

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE OZARKS

Collaborative Project with BCFO

What's better than two trusted philanthropic names coming together to raise \$1 million for breast cancer patients in need?

Two trusted philanthropic names raising \$1 million for breast cancer patients - forever.

On Jan. 3, 2017, Charlie and Mary Beth O'Reilly announced a \$500,000 donation to the Breast Cancer Foundation of the Ozarks, earmarked as a dollar-for-dollar match for the first \$500,000 pledged through CFO to the BCFO endowment fund, which holds permanent, long-term assets for the BCFO's future.

"We've done matches anonymously, and it never seems to work as well as if you put your name behind," said Mary Beth O'Reilly, who founded BCFO nearly two decades ago to make a difference in the lives of local families impacted by the breast cancer. "I thought it was a very clever idea to join the efforts of CFO and BCFO. It seemed like a win-win for everyone."

"Both organizations are well-thought of, and with that mutual trust, we really thought it could be great for the BCFO's future," said Charlie O'Reilly.

BCFO Executive Director Crystal Webster says BCFO provides assistance to one third of regional families affected by breast cancer. With 1/8 of all women at some point diagnosed with the disease, that's a lot of families that need help now and in the future.

BCFO's mission is to serve families affected by breast cancer in the Ozarks. While they can't pay medical bills, Webster says, they can help with daily necessities - bills, vehicle expenses, child care, etc. - that increase a family's ability to pay for medical care and help the patient focus on getting healthy.

To date, three funds have been established to take advantage of the O'Reilly match: the Jordan Valley Community Health Fund for the BCFO; the Kinne Family Endowment for the BCFO by Gordon and Laura Kinne; the Dave and Natalene Johnson Fund for the BCFO by Dave and Natalene Johnson.

Mary Beth O'Reilly, herself a cancer survivor, started BCFO nearly two decades ago to help promote awareness and education of breast cancer among young women following the death of a close friend from the disease at age 31.

"We have 35 new cases a month, which is kind of amazing," Mary Beth O'Reilly says. "Breast cancer really affects younger women as much as older; there are a lot of single mothers in their 40s who really need the help." Many times patients with financial concerns will wait too long to seek a diagnosis, or then do the minimal treatments, because they don't have the savings to pay large medical bills.

It's all part of the BCFO's long-term goal of an endowment that will allow the foundation to operate forever on the annual distribution, and help an increased number of patients - perhaps even for different types of cancers or ailments - in the process.

To learn more or to make a tax-deductible donation to the BCFO Legacy of Hope endowment, contact Crystal Webster at 417-862-3838 or crystal@bcfo.org.