



# TRAVEL TO HOPE UPDATE

Offering hope to cancer patients by helping them afford to travel for care

I am pleased to share with you an update on the impact that Travel to Hope had in 2023 thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors.

## 2023 *Travel to Hope* Impact



### **Bringing Hope and Healing to Cancer Patients and Families**

Although the numbers tell part of the story, hearing the impact of our work directly from our patients means so much more.

In December, we got the fantastic news **that two of our breast cancer patients completed treatment** thanks to Travel to Hope's support, and they asked that I share their thanks with you...



“You have no idea how much you have helped Makena and I this past year. Words cannot describe how grateful I am. Travel to Hope has been a true blessing to us during this difficult time. THANK YOU!!!!”

- Jennifer S., TX patient



“I'm done! I'm so very thankful for my wonderful, amazing team of people that have cared for me throughout the last year and for the tremendous support of Travel to Hope. It made all the difference for me and my family this past year. Thank you so much!”

- Cathy G., KY patient

**Donor Generosity**

None of this would be possible without the wonderful generosity of our donors.

I am incredibly grateful that **in 2023 we were able to raise \$120,374.26** which funds **over 1200 trips to treatment** at our average trip cost.

We benefited from the very successful **Give for Good Louisville and Giving Tuesday campaigns** which included generous donor and employer matching gift opportunities.

We also held our first **in-person fundraiser** sponsored by **Z Salon & Spa** in Louisville Kentucky, which raised **over \$12,437.07** for our patients over the course of November.



The support our donors have given is truly amazing and enabled us to provide ongoing support to our dramatically growing patient population... **Thank You!**

### **Stewardship and Transparency**

We are proud to have again been awarded [Candid GuideStar's Gold Seal of Transparency](#) for 2024.

In addition, our funding model continues to ensure that all administrative expenses are paid independent of your donations which ensures that **100% of every donation** that is made to us goes directly to helping cancer patients with their travel expenses.

## Improving Outcomes for Cancer Patients

We continued to work closely with other nonprofit partners and health advocacy groups to **advocate for change to significantly improve outcomes** for cancer patients. Our efforts to advance state and [national legislation](#) supporting Multi-Cancer Early Detection (MCED) is an example of this work.

An infographic with a red header that reads "EXPAND ACCESS TO BIOMARKER TESTING IN KENTUCKY" and "THE RIGHT TREATMENT AT THE RIGHT TIME". It includes a section "WHAT IS BIOMARKER TESTING?" with a definition and three bullet points. A section "THE IMPORTANCE OF BIOMARKER TESTING" features two donut charts: one showing 60% of oncology drugs launched in the past five years require or recommend biomarker testing, and another showing an increase from 15% in 2000 to 55% in 2018 for cancer clinical trials involving biomarkers. A final section "BIOMARKER TESTING & HEALTH EQUITY" lists two bullet points about disparities in testing access.

**EXPAND ACCESS TO BIOMARKER TESTING IN KENTUCKY**  
THE RIGHT TREATMENT AT THE RIGHT TIME

**WHAT IS BIOMARKER TESTING?**  
Biomarker testing is often used to help determine the best treatment for a patient.

- It is the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker.
- Biomarker testing is an important step for accessing precision medicine, including targeted therapies that can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients.
- While most current applications of biomarker testing are in oncology and autoimmune disease, there is research underway to benefit patients with other conditions including heart disease, neurological conditions like Alzheimer's disease, infectious disease and respiratory illness.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BIOMARKER TESTING**

**60%**  
Of oncology drugs launched in the past five years require or recommend biomarker testing prior to use

**In 2000: 15%**      **In 2018: 55%**  
Of cancer clinical trials involved biomarkers

**BIOMARKER TESTING & HEALTH EQUITY**

- Not all communities in Kentucky are benefitting from the latest advancements in biomarker testing and precision medicine.
- Patients who are older, Black, uninsured or Medicaid-insured, are less likely to be tested for certain guideline-indicated biomarkers.
- There are lower rates of testing in community settings versus academic medical centers.

MCED tests detect over 50 cancers through a single blood draw by identifying a shared cancer signal that is emitted by tumors. These simple tests can be transformational for cancer treatment since ~ 70 % of cancer deaths are due to cancers for which there are no recommended screening tests and can be administered as part of routine medical visits.

Several states have already signed this legislation into law, and we look forward to progress on MCED and other transformational cancer legislation in the future.

If you would like to learn more about MCED technology, here is a recent [article](#) you might find useful.

## Improving Visibility and Awareness

Travel to Hope had the opportunity last year to gain awareness through interviews with numerous print and television media outlets.

A [PBS interview](#) from April 2023 was re-aired recently. Although Travel to Hope's impact has increased dramatically since then, the segment does a nice job of highlighting the need we serve and the role that Travel to Hope plays in supporting cancer patients so thought I would share with you.



## Our Current Challenge

The demand for assistance remains greater than we can support, and our patient waitlist continues to grow. We currently have **20 patients on our growing waitlist** which represents **~\$30,000 of near-term patient travel needs**.

We are working hard to identify new ways to raise funds to support these patients and would appreciate your help.

If you have friends, family or colleagues that you feel may be interested in our work, please help by connecting us to them.

Also, if you have not recently donated, we would greatly appreciate it if you would consider making a donation in 2024.

We are so very grateful for all you have done to support Travel to Hope this past year. On behalf of the 108 patients and families you now support, **thank you** for the hope you give.

*Gretta Feldkamp*

Gretta Feldkamp  
Executive Director, Travel to Hope



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P.S. If you no longer wish to receive communications from Travel to Hope you can opt out [here](#).