Tigerlily Foundation

20 Years of Beauty. Strength. Transformation

The IGNITE Issue

October 2026



October: A Month of Milestones, Meaning and 20 Years of Impact

October was a truly unforgettable month for Tigerlily Foundation! As we recognized Breast Cancer Awareness Month and **celebrated 20 years of advocacy, empowerment, and impact,** we brought our community together through three incredible events: **Pajama Glam, the 4th Annual BEACON Symposium, and our 20th Anniversary EmPOWER Ball.**

Each event reflected the heart of our mission, from educating and empowering the next generation to amplifying patient voices, advancing health equity, and celebrating the changemakers who make our work possible.

Three remarkable events. One powerful mission. Twenty years of impact.

As we reflect on this milestone month, we're filled with gratitude for the community that continues to stand beside us. Thank you for being part of our journey and helping us shape the next chapter of change!



Join Us for the Bliss Collective Los Angeles!



Find Your Bliss in Los Angeles!

Join Tigerlily Foundation for Bliss Collective: Bites & Sip, an evening centered on women's health, mental wellness, self-care, and self-advocacy.

Through expert insights, patient stories, and meaningful conversations, we'll explore clinical trial representation, access to quality healthcare, and the power of becoming a more informed advocate for your health.

Thursday, November 5, 2026 | 6:00 PM
UCLA Meyer & Renee Luskin Conference Center

Space is limited. Register today to save your seat!

REGISTER AND JOIN US IN LA!

Join Tigerlily Foundation for Bliss Collective: Brunch & Sip, a gathering of women's wellness, connection, self-care, and empowering health education at The Shay in Culver City!

Together, we'll explore representation in clinical trials, access to quality healthcare, and how knowledge can help us become stronger advocates for our health.

Saturday, November 7, 2026 | 11:30 AM
The Shay, A Destination by Hyatt Hotel

Join us and find your Bliss!

REGISTER AND JOIN US IN CULVER CITY



Pajama Glam: Empowering the Next Generation



On October 17, Tigerlily Foundation's Pajama Glam Party brought together young girls, families, and our community for a beautiful celebration of education, empowerment, and connection!

More than just a fun-filled event, Pajama Glam creates a welcoming space for young girls to learn about their health, embrace their voices, and build confidence in advocating for their well-being.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in helping inspire healthier, more empowered generations!







BEACON Symposium: Advancing Health Equity Through Action

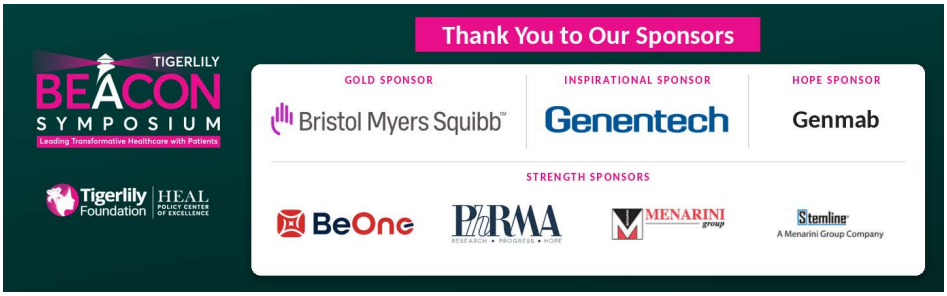


Tigerlily Foundation's **4th Annual BEACON Symposium** brought together patient advocates, healthcare leaders, researchers, and policy experts for powerful conversations focused on advancing health equity and improving cancer care.

From addressing barriers to clinical trial participation to exploring the impact of drug pricing policies on patient access, the symposium reinforced the importance of putting patients' voices at the center of meaningful change.

Thank you to our speakers, partners, and attendees for helping turn important conversations into opportunities for action and progress toward more equitable healthcare!





EmPOWER Ball: Celebrating 20 Years of Impact



What an unforgettable evening! On October 24, more than 500 guests joined Tigerlily Foundation for our **20th Anniversary EmPOWER Ball,** celebrating two decades of advocacy, empowerment, and advancing health equity.

The evening was filled with inspiring stories, heartfelt tributes, and special moments as we honored extraordinary changemakers who continue to make a difference in our communities.

Celebrating Our 2026 Honorees

We were proud to recognize:
- Maverick Award: **Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz**
- Lori L. Wilson Trailblazer Awards: **Dr. Kimlin Tam Ashing and Dr. Vanessa B. Sheppard**
- Transformation Award: **Yamilé Molina**
- Inspire Award: **Lashelle Denise Scott**
- Hope Award: **Valencia Robinson**
- KM Warrior Award: **Terlisa Sheppard**
- Kawana Rucker Courage Award: **Daria L. Ross**
- Stargazer Award: **Janell Stephens**

The evening was filled with inspiring stories, heartfelt tributes, and special moments as we honored extraordinary changemakers who continue to make a difference in our communities.

Among the **most touching highlights** were the **surprise recognitions of Maie Karmo** with the Legacy of Life Award, **the late J. Armah Karmo** with the North Star Award, and our Founder, President & CEO, **Maimah Karmo, with the Visionary Legacy Award.**





A **special thank you to our Mistress of Ceremonies, Lesli Foster,** WUSA9 evening anchor, our **Pink Carpet Host, Al Reynolds,** television host and media personality, our DJ, **DJ Greenize,** and our **incredible Host Committee** for helping make this milestone celebration so memorable!

To our honorees, sponsors, partners, volunteers, and everyone who celebrated with us, thank you! Your continued support fuels our mission and reminds us that together, we can create lasting change.

As we celebrate 20 years of impact, we can't wait to continue this journey with you, making an even greater difference, breaking down more barriers, and transforming more lives over the next 20 years and beyond!

Celebrating Our Fashion Show Partners

We extend our **heartfelt appreciation to our Fashion Show Partners** for generously sharing their time, talent, and expertise to bring an unforgettable runway experience to life.

Front-of-House & Backstage Lead: **Stephanie Anderson**
Model & Designer Management: **Kara Allan, Darsai Womack & Wendy Pitman**
Fashion Show Producer: **Maggy Francois**
Glam Team Lead: **Flaminia Garioni**
Performance: **Kailyn Christina Everette**
Featured Designers: **Afua Sam, Timmy Ajulo & Clara Pinkrah-Sam**

A heartfelt thank-you to our ANGEL Advocate models, whose strength, confidence, and inspiring stories brought even greater meaning to the runway. You reminded us that empowerment is not only something we celebrate, but something we live and share.



Favorite Moments From Our Events















Photography by Purple PPL Media LLC

Become an ANGEL Advocate: Your Voice Can Make a Difference!



Every woman has a story, a voice, and the power to create meaningful change! Through Tigerlily Foundation's ANGEL Advocacy Program, women can turn their personal experiences and passion into powerful advocacy for themselves and their communities.

With just one hour of free training, you can take the first step toward becoming an ANGEL Advocate, gaining the knowledge and confidence to raise awareness, amplify patient voices, and help advance health equity.

Whether you're a patient, survivor, caregiver, or simply passionate about making a difference, there's a place for you in our growing ANGEL community!

Your voice matters, and your advocacy can change lives. Sign up for our free one-hour training today and take the first step toward becoming an ANGEL Advocate!

TAKE OUR 1-HOUR TRAINING

Join Us for a Free In-Person ANGEL Training!



Your experience. Your voice. Your impact.

Ready to make a difference in your community? Join Tigerlily Foundation's beloved ANGEL trainer, Vickie, for a FREE, one-hour, in-person training designed to help you take the first step toward becoming an ANGEL Advocate!

Discover how to turn your experiences and passion into meaningful advocacy, amplify patient voices, and empower others on their health journeys. No prior advocacy experience is needed, just a willingness to learn and make a difference!

Pearl Bailey Library | Newport News, VA

October 31 | 10:30 AM ET

Your voice has power. Take the first step toward becoming an ANGEL Advocate and register!

SAVE YOUR SPOT

Join the Monthly ANGEL EMPOWER Chat



ANGEL EMPOWER Chat — 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 ET

REGISTER TODAY!

Spotlight on Roddia Paul, PsyD, IGNITE Center of Excellence



IGNITE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE for Community Engagement
TRANSFORMING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INTO MEASURABLE HEALTH IMPACT

At Tigerlily Foundation, meaningful change begins with listening, building trust, and ensuring that communities have the power to shape their own health and futures.

That belief drives the work of Roddia Paul, PsyD, whose leadership is helping establish **Tigerlily's newest Center of Excellence, IGNITE.**

A Caribbean immigrant, first-generation college graduate, and Black woman with more than a decade of experience in behavioral health, community engagement, and systems transformation, Roddia brings both professional expertise and lived experience to her work. Her passion for health equity is rooted in a deeply personal understanding of how culture, identity, and access to resources influence health and well-being.

Early in her career, while working in court systems and residential facilities, Roddia encountered a young woman whose progress through therapy ultimately resulted in the loss of the very services that had helped her heal. The experience revealed a troubling reality: systems designed to help people can sometimes create new barriers to their continued growth.

That lesson continues to shape Roddia's approach to leadership and advocacy.

"***People do not need an institution to give them a voice. They need institutions to recognize that they already have one—and to create the conditions for that voice to influence what happens next.***"

Today, through IGNITE, Roddia is helping transform community engagement into lasting community leadership. Building on Tigerlily's 20-year legacy, IGNITE connects women, advocates, healthcare providers, and community organizations through initiatives such as RACE Alliance, SheLEADS, EMPOWER Chats, #PullUpASeat Webinars, and the Unstoppable Tour.

Rather than simply delivering information, IGNITE focuses on building trusted relationships, investing in local leaders, and ensuring that lived experiences inform programs, partnerships, and healthcare systems.

"Our goal is not simply to count attendance or track how many partnerships we establish. We want to understand whether women have increased health knowledge and confidence."

For Roddia, success means creating opportunities for women to become advocates, educators, navigators, and decision-makers within their own communities. She envisions IGNITE becoming a national model for community-led engagement, where individual connections grow into collective action and generational change.

Her vision is both ambitious and deeply personal: a future where every woman knows her voice matters, has access to trusted support, and recognizes her power to help others.

"I want a woman to leave an IGNITE experience knowing that she is not alone, that she has somewhere to turn, and that she has the knowledge and support to take her next step."

Through her leadership at Tigerlily Foundation, Roddia is working to ensure that communities are not simply invited to participate in change; they are empowered to lead it.

2026 IGNITE Community Highlights















Sisters EmPOWERed Circle: Celebrating Connection, Healing & Sisterhood



On October 4, we gathered in Alpharetta, Georgia, for our final Sisters EmPOWERed Circle, bringing a meaningful close to a beautiful series of gatherings centered on healing, empowerment, and sisterhood.

Throughout these circles, we've cherished the opportunity to bring women together in safe, supportive spaces to share their stories, build connections, and feel seen, heard, and empowered.

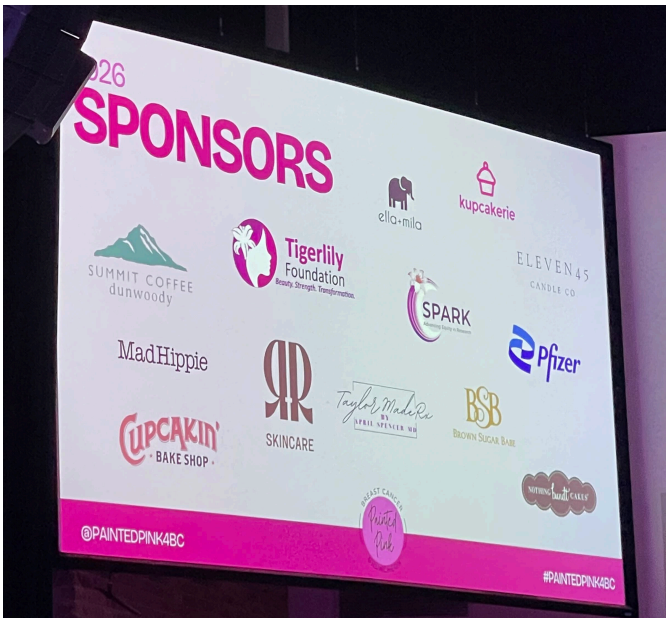
To every woman who joined us along the way, thank you! Your openness, strength, and sisterhood made these gatherings truly special. While this chapter comes to a close, the connections, conversations, and sense of community will continue to inspire us.

Thank you to Pfizer for supporting our Sisters EmPOWERed Circle initiative.

Tigerlily at the 13th Annual Painted Pink Buncheon







What an honor it was to witness the impact of 13 years of Painted Pink and its continued commitment to uplifting the Atlanta community! The Lift As We Rise event brought together breast health education, clinical trial awareness, wellness, and meaningful community connection in a welcoming and empowering space.

Tigerlily Foundation was grateful to partner with Painted Pink for an afternoon that celebrated the power of community, elevated important health conversations, and reminded us of the importance of ensuring women have the knowledge, resources, and support to advocate for their health.

Congratulations to Painted Pink on 13 years of impact, empowerment, and community building. Together, we lift as we rise!

EmpowerHER Peer Navigation Program



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

HEAL Policy Updates

Tigerlily Responds to Senate Finance Committee's Request for Information on Health Coverage Reform

Tigerlily Foundation has submitted a **formal response** to **Ranking Member Ron Wyden and the Senate Finance Committee's Request for Information (RFI)** on major reforms to health coverage in America. The RFI, released on July 30, 2026, sought input on proposals to improve access, quality, and affordability—including ending insurance practices that delay and deny care.

Our response centered the lived experiences of the women we serve: patients who are insured but still cannot afford their cancer care; patients who spend weeks or months fighting denials while their cancer may be progressing; and patients who have lost their lives not because treatment didn't exist, but because they couldn't access it in time.

Tigerlily urged the Committee to prioritize:

- **Timely access to care** by reforming step therapy, prior authorization, and appeals processes so patients are not forced to "fail first" while their health declines.
- **Affordability** so that deductibles, coinsurance, and out-of-pocket costs do not force patients to choose between treatment and basic needs like housing, food, or childcare.
- **Transparency and accountability** across insurers, pharmacy benefit managers, and vertically integrated entities so patients can understand who is making decisions about their care—and where to turn when something goes wrong.

For a woman facing cancer, every day without the treatment she needs matters. Every delay is measured not just in time, but in fear, in pain, and too often in lives.

We are grateful to Ranking Member Wyden and the Committee for their attention to these issues and will remain engaged as proposals are developed.

READ OUR RESPONSE HERE

New op-ed: A Medicare rule change could steal more than time from cancer patients

If you've sat in a clinic chair hooked up to an IV for hours, having to miss work, arrange childcare, or drive hours from a rural town, you know that time isn't a minor detail. It's your life.

Right now, science is giving us better options: treatments that take minutes instead of entire days, so women can get care and still pick their kids up from school. But a proposed CMS rule could slam the brakes on that progress by treating these innovations as mere "extensions" of older drugs and forcing them under Medicare price controls which can discourage the very investment that made them possible.

In a **new op-ed**, we explain why this matters for patients: because time gained is measured in moments like watching your child's soccer game, keeping your paycheck, and most importantly: feeling like a whole person and not just a patient.

Advocacy Efforts to Ensure Biomarker Testing For All Continues: Massachusetts



In this new opinion piece on itemlive, **ANGEL Advocate Holly Louis** underscores the importance of biomarker testing, a tool that can help providers tailor cancer treatment to each patient. Holly shares her story and **calls for Massachusetts lawmakers to pass a recent amendment to include biomarker testing coverage** in the House Primary Care bill as part of Tigerlily's policy efforts to ensure coverage in Massachusetts.

Tigerlily continues to support efforts to now ask Massachusetts lawmakers to strengthen the language used in the amendment to expand patient access to proven biomarker testing in the conference committee's report to help ensure patient access to the right treatment at the right time.

If you are a Massachusetts resident and would like to share your biomarker story, please email HEAL@tigerlilyfoundation.org.

READ THE OP-ED HERE AND SHARE

Healing in Power Survey



Every survivorship journey holds experiences that can help shape better care for the women who come next.

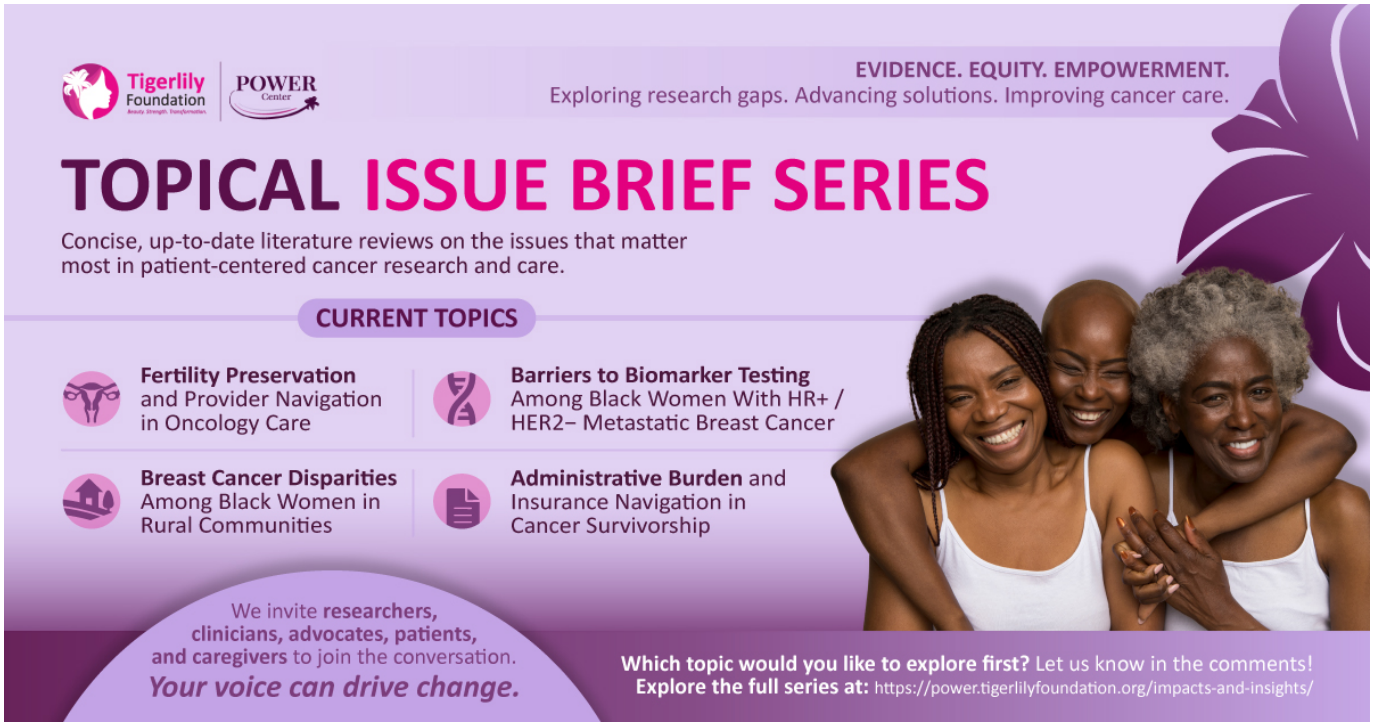
Tigerlily Foundation's Healing in POWER Study is centering the voices and lived experiences of Black women with breast cancer to better understand the factors that promote survivorship and can help improve cancer care and outcomes.

Your experiences matter. Your resilience matters. And your voice can help shape what comes next.

Be part of this important research and help us better understand what it means to heal in POWER.

CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY

Explore the POWER Topical Issue Brief Series



Tigerlily Foundation's POWER Center of Excellence is proud to introduce its Topical Issue Brief Series, featuring concise, evidence-based reviews of timely issues impacting patient-centered cancer research and care.

Each brief examines current research, highlights gaps in knowledge, and explores barriers and opportunities for improving care across the cancer continuum. Current topics include fertility preservation and provider navigation, breast cancer disparities among Black women in rural communities, barriers to biomarker testing among Black women with HR+/HER2– metastatic breast cancer, and administrative and insurance challenges in cancer survivorship.

Researchers, clinicians, advocates, patients, and caregivers are invited to explore these insights and help advance conversations and solutions toward more equitable, patient-centered cancer care.

LEARN MORE HERE

Share a Resource: Help a Patient Ongoing Support with Ina®: 24/7 Nutrition & Symptom Guidance by Text

The Intelligent Nutrition Assistant from Savor Health®



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 text message
- 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!

Tigerlily Foundation

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