



**BAG
IT!**

EDUCATE · SUPPORT · EMPOWER

Fight The Fear of Cancer!

escape
to Thrive

Encouraging &
Sustaining
Cancer
Advocacy
Programs &
Efforts

IMPACT REPORT
2017-2018

THANK YOU for your commitment to BAG IT this past year. We couldn't do it without:

- Our donors who help ensure bags can be provided at no charge to patients
- Our volunteers throughout the state who help with fundraising events and at community tables
- The Board of Directors for their time, talents and dedication (*especially with developing our strategic plan*)
- The doctors, nurses, and navigators that give out bags to patients and their families
- Businesses who provide donations, in-kind services and the funds to support our programs
- The stakeholders who provided input for the bag refresh



be

I'm excited about what is to come as BAG IT begins to expand our bag distribution outside of Arizona and educate those with cancer on the importance of self-advocacy.

We look forward to doing this in collaboration with all of you and many others!

In gratitude,

Mindy Griffith
Executive Director

Our Vision: *BAG IT will empower patients to be more involved in their care, advocate for themselves, and learn to cope with the challenges associated with diagnosis and treatment. Further, BAG IT empowers cancer advocates to promote this same vision in their communities.*

Our Mission: *BAG IT educates, supports, and empowers those impacted by cancer.*

Board of Directors

Darlene S. Brady
Donald Brooks, MD
Emily Carlson

Mindy Griffith
Virginia Warren
Rodgers Wilson, MD

Advisory Board

Donald Brooks, MD
Mark D. Gilbert, MD

Deborah Green, RN, MSN
Grace Hou, MD, FACS

BAG IT

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info@bagit4u.org • 520-575-9602 • bagit4u.org

74,581 BAG IT bags distributed since 2003



150 bags
Provided through
Sponsor a Bag donations



5,691 +
Individuals informed
about BAG IT

How The BAG IT Bag Helps

Helped me cope/worry less

82% YES

Helped me to better communicate with medical team

88% YES

Helped me feel better educated and informed

95% YES

Caregivers/family/friends found it helpful

91% YES

Tucson
Caregiver

"Thank you for putting this together. This binder gave me and my Family to have a head start on getting the information in one place and creating a working team. My mom is a free spirit and she was able to get organized immediately. This is SOOOOOO GREAT for us."

Irene in
Tucson

"It is a great idea and empowers people when we are at our lowest, weakest, most frightened moments."

Lisa in
Tucson

"Although the entire time, from day 1, is so overwhelming and just SO, SO much the "BAG" definitely brings a little calm and sense to the madness. Thank you (Breast & Brain Cancer)"

Marsa in
Yuma

"Muy bien equipo. Gracias por clamos esta informacion."

Anonymous

"Thank you! The notebook has really helped me organize my medical records. It has been great!"

What's In The Bag

- Patient navigation binder: Organize and store personal medical info, plus tips and resources.
- Printed publications: Reliable information from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS) about coping with diagnosis.
- USB wristband: Publications, resources, and forms in digital format and a handy storage device.



Year In Review

- Distribution through 154 hospitals, physicians
- 64 sites serving predominantly underserved / economically disadvantaged
- Partners with 125+ community health workers
- Training for 500+ providers
- Launched 5 minute video on *How to use the BAG IT bag*
- Bi-ennial bag review including feedback from more than 70 providers, survivors, and caregivers

Who Distributes BAG IT Bags



COMMUNITY
OUTREACH



RURAL & TRIBAL
HEALTH CENTERS



HOSPITALS



INDUSTRY



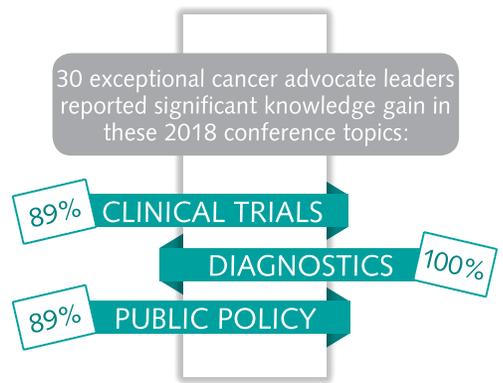
PHYSICIANS



CLINICS

ESCAPE TO THRIVE

ESCAPE to Thrive supports advocates to continue their work effectively – all with the ultimate goal of improving cancer patient education and outreach.



Capacity-building and collaboration connections made at ESCAPE to Thrive are powerful and encouraged. Here are a few examples:

- A co-authored article in a recent *Patient Voice* on the importance of active patient and advocate participation throughout the research continuum from three participants.
- Four past participants were invited by NCCS' CEO Shelley Fuld Nasso to develop an outcome measure for "return to functional status" for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant.
- New grant research review advocates for national programs.
- New recruits/participants for health policy advocate training on the Hill.

"The size of the conference, the mix of advocates, the interactions with leaders and fellow advocates makes ESCAPE stand out above all other conferences."



Strategic Areas of Focus: 2018-2021

Bag Distribution

- Increase statewide distribution of the bag
- Expand distribution of bags nationally
- Collaborate with other organizations

Cancer Advocacy

- Provide ESCAPE to Thrive leadership conference for cancer advocates
- Empower cancer patients, caregivers and family members to be an advocate for themselves & each other
- Support Medical Providers & advocates in their advocacy roles

Fiscal Prudence

- Establish one year of reserve operating funds
- Serve as excellent stewards of financial resources
- Maintain a long-term investment growth policy

Internal Operations

- Provide a comprehensive volunteer management & support program
- Create and sustain a high impact Board of Directors
- Ensure best practices and operations for employees
- Determine communication needs across all channels of BAG IT

Board Highlights

It has been a year of change and transitions for BAG IT. We've transitioned from the founder, Sherri Romanoski to Mindy Griffith fulfilling the role. We've also had long-term and revered board members transition off the board as new board members joined in our ongoing work. Saying thank you to Donald Brooks, MD and Darlene Brady is simply not enough. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.



As we've moved forward there have been several wonderfully inspirational moments throughout the year.

- Take a Hike was held in November of 2017 and was enjoyed by many. We were able to celebrate Sherri Romanoski's service to the cancer community following the beautiful hike in Ventana Canyon.
- ESCAPE to Thrive 2018 was a phenomenal event supporting cancer survivors as they work in advocacy roles in their communities and organizations.
- Determined to build a sustainable BAG IT bag, an evaluation was conducted with the help of cancer patients and caregivers who provided direct feedback. Their time and attention is greatly appreciated.

The creative process is underway to renew and revitalize the BAG IT bag to embrace and reflect the information received during the evaluation process.

As we move toward 2019, stay tuned for some exciting changes to BAG IT. What will not change is the mission to empower and educate cancer patients and caregivers. ESCAPE to Thrive will also continue to facilitate advocacy development in cancer survivors.

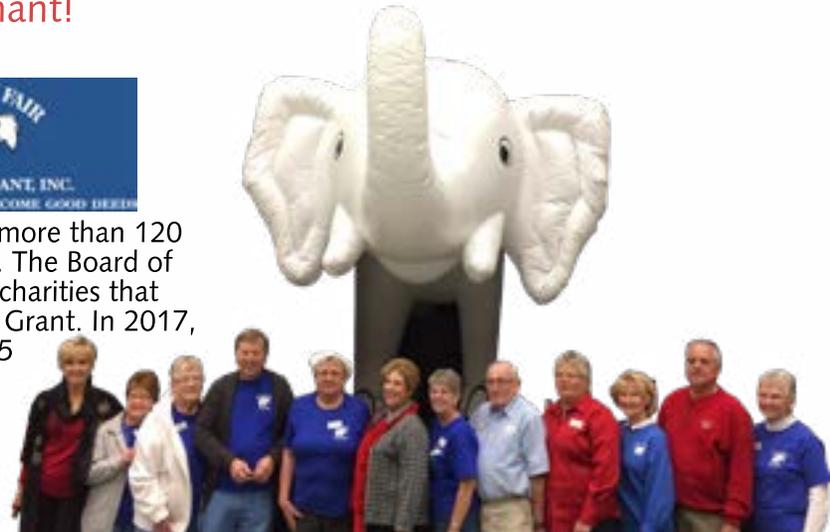
Communities Supporting BAG IT

Thank you to these three organizations that serve BAG IT by offering reduced pricing or by in-kind donations for their services, never sacrificing the excellence which has earned each company their fine reputation in the community.



Thank You Country Fair White Elephant!

We are so grateful to The White Elephant for supporting BAG IT since 2007. The White Elephant thrift store, located in Green Valley, generates revenue through store sales and contributes each year to more than 120 local schools and charitable service organizations. The Board of Directors Contributions Committee selects those charities that meet their criteria for receiving a White Elephant Grant. In 2017, The White Elephant thrift store distributed \$1.765 Million to over 100 schools and charitable organizations. A great big **THANK YOU** for choosing BAG IT. We appreciate your commitment to helping those in the community.



From bag recipients to volunteers and advocates

Andy & Donn Corder

As Andy's caregiver, Donn found the bag an important tool throughout his two years of active treatment. "I devoured every pamphlet." After Andy's treatments were complete and he was reviewing his binder he noticed a survey and both he and Donn completed it and sent it in. Shortly after - BAG IT staff members arranged a time to meet and invited them to consider becoming BAG IT Ambassadors. They stepped up right away and haven't stopped.

"We were so thankful for everything in the BAG IT and what it taught us. We decided we wanted to get more involved. In January 2018 we attended the Ambassador training and have had the opportunity to attend several different events to talk about what BAG IT is and how it helped us. We look forward to helping BAG IT in the future however we can."



A Heart-Warming Volunteer



BAG IT has been blessed with many special people that have helped it thrive. One is a standout. Susan Weiland has been there for BAG IT since the beginning, before it even had a name! Susan, a longtime friend of Founder Sherri Romanoski, was one of the first to step up and say, "Just tell me how I can help." And help she has! Susan has worn so many hats as a BAG IT volunteer and staff member for the past 15 years, it is truly remarkable. She has always been willing to learn or try something new to help BAG IT and ESCAPE to Thrive along their paths to success. Susan has the most giving, passionate heart and a smile that invites us all to enjoy life everyday.

We love you, Susan!

"BAG IT has touched my heart and my life in many ways, both professionally and personally when my husband was diagnosed with head and neck cancer in 2011. BAG IT is a special organization and provides a tremendous service!"

VOLUNTEER IMPACT

102 volunteers provided

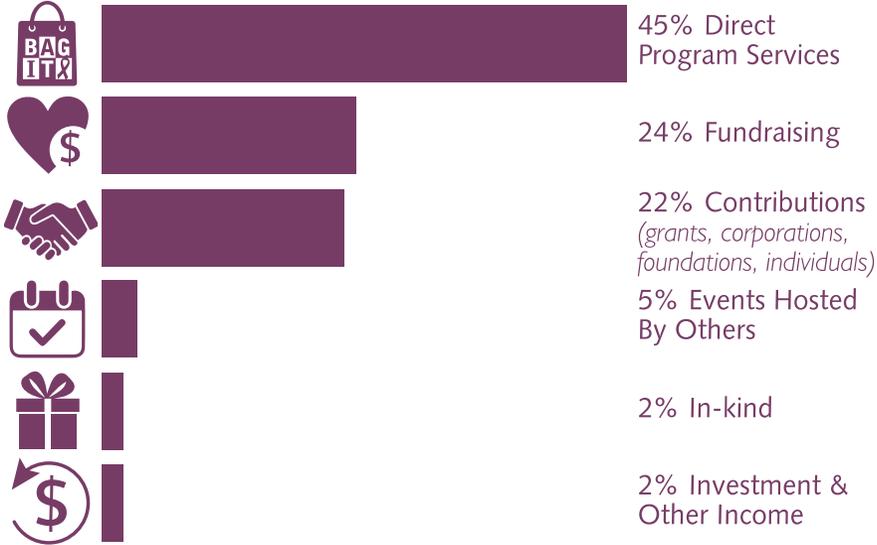
1,391 hours

valued at more than \$33,578



FINANCIALS

Income



Expenses



The charts and information provided are based on unaudited financial statements for the period July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018.

Assets: BAG IT's assets totaled \$190,230 including inventory and savings.

Income: Program services income of \$118,729 included contributions by medical providers who distributed bags to their patients, individuals who ordered bags, and sponsors for our ESCAPE to Thrive leadership conference for cancer advocates. Our three key fundraisers: Take a Hike for BAG IT (*Tucson*), Be There for BAG IT (*Phoenix*) and Sponsor a Bag (*virtual*) totaled \$64,000 in revenue.

Expenses: Total operating expenses during the year totaled \$350,693.

Help Us Empower Even More

Thanks to your support and dedication we are able to continue to provide the BAG IT bag at no cost to patients and families diagnosed with cancer. We learn more everyday about the value of patients being organized, informed and ready to communicate with their providers. The opportunity is always there for you to make a difference to someone impacted by cancer.

Crystal Monthly Giving Program

In honor of 15 years of BAG IT bags we recently launched our monthly giving program. It's easy to donate \$15, \$25 or \$50 a month - or an amount of your choosing - and support someone impacted by cancer by providing them a bag. A yearly contribution of \$15 each month provides 5 bags.

To sign up or learn more, visit bagit4u.org/donations or call (520) 575-9602 today.



Anne in Tucson

"The reason I give monthly is because I like to keep things simple. It comes right out of my paycheck and it's one less thing I need to worry about. It's easy and convenient."

Matching Gifts

Matching gifts are a powerful way to double your donation to BAG IT and provide more bags. If you are an individual making a gift to BAG IT check with your company to see if they will match the gift. If you are a business that matches employee giving gifts please let them (*and us*) know.



Many Thanks To Our Major Partners

Donations of \$20,000 and more



Donations of \$10,000 and more



Donations of \$5,000 and more

Arizona Lithographers	Dr. Grace Hou
Banner University Medical Center Phoenix	Incyte
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	McConnell Colorectal Center
Country Fair White Elephant	Schmidt-Barton Family Fund
Dorothy Harmsen & Bill Harmsen Sr.	Shire
Charitable Foundation	Tucson Medical Center Foundation
Heinfeld, Meech & Co.	University of Arizona Medical Center

Donations of \$2,500 and more

Aslan Foundation	HTG Molecular
Anne & Dr. Don Brooks	Precision Toyota
Genentech	Scottsdale Medical Imaging
Genomic Health	Xcel Delivery Services

Donations of \$1,000 and more

Abrazo Por La Familia	Pima Medical Institute
Bayer	Phoenix Oncology Nursing Society
BeachFleischman PC	Quilt for a Cause
Mary Carhuff	Radiology Ltd.
Cochise Surgical Care PLLC	Russo, Russo & Slania, P.C.
Barbara & Frank Coyle	Ralph Silberschlag
Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment	Southwest Oncology Centers
Glaz-Tech Industries	Takeda Pharmaceuticals International Co.
Susan Kettlewell	Tucson Glass & Mirror
Amy Knorr	

Donations of \$500 and more

American Express Employee Match	Mariposa Community Health Center
Nancy & Corey Arvizu	North Country Health Care
Anne Camerato	Pima County Health Department
Colorectal Cancer Alliance	Pinal County Health Department
Commerce Bank	Joan & Paul Romanoski
Victoria Porter Cramer	Sherri & Joe Romanoski
Lidija Pestic-Dragovich	Sieglinde Tiedemann
Genesis OBGYN	Watson Chevrolet
Rusing, Lopez & Lizardi	

Donations of \$250 and more

Architectural Openings	Anna Janezic
Chiricahua Community Health Clinic	Christine & Timothy Kobs
Cornelia & Mike Forsyth	Tucson Coin & Autograph
Mindy Griffith	Yavapai County Community Health Clinic