

# THE EMPOWER & EXPANSION ISSUE

NOVEMBER 2023

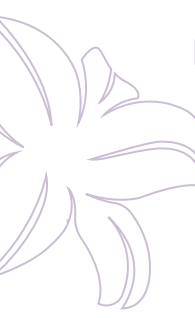


**Tigerlily  
Foundation**


*Beauty. Strength. Transformation.*



## THE EMPOWER & EXPANSION ISSUE




From a seed of hope planted in our founder's heart, Tigerlily Foundation has blossomed into a vibrant force for good, and the 17th Annual Empower Ball marked a momentous occasion in our journey. As we gather in this season of gratitude, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all who have supported Tigerlily's mission, vision, and programs. Your unwavering belief in our cause has enabled us to empower countless individuals impacted by breast cancer and beyond.



In response to the calls of patient advocates, we are thrilled to announce an expansion of our mission. Tigerlily will now not only provide support for those affected by breast cancer but also encompass a broader focus on women's oncology and overall health. This expansion reflects our unwavering commitment to addressing the unique needs of women facing health challenges.

We are incredibly grateful for your continued support as we embark on this exciting new chapter. Together, we can make a profound impact on the lives of women, providing them with the resources and guidance they need to thrive. Let us continue to nurture the seeds of hope, empowering women to embrace their strength and resilience.



## Tigerlily's 17th Annual EmPOWER Ball Recap!

Tigerlily Foundation's 17th EmPOWER Ball was an incredible triumph, with **over 600 attendees coming together to celebrate individuals** who are making a positive impact on health outcomes and promoting health equity for underserved communities.

- **Eight advocates and healthcare providers were honored** - Keisha Stephney, Shonte' Drakeford, Kawana Rucker, Tania Small, MD, Robert Winn, MD, Paige More, Dr. Paris Thomas & Lisa Simms Booth -for their incredible efforts in eliminating disparities faced by women with breast cancer.
- **We recognized our sponsors** - Amgen, Merck, Gilead, Seagen, Pfizer, Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation, and Daiichi Sankyo for their unwavering support in bringing our patient-centered programs to life.
- Thanks to your generosity - **We raised over \$500,000** for our programs that support young women - before, during, and after cancer.





## Tigerlily Foundation's Empower Ball: Empowering Women Fighting Breast Cancer



On November 7th, Tigerlily's own Shanda Cooper Goff and Kawana Rucker sat down with the hosts of Living Local DMV to discuss the importance of breast health education, advocacy, community and the Empower Ball.

[Watch interview here!](#)

## Tigerlily's first Beacon Symposium!

Tigerlily's Inaugural BEACON Symposium took place on Saturday, November 11 at the Grand Hyatt Washington, D.C., bringing together 23 speakers representing patient, advocate, provider, pharma, community-based leader, faith-based leader, regulatory agency, policy expert, health care system, researcher and advocacy organization voices to co-create solutions and paths forward to health equity. At the symposium, panelists and speakers shared about their innovative models and best practices to bring equitable, patient-centric care to all communities, engaging the audience members to brainstorm and collaborate in co-creating solutions as well.

Each person attending walked away from the symposium with five commitments of actions to take in their respective networks to move this work forward now. We thank everyone involved in the event and who attended for their work to bring this first-of-its kind symposium to fruition. Together, we are the BEACON of hope and light that drives us forward to health equity. Thank you again to our wonderful panelists and speakers:

**Kawana Rucker, BCHC & PA, Keisha Stephney, Mandi L. Pratt-Chapman, PhD, Lyndsay Levingston, Pamela L. Barnes, MA, Sara Horton, MD, Christian Dauphin, Kendal Whitlock, Neha Shah Londoño, Christina Mackey, Jazmine A. Lampkin, BSN, RN, Regina Hampton, MD, FACS, Pierce Gould, Rachel Landauer, Valencia Robinson, Eucharia Borden, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW, Linda Murakami, Shonte' Drakeford, Ann Fonfa, Asma Dilawari MD, Lisa Simms Booth, Ocelia Pearsall, PA-C, DrPH, D-Div and Reverend Caron A. Gwynn.**



And an additional thank you also to our BEACON Symposium sponsors: **Merck, Amgen, Lily Oncology, Astellas, Blueprint Medicines, Eisai** and our Listening Session supporters **Gilead Oncology**.

## Tigerlily's 9th Annual Young Women's Breast Health Day on the Hill



Tigerlily's 9th Annual Young Women's Breast Health Day on the Hill (YWBHD) was a great success! Twenty ANGEL Advocates from across the U.S. representing our target geographic locations with the highest breast cancer death rates for Black women joined us in Washington D.C. to advocate for triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) equity! These advocates shared their stories with representatives to educate about the disparities in TNBC and call on their Congressmembers to support H.R. 235, the TNBC Research & Education Act.



## MY LIFE Matters Advocacy in Action 2023 Digital Issue is here!

This edition of MY LIFE Matters emphasizes the crucial role of advocacy in the cancer community. By advocating, we can enhance health outcomes, promote early detection, eradicate disparities, expand treatment options, increase clinical trial access, provide peer support, and educate patients, caregivers, and the medical community.

This issue showcases Advocacy in Action and the inspiring narratives of remarkable advocates within our community. Let these stories motivate you to join the advocacy movement. Advocacy begins with a single voice. As that voice grows stronger, it will transform into a resounding song, attracting more people to join the chorus of hope and change. What once appeared impossible will become not only attainable but also a melody known to all, embodying the “Power of Many.” Join us in advocacy. Together, let’s embody Advocacy in Action.

**A HUGE shout out to the ANGEL Advocates who contributed with editorials, pictures and insights to make this issue so incredible.** An extra special thank- you to our (ANGELs Jonelle Deshotel, Juanita Miller, Sheila Johnson, Michelle Anderson- Benjamin, Kawana Rucker, Latia Maxwell, Lashelle Scott, Catrina Marcel, Paris Smith, Christy Rivers), (advocates Asha Miller, Kimber Hand-Harris, Sue Friedman, Wenora Johnson) and our medical experts Regenia Washington-Redmon and Dr. Lisa Trevino.



[Read the full magazine here!](#)

## Conferences on the Horizon

**"Sharing my cancer experience with researchers allows me to find purpose in my pain."**

**Juanita Miller**  
Metastatic Breast Cancer Patient & Patient Advocate





**"Cancer made me stand up for myself and those who look like me."**

**Eboney D. Thompson**  
Metastatic Breast Cancer Patient & Patient Advocate





Breast cancer disproportionately affects Black and African American women, who are often underrepresented in cancer research studies, therefore limiting researchers' true understanding of this disease.

Sharing your cancer experience with Count Me In has the power to help future generations not have to face this disease.

Join by completing these 4 easy steps:

- Step 1: Provide consent and tell us where you've been treated.
- Step 2: Answer questions about your cancer.
- Step 3: Provide samples (we'll send you a kit).
- Step 4: Stay connected and learn with us along the way.

JoinCountMeIn.org

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[countmein](#)  
 Count Me In: Patient-Partnered Research




### Journal of the Advanced Practitioner in Oncology Live 2023 Conference

Black/African American women are disproportionately impacted by breast cancer - dying at higher rates, diagnosed at later stages, and with more aggressive subtypes. Compounding these disparities is the challenge that lies within clinical research participation, of which the majority of participants are white - leaving research and trials less representative for Black/African American breast cancer patients. To further our understanding of MBC and increase sustainable participation of Black/African American MBC patients in clinical research, over the last year, TLF launched a partnership with the Count Me In (CMI) to develop an equitable collaborative approach connecting CMI researchers with Black/African American MBC patients to create culturally relevant and resonate informational and educational materials for the Black/African American MBC community. We will be sharing preliminary results from this collaboration at the Journal of the Advanced Practitioner in Oncology Live 2023 Conference in Orlando, Florida this month!

## 7th Annual Advanced Breast Cancer Conference

ABC7 2023  
Abstract # 52  
*Capturing Life in Color: Documenting the Lived Experiences of Advanced Breast Cancer Patients*

**AUTHORS:**  
Jaqueline Selymes and Virginia Leach, MA  
Tigerlily Foundation, Stone Ridge, Virginia, USA



**Background**

The Tigerlily Foundation (TLF), a non-profit organization aiming to empower women to gain better health, develops and distributes two digital education campaigns to capture powerful and authentic stories of people affected by MBC.

**Program Description**

MY LIFE Matters Magazine highlights the mind-body-soul approach to wellness, the experiences of patients involved in clinical trials, the impact of metastasis on bones, and other key topics. In the pages of this magazine, patients share personal experiences, tips, and insights on how to live their best life when living with MBC.



**Program Description**

BREATHE TV is an educational and inspirational lifestyle web series brings together patients, providers, and loved ones in a space of purpose while engaging in authentic and meaningful conversations about cancer. In its third season, moving to its fourth, the series on YouTube has reached thousands of viewers.



For collaboration requests please contact  
[jacquelined@tigerlilyfoundation.org](mailto:jacquelined@tigerlilyfoundation.org)

The Tigerlily Foundation has been out in the community sharing current research projects with top leaders and public health professionals. Research Manager, Virginia Leach, attended several conferences this year. In November, Virginia will represent TLF virtually at the 7th Annual Advanced Breast Cancer Conference. This conference will highlight two of TLF's programs including My Life is My Legacy and BREATHE TV. Did you know that cancer patients and survivors can attend oncology conferences for free? If you are interested in attending, representing TLF, and meeting inspiring peers, please reach out to Virginia Leach at [virginia@tigerlilyfoundation.org](mailto:virginia@tigerlilyfoundation.org) to learn how you can attend conferences. If you want to participate in the two programs featured at the conference, please reach out to Program Director of Strategic Storytelling and Digital Programs Jaqueline Selymes at [jacqueline@tigerlilyfoundation.org](mailto:jacqueline@tigerlilyfoundation.org).

## Tigerlily Foundation at San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium 2023



The Tigerlily Foundation is excited to share that we have been selected to present at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS) 2023 in December! This is our second year representing the organization at SABCS. We are excited and proud of our dedicated team and patient advocates to make this happen. We can't wait to see you in San Antonio, Texas!



### Wake up with us, San Antonio!

Creating Communities of Hope and Action for Triple Negative Breast Cancer Hosted by Tigerlily Foundation in Partnership with Mays Cancer Center and Moffitt Cancer Center. Join Tigerlily Foundation with our patient and community organization partners for an exciting free breakfast event dedicated to raising awareness of research in your community and fostering support for those affected by Triple Negative Breast Cancer. Together, we can make a difference!

**Date:** Monday, December 5, 2023

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT

**Location:** Marriott Rivercenter, Pearl Conference Room, 101 Bowie Street, San Antonio, TX

[Register Here](#)

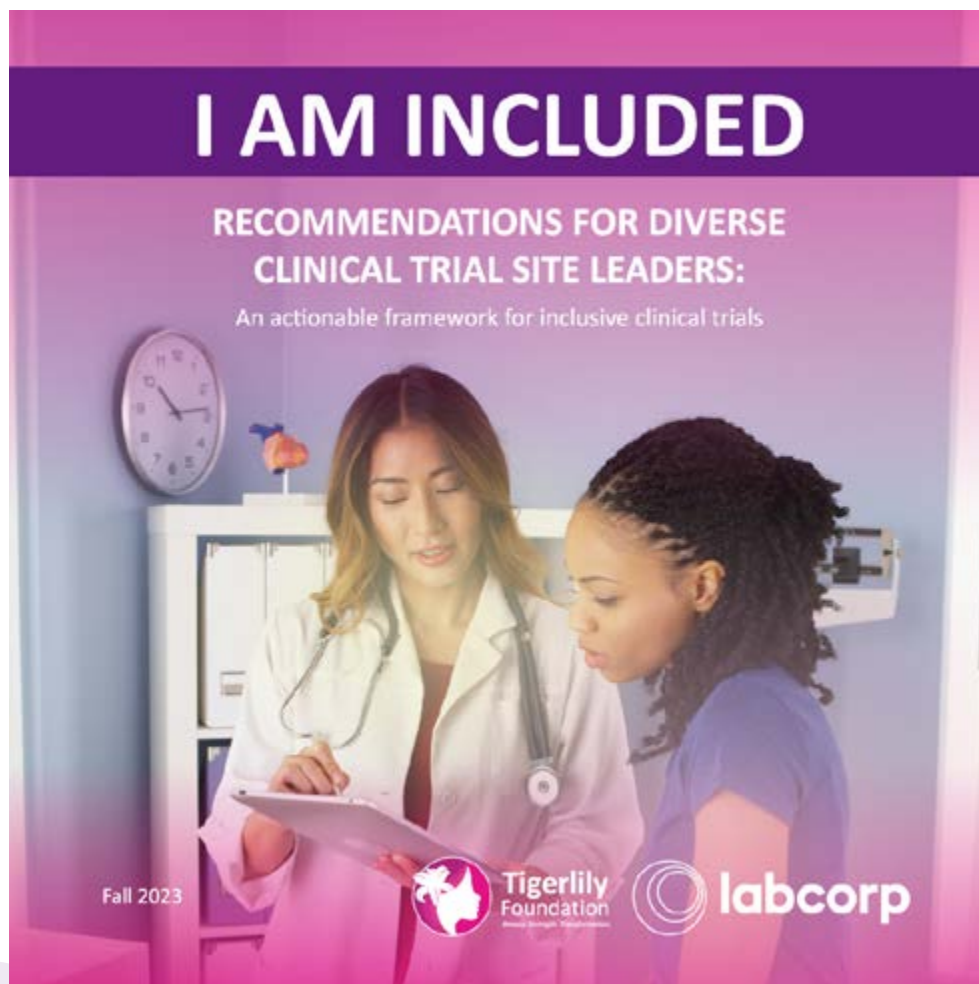


## I AM INCLUDED IS HERE

Tigerlily and Labcorp are honored to share the I AM INCLUDED framework to support site leaders and research centers advance inclusivity in clinical research and bring new medicines to market that will benefit all populations with disease.

Our hope is this document will inspire, reimagine and accelerate site specific strategic plans and partnerships resulting in practices that include representative communities where you work, live and pray. We thank all experts and patients for contributing with their experience and hearts to #IAMIncluded.

[Register to download the brochure here!](#)



## The 2023 #MYLIFEISMYLEGACY Series

Our MY LIFE series started its launch on Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day on October 13th. Please watch, like, share and comment and support each of these incredible individuals.



## 18-year-olds don't get breast cancer?



One week before she was set to graduate high school, as the rest of her friends got ready for the prom, instead of getting dressed up in her prom gown, Brittney was dressed in a hospital gown. She had been diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer at 18 years old. The cancer had spread throughout her bones and liver. While metastatic breast cancer is treatable, it's not curable. She will have to live with cancer for the rest of her life.

Brittney is still alive 8 years after her initial diagnosis. She's looking towards the future, as there are more treatments coming out all the time - this gives her hope. Brittney is determined to live and thrive, and is using her voice to spread love, healing and gratitude.

This is Brittney's legacy.

[Watch Brittney's Video Here!](#)



## I want you to LIVE



Kawana wants people to know they can LIVE! As a 2x breast cancer survivor Kawana found her tumor while doing a breast exam. Speaking up for herself, speaking often and speaking loudly has become a part of her survivorship and advocacy, as a Tigerlily Foundation ANGEL Advocate.

The fact is that the high disparities that impact cancer survival for Black women are also high with gun violence in the United States impacting Black families at alarming rates. Kawana's on a mission to spread the message of creating change – one person at a time by helping others so they can also fully LIVE.

This is Kawana's legacy.

[Watch Kawana's Video Here!](#)

## Fearless Warrior



Michelle knows firsthand that one of the hardest things about having cancer is having options taken away from you, like having to remove her breasts to survive.

After hearing the words “you have cancer” all Michelle could think of was her children. At 36 no one is thinking about death, but Michelle after the initial shock of her Stage 4 diagnosis, Michelle got back in the driver’s seat - and began to face her life – and death head on, by becoming a death doula, arranged her affairs and preparing her children as a way to be empowered and fearless – as she tackled life and faced death.

Michelle is focused on living and building the legacy she will leave, through her Fearless Warrior initiative. Her mission is to empower, inspire, and coach Communities of Color affected by cancer and to help their families find their superpowers within.

This is Michelle’s legacy.

[Watch Michelle’s Video Here!](#)

## Heroes



Two sisters who both become oncology nurses and nurse navigators, each with more than 25 years of professional experience and a lifetime of experience caring for others. Growing up, home life often included hospital beds. Cancer was an integral part of their lives from an early age, so caring for people came naturally, and nursing was second nature and a legacy calling for both sisters.

Nurses are angels on earth, and sisters Regenia and Pat are real life angels and heroes that walk amongst us. Nurses are our health advocates, they educate patients and the public on risk reduction, early detection, treatment, clinical trials, survivorship and provide care throughout the continuum of care. They hold our hands when we are sick. They cheer us on and they celebrate and support us - especially through the tough times. These incredible sisters have truly created a living legacy, of compassion and love.

This is Regenia's legacy.  
This is Pat's Legacy

[Watch Regenia & Pat's Video Here!](#)



## It's Amazing to Truly LIVE life



Valencia has dedicated her life to helping others in their cancer journey. Valencia has changed lives and is a leader in the advocacy and wellness community as a teacher, yoga instructor, mentor, and caregiver. Her contributions of time, expertise, leadership, nurture, financial support, advocacy and most of all love and compassion are immeasurable.

Cancer has had a far-reaching impact within Valencia's family, which is one of the things that propelled her into this work, along with her personal experience. She believes that talking about family health history, empowering them with knowledge, teaching wellness and the principles of holistic health change the trajectory cancer will have a transformational impact on her family. Valencia is a pillar to not only her family but also the cancer community. She is a caregiver, advocate and support system for families near and far.

This is Valencia's legacy.

[Watch Valencia's Video Here!](#)

## Life Happens After Diagnosis



Na'Diah believes that life can be good after diagnosis, that there is happiness after diagnosis, that miracles happen after diagnosis, and you must push through the hard parts to experience it.

While in the best shape of her life, active in the health and fitness community, Na'Diah found a lump while doing a breast self-exam. She requested a biopsy after which she was diagnosed. She then met with a fertility specialist which led to a very disappointing, failed egg harvest. Five years later, after losing all hope of starting a biological family of her own, she learned she was pregnant with her son. Grayson has become her hope, the rainbow at the end of her cancer diagnosis.

Na'Diah has a new life as a mother and as an advocate, she is persistent, resilient, and faithful, sharing a selfless love with the world and educating young women about their breast health.

This is Na'Diah's legacy.

[Watch Na'Diah's Video Here!](#)

This year's #MYLIFEISMYLEGACY series is powered by Merck, Takeda, Bayer

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**Take our survey!**



Thank you for accessing our resources and attending our programs throughout the year! We'd like to know more about your experience as we continue to craft our programming and resources to best serve you.

*Please respond by December 1st, 2023, for a chance to win 100 dollars!*

[Take the survey here!](#)





## Partner Corner

### Project MTFM

Medical Tattooing Following Mastectomy

**Purpose:** We are seeking breast cancer survivors for an important research study exploring how medical tattooing may improve mental health outcomes following breast cancer surgery.

#### **Participation Includes:**

- An anonymous 45-minute online survey conducted by the Health Psychology Laboratory at the University of Central Florida
- Optional information session with medical tattoo artist
- Access to study results & summary report

#### **Inclusion & Exclusion Criteria:**

- Must be female, diagnosed with breast cancer, received surgical treatment (i.e., mastectomy, lumpectomy/breast conserving surgery), and over 18 years of age
- Cannot be pregnant or over the age of 65

**To participate contact Primary Investigator:**

Miranda Proctor: [mirandaproctor@knights.ucf.edu](mailto:mirandaproctor@knights.ucf.edu)

Or use the following link:

[https://ucf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1MJlnojbihpPc4m](https://ucf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1MJlnojbihpPc4m)

This research study has been reviewed and approved by University of Central Florida Institutional Review Board. If you have concerns regarding this study or questions regarding your rights as a study participant, please contact Compliance Administrator - IRB, at UCF. Email: [irb@ucf.edu](mailto:irb@ucf.edu) or by telephone at (407) 823-2901

### Research Participation Opportunity with the University of Central Florida

Miranda Proctor, Ph.D. Student from the University of Central Florida Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program and Health Psychology Lab, is conducting a study to better understand how breast cancer surgery can impact mental health and wellness. The study also aims to explore how breast cancer survivors view breast cancer surgery, and medical tattooing following.

#### **This study may be a good fit for you if:**

1. You are a woman diagnosed with breast cancer and received surgical treatment (i.e., mastectomy, lumpectomy/breast-conserving surgery)
2. Between the ages of 18 to 65

Participants will be asked to take part in an anonymous 45-minute online survey conducted by the Health Psychology Laboratory at the University of Central Florida.

An optional information session with a medical tattoo artist, as well as access to study results, are available following completion of the study.

The survey can be found here:

[https://ucf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1MJlnojbihpPc4m](https://ucf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1MJlnojbihpPc4m)

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, please contact: Dr. Jeffrey E. Cassisi, Faculty Supervisor, Department of Psychology by email at [jeffrey.cassisi@ucf.edu](mailto:jeffrey.cassisi@ucf.edu) or contact [mirandaproctor@knights.ucf.edu](mailto:mirandaproctor@knights.ucf.edu).



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Foundation**  
*Beauty. Strength. Transformation.*

**AMGEN**



Daiichi-Sankyo

**sanofi**

*Lilly*

 **MERCK**

 **Seagen**