

**2022  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**BITE ME!  
CANCER!**



# Organization

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## 2022 Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

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Nikki Ferraro, *Founder (Freddie Mac)*

C. Michael Ferraro, *Chairman (Training Solutions)*

Meryl Bisaga, *Treasurer (Brambleton Group)*

Sharon Ferraro, *Secretary (Training Solutions)*

Peter Crain (*Cooley LLP*)

### Board Members

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Erica Alexander (*Howard University*)

Chris Buchen (*Retired*)

Aaron Clarke (*Heritage Financial*)

Andrew Clements (*Grant Thornton LLP*)

Donna Corley (*Strategic Advisor*)

Jake Fishbein (*Cerner Corporation*)

Janet Goda (*Booz Allen Hamilton*)

Brian Kincaid (*Fairfax County Government*)

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### Committees

Communications, Development, Teen Support, Thyroid Cancer Research, Wine Dinner

# Message from the Founder

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Bite Me Cancer had a very successful year and raised the most money ever raised in one year during our 12 years - \$190,000! I hope that you enjoy reading our 2022 Annual Report.

Here are a few highlights:

! We sent out 1,400 Teen Support Bags to teens battling all cancers which surpassed our budget goal of 1,200 bags. This brought our total to 10,650 teens receiving our bags since the first bag was given out in 2012!

! We were able to fund our next 2-year thyroid cancer research grant – our 10<sup>th</sup> one!

! Our annual wine dinner was a tremendous success in September 2022. We raised more money than we ever have at this event, \$113,600!

! We held our annual virtual March Madness Bracket Challenge and raised \$3,230.

! We held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual 5K virtual fundraiser in May. This was half virtual and half in person, which enabled people anywhere to join us, have fun and support the foundation. Many local participants joined us for an in-person 5K in our family neighborhood. We raised almost \$12,000.

! We offered our annual birthday campaign in November/December in honor of my 30<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 20 and raised almost \$5,000.

! As of December 31, 2022, we have reached \$1,415,339 in total fundraising dollars since the foundation began!

! I celebrated my own 12<sup>th</sup> cancer anniversary in April 2022 and continue to have success with a new daily oral chemo pill (Retevmo) that I switched to in April 2021. There have been challenges with side effects that bother me almost daily, but they were much more under control later in 2022. I thought it was important to share more of my own cancer journey in my keynote speech at our annual wine dinner in September 2022. You can watch my speech on our YouTube channel.

! To all our volunteers, sponsors, committees, board members, donors, supporters, research and hospital partners, I thank you for your support during the past 12 years!



Nikki, Founder



# Annual Sponsors

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**Impact: \$5,000**

Brambleton Soave Real Estate  
Map Your Show

**Inspire: \$2,500**

Dynex Capital  
KT Enterprises  
Training Solutions, Inc.

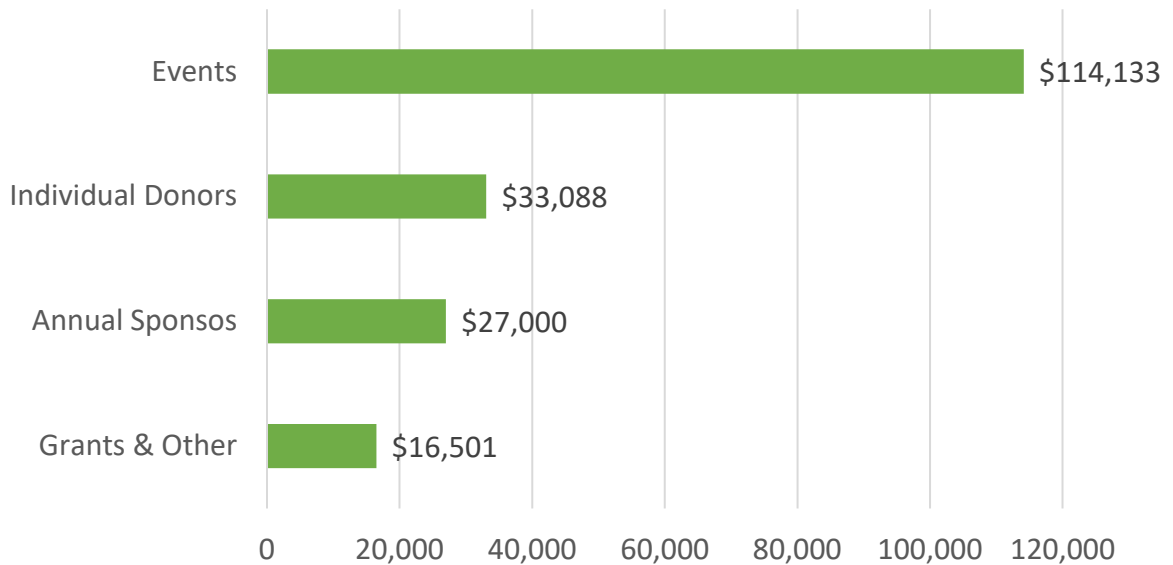
**Support: \$1,500**

Computer Workshop  
Expovision  
Janet Goda  
Metro Group  
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management  
TM Associates  
Tom Coughlin Jay Fund  
Urban Ltd.

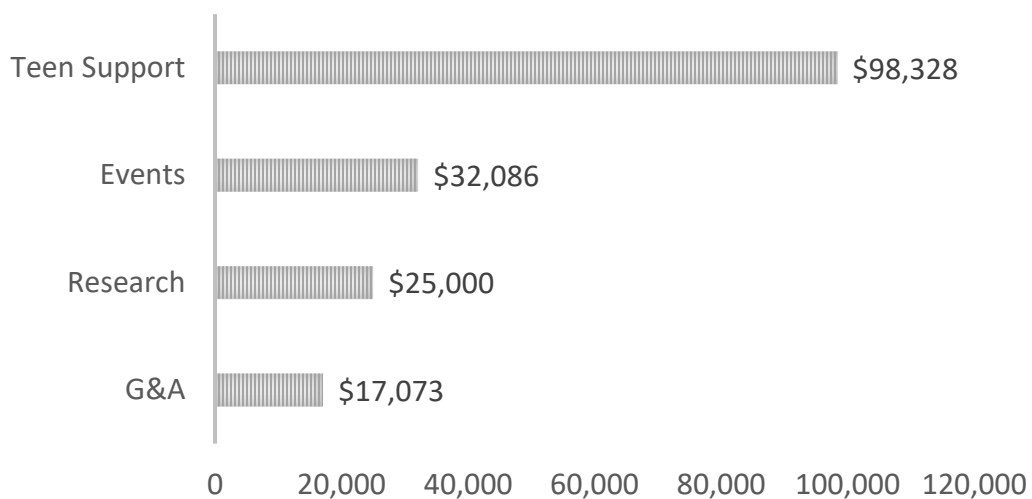


# Financials

## REVENUE = \$190,722



## EXPENSE = \$172,487



\*Research payout amount was raised in 2021. Research grants are each for a 2-year timeframe. Bite Me Cancer pays ½ at the beginning of year 1 and pays ½ at the beginning of year 2.

# Inspiration

## Teen Support Program

During 2022, we were able to assemble and distribute 1,400 Teen Support Bags! This is the largest number of bags we have been able to assemble during a year. Even with increasing prices and challenges with supply chains, we achieved more than our 2022 budget goal!

Our hospital network for distribution of the bags has expanded quite a bit which has proven that there is a strong need for our bags. Child Life Specialists and other support staff have given us very positive feedback, and so have parents as well as the teenagers themselves. We routinely receive emails and even photos sharing their gratitude with us.

Each year, we also deliver dinners to families on the Pediatric/Oncology Unit of INOVA Children's Hospital. We were able to deliver dinners 4 times in 2022. A local Chick-Fil-A offered us a 50% discount to help us.

Our volunteers make all this happen, along with our supportive donors.

As of 12/31/22, we added 24 more hospitals into our distribution network for a total of 195 hospitals that receive our bags and give them directly to their teen cancer patients!

For 2022, each Teen Support Bag cost us \$85.







Help us to support them!

*"Hi, I'm Maddie and I'm 14. I was diagnosed with leukemia. Being away from home and my dog was the worst but getting the Teen Support Bag from Bite Me Cancer lifted my mood."*

*From a Child Life Specialist: "Thank you so much for the awesome bags for our teens here. Often our donations are geared to the younger kids so it's great to have something to hand to our teens to make them feel thought of and special!"*

*"Haley received your bag while at the hospital getting her chemotherapy. She was so surprised, and my husband and I loved seeing her beautiful smile. We don't see that smile as much as we used to." says mom.*



*"I'm 16 and received your bag. It really helped me! I think that you guys have an amazing organization, and your work does have an impact on patients like me!"*

*From a mom: "Love the slogan! It really made our day when my son received this bag! Knowing others care and want to give us support does really help get through the tough times!"*



# Teen Cancer Awareness

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The eighth Teen Cancer Awareness Week was held the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January 2022.

Bite Me Cancer is proud to have successfully achieved an annual Teen Cancer Awareness Week across the Commonwealth of Virginia during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January each year that began in 2015. Delegate Tom Rust and Delegate Ken Plum helped achieve a unanimous vote of the entire Virginia House of Delegates in 2014 to make this happen. This awareness week serves as a positive force for Virginia teen cancer patients. (Photo below is from 2014.)

Bite Me Cancer continues to spread awareness to the specific challenges of teenagers who battle cancer. Teenagers dealing with cancer have many unique challenges: they understand the seriousness of cancer and the possibility of death, the loss of friendships, the missing of school and activities, the increased need for parents, the loss of independence, the question around getting through middle school, high school or college, and even more.





# Research

## Our grants make a positive impact in fighting thyroid cancer.

When Nikki founded Bite Me Cancer, she felt strongly that thyroid cancer research needed to be a focus for the foundation's mission. For years, thyroid cancer has been the fastest increasing cancer, and Nikki's rare kind of thyroid cancer had no treatment options except surgery.

In 2013, BMC became a research partner with the American Thyroid Association (ATA). ATA's grant program is for younger researchers who receive a two-year grant directly from Bite Me Cancer. We select and follow the researcher throughout the project.

We are proud to be part of this important program that directly funds new and innovative research.

In 2022, Bite Me Cancer raised enough funds (\$25,000) to fund 50% of a 10th thyroid cancer research grant. This grant will be chosen by June 2023 in partnership with ThyCa (Thyroid Cancer Survivors Association), which also contributed 50% towards this grant. We partner in years where research funds are lower than expected or we chose to enhance funding for Teen Support programs.

Our research payments go directly to the researcher for a specific Bite Me Cancer grant, and we stay in contact with the researcher to monitor progress.

9<sup>th</sup> grant, start 7/2022:

Dr. Shoko Kure  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center,  
Harvard Medical School, MA

8<sup>th</sup> grant, start 7/2021:

Dr. Eman Ali Toraih  
Tulane Univ. School of Medicine, LA

7<sup>th</sup> grant, start 7/2020:

Dr. Cristina Montero-Conde, PhD  
Spanish National Cancer Research  
Center, Madrid, Spain

6<sup>th</sup> grant, start 7/2019:

Dr. Anthanasios Bikas, PhD  
Georgetown Univ/MedStar, DC

5<sup>th</sup> grant, start 7/2018:

Dr. Wayne Miles, PhD  
The Ohio State University Medical  
Center, OH

4<sup>th</sup> grant, start 7/2017:

Dr. Yu Qin  
MD Anderson Cancer Center, TX

3<sup>rd</sup> grant, start 7/2016:

Dr. Irene Min  
Weill Cornell Medicine, NY

2<sup>nd</sup> grant, start 7/2015:

Dr. Laura Boucai  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer  
Center, NY

1<sup>st</sup> grant, start 7/2014:

Dr. Ramona Dadu  
MD Anderson Cancer Center, TX

# Annual Wine Dinner

Our Annual Wine Dinner was held on September 16, 2022. Guests and sponsors helped us raise the most money ever at our wine dinner, bringing in \$114,133! We had 239 seats committed, the most ever too! The event was once again held at Westwood Country Club in Vienna, VA.

The event consisted of an opening reception, a 3-course meal with red and white wines included, and dessert. Nikki gave her keynote speech. The silent auction and live ask were very successful fundraising opportunities. This total included \$50,158 that came from a “live ask” and a silent auction.

Thank you to our dedicated and hard-working Wine Dinner Committee. Co-chairs Meryl Bisaga and Michael Ferraro led our team.

Thank you to our Host Committee: Mary Agee, Monica Chandler Tressler (Sandy Spring Bank), and JD Kathuria (WashingtonExec).



We proudly honored 2 of our volunteers at the dinner, highlighting their outstanding contributions to the foundation over many years. We are very grateful that Vanessa Bonadie and Brian Kincaid continue to stay involved!

(Photo below.)



# Annual Wine Dinner Sponsors

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Thank you to our 2022 dinner sponsors!

## EMPOWER SPONSOR

Comstock, Cooley LLP, Corley Family,  
Joe & Patty Coughlin, Phoenix Steel Erectors,  
Training Solutions, Inc., WashingtonExec

## INSPIRE SPONSORS

Mary Agee, Clarke-Hook Corporation,  
Grant Thorton LLP, Raley Family  
Sandy Spring Bank

## GRATITUDE SPONSORS

Individuals: Meryl/Tom Bisaga Family,  
Gary/Marcia Bisaga, Brown Family, Buchen Family,  
Callahan Family, Cynthia Hyland, Gary & Vicki Kirkbride,  
Matt McQueen, Searle Family

Organizations: American Thyroid Association,  
Backflow Technology, Dave & Buster's Fairfax,  
Exhibit Edge, Karin's Custom Images Promotional Products, Mind Body  
Aligned LLC,  
RAELYN Marketing Promotions,  
Wine Styles South Riding

## WINE SPONSOR

Eli Lilly and Company

## WELCOME RECEPTION SPONSOR

Friend of Nikki

## VALET PARKING SPONSOR

Rappaport

## DESSERT SPONSOR

Christine Schnider



# Wine Dinner In-Kind Sponsors and Discount Partners

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Thank you to these organizations whose assistance and generosity were so important to the success of our annual wine dinner.

## In-Kind Sponsors

Donation Gifts: Custom Ink

Photography: Johnny Wen

Signs: Fast Signs

Silent Auction Technology Items: B & H

Videographer – Mike Gray

## Discount Partners:

Dessert: Nothing Bundt Cakes

Flowers: Open Blooms

Wine: Wine Styles South Riding & Bravo Wine Imports

Venue: Westwood Country Club



# Events

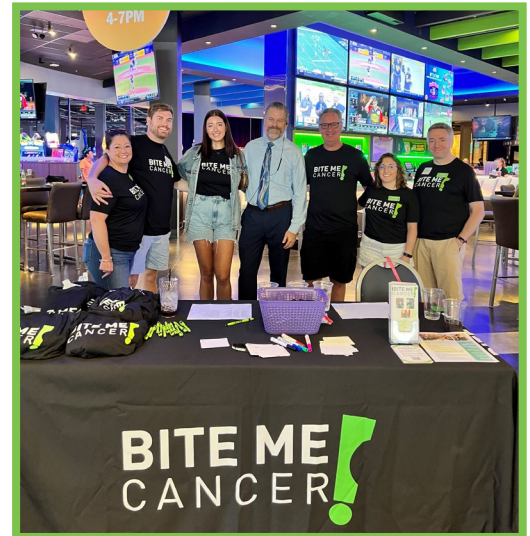
Our newest event for teenagers with cancer took place July 2022. We invited teens with cancer and their families/friends to enjoy a fun-filled afternoon at Dave & Busters in Fairfax, VA free of charge due to the generosity of the manager.

In 2022, we were able to hold a few more fundraising events. We ran our NCAA March Madness Bracket Challenge again online. It was a great tournament, and we raised \$3,230.

In May, we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Attitude is Everything Virtual 5K. People could register and walk/run their 5K anywhere in the world. The 2<sup>nd</sup> photo is a group who walked with the Ferraro family in their neighborhood. We raised almost \$12,000!

We hosted a few Washington Nationals games in 2022 in a corporate suite donated to us by The National Association of Broadcasters. We sold tickets and also invited families who had teens dealing with cancer. To the right is one teen who deals with cancer who happily attended with her uncle.

We held our annual birthday campaign in honor of Nikki's 30th birthday on Nov. 20. The campaign ran mid-November through December and raised \$5,500.



# About Us

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**Bite Me Cancer is devoted to supporting teenagers with all cancers and funding meaningful research for thyroid cancer.**

Bite Me Cancer is an all-volunteer nonprofit foundation in Fairfax County, Virginia, founded in September 2010 by Nikki Ferraro, five months after she was diagnosed with a rare form of Thyroid Cancer. At the time of her diagnosis, she was 17 years old and a junior at Chantilly High School in Virginia.

Nikki was determined to lead a Relay for Life team just two weeks after her diagnosis. She named the team Bite Me Cancer and experienced great success raising over \$20,000 all while preparing for and recovering from major surgery!

Bite Me Cancer began with a small board of directors and a focus on Nikki's 2 goals, which are still the same goals: (1) to support and inspire teenagers battling all cancers (2) to directly fund thyroid cancer research.

Goal 1: Teens with cancers fall through the

cracks for needed support between the younger pediatric services and the adult services. Nikki wanted to let them know they weren't alone and that she understood so all items in the bag were selected for teenagers. In June 2012, the first Teen Support Bag was given to a teen with cancer. The program snowballed after the first year!

Goal 2: Thyroid cancer continues to be one of the most increasing cancers in the US, yet successful treatments haven't been available for the many versions of this cancer. In 2014, Bite Me Cancer directly funded its first thyroid cancer research grant.

Since 2018, the foundation has had a small office and storeroom in a local building owned by Service Source (a national nonprofit) that offers a very generous discounted rate for a small office and storeroom and the use of all conference rooms and facilities.

Still an All-Volunteer Organization



# Contact

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**Website** - [www.BiteMeCancer.org](http://www.BiteMeCancer.org)

**Facebook** – [facebook.com/BMCAttitude](https://facebook.com/BMCAttitude)

**Twitter** - [@bitemecancerorg](https://twitter.com/bitemecancerorg)

**Instagram** - [@bitemecancer](https://www.instagram.com/bitemecancer)

**YouTube** - [youtube.com/bitemecancerorg](https://youtube.com/bitemecancerorg)

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Bite Me Cancer Foundation is a 501(c)3 - Federal ID 27-3554181

Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

**BITE ME**  
CANCER!