

2018 has been a successful year for *The Common Thread for the Cure Foundation* as awareness has continued to spread across the country. We were fortunate to provide **twenty-two Helping Hand Grants** for a total of \$94,000 this year.

Three grants went to women in North Carolina; two grants each were given in Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Mississippi and Tennessee; and one grant in each of the following states; California, Indiana, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Texas and Virginia. Five successful fundraisers were held across the country to raise awareness and financial support for the Foundation. It is through the efforts of the volunteers who work to make these fundraisers a success, as well as the dedication of our Foundation Supporters, that grants have now been given to women and men in 29 states.

As awareness of the importance of early detection increases, grant recipients are trending younger, and they are attempting to work full or part-time as they go through their surgeries and treatments. This year four recipients were young working professionals with children under the age of ten. The roles of mother and caregiver were equally important to their list of job responsibilities.

Gina is one of these young survivors. After being diagnosed she began chemotherapy before any surgical procedures were scheduled. She quickly used her sick leave and began using her vacation time. Treatments take time and money, but an unforeseen expense is the travel time and gas expense of regular medical trips. Gina underestimated the impact these would have when she began her radiation treatment protocol – five days/week for six weeks. She received a total grant of \$5000 to assist her with loss of income and travel expenses.

This is one example of the ways in which Helping Hand Grants assist professionals in our industry and their immediate family members. There are twenty-one more stories like this. **Thank you to everyone** who supported the Common Thread for the Cure in 2018. You made the twenty-two grants possible. These grants provided financial stress relief where none other could be found.

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thread
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***Wishing Happiness,
Prosperity and Good
Health to all who
have been part of
the Common Thread
for the Cure in 2018,
and for many years
to come!***