



# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

*Breaking Down Barriers to Care*

2023 ANNUAL REPORT







# BRIDGING GAPS

*Uplifting and Strengthening People  
Impacted by Cancer*





## A letter from our **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends of Cancer Support Community South Bay,

2023 was a year marked by new beginnings and significant milestones. It is with great enthusiasm that I address you as the newly appointed Executive Director/CEO of this amazing organization. I am truly excited for the opportunity to lead CSC South Bay toward its continued growth and impact in our community. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your many years of generous support and dedication to our mission. You have been the driving force behind our achievements. I feel honored to join such a passionate and committed community.

In the past year, we have seen more need than ever for our valuable free support programs. We witnessed a nearly 46% rise in first-time attendees compared to 2022, a sobering reflection of the pandemic's impact on cancer screenings and healthcare access. Additionally, we saw a significant increase in younger people with children diagnosed with advanced stages of cancer contributing to a 124% increase in visits to our Kids Community programs. It is only through your compassionate support that we have continued making a meaningful difference in the lives of these families facing the challenges of this devastating disease.

Responding to the evolving needs of our participants, we opted to maintain a blend of virtual and in-person/hybrid formats for our 200 free programs offered each month. This reflects our commitment to serving our participants in the way that ensures the best accessibility and inclusivity for all those in our community that are affected by cancer.

Our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate Wellness event reached new heights thanks to your generosity, raising a record-breaking \$428,000. The event honored long-time supporters Kyle and Diane Kazan and welcomed a sold-out crowd of 600 guests. We also recognized CSC South Bay group facilitators, Steve Lottenberg, MD, PsyD and Ruth Schriebman PsyD, LMFT for their incredible 25-years of service as highlighted in this report. It was a beautiful evening bringing the community together for support and celebration. We also extend our profound gratitude to our community partners whose beneficiary events throughout the year raised an additional \$160,000 for CSC South Bay.

We are especially proud to share that CSC South Bay received special recognition from the community in 2023, being chosen Best Nonprofit and Favorite Counseling Company in the Daily Breeze and Beach Reporter's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual South Bay's Best Readers' Choice Awards. This honor is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team as well as the invaluable support of the community.

Looking forward, we remain committed to our strategic plan to increase our presence in the Long Beach community and ensure that we reach even more of those impacted by cancer in our service area. We also continue to increase outreach efforts in underserved areas, striving to bridge gaps and provide essential resources to those who may face barriers to access.

Thank you for standing with us and caring to make a positive impact in the lives of cancer patients and their loved ones. We are deeply grateful for your valued partnership that makes it possible for our mission of support and hope to reach all who need it the most.



*Jillian*

Jillian Van Leuven, MPA  
Executive Director/CEO



Voted the South Bay's  
**BEST Nonprofit**  
and  
**FAVORITE**  
Counseling Company.





CSC South Bay proudly partnered with the Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research and Uncle Kory Foundation for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour de Pier.



Our 2023 Holiday Party was one of a variety of social events offered for participants throughout the year.



CSC South Bay's Kids Community offers many activities for children impacted by cancer providing support and connection.



Lou Sidella owner of Body One Fitness supported CSC South Bay's mission with the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Row for a Reason event.



Jeralyn Glass, acclaimed leader in sound healing, introduced her new card deck tool in a special workshop offered at CSC South Bay.



Our walking group is one of the many fun healthy lifestyle classes offered each week at CSC South Bay.



Terranea Resort, Providence Little Company of Mary and City of Hope-South Bay generously lent their support with a series of events including the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Birdies for Breast Cancer.





Longtime CSC South Bay supporters Kyle and Diane Kazan were honored at the 2023 Celebrate Wellness event.



A sold-out crowd of more than 600 attendees came together at our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate Wellness event, breaking fundraising records to support our free programs.



CSC South Bay offers a variety of yoga classes including morning yoga on the Redondo Beach Pier throughout the year and Sunset Yoga in September.



We are grateful for our incredible volunteers who are at the heart of events such as Tour de Pier and much more.



Participants engaged in some "horseplay" at this unique event.



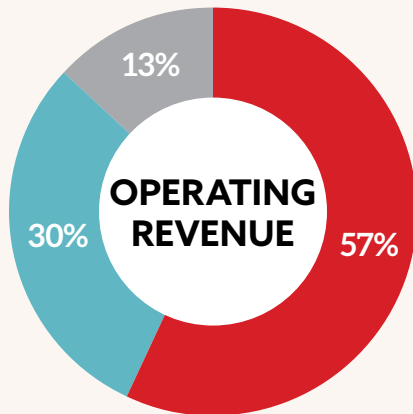
CSC South Bay is deeply thankful for the continued support of Palos Verdes Peninsula High's annual "Walk for Life".



Dr. Ruth Schriebman and Dr. Steve Lottenberg (not pictured) received commendations from Los Angeles County for their 25-years of service at CSC South Bay.

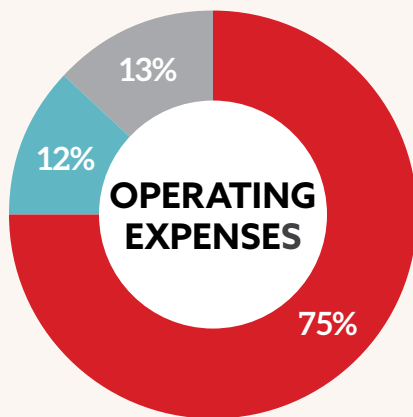


## Financial Overview\*



**Fundraising Events - 57%**  
**Individual Gifts - 30%**  
 Grants - 13%

**TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE:**  
**\$1,025,263**



**Program Services - 75%**  
**Fundraising - 12%**  
 General Administrative - 13%

**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:**  
**\$1,419,252**

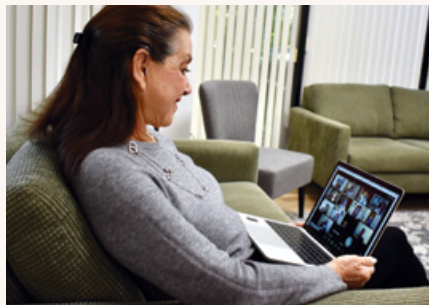
### LEGACY of HOPE SOCIETY

Through planned giving, donors dedicate resources such as property, retirement plans, trusts, and life insurance to CSC South Bay.

**TOTAL 2015-2023 BEQUESTS:**  
**\$8,635,948**

**TOTAL 2023 BEQUESTS:**  
**\$913,638**

## 2023 Program and Services Overview



### SUPPORT GROUPS

CSC South Bay offers 31 support groups including those for specific cancers, for family, caregivers, bereavement, life after cancer, and general support.

**843 Group Sessions**  
**5,171 Visits to Support Groups**  
**1,686 Hours of Clinical Time**



### HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

More than 70 classes are led each month by professionals who donate their time and talent to support our community.

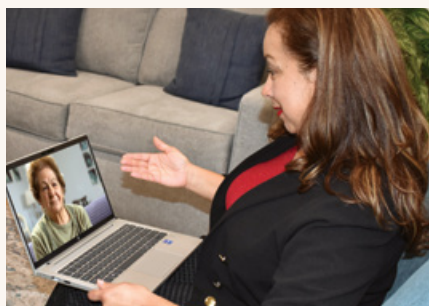
**672 Adult Healthy Lifestyle Activities**  
**5,957 Visits**  
**29 Volunteer Instructors**  
**586 Volunteer Hours**



### KIDS AND TEENS

Designed for children ages 5-17 who have a family member with cancer, these programs help kids process their feelings. With the addition of a Kids Community Manager in 2022, the program continues to expand.

**35 Kids/Teens Programs**  
**311 Visits**



### COUNSELING

Individual and family counseling is often helpful during a patient's cancer journey. CSC South Bay offers 6-10 individual or family counseling sessions free of charge for all participants.

**590 Individual Counseling Sessions**  
**Estimated Value of Sessions: \$88,500**



### WORKSHOPS / SOCIAL

A variety of educational workshops and social activities are offered each week and change monthly as determined by the needs of the community.

**200 Workshops and Social Activities**  
**4,165 Visits**  
**73 Volunteers**  
**218 Volunteer Hours**

\* Unaudited at the time of publication.

## Celebrating 25 YEARS of SERVICE

### Dr. Steve Lottenberg & Dr. Ruth Schriebman



Dr. Steve Lottenberg and Dr. Ruth Schriebman with Program Director, Nancy Lomibao, MS, LMFT (center)

A very special milestone was reached in 2023 by Dr. Steve Lottenberg and Dr. Ruth Schriebman—fondly known to their CSC South Bay family as “Steve and “Ruth”. The past year marked their 25<sup>th</sup> year of leading support groups at CSC South Bay. Their longstanding commitment has been a lifeline and continual source of strength to our participants. Both were recognized with 25-year service awards and commendations by Los Angeles County at CSC South Bay’s 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate Wellness event.

Steve’s journey at CSC South Bay began after his wife was diagnosed with cancer, inspiring him to want to help others who were going through cancer get the best possible healthcare. He shared that his years leading bereavement groups have been enormously gratifying in that he has been able to observe and experience the growth of many family members from hopelessness to learning to live a fulfilling life.

During his time at CSC South Bay, he also gained a deeper understanding of the toll that cancer takes on a family when his own daughter was diagnosed with cancer at just 15 years of age. Tragedy struck again in 2021 when he lost his wife to a recurrence of the disease.

*“I have learned so much over the previous 20 plus years getting to work with so many courageous participants. This was certainly significant in helping me grieve. I feel very rewarded by receiving from them how to live life during the most challenging experiences they were ever faced with. It is this sense of community combined with education, understanding and hope that is what we here at CSC South Bay are all about.”*

Ruth’s dedication to CSC South Bay began as an intern seeking professional licensure. Inspired by her experience, she chose to stay and continue facilitating support groups after completing her internship. She shared that the most rewarding aspects of her work were seeing participants connect and find a safe place to be with others who understand what they are going through.

She was also personally affected by the disease when her husband was diagnosed with cancer just a year after she started. In 2022, she experienced her own health struggle when she was diagnosed with a benign brain tumor.

*“After all the years working with cancer patients there are many things I’ve learned. A sense of normalcy or a new normalcy can be regained and there is hope and a life can be reclaimed. There is a camaraderie with others “Who get it.” You can gain knowledge about your diagnosis. Friendships are formed. We have great programs, workshops that are educational as well as workshops that are mind body focused. We are proud to say that all of our services are free of charge.”*

Together, Steve and Ruth have witnessed tremendous growth during their long tenure at CSC South Bay, including a new name, location, the amount and variety of programs offered, and significantly, the introduction of virtual programming which has extended the organization’s reach beyond the South Bay.

We congratulate them both for their incredible 25 years of service and dedication. Their invaluable guidance has positively impacted the lives of thousands of cancer patients in our community, for which we are immensely grateful.





310.376.3550 | [www.CSCSouthBay.org](http://www.CSCSouthBay.org)  
2601 Airport Drive, Ste 100, Torrance, CA 90505

**Our mission is to uplift and strengthen people impacted by cancer by providing support, fostering compassionate communities, and breaking down barriers to care.**

#### 2024 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jillian Van Leuven, Executive Director/CEO  
Jackie Suiter, Development Director  
Nancy Lomibao, MS, LMFT#36645, Program Director/CCO  
Theresa Plakos, Public Relations Director  
Pamela Martis, Director of Finance & Operations  
Carla Bick, Cancer Support Navigator  
Goli Eslami, Event & Volunteer Manager  
Norma Gonzalez, Outreach & Kids Community Manager  
Karla Haynes, MS, LMFT#100393, Assoc. Clinical Supervisor  
Vinian Meyer, Office Manager  
Rebecca Sul, Program Manager

#### 2024 LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Stephen Lottenberg, MD, PsyD, G41490  
Anne Karin Nelson, MS, LMFT#97367  
Jo Ann Panitch, LMFT#44284  
Nadine Shoukry, LMFT#129529  
Ruth Schriebman, PsyD, LMFT#3990

#### 2024 GRADUATE INTERNS

Denice Anonuevo, APCC#14864/  
AMFT #142071  
Brittany Anvari, Associate AMFT#128113  
Jay Chang, MFT Trainee, LPCC Trainee  
Karina Jaimes, MFT Trainee  
Bethany Kershishnik, AMFT#138997  
Maria Page, LPCC Trainee  
Linda Shrader, AMFT#109891  
Kari Wendt, MA, APCC#11021  
Perla Zarco-Ortega, MFT Trainee

#### 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

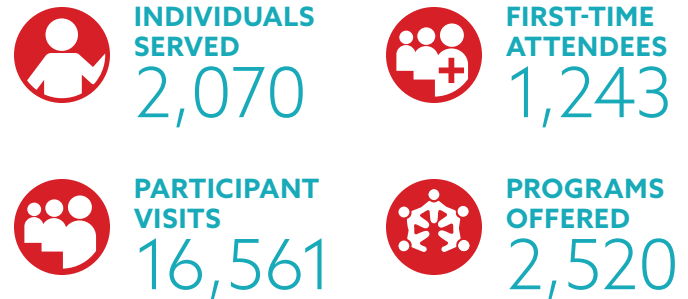
Kelli Vieweg, President  
Walt Zipperman, Interim Vice President  
Sacha Ohara, Vice President/Secretary  
Scott Magee, Vice President/Finance  
Melanie Friedlander, MD  
Daniel Hovenstine, MD  
Katy McCaig  
Donna McNeely  
Kris Nishihira  
Deborah Patrick

#### 2024 PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Neil Bhayani, MD, Chairperson, Surgery  
Fikret Atamdede, MD, Gynecology/  
Oncology  
Christine Dauphine, MD, Surgery  
Thyra Endicott, MD, Radiation/Oncology  
Lisa Fisher, MD, Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Lawrence Flechner, MD, PhD, Urology  
Melanie Friedlander, MD, Surgery  
Gregory Ginsburg, MD, Surgery  
Garth Green, MD, Radiation/Oncology  
Andrew Horodner, MD, Oncology  
Dan Hovenstine, MD Radiation/Oncology\*  
Richard Lopez, MD, Surgery  
Usama Mahmood, MD, Radiology/  
Oncology  
Paul Murata, MD, Family Practice  
Wade Nishimoto, MD, Hematology/  
Oncology\*  
Richard C. Palmer, MD, Psychiatry  
Christine A. Petti, MD, Reconstructive  
Surgery  
Brittany Rudinica, LCSW, OSW-C  
Marianne Ryan, MD, Surgery  
Patricia Sacks, MD, Radiology/  
Nuclear Medicine\*  
Thomas G. Simko, MD, Radiation/  
Oncology\*  
Mary Welch, RN, MSN  
Deborah Wong, MD, PhD,  
Hematology/Oncology  
\*Emeritus Status

## 2023 Community Impact

In 2023, we continued our diverse program offerings, providing both online support via Zoom as well as in-person and hybrid formats. We saw a 46% increase in first-time attendees and sustained participation in groups, classes and workshops throughout the year.



## TO ALL OF OUR CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY SOUTH BAY SUPPORTERS

To our over **250 volunteers** that contributed countless hours of their time to support our many programs and events. To all of the **509 individual donors** who gave generously. To the caring and committed members of our Legacy of Hope Society who **bequeathed more than \$913,638** to support the future of CSC South Bay. To our **42 sponsors** and over **600 attendees** who supported our sold-out Celebrate Wellness fundraising event! To the more than **330 generous businesses and individuals** who gave **in-kind donations** to support our events and programs. To our **grant providers** who awarded us **15 grants**. To our **local media** who support us with advertising and help us spread the word. To the many dedicated **local businesses, organizations and individuals** who raise funds on our behalf.

**Thanks for your dedication and continued support!**

Scan the QR code or visit  
[www.CSCSouthBay.org](http://www.CSCSouthBay.org) to  
make a donation online.

