Fund
Stow Community Chest
The George Wallace Foundation
Sara and Tim Wondolowski

Lavender Giving Society (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Avidia Charitable Foundation
Asvins Foundation
Iris and Ted Barten
Tracy Brown
The Fieldstone Foundation, Inc

Katie Gray
Greater Lowell Community Foundation
Karen and Michael Guerin
Harvard Lions Club
Littleton Cultural Council
Meg and Tom Mackie
David and Laurel Martin
Mass Cultural Council
Men with Heart
Nypro Foundation Inc.
Jessie and Jonathan Panek
Anne and Thomas Rarich
Heidi and Don Siegrist
Brian Swanson
St. Vincent Healthcare Fund of the
Diocese of Worcester
Anna Walsh
Jon Way, M.D.
Workers Credit Union
Christine Zinke and David Roberts

Hawthorne Giving Society (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Merle Adelman
Boston Bijoux
Frances Booth
Gail and Paul Bouton
Charter Oak Country Club
Dick and Phyllis Clawson
Edward Colbert
Diane and Mark Cyker
Bruce Davidson
Chris and Leslie DeMers
Jeff Duquette
Michael Famulare
Fitchburg Cultural Council
Melissa and Will Gardner
Gardner Cultural Council
Andrew Glincher
Connie Greaves Bates

Beth Hamilton
Harvard Alpaca Ranch
Harvard Cultural Council
Patricia Hurter
Ronald Johnson
Dan and Shelley Klein
Holly and Steve Kouvo
Deb Kotlarz
Ray Larsen
Carrie Leggett
and David Pangburn, M.D.
Laurie Link
Catherine and Mark Longwell
Sharon and Dennis Murphy
National Grid
Susan Parker
Alison and Steven Peterson
Rita Rand
Anand and Sumana Rao
Jonathan Rappaport
Bonnie and Thomas Rosse
Mark Salamone
Pam and Bill Sawyer
Amy and John Sharon
Joseph and Karen Shea
Roberta Silman
Ann M. Snow
Barry Stell
Sterling Firefighters Association
Elizabeth Tyson-Smith and David Smith
Sterling Cultural Council
Townsend Cultural Council
Donna Vieth
West Concord Union Church
Noreen A. Zachem





\$500-\$999

Amy Longwell Atamian
 Berlin Cultural Council
 Patricia Boerner
 Boxborough Cultural Council
 Eric Brown
 Cynthia Burghard
 Elise and Harold Carter
 Clinton Cultural Council
 Charles and Gloria Clough
 Alicia Colley
 Rebecca Connolly
 F. Robert Cullinane
 Michael Densmore
 Jeanne DeSanto
 Rita DiStefano-French
 Anne-Marie Donnelly
 Ruth Erickson
 Joseph Ferrara
 Patrick and Erinn Flanagan
 Lisa Frackiewicz
 Michael Francolini
 Chris and Jerry Furman
 Russell and Donna Goodman
 Groton Cultural Council
 Harvard Cultural Council
 Harvard Police Association
 Cindy and Ken Higgins
 James and Penelope Hommeyer
 Eleanor and Paul Horwitz
 Allison Huppe
 Hudson Cultural Council
 Daniel Kagan

Tasso Kaper
 Brian Kelley
 Terry King
 John Kissinger
 Cynthia and John LaMothe
 Leominster Cultural Council
 Lisa and Craig MacDonnell
 Greg and Kelly Marchand
 Lorraine Mastropieri
 Karen and Paul McGinn
 Steven Miller
 Dave Nadler
 Nashoba Girls Soccer Program
 Doreen Noble
 Pepperell Cultural Council
 Catherine Pierce
 Mariko Pyle
 Elaine Ritchie
 George and Nancy Robb
 Kristina and Bruce Rychlik
 Adam Rypinski
 Donna and Richard Schiding
 Shirley Cultural Council
 Jill and Michael Stansky
 Jennifer Stone, M.D.
 Art and Marney Stoumbelis
 Stow Cultural Council
 Sudbury Cultural Council
 Bob and Deb Thurston
 Townsend Cultural Council
 Michele Breen Walsh
 Janet and Jim Ward
 Wayland Cultural Council
 Westford Cultural Council

Deborah Woodcock
 Edward and Judy Zubrow

\$250-\$499

Jonathan Aibel
 Tracy Arsenault
 Katherine and Robert Becker
 Paul Belanger
 Richard Belin and Roseanne O'Brien
 Annaliza Bethel
 Bolton Cultural Council
 Dorene Bowe-Shulman
 Diane Brady
 Peggy and Richard Briggs
 Nancy Brown
 Carlisle Cultural Council
 Brianna Carter
 Frances and Robert Clawson
 Kimberly Cohen
 Concord Cultural Council
 Megan Connor
 Stephanie Daniels
 Charles and Katharine Denault
 Donna and Joseph Desmond
 Sandra Dunleavy
 Carol Ehrlich
 First Congregational Unitarian Church of Harvard
 Jacky Foster
 Glenn and Pam Frederick
 Amy Gartland
 Cara Gavin
 Heather Goldstein
 Linda Hair-Sullivan and Donald Sullivan
 Susan Halby
 Laretta and Peter Harbilas
 Amy and Harry Hedison
 Suzanne Hill
 Vicky Hill
 David Hurlbut
 Ken Isaacs
 Edith Joyce
 Paula Katkin
 Linda Kelley
 Marisa and Pradeep Khurana
 Christine Kieler
 Ellen Kisslinger
 Philip and Terri Knoettner
 Kathy Ann Gianino and Alice Knowles
 Karl and Sarah Kussin

Fritz Kussin
 Andrea and Scott Lauzon
 Christopher Leger
 William Lenderking
 Joette Levine
 Bill Licea-Kane
 Lincoln Cultural Council
 Jeff and Linda Lischer
 Eric Broadbent and Susie Macrea
 Meg Mattern and John Wallace
 Nadine Mazzola
 Barbara and Richard Melvoin
 Kyle Milotte
 Michael Morton
 Kathy Mumma
 Jill and Steven Niemi
 Daniel P. O'Connor
 Paxton Center School
 Carol and Mark Pollard
 Suzanne Pomerleau
 Elaine Raia
 Donna Rani
 Linda Reddy
 Loretta Richard
 Catherine Ricketson
 Ken Ringdahl
 Lisa and Scott Robb
 Melissa Rones
 Fay Senner
 Hugh and Laura Silk
 Paul and Therese Simeone
 Kenneth Spenser
 Rafael Squitieri
 Sharyl Stropkay
 Andrew Syiek
 Patrick Tilley
 Cathy and John Tilney
 Jane Way
 Ann Whitney
 Sue Wolff
 Women's Business Network
 Charles and Margaret Ziering

2023 Corporate Friends
 ADP
 Analog Devices Foundation
 Applied Materials
 Atlantic Power Corporation
 Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
 Boston Bijoux
 Change Healthcare

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 behalf. Every gift helps us meet the needs of our clients. Please contact the Healing Garden if you find any errors in our donor list.



Charles River Laboratories
Charter Oak Country Club
EMD Millipore
Enterprise Bank
FTI Consulting
Harvard Alpaca Ranch
J. McLaughlin
Liberty Mutual Foundation
Loomis, Sayles & Company
Nashoba Valley Winery
National Grid
NBC Universal
Nixon Peabody
Oracle
PayPal Giving Fund
Persado
Putnam Investments
Takeda
The Boeing Company
Thermo Fisher
VEL Consulting
Vertex Pharmaceuticals
Watjus Electric
Workday
Zimmer Biomet



Memorial Gifts In Loving Memory of

Kasia Bajson-Ferrara	Matt Galligan	Renee Nadler	Herb Tu
Pamela Barry	Elly Hamilton	Kelly Gower Ormsby	Sandy Tu
Amy Beaudet	Maryann Hanna	Geeta Pant	Stanley Tuttle
Brenda Belanger	Robin Frentz Isaacs	Patricia Pilot	Phyllis Voit
Iris Ben-David	Mary Jo Johnson	Nancy Pollock	Christine Way
Richard Boerner	Margaret Auger Kennerly	Bethany Alyssa Price	Karen Zimmerman
Ruth Brown	Joanie Kish	Rana Gladstone	
Tricia Castagno	Chloe Langston	Rappaport	
Chrissy Clawson	Kerry Lee	Emily Verhoff Rooney	
Alice Czaja	Richard Levine	Joanne K. Schiding	
Nancy D'Anjou	Lindy Lewandowski	Ruth Silman	
Cathy DiGrazia	Fred Lucey	Jim Stefanis	
Sandra Dillman	Anna McMahon	Rosalyn Stein	
Susan Duquette	Amanda Miller	Nancy Stell-Kiely	
Jean Francolini	Dennis F. Murphy, Jr.	Elizabeth Todorov	





The Virginia Thurston

Healing Garden Cancer Support Center

Providing education and therapeutic services to those affected by cancer

145 Bolton Road | Harvard, MA 01451

info@healinggardensupport.org

Founders:

William Thurston
Elizabeth Tyson-Smith

Trustees:

David Martin, MBA, Chair
Karen Shea, Vice Chair
Tim Wondolowski, CPA, Treasurer
Marcia Croyle, Clerk
Eric Brown
Cynthia Burghard
Sarah Hindle, Emeritus
Holly Kouvo
Sharon Murphy
Anand Rao, Ph.D.
Anne Rarich
Mark Salamone
Pam Sawyer, Emeritus
Jon Way, M.D.

Staff:

Kelly Marchand
Managing Director
Meredith Hobson, LICSW, APHSW-C
Director of Clinical Care
Shannon Kelley
Director of Finance
Meghan Seidman
Director of Donor Engagement
Chris Furman
Integrative Care Coordinator
Catherine Longwell
Development Associate
Erin Raber, MA, MT-BC
Clinical Care Specialist
Christine Zinke, MA, LICSW
Clinical Care Specialist

