I AM SO GRATEFUL to V Foundation donors for their commitment to research; you give us cancer patients an excellent quality of life. Thank you!

– Lupe Dalluge, Thriver
The V Foundation’s donors have powered our progress against breast cancer, the most common cancer in women in the U.S. As a result of advances in screening and treatments, breast cancer mortality rates have fallen by 40% since 1993. Improvements have come from a better understanding of breast cancer biology and insight into new treatments, as well as who may be at risk for hereditary breast cancer—like those who have inherited mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes—and what these individuals can do to lower risk.

Additionally, research has focused on disparities in breast cancer outcomes—why they exist and what can be done. Your support also drives research on survivorship and “thrivership,” which is critical for the nearly 4 million breast cancer survivors in the U.S. Please stay the course; we need you more than ever as we work toward a future that holds the best treatment for each and every patient.

Nancy E. Davidson, M.D.
Scientific Advisory Committee and Board Member for the V Foundation,
Senior Vice President, Clinical Research Division, Fred Hutchinson
Cancer Research Center; President & Executive Director, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance; Head, Department of Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology, University of Washington

THANKS TO YOU, we are changing lives.
A PERSONALIZED APPROACH TO TREATMENT

Thanks to your donations, V-funded researcher Christina Curtis, Ph.D., is working to ensure survivors enjoy healthy lives by minimizing exposure to unnecessary treatments and side effects.

Curtis is studying how to use gene expression levels to predict which breast cancer patients will benefit most from anthracyclines, which are among the oldest and most widely used types of chemotherapy drug. Although effective against breast cancer, anthracyclines don’t work for everyone and bring risks for serious cardiovascular side effects and secondary cancers.

Using molecular data available from thousands of cancer patients, Curtis is building statistical models to predict which patients will respond to anthracyclines. The goal is to produce a diagnostic test to offer patients the best possible therapy to treat their specific tumor while helping them avoid ineffective drugs and their side effects.

We SALUTE the patients, thrivers and researchers who are fighting this disease.
MEGAN PLEADS FOR ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

At 41 years old, my beautiful mother, Gail, was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer and a BRCA2 genetic mutation. After a double mastectomy, reconstruction surgeries, chemotherapy and hormone therapy, my mom achieved remission. Grateful for her good health, my family and I looked to the future with joy and began a new chapter.

Three years later, her cancer returned and metastasized. Hearing the terminal diagnosis was devastating. Through laughter and tears, we spent weekends cooking, drinking wine and enjoying life’s small pleasures.

“We cherished every moment. Mom radiated strength, and her kindness touched everyone around her. Mom lost her battle with cancer at age 49.”

Now, my aunt is battling the same disease—metastatic breast cancer and a BRCA2 mutation.

The loss of Mom and the diagnosis of my aunt rocked our family and sparked a passion within me to help raise awareness about BRCA genetic mutations and the crucial need for more research.
LUPE TREASURES LIFE

Two years ago, I learned I had breast cancer. My thoughts immediately went to my family, as we were preparing to adopt a 5-year-old precious little girl. I recall thinking that I would do anything to be there for her and my teenage boys. I prayed for enough time to see them become independent and happy adults and enough time to help my husband gather strength to deal with me being gone ... enough time to smile and say I conquered cancer without abandoning my family.

“Because of cancer, I no longer take things for granted. I am not afraid to ask for help and do not hesitate to tell someone I love them.”

Cancer beautifully changed me! The most valuable lesson I learned is to be compassionate with myself. I no longer beat myself up for not cleaning, cooking or being the perfect mom and wife.

After enduring five grueling surgeries, I am healthy, and my family is blessed! Thanks to the advancements in cancer research, I am creating new memories to cherish. I was fortunate to receive the gift of more time.
THANK YOU!
Your donation to cancer research changes lives!