

Breast Health Connection of Georgia Annual Report 2001 - 2002



Founding Board Members

2001

June Barnes
Natasha Blakeney
Susan Berry
Cathy Broom
Linda Eaton
Aisha Hasan
Becky Gordon
Gail McCray
Diane Manheim
Nancy Rodriguez
Iris Shadrick
Sherri Wiseman

BHCG Becomes Non-Profit

After being formed in 1995, the BHCG made the leap and became a corporate entity in Georgia in 2001 and a state and federal non-profit 501c3 in 2002.

Almost immediately the organization was blessed with donations, and several grants. The BHCG would like to thank individual donors to the organization as well as the following organizations for their grants and donations: the Healthcare Research Foundation; the American Cancer Society; Encircling Arms, Inc.; and TBS Super Station.

Additionally, the BHCG would like to acknowledge the following organizations for their in-kind support: Georgia Medical Care Foundation, (GMCF) the

National Cancer Institute, Georgia Public Health - Division of Cancer Control, National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer, Memory Bell, Inc., Bearden & Smith CPA, and Lib Properties. All of these organizations have helped us to accomplish our goals and broaden our horizons for the future.

If you would like to donate to the Breast Health Connection of Georgia to help with our work, your tax deductible donation can be sent to BHCG 57 Executive Park S., Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30329.

Envisioning the Future

The past year for the BHCG has been one of continuity and evolution. We renewed our commitment to ongoing projects, while better defining our vision of the future. Part of this process is reflected in our revised mission statement, and the addition of a vision

and values statement for the organization. We would like to thank board member Becky Gordon for her guidance as the Board of Directors walked through a day long strategic planning retreat and (continued next page) follow-up meetings to help us define our goals for the future. We are proud to introduce our work to you.

Envisioning the Future continued...



Fulton-Dekalb decorations



Gwinnett Kickoff

Mission: The BHCG is committed to partnering with diverse organizations to educate, motivate, and empower women to make informed decisions related to breast health assessments, treatment, and support.

Vision: BHCG will be recognized for being a good collaborative organization, which capitalizes on grass roots support.

It will provide creative and successful educational and outreach programs, act as a catalyst for positive change for breast cancer awareness and education at a system and personal level, and will facilitate and empower women of Georgia to make in-

formed choices related to breast health.

Values:

- Broad based programming
- Access to good information and good care
- Reaching under-served communities in Georgia
- Commitment to serve

Bells for Remembrance Continues to Strengthen Ties Between Communities of Faith, Health Providers and Local Resources

The 2001-2002 Bells for Remembrance program continued in the long tradition of successfully bringing together the faith community with health care providers and local community resources across the state. In 2002, the Bells program expanded from 10 community kickoffs to 23, more than doubling our ability to reach out to Georgians everywhere with information and resources.

This year alone, BHCG has reached over 223,000 Georgians on or around Mother's Day with educational materials or information. Over 845 people attended Bell's Kickoffs, and over 450 Bells kits were distributed across the state.

Much of our work in 2002 has been evaluated to assure that our resources are most effectively used and that we offer community committees the right tools for the job at hand. Evaluation results indicated communities needed

- 1) help to better identify and engage key community players in the planning and follow-up efforts related to Bells;
- 2) additional resources and modified materials for the rural communities;
- 3) increased options for bulletin inserts and bulletin board materials; and
- 4) help with sponsorship of more local Women's Health Day activities or forums. All of those communities have indicated a desire to participate in the Bells for Remembrance program again next year.

(continued)

Bells for Remembrance continued...

We look forward to the valuable input from our kick-off communities and participation in the coming year.



Atlanta congregation celebrates Bells for Remembrance 2002

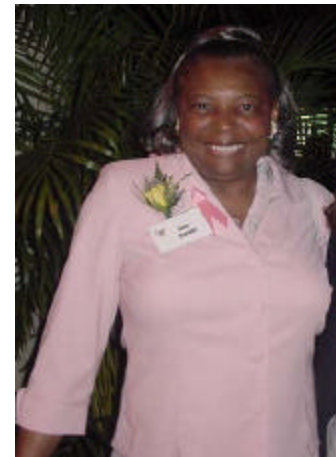
Participating communities

- Appling County
- Bacon County
- Bibb County-Macon
- Candler County
- Charlton County
- Chatham/Effingham Counties-Savannah
- Clinch County
- Cobb/Douglas Counties
- Coweta/Troup County-Newnan
- Dekalb/Fulton Counties-Atlanta
- Evans County
- Floyd County-Rome
- Glynn County-Brunswick
- Gwinnett County
- Hall County-Gainesville
- Laurens County-Dublin
- Muscogee County-Columbus
- Richmond County-Augusta
- Toombs County
- Wayne County

TBS Super 17 honors BHCG Board Member June Barnes

On Friday night, August 30, 2002, our own June Barnes was recognized for her "super" efforts on behalf of the Breast Health Connection of Georgia and the women of Georgia. June was recognized for her work with breast cancer patients and promoting screening through her work in the community and her Bells for

Remembrance program activities. A donation of \$500 was made by TBS on behalf of June, and we are all proud to acknowledge June's efforts on our behalf. Congratulations June on your honor and your work!



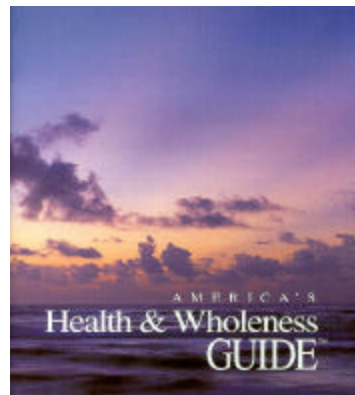
June Barnes

New Health and Wholeness Guide ready for distribution

We are pleased to announce that the Health and Wholeness Guide, created by the BHCG and Securitec is complete.

This health record, created for our Bells for Remembrance congregations, will be field tested this fall for distribution in May as part of our Bells for Remembrance campaign.

A copy of the Guide is being made available to all those attending the 2002 Annual meeting.



Memory Bell Inc. Supports BHCG



We are excited to promote a new fundraising partnership between the makers of Memory Bells, Inc. and the BHCG. Each time the BHCG is selected as the "Charity of Choice" and a bell is ordered, 25% of the purchase price is donated to the Breast Health Connection. Go to www.memorybell.com to select a beautiful silver bell as a gift, memorial or keepsake and help the cause of breast cancer education in our state. Be sure to tell your friends and family about the site.

Governor Proclaims May 2002 as Bells for Remembrance Month



For the third year in a row, Governor Barnes has declared May *Bells for Remembrance* Month. With the help of our partner, the Georgia Breast Cancer Coalition, Governor and Mrs. Barnes along with other high profile Georgians are aware of the program. (Rose Crum-Johnson, Regional Administrator for Medicare spoke about the Bells program at an Food and Drug Administration sponsored state-wide town hall meeting, and Dr. Dee Baldwin, Director of Women's Health at Department of Community Health, spoke at our 2000 Atlanta area Kickoff.) Look for more public acknowledgement of this wonderful program in 2003.

Health Literacy Conference Planned in Macon for January 2003

The BHCG, supported by a grant from the Georgia Healthcare Research Foundation, is convening a statewide conference on health literacy. The conference, which was initially conceived to help providers and advocates do a better job of reaching and teaching those with poor health literacy about breast cancer, has broadened its mission and expanded partnerships.

Organizations that are helping plan the event include the State of Georgia Health Literacy Program, the Georgia Library Association, Emory School of Public Health, Morehouse School of Medicine, Magnolia AHEC, Phoebe Putney Medical Center, North Georgia Technical College, Georgia Medical Care Foundation

and the Breast Health Connection of Georgia.

The full day Conference is planned for Tuesday, January 21, 2003 at the Mercer School of Medicine in Macon, Georgia.

Sessions include an overview of health literacy, techniques in developing materials for those with low health literacy, and best practices in Georgia. Also sessions related to technology and health literacy are in the plans.

For more information, contact Nancy Rodriguez, President BHCG at 404-848-2334.