



The RISE Issue

JULY 2026



THE RISE ISSUE

As we move through the heart of summer, we're reminded that progress doesn't happen all at once—it happens through people who choose to show up, speak up, and lift one another along the way. Every conversation, every act of advocacy, and every opportunity to connect helps create a future where every person impacted by cancer has access to the care, support, and resources they deserve.

This month, we're celebrating what it means to rise together. From launching new initiatives that expand education and community leadership to creating spaces where patients, survivors, caregivers, advocates, and healthcare professionals can learn from one another, we're continuing to build a movement rooted in equity, compassion, and hope. Together, we're advancing conversations that empower individuals to navigate cancer with confidence while driving meaningful change across the healthcare landscape.

Thank you for being part of this community. Your voice, your experiences, and your commitment to creating a more equitable future inspire this work every day. Together, we continue to rise—stronger, bolder, and more united than ever.



Bliss Collective New York: Meet Our Speakers



Bliss COLLECTIVE
NEW YORK

Tigerlily's Bliss Collective: Brunch & Sip

📍 **Kimpton Eventi, New York**
Ventana Ballroom

📅 **Saturday, August 8, 2026**
10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Empowerment • Resilience • Living Your Blessed Life

 Naturi Naughton-Lewis Master of Ceremonies 2x NAACP Image Award-winning Actress, Singer, Producer & Director <i>Power, Power Book II: Ghost, Rosemary's The Great Gatsby</i>	 Shelley Wade Mistress of Ceremonies Award-winning Afternoon Radio host on New York City's 94.7 The Block and host of the Audacy podcast, "The Goodness Factor with Shelley Wade"	 Maimah Karmo Moderator President & CEO, Tigerlily Foundation	 Rachana Kanvinde, MS, SFC, CCRP Director, TLF SPARK CoE, Clinical Trial Access & Partnerships	 Kordai DeCoteau, DPM, FACFAS CEO of Sisters On The Vineyard, talks with Dr. U, Stepping Forward with Dr. D
 Craig H. Lipset Keynote Speaker Digital Trials & Research Alliance, The Buffalo Initiative, Rutgers University	 Jessenia Cisneros Tigerlily ANGEL Advocate	 Terlisa Sheppard Tigerlily ANGEL Advocate	 Amara Brown Tigerlily ANGEL Advocate	 Dr. Shola Adewumi Amos Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Holistic Wellness Consultant, Author, & Matchmaker

Join Tigerlily Foundation and Bristol Myers Squibb for the **Bliss Collective: Brunch & Sip**, an inspiring event bringing together patients, survivors, caregivers, advocates, healthcare professionals, and community leaders for meaningful conversations about cancer care, survivorship, wellness, and clinical trials.

Through expert-led discussions and patient stories, attendees will explore topics including **breast cancer, lung cancer, multiple myeloma, survivorship, clinical trial participation, barriers to care, and equitable access to information, support, and research opportunities.**

Whether you're navigating cancer yourself, supporting a loved one, or looking to learn more, this event is for you.

REGISTER AND JOIN US IN NEW YORK!

Join Us at the EmPOWER Ball!

A promotional poster for the Tigerlily Foundation's Annual EmPOWER Ball. The background is a deep magenta with a subtle floral pattern. At the top left is the Tigerlily Foundation logo, featuring a large '20' with a stylized woman's profile and the text 'Tigerlily Foundation 20 Years of Beauty, Strength, Transformation'. Below this, a gold banner reads 'Celebrating 20 Years of Transformation, Impact, and Hope'. The main title 'TIGERLILY FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL EmPOWER Ball' is centered in gold, with 'EmPOWER' in a bold sans-serif font and 'Ball' in a large script font. To the right, the event details are listed in white: 'October 24, 2026', '6:00 PM – 11:00 PM', 'Grand Hyatt Washington Independence Ballroom', '1000 H St NW Washington, D.C.', and the hashtag '#TigerlilyTurns20'.

As Tigerlily Foundation celebrates 20 years of impact, advocacy, and empowerment, we're excited to announce the return of the EmPOWER Ball.

Join us as we celebrate two decades of transforming lives, advancing health equity, and creating a future where every woman has the opportunity to thrive.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



Join Tigerlily's 2026 Pajama Glam!



20
Tigerlily Foundation
20 Years of Beauty. Strength. Transformation

SAVE THE DATE

Pajama **GLAM** Party

For girls (5–12) + moms, dads, aunties & grandmothers

Hosted By **Tigerlily Foundation**



Saturday, October 17, 2026



Hyatt Regency Tysons Corner, VA



1:00 – 3:30 PM

**Wear Your
Sparkle & PJs —
BLING REQUIRED**



Confidence starts early, and so does learning to understand and advocate for your health.

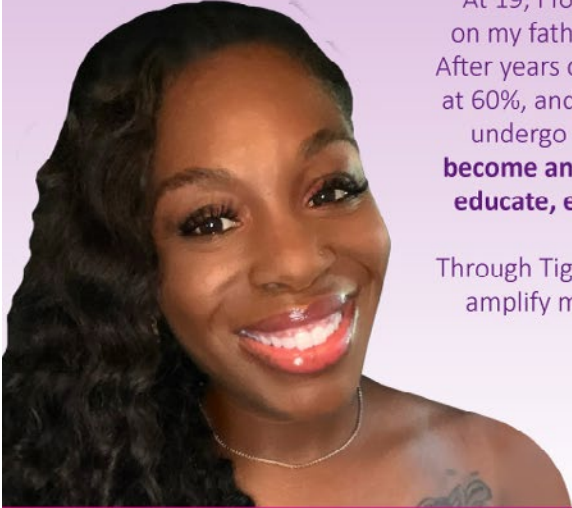
Tigerlily Foundation's Pajama Glam Party creates a fun and welcoming space where girls can learn about breast and body health while celebrating confidence, self-care, and everything that makes them unique. Join Tigerlily Foundation for an afternoon filled with meaningful connection, joyful experiences, and plenty of sparkle. Because every girl deserves to grow up knowing that her health matters, her voice matters, and she has the power to advocate for herself.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



ANGEL Advocacy Program

Use Your Voice. Create Change.



“

"At 19, I found my first breast lump, and by 31, I learned my family's deep history on my father's side of breast cancer—and the loss of several siblings in their 30's. After years of screenings, biopsies, learning my risk of developing breast cancer was at 60%, and the ongoing emotional uncertainty, I made the courageous decision to undergo a double mastectomy in 2023, becoming a proud Previvor. **I chose to become an ANGEL Advocate to turn my pain into purpose—using my journey to educate, empower, and encourage women to be proactive about their health.**

Through Tigerlily's training, I've gained the confidence and tools to raise awareness, amplify my voice, and remind others that faith and early action can save lives."

Melishia Branch, LPN
TLF ANGEL Advocate, Breast Cancer Previvor

The Tigerlily Foundation **ANGEL Advocacy Program** empowers patients, survivors, caregivers, and allies to become informed advocates, leaders, and changemakers.

Through comprehensive training, you'll gain the tools to educate communities, engage in advocacy efforts, support research and clinical trial awareness, and help improve outcomes for those impacted by breast cancer.

Flexible training cohorts are available throughout the year, making it easy to get involved when the time is right for you.

Your voice matters. Your story matters. Your advocacy can make a difference.

APPLY TODAY TO BE AN ANGEL

EmpowerHER Peer Navigation Program



EMPOWERHER
Heart-centered. Empathy-driven. Rooted in Love.

Your Story Has Power

The lessons you've learned.
The challenges you've overcome.
The hope you've found.

Could help guide someone else's journey.

Become a Tigerlily Foundation EmpowerHER Peer Navigator.

No one should have to navigate cancer alone. Tigerlily Foundation's **EmpowerHER Peer Navigation Program** connects individuals affected by cancer with trained Peer Navigators who provide compassionate, one-on-one support grounded in lived experience. Whether you're newly diagnosed, in treatment, or navigating survivorship, Peer Navigators offer understanding, encouragement, and guidance every step of the way.

If you're seeking support, connect with a Peer Navigator who understands the journey. If you're interested in giving back, consider becoming a trained Peer Navigator and use your experience to empower and support others facing cancer.

Together, we're building a community where every person has someone in their corner.

LEARN MORE TODAY

Join the Monthly ANGEL EmpowerChat

★ STRONGER TOGETHER. EMPOWERED ALWAYS.

ANGEL EMPOWER Chat

A monthly space to be heard, uplifted, and connected with women who get it. Let's talk cancer, healing, self-care, advocacy, survivorship, and everything in between.

NEW DAY. SAME MISSION.
MONTHLY ON THURSDAYS
(EVERY THIRD THURSDAY)
7:00 – 8:00 PM EST

COME AS YOU ARE.
LEAVE EMPOWERED.
You belong here.

ALL ANGELS WELCOME!
Survivors • Thrivers
Supporters • Advocates
• Allies

- Engaging Topics
- Special Guests
- Resources & Support
- A Safe, Judgment-Free Space
- YOU!**

TIGERLILY
ANGEL
ADVOCACY PROGRAM
Be Empowered. Be Heard. Be an ANGEL.

www.tigerlilyfoundation.org | [f](#) [@](#) [v](#) @tigerlilyfoundation | [Questions? Email us at Roddia@tigerlilyfoundation.org](mailto:Roddia@tigerlilyfoundation.org)

The ANGEL EmpowerChat Returns! ANGEL EmpowerChat — a monthly space for survivors, thrivers, allies, supporters, and advocates to come together in community, conversation, and connection.

This is your space to be heard, uplifted, empowered, and reminded that your voice matters. From healing and self-care to advocacy and survivorship, we're creating meaningful conversations with women who truly get it.

Every Third Thursday
7:00–8:00 PM EST

REGISTER TODAY!

The ANGEL Unstoppable Tour in Washington, DC!



The Walking in Strength, Living in Wellness: Wellness Walk & Resource Fair was a powerful reminder that wellness grows through community. As part of Tigerlily Foundation's Unstoppable Tour, our DMV ANGELS were honored to connect with survivors, caregivers, families, and community members, reinforcing that no one faces cancer alone.

Filled with joy, healing, and meaningful conversations, the event brought people together to share experiences, embrace movement, and support one another in an atmosphere of hope and wellness.

We are grateful to the Donna M. Saunders Foundation for including Tigerlily Foundation in this inspiring event. It was an honor to stand alongside organizations dedicated to advancing health equity and ensuring our communities have access to education, resources, and support.



Tigerlily
Foundation

HEAL
POLICY CENTER
OF EXCELLENCE

ANGEL Highlights Daria Ross Op-Ed Spotlight

Why Cancer Patients are Paying Full Price for Drugs

by Daria L. Ross,
ANGEL Advocate



Recent Master in Public Health (MPH) graduate and ANGEL Advocate Daria L. Ross shared her perspective on the 340B drug pricing program in Michigan and the impact on patients in her opinion piece titled, “Why cancer patients are paying full price for drugs” published in The Detroit News. In her article, Daria shares about her journey with triple negative breast cancer, the impacts of medical debt and why every patient should be aware of the 340B program and how it is working in their state.

[READ DARIA’S OPINION PIECE HERE](#)

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 340B DRUG PROGRAM HERE](#)

Tigerlily Opposes OMB Rule That Would Change the Way Federal Research Grants are Awarded and Managed

Tigerlily Foundation has submitted formal comments opposing the Office of Management and Budget's proposed rule that would fundamentally restructure how federal research grants are awarded and managed. Instead of the current model where grant applications are reviewed and scored by scientific experts (peer review) and patient experts (consumer review) and awards made to the highest scores, the rule would have grant award decisions made by political appointees tasked with making funding approval decisions based on the "President's policy priorities."

In our comments, we raised critical concerns about how this rule would harm patients and the future of medical innovation:

- **Politicized Science:** If political appointees would become primary decision-makers for grant awards and peer review recommendations demoted to advisory status, researchers would be forced to craft "safe" proposals anticipating political preferences rather than pursuing the most promising ideas or largest patient needs.
- **Compounding Health Disparities:** The rule would prohibit funding for diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts and disallow disparate impact studies which would prevent research into why Black women are more likely to die from breast cancer and why Black and brown women face survival disparities in many other cancers and diseases.
- **Restricting Publication:** The rule would make it so federal grant dollars could not be used for publication costs, creating a barrier to free patient access to lifesaving research findings.
- **Termination Without Due Process:** The rule would allow grants to be terminated mid-award for reasons unrelated to performance, creating instability that has already led institutions to reduce biomedical admissions and researchers to leave the country.
- **Curbing Proven Programs:** The rule threatens CDC programs that provide millions of cancer screenings and support community health coalitions.

Tigerlily is firm in our stance against the OMB proposed rule and supports preserving the merit-based, apolitical process that has made the United States the world leader in health research.

[READ OUR FULL STATEMENT](#)

Is Access to Clinical Trials Important to You?

Join Tigerlily and ANGELs to support the Clinical Trial Modernization Act!

"I'm advocating for the Clinical Trials Modernization Act because clinical trials feel nearly impossible for patients in remote areas and smaller states. **This bill would be a total game changer.**"



Anj Oto
Tigerlily ANGEL Advocate &
Breast Cancer Survivor

"I'm advocating for the Clinical Trials Modernization Act because **we shouldn't have to choose between feeding our kids and joining a trial that could save our lives.**"



Anetra Bey
Tigerlily ANGEL Advocate &
Breast Cancer Survivor

What is the Clinical Trial Modernization Act? Clinical trials are essential for developing new cancer treatments, but too many patients can't participate because of costs and travel burdens. The Clinical Trial Modernization Act (S. 4440/H.R. 3521) would change that by allowing trial sponsors to cover expenses like travel, meals, childcare and lodging, and provide technology for remote participation. It would also fund community outreach to ensure trials reflect the diverse populations they serve.

Importantly, the bill would also change the current \$600 cap for how much financial support can be provided before needing to be reported as taxable income to \$2,000. Participants shouldn't have to worry about being taxed on funds that simply cover their costs to participate, nor should those funds count against their income for safety-net programs like Medicaid. This protects low-income patients from losing benefits simply for participating in potentially lifesaving research.

This is a simple, common-sense fix that would save lives. Help us make clinical trials accessible for everyone!

Share Your Story: Tell us why supporting the CTMA matters to you. Your voice is a powerful tool for change.

[SHARE YOUR STORY HERE](#)

Ask Congress to Support: Send a letter to your representatives urging them to support the Clinical Trial Modernization Act. Every message counts!

[SEND YOUR CTMA LETTER TODAY](#)

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CLINICAL TRIAL MODERNIZATION ACT HERE](#)

Tigerlily Foundation's RACE Alliance Launch



Real change begins when communities lead.

Today, we are proud to officially launch the RACE Alliance (Rallying Around Community and Equity)—a national, community-led movement dedicated to advancing breast cancer equity across all 50 states.

From communities across the nation, these extraordinary women are stepping forward to lead a movement for breast cancer equity. As our inaugural RACE Alliance State Leads, they represent the power of lived experience, advocacy, and community leadership. Together, they will amplify local voices, strengthen partnerships, advance education, and champion equitable access to breast cancer care in their states and beyond.

To each of our State Leads—thank you for saying yes. Thank you for your passion, your leadership, and your unwavering commitment to creating a future where every person impacted by breast cancer feels seen, heard, supported, and empowered.

Today, we proudly celebrate you and the beginning of something truly transformative. Please join us in welcoming and celebrating these incredible leaders in the comments below!

Your Voice. Your State. Our Movement.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

Spotlight on Jules Annen, Senior Advisor, RISE Center of Excellence



With more than 20 years of experience in education and communications, Jules Annen has dedicated her career to creating meaningful learning experiences that empower people to make informed decisions, strengthen communities, and improve lives.

At Tigerlily Foundation, Jules serves as Senior Advisor for the RISE Center of Excellence, where she leads health literacy strategy and develops patient education programs that translate complex medical information into accessible, actionable resources for patients, survivors, caregivers, and advocates. She is also building Tigerlily's continuing medical education (CME) program, developing culturally responsive, evidence-based education that strengthens healthcare professionals' knowledge of the latest advances in research and clinical practice while addressing health disparities and advancing more equitable care.

Prior to Tigerlily, Jules served on Mayo Clinic's Patient Education team, where she worked as an editor and managed the production of multimedia educational content used by patients around the world. She also helped advance the use of inclusive, person-centered language across the organization, making health information more accessible to diverse patient populations.

Jules launched her first community nonprofit initiative at age 15 and later founded a national nonprofit business association dedicated to education, entrepreneurship, and community engagement. Today, the organization continues under the leadership of an industry peer, extending its mission and impact.

"Education is one of the most powerful tools we have to transform outcomes, strengthen communities, and advance equitable care." — **Jules Annen**

Share a Resource: Help a Patient Ongoing Support with Ina[®]: 24/7 Nutrition & Symptom Guidance by Text The Intelligent Nutrition Assistant from Savor Health[®]

INTRODUCING INA[®] THE INTELLIGENT NUTRITION ASSISTANT FROM SAVOR HEALTH[®]

- Personalized 24/7 Nutrition Guidance at Your Fingertips
- The Knowledge of Experienced Cancer Professionals
- Safe, Secure and Free



Through our partnership with Savor Health, Tigerlily Foundation offers access to Ina[®], a text-based tool that delivers personalized, evidence-based nutrition and symptom management support for cancer patients — anytime you need it.

Here's what Ina[®] can help you with:

- 24/7 answers to nutrition and symptom questions via SMS text
- Tailored tips, recipes, and expert guidance — no appointments needed
- Advice from oncology-credentialed dietitians, nurses, and doctors
- Free, secure, and private access whenever you need support
- Feeling strong throughout your cancer journey starts with informed, timely support — and Ina[®] is always just a text away.

SIGN UP TODAY!

Partner Corner

Innovations in Cancer Genetics Symposium



The Genetics and Personalized Cancer Prevention Program at Weill Cornell Medicine is excited to announce our upcoming Innovations in Cancer Genetics Symposium, taking place October 15–17, 2026, in New York City at Weill Cornell Medicine.

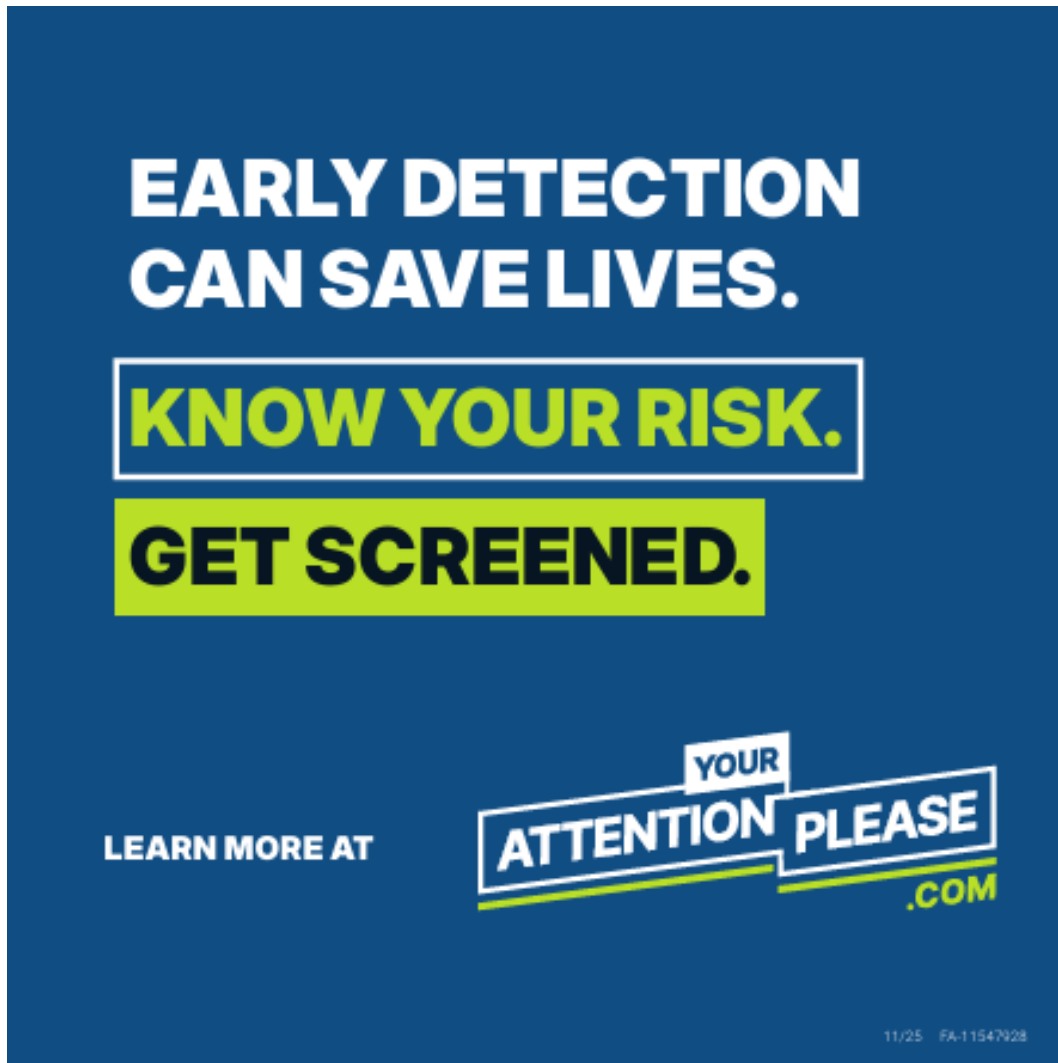
This cutting-edge symposium, hosted by the Genetics and Personalized Cancer Prevention Program at Weill Cornell Medicine in partnership with Facing Our Risk for Cancer Empowered (FORCE), will highlight the latest advances in cancer genetics and their impact on clinical care and personalized prevention.

The program will bring together nationally recognized experts in hereditary cancer to:

- Share emerging research and practical clinical insights
- Explore innovations in personalized cancer prevention
- Foster collaboration across clinical care, research, and patient advocacy

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

Open and honest conversations about health can make all the difference when it comes to understanding our bodies and feeling empowered to take action for our health.



Recent research highlights why this work is so important. [The Novartis Breast Health & Experience Index](#), captured the experiences of 3000 women with and without breast cancer and revealed that conversations around breast health remain challenging for many:

- Over 2 in 3 women wish they had taken more control of their breast health earlier in life.
- Two in 5 women wish they had more open conversations about breast health with others.
- More than half say society's view of breasts shapes how they feel about their own bodies.
- One in 3 women rarely discuss breast health outside of clinical settings.

Visit yourattentionplease.com to explore resources for more open, inclusive conversations.