

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



Doreen Perks

### The Bob Perks Fund - Bigger and Better

The year 2024 has been a remarkable journey for the Bob Perks Cancer Assistance Fund (BPF). With a renewed sense of vigor and an unwavering commitment to our mission, we have surpassed our pre-Covid growth phase and are now serving significantly more patients than ever before. Last year was a record year for the BPF with allocations surpassing \$367,000, almost \$100,000 over 2023's total.

Our team's hard work as well as community support have made our expansion into Mifflin and Juniata counties a huge success. With help from our Strategic Partners in Girls Night Out Altoona, Inc., we are hoping to continue that expansion in 2025. This move aims to ensure that more cancer patients have access to the support and resources they need. We are placing the groundwork to make this a reality, and we are confident that, with the same spirit and determination, we will achieve this goal.

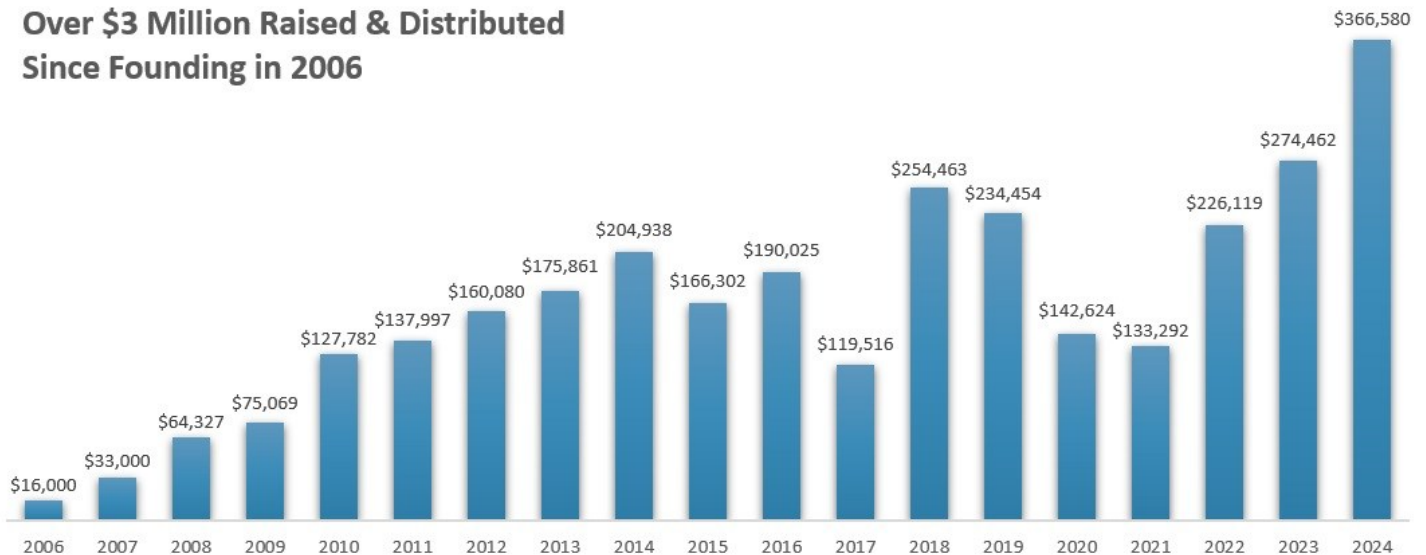
Our continued growth can be attributed to many factors. Our dedicated Staff and Board of Directors ensures that operations run smoothly, and applicants receive timely support. Strategic Partners, Special Events Partners, and Event Sponsors provide essential funding. The community provides invaluable support for our events and our programs.

Thank you all for your contributions. With your help, we look forward to supporting more and more cancer patients every year.

## HISTORY AND VITAL MISSION

The BPF was established in 2006 in memory of Bob Perks, a State College native, who passed away in 2005 after a long battle with melanoma. A Penn State baseball player and a founding member of Penn State Coaches vs Cancer, Bob died at age 42, leaving behind his wife Doreen and two young boys. To fulfill Bob's commitment to those battling cancer, Doreen and Bob's family, friends, and colleagues established the BPF for cancer patients to receive support while undergoing treatment, making it is a lifeline to pay for their most basic living expenses.

### Over \$3 Million Raised & Distributed Since Founding in 2006



## SERVICE, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2024, Bob Perks Cancer Assistance Fund served cancer patients in the six central PA counties of Blair, Centre, Clearfield, Huntingdon, Mifflin and Juniata. A cancer diagnosis often means a patient must undergo life saving treatments, which may lead to the patient being too sick to work. If a patient finds themselves facing serious financial hardships because of their cancer diagnosis, Bob Perks Fund is there to help by paying basic living expenses such as rent, utilities, heat or groceries, and by providing gasoline to get to treatment. Due to a sharp rise in inflation and the costs of goods, in February 2024, BPF increased each cancer patient grant award to \$1000, from the previous amount of \$750. Patients may continue to reapply as often as every 90 days, if they are still undergoing cancer treatment, up to a limit of \$5000.

Each year, we continue to assist more and more cancer patients. In 2024, BPF had another record-breaking year. We were able to help 464 cancer patient applicants and their families with an overwhelming \$367,000. Never before in our 18-year history have we raised and given away so much money to local cancer patients. We owe a debt of gratitude to our referral sources for their continued support of the BPF mission as they collaboratively work to help their patients heal physically and emotionally from their disease. It takes extra time and compassion to fill out applications and communicate with BPF on behalf of their patients, and we are grateful for their care and consideration.

As we continue to strive for ways to improve our ability to assist our friends and neighbors who are battling cancer, we seek new and innovative ways to fundraise enough donated dollars in each county to equal the financial support needed for that county's cancer communities. Without the help of many partners, we would not be able to sustain our mission long-term. One of our goals for 2024/2025 is to be able to expand our services into a seventh county. As 2024 came to a close and we rang in 2025, we began in earnest, the fundraising to be able to support Bedford County as the seventh county in the BPF service area. Watch for the announcement of expansion to Bedford County in the upcoming weeks.

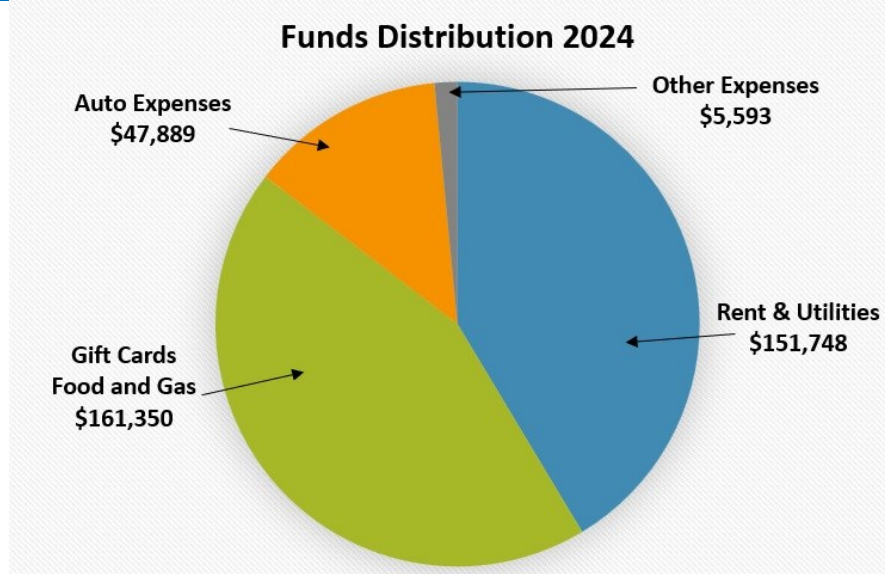
Since our humble beginnings in 2006, BPF has never turned away an eligible applicant for financial support. We have given almost 6000 applicants three million dollars in our 18 years of operation.

**The following chart represents a breakdown by county of the number of patients receiving financial support from BPF in 2024:**

Blair	Centre	Clearfield	Huntingdon	Mifflin	Juniata
158	101	69	81	44	11
<b>Total Applications in 2024 = 464</b>					

The graph at the top of the next page illustrates the five categories of basic needs. Our ability to assist local cancer patients is completely dependent upon fundraising and collaborative relationships with our referral sources. Without their support and commitment to our mission, the BPF would not exist.

## SERVICE, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### STRATEGIC PARTNERS

In 2024, BPF was extremely fortunate to receive major financial support from 11 Strategic Partners who played an important role as donors and ambassadors of our mission. Without their steadfast devotion to our cause and their generous, ongoing patronage, our efforts to assist struggling cancer patients would be severely diminished. Our heartfelt thanks to our Strategic Partners for their long-standing commitment to our local cancer community.



### SPECIAL EVENTS PARTNERS

Most of our Special Events Partners have a long-term relationship with BPF. Our Special Events Partners agree to sponsor our annual events. In return, their sponsorship is publicized throughout the year. Their unyielding dedication to our mission is truly appreciated.



## Community Highlights

### Blair County

Our friends at Cove Cause for Cancer held a 200 Club Drawing on March 2, 2024. This exciting event provided attendees with dinner, drinks and numerous chances to win, including a basket raffle, raffle tickets, and the cash drawing. Since our partnership began in 2019, Cove Cause for Cancer has donated over \$75,000 to help cancer patients in southern Blair County focus on their treatment and recovery rather than their bills.

We are incredibly grateful to UPMC Altoona for continuing as a cherished Bob Perks Fund Strategic Partner. UPMC Altoona generously awarded BPF \$20,000 to continue to support cancer patients in Blair County. UPMC Altoona also awarded BPF an additional grant of \$10,000 to support individuals battling breast cancer in our community. Their incredible support makes a significant, direct impact in the lives of our local cancer patients. THANK YOU, UPMC Altoona!

The 16th Annual Girls Night Out event was held on October 23, 2024. More than 1100 folks from all over the community gathered at the Blair County Convention Center to raise funds for breast cancer research and to support local breast cancer patients. We are overjoyed to be one of the beneficiaries of this truly incredible event and to call GNO Altoona, Inc. one of our most cherished BPF Strategic Partners. Our dear friends, Juls Bratton, the entire Girls Night Out committee, and the team of GNO volunteers deserve many THANKS for all of their hard work! GNO's unbelievable gift of \$100,000 will support countless breast cancer patients in our community.



Veeder Root Company held their annual Day of Caring Walk-a-thon to support Bob Perks Fund in September 2024. This year's event raised \$2,200 to support individuals battling cancer in Blair County. BPF wants to thank Maureen Slovikosky, Amy Koegler, and all Veeder Root employees for your great support of our local cancer community!

Our long-term friends and Strategic Partners at Sheetz continued to help area cancer patients with gift cards for Sheetz gasoline to ensure they can travel to their treatments. In 2024, Sheetz donated \$25,000 to Bob Perks Fund. We are eternally grateful for our history with Sheetz and the support they provide to BPF's long-term sustainability. Sheetz is a blessing to BPF. As one of our most generous Strategic Partners who champions the mission of the BPF, we say THANK YOU!

### Centre County

On February 4, 2025, representatives from Kish Bank presented Bob Perks Fund with a check for \$50,021.57 from proceeds from their 2024 Kish for the Cure campaign. This was another record-breaking year for Kish for the Cure, as the event raised over \$90,000. This incredibly generous donation will directly impact countless individuals across our service area.

Kish's annual campaign has raised more than \$625,000 in total since 2012, and it continues to grow in scope and impact each year. We at Bob Perks Fund are so thankful to recognize Kish Bank as both a Special Events Partner and a cherished Strategic Partner. Their support of our local cancer community is truly remarkable.

THANK YOU, Kish Bank, for your dedicated work to help improve the lives of individuals battling cancer in our area!

## Centre County - continued

The 12th Annual Rock the 80's Concert was held on February 24, 2024, at The State Theatre in downtown State College. It was a rocking, sold-out show that raised over \$25,000. This is a record amount in the 12-year history of Rock the 80's! Rock the 80's would not be possible without event organizers, JR Mangan and James Miller and our long-time emcee, Jeff Brown. THANK YOU to all the bands, sponsors, attendees, and volunteers that made our 12th Annual Rock the 80's such an incredible success!

THANK YOU to everyone who supported Bob Perks Fund at our Night at the Races fundraising event. The event was held on May 18, 2024, and raised an incredible \$24,514 to support local cancer patients. This exciting evening of virtual horse racing had guests on the edge of their seats, as they cheered on their favorite horses. Thank you to our sponsors, BPF volunteers, and all those who attended the event. We couldn't do it without you!



Centre Gives, the annual online fundraising event held by Centre Foundation, was held on May 8 & 9, 2024. Thanks to a very generous group of donors, Bob Perks Fund raised \$15,369 through Centre Gives. Thanks to Blake and Linda Gall's "Match the Match" donation pledge, each donated dollar stretched even further. THANK YOU to Centre Foundation, Blake & Linda Gall, and everyone who donated during this year's Centre Gives!



The Bob Perks Fund was blessed to receive an extraordinarily, generous donation from Penn State Coaches vs. Cancer and the American Cancer Society in the amount of \$83,261. This overwhelming level of support will help a myriad of local cancer patients pay their bills, so that they can focus on getting well. Bob Perks was a founding member of the Penn State chapter of Coaches vs. Cancer, and BPF is so proud to count both Penn State CvC and the American Cancer Society as cherished Strategic Partners. THANK YOU to every

## Clearfield County

In 2024, the Clearfield County Charitable Foundation awarded the Bob Perks Fund a generous grant of \$1,500. This grant was used to provide gas and grocery gift cards to cancer patients in Clearfield County who were struggling due to their cancer diagnosis and treatments. We THANK Clearfield County Charitable Foundation for their support!



On May 24, 2024, our very good friends at Spitzer Subaru of DuBois presented us with an



incredible gift from their Subaru "Share the Love" campaign. Thanks to Spitzer Subaru and their loyal customers, we were the recipient of \$13,000 to help Clearfield County cancer patients! Spitzer Subaru is one of our most cherished Strategic Partners, who help sustain the Bob Perks Fund's mission to help local cancer patients focus on their treatment and recovery, rather than their financial burdens. THANK YOU, Spitzer Subaru!

On June 8, 2024, the American Legion Riders Chapter 6 held the 11th Annual Mikey's Old School Ride in Clearfield! The event, held in memory of Michael Lanich, Chris Lanich, and Buddha Lanich, raised \$1,334 to help ease the financial burden of cancer patients in Clearfield County. BPF would like to say THANK YOU to the Lanich family and the American Legion Riders Chapter 6!

## **Huntingdon County**

THANK YOU to Rickey Himes and her dedicated team of volunteers for organizing this year's Bob Perks Fund Event at Mill Creek Lions Club! This year's event raised \$5,558, which will financially support Huntingdon County cancer patients, so they can focus on getting well. On June 8, 2024, attendees celebrated the cancer patients who are fighting, the survivors who have fought and won, and honored those who lost their battle with cancer. Thank you all for your constant efforts to support our local cancer community!



Clay Glenny and family held their annual yard sale to benefit Bob Perks Fund on July 12 & 13, 2024. This year's incredible sale raised over \$4,700 to help cancer patients in Huntingdon County focus on their treatment and recovery, rather than their bills. Generous individuals from all over the community donated items to the sale, held annually at St. Catherine's Church in Mount Union. We are so grateful to Clay Glenny and his family for their support of Huntingdon County cancer patients.

Shenecoy Sportsmen Club of McConnellstown held their 7th Annual Clay Shoot to benefit Bob Perks Fund on September 14, 2024. This wonderful, annual event raised \$1,075 to help Huntingdon County cancer patients focus on getting well, rather than their mounting bills. Thank you to the Shenecoy Sportsmen Club, Erica Blair, Rickey Himes, and the entire Huntingdon County Core Bob Perks Group for your amazing support of individuals battling cancer in Huntingdon County!



Huntingdon County fundraising efforts were wrapped up in December, 2024, with a Holiday Cash Lottery Raffle. Tickets were sold by friends of BPF, and winners were selected by a ticket match with the PA Daily Number. Raising nearly \$24,000, this unbelievable effort was led by Rickey Himes and her devoted group of volunteers! It truly takes a community to sustain the BPF mission! THANKS TO ALL who supported this fundraiser!

## **Mifflin & Juniata Counties**

Our friends at Alltrista Plastics donated \$4,359 from their "Give Breast Cancer the Boot" campaign! We are incredibly thankful to have once again been chosen as the beneficiary of this great event. Thank you also to Philips Electronics for participating in the mums fundraiser portion of the campaign. Their generous donation will help cancer patients in Mifflin County focus on their treatment and recovery, rather than their bills.

On April 20, 2024, the A.B.A.T.E. of PA Patriot Riders held a basket raffle to benefit Bob Perks Fund. This great event raised \$3,254 to help ease the financial burden of cancer patients in Mifflin & Juniata counties. Attendees had the chance to purchase rip tickets, 50/50, and the chance to win several exciting baskets. The Patriot Riders are amazing Champions for BPF and we are forever appreciative of their continued support!



## Mifflin & Juniata Counties - Continued



On August 22, 2024, Mifflintown Rotarians presented Bob Perks Fund with a check for \$1,000. This generous donation will help cancer patients in Juniata County pay their bills, so that they can focus on getting well. THANK YOU to the Rotary Club of Mifflintown for supporting our local cancer community!

In August, 2024, Geisinger Health provided Bob Perks Fund with an annual grant award of \$10,000. As one of BPF's cherished Strategic Partners and a trusted referral source, Geisinger is truly crucial to the long-term sustainability of the Bob Perks Fund. We could not continue our mission without the partnership of our Strategic Partners like Geisinger...many thanks to Geisinger Health!

In the fall of 2024, Shy Bear Brewing held a month-long fundraising drive to benefit Bob Perks Fund. Over \$796 was raised throughout the month of September to benefit Mifflin County cancer patients. This campaign culminated in our 2nd Annual "Sing for the Fight" karaoke night on September 27th. Singers came from all over the area to share their talents and raise funds for local cancer patients. This fun-filled night of karaoke raised an additional \$2,792 to help cancer patients in Mifflin County pay their bills, so they can focus on getting well. THANK YOU to all the singers who attended the event, our amazing sponsors, and to Shy Bear Brewing for both organizing the fundraising drive and for hosting our 2nd Annual "Sing for the Fight!"

## SPECIAL EVENTS & FUNDRAISING



**ROCK THE 80's** - The 12<sup>th</sup> annual **Rock the 80's** concert was held on February 24, 2024.

We had a sold out concert with people purchasing standing room only. The evening kicked off with the "Totally Rad Reception" at the **Kish Expect More Store** on Allen Street, featuring complimentary beer, wine and an array of appetizers for people who purchased the reception tickets.

We held an 80's costume contest that featured a single individual winner and a group contest winner. The group contest winners received a gift certificate from **Gigi's Southern Table**, and the solo costume winner received a gift card from **The Tavern Restaurant**. The 2024 Rock the 80's concert raised over \$25,000.

### Rock the 80's Sponsors

#### **Rock Stars \$2,500**

KCF Technologies  
Mount Nittany Health  
UPMC Altoona

#### **Lead Singers \$1,500**

America's Carpet Outlet  
First Citizen's Bank  
Restek Corporation  
Tri-County Oral Facial Surgeons

#### **Backup Singers \$1,000**

McQuaide Blasko, Attorneys

#### **Bid for the Balcony**

Larry Walker KBB

#### **Breakdancers \$500**

Axemann Brewery  
Blake & Linda Gall  
Marshall Financial Solutions  
Stocker Chevrolet Subaru  
Buick & GMC

#### **Groupies \$250**

Ben & Robin Heim  
Frost & Conn Insurance  
Koch Funeral Home  
Primary Health Network  
State College Orthodontics

#### **Fan Club**

R. H. Dotts Energy

#### **In-Kind**

Hugh & Janyce Mose  
Jeff Brown  
JR Mangan  
James Miller  
Kish - Expect More Store  
Macy Miskiewicz  
State College American Legion  
Post 245  
W. R. Hickey Beer Distributor

### Rock the 80's Bands

Anchor & Arrow - Collapse - CRUSH  
The Extractors - Genuine Red and The Issues - JR Mangan Band  
The Kevin Briggs' Blues Experience - The Long Afternoon  
Special Thanks to The State Theatre!

**NIGHT AT THE RACES** - Excitement was in the air on May 18, 2024, as BPF held its annual Night at the Races! The event, held at Good Shepherd Parish Hall, in Port Matilda, PA, raised an overwhelming \$24,514 for area cancer patients.



This fast-paced evening of virtual horse racing had guests cheering for their favorite horses as the races were called by a professional emcee. Attendees had the opportunity to “purchase” their own racehorse, name it, and receive a winner’s share of the betting if their horse won. Guests enthusiastically watched as 10 horse races crossed the finish line.

This evening included dinner, drinks, a derby hat contest, silent auction items, grab n’ go gift cards, and much more!

**2024 Night at the Races Sponsors**

**Triple Crown \$2,500**

Mount Nittany Health  
UPMC Altoona

**Preakness - \$1,500**

Blake & Linda Gall  
Hugh & Janyce Mose  
McQuaide Blasko Attorneys

**Kentucky Derby - \$1,000**

America’s Carpet Outlet  
First Citizens Community Bank  
M&T Bank

**Breeder’s Cup - \$500**

Stocker Chevrolet Subaru  
Buick & GMC

**Winner’s Circle - \$250**

Frost & Conn Insurance  
Andy & Kelly Renfrew

**Breeze - \$100**

MCS Bank

**Fund Drive**

Sunnyside Dispensary

**In-Kind**

State College American Legion  
Post 245  
Chuck Carroll  
Dolce Vita Desserts  
Otto’s Pub & Brewery  
Jeremy Rose & Cindy Robinson  
Wegmans  
Weis Markets

**HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN** - Because BPF assistance to local cancer patients is totally dependent upon donations, each year a Holiday Campaign is held to send warm holiday wishes to our donors, and provide an end-of-year opportunity to give.



In 2024, the Holiday Campaign raised a total of \$24,514. This is possible in part from the generosity of Linda and Blake Gall and Robin and Ben Heim, who matched dollar for dollar, up to the first \$10,000 of donations. Thank you to all donors who let us know how much they love our “snow people.”

**Major Sources of Support during 2024**





## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

The following individuals who passed away were honored by their families and friends who made memorial contributions to the BPF. Because they honored their loss by supporting the BPF, we are able to assist more struggling cancer patients in Blair, Centre, Clearfield, Huntingdon Mifflin, and Juniata counties.

Foxine Byers  
Charles Bump  
Mona Clark  
Herbert Fishborne

Rosalie Fishborne  
Reuben Norris  
Ralph Pacifico  
Edward Packer

Norman Perks  
Carla Proby  
Leonard Ronk  
Patricia Walsh

## VOLUNTEERS

The BPF is a small organization with only three staff members. We could not accomplish all that we do on behalf of cancer patients, without the hard work, goodwill, and strong commitment of our volunteers in Blair, Centre, Clearfield, Huntingdon, Juniata, and Mifflin counties. They devote countless hours to raising money in support of cancer patients, and in addition, fulfill many important roles on our Allocations, Development, Governance and Finance Committees. The BPF Board of Directors and staff are eternally grateful for their contribution of time, talent and heart to our many years of success.

## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doreen Perks, *Founder*  
Linda Gall, *Chair & CVC Liaison*  
John Conroy, *Vice Chair*  
Lamar Kunes, *Treasurer*  
Kelly Renfrew, *Secretary*  
Frank Ahern, *Immediate Past Chair*  
Melissa Aungst

Marilyn Byers  
Robin Heim  
Madeline Hertzberg  
Rickey Himes  
Janyce Mose  
Peter Ort  
Lori Proper

## Bob Perks Fund Staff



Cindy R. Brown  
Executive Director



Clay Glenny  
Development Coordinator



Tami Hetrick  
Allocations Coordinator

## TESTIMONIALS

Thank you for the gift cards, and also for paying our light bill. They really helped us. It makes us feel good to know there are people who care and take the time to help us. Thank you for everything.

-Blair County cancer patient & BPF recipient



Thank you for being so thoughtful, kind, and compassionate. You went above and beyond to soften the enormous amount of stress on my family with the news of my cancer diagnosis. It's easy to see how much you care about the people you help in a time of hardship. I'm so grateful to be one of them!

-Centre County cancer patient & BPF recipient



We can't thank you enough for the gas cards and food cards. At a time like this, it really eases some of the burden of five trips a week to State College. Plus, we are on a fixed income, so the food cards are perfect, too. Your organization is a godsend for many cancer patients, I am sure.

-Huntingdon County cancer patient & BPF recipient



I would like to thank you very much for your generosity in paying my electric bill and the Weis/Sheetz gift cards. It is an enormous help in paying for gasoline and groceries.

-Juniata County cancer patient & BPF recipient



We had six weeks of devastating reports. Then came the medical bills, the insurance coverage games to navigate, the life plans to rearrange, the stress to manage. The Bob Perks Fund's assistance has allowed us to exhale a bit, to realize a helping hand we weren't expecting, but so wholeheartedly appreciate. We thank you for this great kindness.

-Mifflin County cancer patient & BPF recipient



My wife and I want to give you folks a heartfelt THANK YOU! Your helping with a couple bills and the gift cards were a godsend. Thanks again for everything!

-Centre County cancer patient & BPF recipient



I cannot say enough about the BPF and what they do for our patients. Cancer affects so much more than a patient's health. So many of our patients struggle with financial toxicity caused by their cancer diagnosis. Many times, patients are uninsured, or no longer able to work due to their cancer diagnosis leaving them with little to no resources. BPF has been a true blessing to those very patients, helping with utilities, rent, groceries, and gas. Many patients struggle with simply being able to afford the gas to make it to their cancer treatment. BPF makes it possible for those patients to have peace of mind that they no longer need to worry about how they will afford gas to get to their treatment. Helping take the financial burden off of patients allows them to focus more on their treatment and wellbeing. BPF helps make this possible!!! Thank you BPF for your assistance in making our patient's cancer journey just a little bit easier with your support!

-Shannon Flanders Financial Navigator  
Penn Highlands Healthcare Oncology



The BPF is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization, EIN Number 20-4220990 and is registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations. Your questions and comments are welcome at:

[info@bobperksfund.org](mailto:info@bobperksfund.org)

## PHOTO GALLERY



Girls Night Out Check Presentation



Mifflin Juniata Day of Caring



Rotary of DuBois



2024 Kish For The Cure Total Raised



Kish For the Cure Check Presentation



Spitzer Subaru Check Presentation