

Beth Longwell Foundation

# FOUNDATION CONNECTION

Summer 2022

### **GRANTEE UPDATE:** ADDARIO LUNG CANCER MEDICAL INSTITUTE

In 2022, the Beth Longwell Foundation made a grant to the Addario Lung Cancer Medical Institute ("ALCMI"). Due to the support of the BLF and other organizations, ALCMI continues to make impressive progress in understanding how to treat lung cancer in patients who are diagnosed "when young," a group not previously studied separately. 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. An extract from the study reads, "To get at the question of genetic predisposition in the very young and never smoking populations, we propose a large-scale whole-genome sequencing (WGS) study using peripheral blood samples from lung cancer patients under 50 years old. This study would look for rare germline variants that correlate with age at diagnosis, using an unbiased approach to discover alterations within known cancer genes. of which little have been found in young patients to date, and genes whose biology is less understood."

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, ALCMI/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



The Beth Longwell Foundation has reached a major milestone. Beth's daughter, Lucy, has joined us on the Board! We are reinvigorated to pursue fundraising and grantmaking on new levels. With Lucy's fresh

perspective, the BLF will no doubt evolve into an intergenerational organization! Lucy was only 2 years old when Beth passed away, and the fact that she now, at age 17, wants to be part of leading Beth's foundation is truly amazing!

The BLF board meets quarterly to discuss ideas, approve grants to deserving charities, and to reconnect on a personal level. It is amazing how nine individuals can provide myriad ideas and experiences, enriching our ability to bring fundraising events to life. While the COVID virus continues to restrict us in many ways, it is becoming less deadly, and more manageable. We are looking at our options for outdoor events like concerts, luncheons, etc. We will endeavor to provide meaningful fun events in the future.

Meanwhile, this newsletter is our link to you, our supporters, to continue to help others in our community that are in more need than ever before. We continue to be conscientious with your contributions and thank you in advance for the opportunity to serve.

## FOUNDATION FINANCIALS 2021

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 2021 efforts to fundraising and servicing our key initiatives as established in our Mission Statement. The table below summarizes the Foundation's unaudited financials for 2021.

2021 Financial Summary	
Direct Public Support	\$22,915
Investment Income	\$344
Fundraising Event, Net	\$0
Total Income	\$23,259
Operations	\$6,293
Scholarships/Grants	\$25,000
Total Expenses	\$31,293
Net Income	\$-577
Gain on Investments Unrealized	\$7,457
Total Assets	\$93,126

### **GRANTEE UPDATE: PROJECT COMMOTION**

This year the Beth Longwell Foundation made a grant to Project Commotion (PC). PC is a four-time grant recipient, and we are thrilled to support its mission once again!

PC combines specialized movement classes with academic enrichment helping to prepare the minds and bodies of children of all abilities to achieve their greatest possible success academically, in their social and family relationships, and to help them move forward in the next steps of their development. PC meets children's needs based on their physical capabilities, sensory awareness, and brain development. PC team members build relationships with the students, their families, and the community, At PC, the teacher to student ratio is small and developmentally appropriate equipment is utilized. All cultures, abilities, genders, languages, and socio-economic groups are welcomed. Physical and emotional wellness (healthy food options and exercise) are stressed. The Beth Longwell Foundation is proud to support the great work that Project Commotion is doing!

### GRANTEE UPDATE: COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS

The Beth Longwell Foundation is proud to support the Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) which is now the largest non-profit provider of art and music education programs in both Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. CSMA provides weekly art classes during the school day to approximately 3,800 elementary students at nine schools in the Alum Rock Union School District, CSMA subsidizes 100% of its partner schools in the district which is located in a high-need community of east San Jose. The program is well aligned with the Beth Longwell Foundation's interest in childhood education as its goals provide standards-based, sequential art education to all students enrolled in nine Alum Rock Union School District schools during the academic year. This program enhances students' cultural appreciation of their own heritage, and other cultures of the world, via the study of traditional art from various cultures. It fosters confidence while encouraging student achievement via public displays of students' artwork, which allow students to take pride in their work, and motivate them in their future academic and artistic achievements.

CSMA is dedicated to providing access to highquality music and art education for all, regardless of age, ability, background, or financial means. CSMA believes that the arts are an essential component of a quality education and that all children deserve access to the arts. They are proud that all their programs are designed to provide equal access to the arts and creative expression. Financial aid and program subsidies are important tools to ensure equal access for all, regardless of financial means.

### **OUR 2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS**

In 2022 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 2022 grant recipients:

Addario Lung Cancer Medical Institute Community School of Music and Arts Kara Project Commotion



## LUCY AND NATHAN UPDATE

**From Lucy:** In-person school for my junior year was really fun and I loved getting to see all of my friends every day, instead of on a screen. I got involved with many new extracurriculars this year, including being on the Racial Equity Committee at school and becoming even more involved at my synagogue, Beth Am. Additionally, I chose to go on a Civil Rights trip to Georgia and Alabama with other teens from my synagogue, where I learned all about America's history with race and slavery. The trip was very enlightening, and it inspired me to become more



involved in civil rights issues in my community. I went to places such as the Lynching Memorial, the Rosa Parks Museum, and even got to see a tour of Selma. Alabama. This summer. I am also planning on going on a service trip to Ecuador, where I'll about learn the ecosystem and climate

change. I am so excited, and I'll definitely get to practice my Spanish-speaking skills. Lastly, I am more than excited to be a senior in high school. I'm taking classes like AP Literature and AP Environmental Science, both subjects of which I am really looking forward to learning more about.

**From Nathan:** I really enjoyed being at my boarding school, Lake Tahoe Prep, for my junior year. It was stressful but getting to snowboard every day after school was definitely a big stress-reliever and I'm glad to finally be home for the summer. I made the choice of going back to Lake Tahoe Prep for my



senior year and I am excited to see my school friends again in August. I got my driver's license in March of this year, and have been driving to places like the beach and I even drove myself to take my ACT which was two hours away! Recently, I got hired at my first job, a busboy at a Hyatt hotel in

#### Lucy and Nathan Update cont.

Palo Alto. It has been tiring, but rewarding, and I am the youngest on the team. This summer, I'm looking forward to returning to the same snowboarding camp I did last year, which is a week-long adventure in Oregon. When I get back to boarding school in the fall, I'm going to be taking some fun environmental science classes as well as applying to colleges with my top choice being the University of Washington.

## **GRANTEE UPDATE: KARA**

The Beth Longwell Foundation continues to support grief counseling for children with our annual donation to Kara. Last summer, Camp Kara was held virtually but still able to make a strong impact by reaching seventy-five children. Our continued funding will support Camp Kara this summer which will take place in-person. With our funding, Kara is able to provide training for teachers and staff to better support their bereaved students as well as group counseling for students within three schools.

With the ongoing pandemic the need for grief counseling only continues to grow. A study estimates that for every COVID-19 death, there will be nine surviving close relatives in grief, which translates to 23,022 grieving individuals in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties due to COVID-19 deaths alone (CDC of 1/10/2022; Verdery, A., et al., 2020). Kara continues to find ways to provide for this population and has adapted to the needs of the community. We are proud to continue supporting their incredibly valuable work!

## The Beth Longwell Foundation Board of Directors

Fran Cohen Alice Erber Meridith Herman Claudette Kayne Ellen Levitas Jim Levitas Lucy Longwell Rob Longwell Liz Varela

## **BLF Scholarship Recipient Update: What are they up to?**

#### Alondra Valencia

Alondra is our 2022 scholarship recipient! We are excited to support her as she attends Foothill College for her first



year and then transfers to a fouryear university. Alondra will be the first in her family to attend college. She shares, "The BLF Scholarship isn't only helping me, but also my family. I'll be the first in my family to attend college." Before Alondra prepares to enter college in September, she will be spending her summer as an intern with the Corporate Residency Program. The

internship will give her the opportunity to explore different career paths. Alondra is grateful for the Foundation and is excited for this new chapter. She told the Foundation, "I am so grateful that I will be going on this journey with the Beth Longwell Foundation and can't wait to see what the future holds." We wish Alondra all the best as she enters this new journey.

#### Stefany Rodriguez

Stefany graduated Cal Poly Pomona this past May with a BS in Apparel Merchandising & Management with an emphasis in Fashion Retail. In college she was a member of the Apparel Merchandising and Management



Merchandising and Management Association and also completed internships at Lefty Production Co. and with stylist, Kelly Brown. Stefany shares, "College was a difficult but rewarding journey. There were many ups and downs especially with the pandemic, but I am so grateful that I got to experience it for myself and make my family proud. The BLF scholarship was an immense help

throughout my college career. I really do not think I would have attended a four-year university without it." Stephany is currently applying for jobs and is keeping an open mind. She shares, "I am open to doing anything within the Fashion Industry as that is what I am passionate about."

#### Liz Varela

Liz was our very first scholarship recipient. Recently, Liz was promoted to Manager of Talent Acquisition at The Primary School, where she has worked for six years. Liz lives in the East Bay with her husband and dog, Leo. During her free time Liz enjoys traveling, hiking, and spending time with family and friends. Liz is an active BLF board member and this year is



leading the BLF scholarship program. Liz is excited to support this essential component of the foundation. She shares, "Being able to connect with past recipients and learning about their journeys, as well as learning the stories of applicants, is so rewarding. I remember when I was in their shoes."

#### **Cristal Ortiz**

Cristal recently started a new position for the Private Defender Program of San Mateo. After graduating in December 2020, she became a kindergarten teacher assistant for about six months. However, she realized that teaching was not her career goal and she started looking



for other opportunities and found the San Mateo County Bar Association. She joined the Private Defender Program of San Mateo as an administrative assistant. She shared with us, "I assign cases to defense attorneys and distribute evidence to

attorneys. I love my job!" This experience has directed her to pursue a career in the justice system and she will be starting her paralegal certification program in August. Cristal mentioned, "I am so excited for what the future holds! Of course, this all started because I had the opportunity to attend a four-year university. Thankfully the BLF was able to help me further my education. My career is just starting and I'm here for the ride!" We are excited for all the new and exciting adventures that await Cristal!

#### Tatiana Taylor

Tatiana wrapped up her sophomore year at California State University at Chico and shared that she made the



decision to change majors. She shares, "I have changed majors to social science and I am still deciding on a minor." She is expected to graduate in May 2024. She is still passionate about pursuing a career as an athletic academic advisor. She is grateful for the BLF scholarship for helping her attend college. She explains, "The Beth

Longwell Foundation has helped me with paying for many of the resources needed to complete classes successfully." We wish Tatiana all the best as she enters her junior year!