

## **Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame**

### **Archive Project**

#### ***Inception to Induction***

#### **Breast Cancer HELP, Inc. (Healthy Environment for a Living Planet)**

**Year of Founding:** 1994

**Issue(s) Addressed:** Family services, education, healthcare, recreation

**Induction Category & Year:** Health, 2008

**Founders:** Loraine Pace, Reverend Thomas Arnao

**Personal Quote:** The Executive Director, Breast Cancer HELP, Inc, Alex Fezza, stated, "We are a small organization, but we are doing big things for it is contributing to a huge cause."

**History:** In 1994, two great minds came together: Loraine Pace, a breast cancer survivor, and Reverend Thomas Arnao. They decided that they were not going to stand back any longer and watch the people they loved and the community that they lived in continue to suffer from this crippling, incurable disease. Since inception, Loraine Pace and her organization have made great strides to try and find a correlation between breast cancer and the environment, and to change the way her community and this country view this disease.

Breast Cancer HELP has taken on a "multi-pronged approach" by bringing education into our school about cancer, and using their voices as advocates to change state and local policies for cancer patients and survivors. In the almost twenty years since inception, Breast Cancer HELP has had a multitude of accomplishments.

One of the organization's biggest accomplishments actually happened right after they were founded when the organization began what is known as the Mapping Project. The Mapping Project was designed to see if they could locate where cancer hot spots were in the communities. This program started off locally in the Town Of Islip and soon after, it was being done nationally. Since then, Breast Cancer Help, Inc. has helped more than 25 other breast cancer coalitions form and set up a mapping project in their towns. With this information, researchers will try to find a connection between cancer and the environment where we live.

The agency has advocated the establishment of a toll-free cancer HELPLINE at Stony Brook University Hospital Medical Center. Breast Cancer Help has been a huge voice in many pieces of legislation that have been passed. For example, a law was created in 2003 which requires clinical breast exams by a physician when a mammography is performed.

The organization hosts numerous events throughout the year to provide funding to help find a cure. On May 14, 2009, Breast Cancer HELP made a huge contribution to North Shore LIJ Southside Hospital. The organization donated a digital mammography unit which is a unit that is used in aiding the early detection of breast cancer. Since 2008 when Breast Cancer Help was inducted into the Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame, the agency still continues to work very hard in hopes that someday soon there will be a cure for cancer.

**Agency Mission:** The mission of this agency, as stated by Alex Fezza is to "Put myself out of business." The agency is working with great diligence to provide as much funding as possible to hopefully find a cure. Breast Cancer HELP does feel that a cure is near, but in medicine that could be 50 years from now. The agency is also offering many programs and services to the community in hope to educate and rehabilitate the population that has been affected by cancer.

**Population Served:** Breast Cancer HELP is open to the general public. They have helped touch anywhere from five to seven thousands lives directly and indirectly tens of thousands through their donations to the hospitals and other foundations. Please note that some of the programs that the organization hosts may require reservations, so feel free to call for any information needed. All others events, programs and or services are on a first come, first served basis.

**Scope of Activities:** Although the Breast Cancer HELP is known for hosting many fundraising events throughout the year, the organization also hosts many concurrent programs and services daily and monthly. These programs and services include but they are not limited to, Monthly Support Group, Lymphatic Drainage Therapy, Reflexology, Reiki, Yoga, Art Therapy, Dance for Health and Wellness, and Creative Writing. Breast cancer is a disease, but it is not one that has to burden the life of the individual and their family and that is why Breast Cancer HELP has decided to host these programs. Breast Cancer HELP is always open to suggestions on what programs, services, and events are needed and or wanted by the people of the community. To obtain a copy of the schedule for the programs listed above please visit the website or sign up to receive a program brochure by contacting (631)-675-9003.

**Volunteer Involvement:** The organization is always looking for volunteers for their fundraising events; every event calls for a minimum of at least six volunteers and as the organization grows, the number of needed volunteers will as well. Volunteers are able to work the events that fit their schedule and there is no set commitment. Ms. Pace has stated, "The volunteers and the small staff are like a family, and Breast Cancer HELP is always looking to add more family members." If you would like to join the family please call or email about your availability (631)-675-9003, BarbaraF@breastcancerhelpinc.org.

**Funding Sources:** As Breast Cancer HELP continues to make strides in their fundraising efforts donations of any amount are always appreciated. There are many ways to make contributions to the organization such as attending one of the events. Also the organization has also set up many clothing drop boxes throughout the Long Island for people to drop off their old clothing. Breast Cancer HELP is always accepting donations because every penny counts. To donate, go on the website listed below and follow the instruction or call directly for more information.

**Contact Information:**

**Long Island Cancer Help and Wellness Center**

32 Park Avenue

Bay Shore NY 11706

Phone: (631) 675-9003

Email us at [breastcancerinc@optonline.net](mailto:breastcancerinc@optonline.net)

**Submitted by:  
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April 13, 2011**

*Disclaimer: The Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame has created the Archive Project to record the histories of Long Island not-for-profit organizations. The entries are for informational purposes only with no intention of endorsement of any service or organization. We are not responsible for inaccuracies or omissions. The user assumes all risks related to any misinformation.*