

Beth Longwell Foundation

# FOUNDATION CONNECTION

Summer 2021

# GRANTEE UPDATE: ADDARIO LUNG CANCER MEDICAL INSTITUTE

Since 2014, the Beth Longwell Foundation has helped to support first-time research studies of lung cancer in young people diagnosed under the age of 40, through grants to the Addario Lung Cancer Medical Institute (ALCMI), a partner organization of Foundation for Lung Cancer. groundbreaking Genomics of Young Lung Cancer Study (GoYLC) determined that young people who have specific genetic mutations at a much higher rate than in the general population are potentially treatable with targeted therapies or precision medicine. Building on the GoYLC Study, ALCMI is currently conducting the Epidemiology of Young Lung Cancer (EoYLC) Study to gain a better understanding of the underlying cause(s) of lung cancer in this population by looking at possible clues from environmental and childhood exposures, as well as other potential factors such as lifestyle and demographic risks. The awarded BLF grant will be used to support the EoYLC Study.

ALCMI is an international research consortium dedicated to accelerating novel research advancements for lung cancer patients. ALCMI directly facilitates research by combining scientific expertise found at leading academic institutions, working in tandem with GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer's Centers of Excellence on patient access. Founded by patients and survivors, GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer transforms survivorship as the world's leading organization dedicated to saving, extending and improving the lives of those vulnerable, at risk and diagnosed with lung cancer.

#### BOARD MEMBER REFLECTION BY CLAUDETTE KAYNE



This past year-and-a-half has changed almost everything. Truly no one knew the extent to which a global pandemic would change the way we were all conducting our lives, businesses and non-profits. The pandemic presented many challenges for charitable organizations including the Beth Longwell Foundation. A

clear downside has been that we haven't been able to see our wonderful supporters in person. Regretfully, out of an abundance of caution, we will not hold a BLF in-person event in 2021. Recent progress of vaccination efforts has been encouraging, and we are confident that we will be able to gather safely in 2022! The upside is that we have our wonderful summer newsletter to communicate that the BLF is still very much in operation and thanks to you the 2020 Newsletter raised nearly \$20,000! The BLF Board has been meeting via Zoom every quarter, and in March we funded grants for lung cancer research, educational programs, and youth counseling services. The BLF remains vital and intense in its mission to create a better future. We hope contributions from this 2021 Newsletter will enable us to further our mission! As the world returns to a more normal state, we will look forward to creating and executing a fun event for you to attend! It will be wonderful to safely gather and catch up on the many past months apart. Hope is eternal for the Beth Longwell Foundation Board. We are laser focused on continuing Beth's legacy as we march ever forward. In the meantime stay well, and we look forward to meeting again soon.

## **Foundation Board Member Update**

The Board is pleased to welcome Anita Gutof as a Board Member. Anita has been a close friend of the Levitas family for many years. She met Ellen Levitas while attending the University of Wisconsin. The friendship gave her the privilege of knowing Beth and watching her grow and thrive into adulthood. Anita's career in education, spanned more than 35 years from teacher to administrator. Now in retirement, she lives in Palo Alto to be closer to her children and grandchildren and for the better weather.

#### **FOUNDATION FINANCIALS 2020**

Established on September 4, 2007 as a California non-profit public benefit corporation, the Beth Longwell Foundation is completely run by volunteers. Our board devoted its efforts in 2020 to fundraising and servicing our key initiatives as established in our Mission Statement. The table below summarizes the Foundation's financials and use of your generously donated dollars for 2020.

2020 Financial Summary	
Direct Public Support	\$23,061
Investment Income	\$263
Fundraising Event, Net	\$0
Total Income	\$23,324
Operations	\$3,987
Scholarships/Grants	\$18,000
Total Expenses	\$21,897
Net Income	\$1,337
Gain on Investments Unrealized	\$7,190
Total Assets	\$91,545

#### **OUR 2021 GRANT RECIPIENTS**

In 2021 the Foundation awarded grants to four Bay Area agencies. Recipients of Foundation grants exemplify Beth's visions and hopes for advancement in non-smoking lung cancer research, grief support for those who have lost a loved one, education, and the arts. The following are the Foundation's 2021 grant recipients:

Addario Lung Cancer Medical Institute
Alum Rock Counseling Center
Children's Musical Theatre of San Jose
Kara

# GRANTEE UPDATE: ALUM ROCK COUNSELING CENTER

The Beth Longwell Foundation is proud to support the Alum Rock Counseling Center's (ARCC) Ocala Mentoring Program which serves up to 90 students from Alum Rock Union School District's Ocala STEAM Academy. Program participants often begin the three-year program as 6th graders and receive services throughout their critical middle school years, remaining in the program until they graduate in 8th grade. The majority of participating students have demonstrated a high need for socio-emotional support and exhibited high risk for school failure, truancy, and/or entering the juvenile justice system or dependency system. Through program activities, youth build their resiliency, acquire coping and drug resistance skills, develop a sense of safety/trust with caring adults, and learn how to leverage school/community resources to address ongoing risks which may be standing in their way of school attendance and/or academic success. Prior to COVID. counselors delivered services daily on the school campus; during COVID most services have continued via telehealth. These services include: Life-skills Curriculum. One-on-One Case Mentoring, Management, School Climate Workshops, Family Engagement and Enrichment Activities/Field Trips. The overarching goals of the Ocala Mentoring Program are: (1) Decrease involvement in high-risk behaviors and increase involvement in safe age-appropriate activities; (2) Improve academic outcomes and (3) Reduce middle school drop-out rates.

ARCC's mission is to heal families and inspire youth to reach their full potential. The agency is committed to responding to the most pressing and evolving needs of the communities they serve, and they work in close partnership with fellow community-based organizations and government agencies to identify and respond to the most critical needs families face.

### Please Donate Today

To make a tax-deductible donation to the foundation, visit us at www.bethlongwellfoundation.org or mail your check payable to the Beth Longwell Foundation P.O. Box 50457 Palo Alto, CA 94303

#### **LUCY AND NATHAN UPDATE**

From Lucy: This school year was pretty tough because all of it was online, over Zoom. It was difficult to get a hold of my teachers just through an email, so I couldn't really get any one-on-one help. Despite this, I stayed on top of my assignments and I am satisfied with how my work paid off. This coming school year, I'll be a junior and we got news that classes will be all in person which is very exciting. I'm taking a bunch of classes that I am really looking forward to such as choir and creative writing. I'll also be in AP classes like AP US History and AP Biology. This past school year I was also on the swim team and I started playing water polo, which is my new favorite sport. I really like it because you get to interact with other people a lot more than you do with swimming since swimming is a solo sport. I look forward to continuing with both of these sports in the upcoming year, water polo in the fall and swimming in the spring. Outside of school, I've made it a priority



to see my friends at least once a week. This summer I received my certification as a lifeguard so that I can work as a lifeguard parttime. I also took Algebra 2 with my friend in summer school so I can get ahead for next year. I plan to either be on a club water polo team, or

a club swim team; I'm not sure which one I want to do yet. Lastly, I'm looking forward to spending time with my family, specifically my brother since I only had a couple of opportunities to see him during the school year.

From Nathan: This past school year was my second year at my new boarding school in Lake Tahoe, California. I picked up snowboarding and now love it! I met a ton of new people from all over the world at my school. I also have started to enjoy nature photography and videography a lot. Over vacations from school, I spend a lot of time with my Palo Alto friends since I don't get to see them as much. I am also in the process of getting my driver's license which I am super excited for. This summer I went to Mt. Hood, Oregon for a summer snowboarding camp to practice my skills with very good coaches. I have had a great summer so far and am actually looking forward to school in the fall!

#### **GRANTEE UPDATE: KARA**

This past summer was Kara's 13th year providing bereavement camp resources. While the in-person/full camp experience was cancelled due to COVID-19, they were able to focus during this distanced setting on providing connection, care, and community – three of Kara's primary goals of camp — in a very different format. Through Camp Kara @ Home ninety-six campers were provided care packages with campinspired items and grief resources; volunteers and staff were provided camp goodie bags. The care packages and goodie bags included supplies to create a luminary lantern for Camp Kara's Virtual Luminary Ceremony which was recorded and included on the camper portal page along with a memorial slide show.

Highlights from the Camp Kara @ Home outreach included:

Two college-age counselors shared their experiences as former Kara clients and campers, and the community and connection they found through Kara that enabled them to navigate and process their own grief in order to support other grieving children.

Camp counselors, some who have participated in multiple camps over the years, were also deeply feeling the loss of camp this year and the luminary ceremony provided a time for them to connect with fellow counselors and to acknowledge the continued losses many of them are experiencing.

While a number of families chose not to participate in the virtual luminary, staff received appreciation notes and stories of how they had used the care packages for a time to honor and remember the person who died. One mother wrote: "I am grateful to all the members of Kara who have supported me and my boys. I want you to know the summer camp packages were enjoyed by both my boys."

#### **Mission Statement**

The Beth Levitas Longwell Foundation's mission is to positively impact the lives of children through support of charities and organizations in the areas of childhood education, non-smoking lung cancer research and grief support for children who have lost a parent.

#### **Board Members**

Fran Cohen, Alice Erber, Anita Gutof, Meridith Herman, Claudette Kayne, Ellen Levitas, Jim Levitas, Robert Longwell, Liz Varela

## **BLF Scholarship Recipient Update: What They Are Up to Now**

#### Tatiana Taylor

Tatiana is the most recent recipient of the Beth Longwell Foundation college scholarship. She will be entering her second year at Chico State where she is majoring in



Psychology. Currently, Tatiana works as a tutor, and at Vitality Bowl. Her passion for tutoring came about from supporting her grandma's tutoring business. This has been a great experience for her, given that she hopes to be an athlete academic advisor in the future. Tatiana had a unique year due to the pandemic and

like many other college students she had to transition onto online classes. She shared her experience thus far, "Being able to keep up with all my work both semesters when coming into a new school especially fully online was a challenge, but I am very impressed with myself and how I handled everything with work and school." Tatiana shared that the scholarship she received from the BLF has helped her gain the experience of the real world and fulfill her dream of a college education.

#### Stefany Rodriguez

Stefany is in her third year at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona where she is majoring in Merchandising and Management with an emphasis in



Fashion Retail. Her goal is to be a Retail Buyer after she graduates. Stefany is very grateful to the Beth Longwell Foundation for helping her attend college and realize her life goals. She shared with the Foundation that, "Going to college was something that I had wanted

since I was a little girl. Thanks to the Beth Longwell Foundation scholarship, I was able to attend the school that I had wanted to go to."

#### Dalia Lopez

Life after graduation has been amazing for Dalia. She has worked in the field of immigration law for the past three years, helping clients and families in the legal process towards their citizenship. Her first internship opportunity



was with the Loyola Law School Immigration Clinic and the financial support she received from the BLF has helped her thrive in her career. Dalia had the opportunity to work at two of the most well-

known immigration law firms in Los Angeles. Due to the pandemic, she returned to the Bay Area and rejoined Seaport Law Group. Due to her family's lack of

knowledge of immigration, she grew interested in helping others who are going through the same struggle. This has inspired her to go back to school and pursue a law degree and continue helping the immigration community. Dalia shared, "I want to thank the Beth Longwell Foundation for helping me pursue my dream career."

#### Liz Varela

Liz was our first scholarship recipient. She graduated from UC Riverside in 2016 with a major in Sociology. Liz has been a part of The Primary School team for the past 5



years and is currently serving as People Operations Senior Associate where she supports recruitment and hiring. When the pandemic hit, Liz transitioned into working remotely, and is still working from home. Liz shared, "The transition into remote work has definitely been challenging but there are many perks that come with it, like having extra quality time

with her husband and new puppy." She continues to serve on the BLF board and is excited to continue supporting the board with giving other first-generation students the opportunity to attend college. Liz explains, "Being part of the board is so rewarding. Receiving the BLF scholarship was life changing and it excites me to know that the board is committed to continue supporting other students achieve great academic success."

#### Cristal Valencia

After graduating from Chico State Cristal found a job as a Teacher's Assistant for Kindergartners during the pandemic. She is currently working for a non-profit



organization that focuses on the development and academic success of 5 to 6year-olds. Cristal shares, "I love my job and all the children I work with!" She is also taking ECE classes to further her knowledge on working with children. When Cristal is not

working as a TA she is studying for her GRE. She plans on applying to graduate programs next year and start in the fall of 2022. Cristal is grateful for the BLF support. She shares, "Through the support, help and mentoring of the BLF I was able to graduate in four and a half years! I am also the first person in my family to graduate and have a degree! I will always have tremendous gratitude for the Beth Longwell Foundation! Thank you for choosing me and supporting me through my journey. I could not have done it without you!"