New Research Findings Supporting Our claim of how breast cancer affects black women.

We cannot stress enough the importance of women and their family members taking full advantage of the great number of resources that are made available to them on the issue of breast cancer. Since our inception in 2001 we have been using every opportunity to encourage women to be proactive in their health issues and while many have taken positive steps towards change many women of African heritage are still suffering in silence. The time has come for us to build strong alliances and join together to remove the barriers that have been erected through our diverse cultural backgrounds. Arming ourselves with educational ammunition will enable us to fight the battle of cancer and decrease the number of incidences in our community.

Recently lead author Dr. Iqbal Javaid and Dr. Steven Narod, director of the Familial Breast Cancer Research Unit at Women’s College Hospital completed a study that confirmed what we at The Olive Branch of Hope already knew from our association with colleagues and researchers from the USA that "Black women are at greater risk of dying from early-stage breast cancer when compared with women of other races and ethnicities. This report is encouraging and extremely important to us. In 2004 one of our local newspapers put out an article seen below where we recognize this and attempted to draw attention to this fact. Ten years later Women’s College Hospital is taking the lead in Canada.

Finally Canada is playing a role in looking at how breast cancer affects black women. They are not alone we have doctors from our community working hard to change the way breast cancer is perceived in our community. Dr. Onye Nnorom, Dr. Juliet Daniel, Dr. Aisha Lofters and other recognize the importance of having data specific to our black women.
“So Glad I Made It” The Role of Clinical Trials

When I was diagnosed with stage three advanced breast cancer I was given the strongest kind of chemotherapy available at the time to increase my chances of survival. I learned later that they stopped giving that type of chemotherapy because it was too toxic.

Many of us would rather not participate in clinical trials but in my book “So Glad I Made It” I share amazing stories of women who survived because of clinical trials. Each year millions of dollars is raised to enable researchers to continue to try to find a cure for breast cancer and also to improve on the kind of treatment available to women today. Finding a cure is what all women want to hear but until we have a cure we want to have access to the best treatment possible and this requires our involvement in clinical trials. Let’s talk about clinical trials with Brenda Ahenkorah of Clinical Trials Referral Network and get a clear understanding of its importance.

Seminars & Workshops

Our Education seminars and workshops is important to our program delivery and gives us an opportunity to inform you of the latest in breast cancer treatment and supportive care. This month we are having a special presentation by Dr. Naomi P. Martin and her team from Self Care Catalyst. Also Lymphologist Winsome Johnson will speak on the importance of the Lymph system, cleansing and detoxification. Please join us at The Olive Branch of Hope, 845 Wilson Ave, Suite#103, lower Level on March 21st at 10:00am for this important and informative Health Session.

Events:

“We Believe” Fundraising Gala “ Saturday April 18th, 2015

Annual Walkathon – August 22nd, 2015 G.Ross Lord Park, Toronto

Breast Cancer Awareness Day - Saturday October 3, 2015

Monthly Seminars & Workshop meetings the third Saturday of each month. Please call us for exact location. 416-256-3155