

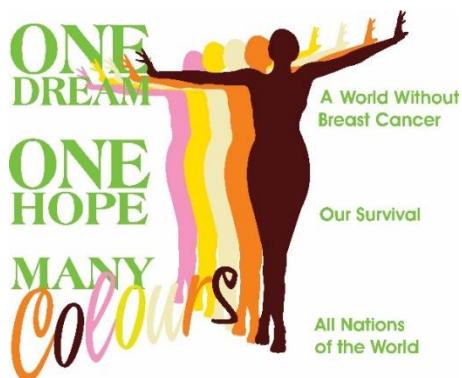
Annual Report
October 1st, 2018 – September 30, 2019

**Real People
Real Hope
Every Life Matters**



**Sharing caring &
Surviving**

Personal Touch





"Each year, I am more inspired by you, our passionate donors who are investing in research and bringing more hope to patients and their families in the African & Caribbean Diaspora. This includes Dawn Barker, featured on our cover, whose life was saved at The Olive Branch of Hope and will be here to watch her children grow up. With your support, Women of this population who face cancer continue to receive world-class care and support. It is an absolute privilege and pleasure to be at the helm of this organization and I feel inspired that together, The Olive Branch of Hope continues to bring hope to those diagnosed by cancer.

As we approach our twentieth year we look back connecting the dots and being filled with gratitude at having come this far with your help.

Thank you for your continued support without which we could not accomplish all these achievements."

Sincerely

Leila Springer - President



As I reflect on my time as chair of The Olive Branch of Hope (TOBOH) Chair of Board of Directors, I am filled with pride for the incredible work being done at TOBOH, by our fantastic board and most of all, you, our donors. We share a passion to propel the world-leading clinicians and scientists forward on our quest to eliminate cancer. The Board is motivated by our 500 donors and most importantly, by the countless lives you have helped to save and improve.

Thank you for all your continued support. We could not do this without your sacrificial giving.

Yours truly

Donnaree Nairn-Tucker -
Board Chair

Our Board of Directors

Leila Springer-President

Donnaree Nairn-Tucker:

Chair

Sandra Snipe:

Secretary

Janice Carty:

Treasurer

Blessing Bassey-Archibong:

PhD Director

Antoinette Scott:

Director

Yvonne Salmon:

Director/Entrepreneur

Denise Evans:

CMA - Director

CONTACT US

845 Wilson Ave. Suite#103

Toronto, ON M6A Phone

1-416-256-3155 FX 416-256-4069

olivebranch@theolivebranch.ca

theolivebranch.ca


The Olive Branch of Hope
Cancer Support Services



Founders

Leila Springer & Winsome

PROGRAMS

Think Beyond Love Pink:

Our *Think Beyond Love Pink* Program is our community education program covering every aspect of the cancer journey from prevention, diagnosis, treatment and getting back on track. We engage community professionals to assist and strengthen our message of hope health and healing including healthy eating habits, the importance of exercise, and the dangers of household cleaning items which can be toxic at times threatening our everyday lives. This year we included the expertise of a trichologist who shared with our audience the dangers of some hair products and encouraged them to use more natural products to help them not only get, but maintain a healthy lifestyle. Our program did not receive any funding this year, however, we were able to raise enough funds in our community to enable us to continue this vital program.



This year our TBLP program was expanded to reach out to our local churches. We began breast cancer month with a service at a church in Scarborough and concluded with our Evening of Hope at a Brampton church. Other local outreaches included the Jamaican National Bank and other community centres. This program continues to be popular and the number of attendees has been extended by 50% increase. Next year we hope to continue our drive to raise awareness and educate our community.

Think Beyond Love Pink - African & Caribbean Breast Cancer Assistance Program

This is a part of our TBLP program which has now extended beyond the borders of Canada to the Caribbean with future plans of extending to Africa. So far, we have served two Caribbean countries (Barbados and Jamaica) and are planning to add Grenada to the list in the near future. We have decided that this is the maximum number of countries we can effectively serve with the program we have developed (please see appendix#1 & 2). The Olive Branch of Hope – Caribbean Breast Cancer Assistant Program (CBCAP) project is designed to provide support through resources to the women of African Ancestry regardless of their geographical location. We strive to create links between teams already existing or assist in establishing support services to women in countries where none exist. For those with existing programs we will support them by developing stronger links and providing resources. In the past we have raised and donated \$30,000 to assist in providing free mammograms for women over a three year period. These funds were specifically donated by concerned community members.



Worship in Pink:

This program allows our clients to express themselves spiritually in freedom. Spirituality is part of our core makeup as a population and cannot be ignored when dealing with illness. We believe that not only is one encouraged knowing that a power higher than themselves is in control, but also moments of prayer brings with it a release of the stress and promise of Hope for healing.

The goal is to inspire hope in the hearts of those attending allowing them to worship without inhibition in a way that is comfortable for them. This brings tremendous comfort to the hearts of those in attendance giving them a peace that is beyond understanding which is also representative of our logo, a dove and a branch.





We encourage those seeking Supportive Care to connect with us through the **TOBOHvine** which consists of four elements: Ease, Education, Access Support & Empowerment with a goal to support every woman in every aspect of her life and not just her cancer. We will offer opportunity to share personal information in an intimate setting where we will continue to stress the importance of confidentiality. We will also engage more professional speakers to come in and share information as well as look for opportunities in the community to speak and raise awareness not only about cancer, but also to let them know we are here to help and bring hope to their lives that is being threatened by a serious illness.

Sharing and Caring For Seniors Living with Breast Cancer

As most of our clients are post menopausal women it is important that we allow them to Share information (awareness) through forums, and speaking engagements to express themselves in telling and sharing their stories. This allows women to live with dignity after a diagnosis of breast cancer by engaging in several different types of activities. For example, Our Art and Music therapy program designed to help seniors who are diagnosed with breast cancer ***Age Well, Keep Well, and Enjoy Life***. A study by Stanford University school of Medicine noted that depressed people over 80 years of age found that participants in a weekly music therapy group were less anxious, less distressed, and had higher self-esteem. It was also noted that Cancer Subjects who participated in a clinical trial using the Health Rhythms protocol showed an increase in natural killer cell activity and an enhanced immune system.



At The Olive Branch of Hope we believe that engaging seniors in art therapy can challenge their creative self and enhance cognitive function. This can be beneficial to those living with cancer and put seniors in a social setting where they can relate with other survivors and non-survivors. Women are also encouraged to continue to share their stories with family members to preserve family health history which is still a best kept secret among the population that we serve. Art and music can bring hidden or forgotten feelings to the surface and give seniors a new outlet for their feelings as they relieve the stress that a diagnosis and treatment brings.

Butterfly Survivors Retreat

We organize a special weekend away from the familiar to allow women to relax refresh and rejuvenate. This allows her to redirect her focus from work and family to herself which is often neglected as she strives to continue to nurture those she loves even through her illness. Our ***Looking Good Feeling Fabulous*** session helps bring out her inner beauty and restore her outer beauty that cancer seeks to destroy. This year through a small funding received we are able to subsidize this program and put a special smile on a woman's face. To sponsor a woman to attend this weekend away please go to our website www.theolivebranch to make a safe donation.



Peel Region Brampton Outreach (PRBO)

The Olive Branch of Hope Peel

2019 Report

Programs are initiated in the GTA head office and duplicated in all established outreach centres. The Brampton outreach is the first extension of TOBOH and is headed up by June Buckle – Director and Assistant Director, Leona Earlington. Below is a copy of June's report:

It has been quite a year for The Olive Branch of Hope Peel.

We started the year holding our monthly meetings at North Park Worship Centre but have since moved to a more "homey" feel where our meetings were held at the home of Dr. Blessing Bassey-Archibong. Although our meeting attendance fluctuated from month to month we average about 6 people attending per meeting.

The annual Evening of Hope held October 6th at North Park worship Centre was a tremendous success. We had many people in attendance including Brampton Councillor Charmaine Williams who presented TOBOH with a plaque. Our collected love offering was donated back to TOBOH.

TOBOH Peel's next project was a fundraising Caribbean cruise from November 10th – 17th where there were 18 cruisers in attendance. From this initiative, **\$2000.00** was donated to The Olive Branch of Hope. Another cruise is in the works for 2020.



This past year June Buckle, Patricia Russell, and Debbie Pottinger were all a part of the CURE Foundation outreach and were given the opportunity to do a lunch and learn session in the Mississauga area. CURE Foundation is the organization that funded our larger "Think Beyond Love Pink" program in the 2018-2019 season.

The TOBOH Social that was planned for August 11th unfortunately was cancelled and will be rescheduled for August 9th 2020.

We have had quite a year and 2019 was sent off in style with a potluck breakfast in December where attendants enjoyed a variety of scrumptious dishes and enjoyed good conversation.

By the grace of God, we will see what 2020 has in store for us all.

Thank you.



June Buckle
Director
The Olive Branch Of Hope Peel.

EVENTS

Annual Prayer Breakfast

Our annual prayer breakfast is always a time to reflect and refocus for the new year. This year we saw a slight drop in attendance and we have not yet identified the reason for the change, however, it is our desire to reorganize and regroup for 2021 which is our anniversary year. Prayer is an integral part of our getting back on tract and trusting God to heal and restore our bodies. This year's event was very well organized and attendees interacted and connected with each other on a new level. Round table discussions and prayer was implemented which worked well in preparing for the new year ahead.

Annual We Believe Fundraising Gala

This year's Gala was well attended. We welcomed again Susan Grogan as our vocalist as well as the great Jully Black. Our DJ Jonathan Shaw "Juiceman" kept the crowd on their feet with his soft rhythm as they swayed to the music all while raising funds. Unfortunately, we fell short of our fundraising goal of \$15,000. With your help we hope to do much better this coming year.

Annual One Dream Walk of Hope

This is our second largest fundraiser. Help us make this event bigger by encouraging friends, families, and colleagues to join us for this memorable walk while raising funds to help with our programs and enable us to give more to support research efforts by local scientists. Each year we raise \$15,000 and we need your help to double this figure.

This year we began with a Zumba exercise session with Brenda Chung and then set out on the trails that took us through the park and on the Steeles Ave W making detours back to the Park.

Thank you to all the participants and supporters.

One Dream Walk of Hope 2020 August 22



TOBOH in Local Churches

This year we were able to reach out to some of our local churches where most of our women congregate. Thanks to the West End Toronto Church of God where we were able to work with Yvonne Vernon to bring knowledge of the disease to the church. We were also able to share with the church members of the Malvern Methodist Church in Scarborough.

Members of Revivaltime Tabernacle were also able to participate in our annual conference by hosting our Think Beyond Love Pink Conference this year. The event was very well attended mostly by non-members of the church. We had great speakers that covered not only topics on cancer by other topics relating to women's reproductive organs and best practices to get and stay healthy.



TOBOHxUTSc's Club

We are proud of our first University Club which meets at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus. This club was first formed after a group of energetic young volunteers who worked with us on developing our "Think Beyond Love Pink" project recognized the thread of cancer on younger women of African Ancestry and wanted to raise awareness and share what they had learned as a result of working on the project.

Their focus is to raise awareness through small group meetings and fundraising efforts which is mainly directed to supporting survivors financially. As students their efforts in raising funds are limited, however, to a woman who has nothing it can be very helpful and is very much appreciated. Last year their Hoop for Hope event yielded \$500 which was donated to a young mother diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer that had already spread to her brain.

Other events planned were:

- Family feud/ game night (October 2019):
 - event where we welcomed new members attending by informing them about what the club, what the Olive branch of hope is and its goals, and played a few games like family feud
- Halloween event with the Hub (October 2020):
 - volunteering event where we helped the Hunt to ensure success of their Halloween haunted house event
- Dance for cancer (November) :
 - A two-hour Fundraising event where people came to dance Zumba/Hip-hop with an entry cost of \$2 per entry led by Ghislaine.
- Valentines bake sale (February 2020):
 - Fundraiser event where the club sold cupcakes and made around \$75
- We planned to host 2 more events:
 - basketball event called "hoops for hope" which was hosted successfully last year
 - Another dance for cancer event



MAIN FOCUS 2020

We have three main focuses for our 2019-2020 year as follows:

1. Expand our supportive care program under the banner “**TOBOHvine**” This allows us to incorporate our four pillars (Education, Access, Support & Empower) of the organization. All sessions will be planned around these four pillars.
 - In an effort to stay within the findings and suggestions of the strategic plan outcome, we designed this term to help us weave together the supportive care programs which is the foundation of who we are and what we do in the communities we serve.
 - E.A.S.E (Four words acts as our pillars to build on).
 - **E**ducation
 - **A**ccess or Awareness or Advocate
 - **S**upport, sharing, survival tools to address, fear, treatment and side effects Empower, Enlighten, and Engage.
 - **E**mpowerment – using motivational speakers and appropriate tools wo enlighten, engage and encourage women to live life to the fullest.
2. We recognize that these are ambitious goals this year and in order for us to fulfill and be successful we will need to increase our financial resources. Each program has a cost tag attached to it and we realize that some things cannot be achieved without your sacrificial giving and the help of corporate donations. We know that you believe in the work that we do and will not hesitate to support with your finances and we appreciate all your efforts. Thank you for your continued support.
3. Resources – To create more information packages, including updated research findings to help us deliver evidenced based information to our clients.

On behalf of all of us here at The Olive Branch of Hope, thank you for your continued support. Remember you can donate safely through our website www.theolivebranch.ca always remember to print your tax receipt after you donate and safely put it away for income tax purposes.

You may also e-transfer donations to olivebranch@theolivebranch.ca



*Donate a mammogram
screening and
Create a survivor*

