



Dear Friend,

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and at GBCHC, it's more than just a cause we support. It's personal: more than half of our patients are women with an average age of 49. Together, these factors put our community at a higher risk for breast cancer.

That's why screening is so critical, and I'm incredibly proud that GBCHC exceeds national benchmarks for both breast cancer and cervical cancer screenings.

We've worked hard to make care accessible to everyone who walks through our doors. But as proud as I am of this progress, we are facing a new challenge that breaks my heart.

Currently, 430,000 Michigan residents are without health insurance, and an additional 700,000 are at risk of losing Medicaid coverage due to eligibility redeterminations. **This means hundreds of thousands of women may soon lose access to essential preventive care, including mammograms, cervical cancer screenings, and other lifesaving services.** Without early detection and consistent care, the state could see a rise in late-stage diagnoses, preventable hospitalizations, and health disparities that disproportionately affect women and families in underserved communities.

Despite these challenges, our community continues to make an incredible impact. This month's newsletter highlights our resilience together:

- **Garbiela's Patient Story: her powerful reminder of why this work matters**
- **Meet the Team: Madelene Osorto, the GBCHC Care Coordinator who makes health care connections possible for patients**

- **Community Partner Spotlight: Karen MacDonald-Basile and her work with Wrapped in Love, helping women with cancer**
- **Grant Award: Michigan Foundation for Vision Awareness generously provided \$15,000 to upgrade outdated eye care equipment**
- **Event Celebration: Dr. Gary's Pickleball Classic raised \$220,000 last month**

Thank you for being part of our mission to provide exceptional care to everyone in our community.

Onward and Upward,

Mary Lewis

Women Who Inspire: Hope, Healing, and Heart

Meet the Team:
Madelene Osorto
Opens Doors to Better Care

Madelene Osorto walks into the clinic each day knowing that for many who come through those doors, she may be their bridge to the treatments and care they need and deserve. As the GBCHC Care Coordinator, Madelene makes sure every patient feels welcome, whether it's morning or evening, and helps them navigate a healthcare system that can feel impossibly complex, especially when you're uninsured and need help.



"Many of our new patients don't realize that there are health programs and services available to them," Madelene explains. "We're here to remove those barriers and help them access everything they need to stay healthy."

She helps patients register for Medicaid and apply to the Trinity Health Financial Assistance Program so they can access health benefits, including specialty care.

Take Gabriela, for example, our featured patient story this month. Before Gabriela had left the clinic after her first GBCHC appointment, Madelene already enrolled her in Medicaid and the Trinity Health Program to cover some of her treatments. Madelene also applied to the Breast Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) to cover her mammogram.

Soon after, Gabriela received a breast cancer diagnosis. Because Gabriela was enrolled in the BCCCP program, she could begin treatment right away. Madelene also helped

Gabriela apply to the New Day Foundation for Families for additional financial support beyond medical bills.

Receiving such a serious diagnosis was overwhelming and challenging, but Madelene guided her through every step, offering support and reassurance. Madelene recalls, “I was there for her, helping with her anxiety, listening to her concerns, connecting with resources she needed, and making her feel better.”

Gabriela is grateful to Madelene, her GBCHC doctor, and the entire clinic team for the compassionate and comprehensive support provided to her. Please read more about Gabriela’s journey in her featured patient story this month.

“This clinic isn’t just seeing patients,” Madelene says. “We provide care, attention, medication, support, and expertise. We give them what they need to feel better.”

This October, during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Madelene has a message for other women facing similar circumstances to Gabriela. “Please keep your treatments going. Don’t miss any appointments. It’s important because it’s your health, and cancer is no joke. If you have any questions or concerns, just let us know. We want to help you take care of you.”

In a healthcare system that can often feels like it’s designed to keep people out, Madelene Osorto opens doors, one patient at a time, one application at a time, every day.

**The GBCHC received a \$100,000 grant awarded from Impact100 Oakland County in 2023 to launch the Care Coordinator position.*



Madelene, GBCHC Care Coordinator (L) and Gabriela (R)

Gabriela's Path to Healing



Gabriela was living her life with her spouse and two daughters when she noticed something was wrong. A pain in her left breast wouldn't go away. Uninsured and unsure where to turn, she found hope when a friend recommended GBCHC.

Gabriela first saw a cardiologist, thinking it was chest pain. After her appointment, she was referred for further testing. When those results came back clear, she was sent for a mammogram.

The mammogram results were concerning. After an incomplete first screening, Gabriela was called back for additional testing. The second mammogram confirmed her fear: she had breast cancer.

This past year, the journey has been challenging. She's had chemotherapy, radiation, and now continues with hormone therapy. Gabriela has faced depression, difficulty concentrating, and pain that disrupts her sleep.

Through it all, GBCHC has been by her side every step of the way. The doctors, the pharmacy staff, the medications, and Madelene Osorto, the GBCHC Care Coordinator, together worked to give Gabriela her life back.

Gabriela remembers her experience with Madelene well. "Madelene helped me figure out where to seek help, how to get all the documentation in order, and how to get the appointments I needed," Gabriela explains. This even included some language interpretation services, as Gabriela's native language is Spanish. You can learn more about the kind of care Madelene provides to Gabriela and other GBCHC patients in her *Meet the Team* feature in this month's newsletter.

This support proved life-changing and at no cost to her. "Now I can be present with my family again," Gabriela says with relief. "I'm grateful I'm almost done with treatment, and I hope to be told I'm cancer-free in 2026. GBCHC helped me get here."

She continues, "I've never thought much about cancer because it doesn't even run in my family. My oncologist told me if I'd waited any longer, it could have spread. My GBCHC team was there giving me the care I needed at just the right time."

"The clinic saved my life," Gabriela shared. "If Gary Burnstein was here, that's exactly what I'd tell him."

Now able to care for her family and embrace life fully, Gabriela has one wish: "I wish more people knew about the amazing work this clinic does."

Community Partner Spotlight: **Karen MacDonald-Basile's** *Mission to Help Cancer Patients Keep Their Dignity at Wrapped In Love*

After thirty great years in corporate PR and marketing, Karen MacDonald-Basile was ready for something new. A powerful memory from her mother's illness kept calling her.

Years earlier, Karen's mother had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and was hospitalized over Christmas, near the end of her life. "She had lost her dignity," Karen recalls. "The doctor said it's not just suffering on the inside, but the outside as well. Your appearance changes, your abilities change."

Karen wanted to do something to make her mother feel special. She created a shoulder wrap for her hospital gown, choosing soft fabrics, and added a flower pin because her mother loved gardening. On Christmas Day, she helped her mother put it on, along with a touch of lipstick and blush. Nurses complimented her appearance, and her mother's smile returned for a few precious hours.



That simple act inspired Karen. "If you look good, you feel better, especially during the healing process," she says. "I thought, if I ever started my own company, I'd call it Wrapped in Love, because that's what I did for my mom. I wrapped her in love."

Ten years ago, she did just that.

Her mother may have been the original inspiration, but today it's the women she meets, of all ages and cancer types, who fuel her work at Wrapped in Love. Karen consults with patients, survivors, doctors, nurses, and patient navigators as she designs her collection.

Every detail matters. Is the fabric soft for sensitive skin? Does it allow access to care? For example, when hospitals suggested using cut tube socks to protect PICC lines, she designed anti-microbial, breathable sleeves in many colors. One woman, a professional musician, was thrilled to wear a black sleeve with her concert gown.

Her collection also includes wraps, kimonos, soft head covers, inspirational socks (including a pair co-designed with Kelly Ripa to fund ovarian cancer research), camisoles with special pockets for post-mastectomy drainage tubes, and more.

Karen also donates products and sponsors charities. She contributed hundreds of inspirational socks to the 2024 Dr. Gary's Pickleball Classic. "I'm blown away by everything GBCHC does," she says. "I love how many people volunteer their time like doctors, nurses, therapists, even my neurologist. It's amazing."

All her models are current cancer patients and survivors. Karen hires photographers, hair stylists, and makeup artists, and pays her models for their time. "It's a day they'll never forget. It's uplifting for them," she says.

Through her work, Karen has built lasting connections with many women. Some have since passed, and their families have used her modeling photos at remembrance services. She also discovered a distant cousin, a brain cancer survivor who became one of her regular models. Though her cousin passed away when the cancer returned years later, she continues to inspire Karen today.

Her advice to women in treatment: "Stay positive. Lean on friends and family. Don't be afraid to ask for help or lose your dignity. You're beautiful inside and out, no matter what."

Her message to all of us: "If you want to help someone going through cancer, there is a great need out there. No donation is too small. You can give money or your time to support organizations, patients, families, and caregivers. It makes a difference."

Thank you, Karen, for the difference you make, wrapping women in dignity and love, and showing us the power of compassion in action.

Learn more about Wrapped in Love: <https://wrappedinlove.com/>.

*The **Wrapped In Love** collection includes wraps, kimonos, soft head covers, inspirational socks (including a pair co-designed with Kelly Ripa to fund ovarian cancer research), camisoles with special pockets for post-mastectomy drainage tubes, and more.*



Karen MacDonald, with her mom.



Tough Cookie Socks



Fleece Wrap Camel; Purple Head Covering



Maha, Breast Cancer Survivor



Wrapped in Love Photo Shoot. All of the models are current cancer patients and survivors.



Lauren and Karen

New Equipment Means Better Eye Care for Our Community

We're excited to share that the Michigan Foundation for Vision Awareness has awarded us a \$15,000 grant to upgrade outdated eye care equipment.

This support allows us to add an exam chair and essential diagnostic tools like an ophthalmoscope, a retinoscope, and other specialized vision equipment. With these upgrades, we can continue to provide comprehensive, no-cost eye exams for uninsured Michigan residents. We're grateful to the Michigan Foundation for Vision Awareness for their incredible support.

Our Second Annual Dr. Gary's Pickleball Classic Raised \$220,000

What an incredible evening of competition, community, and compassion! On September 29th, we gathered 150 supporters for our second annual pickleball tournament and **raised \$220,000 in support of our mission to provide access to quality care.**

This event wouldn't have been possible without the extraordinary dedication of so many people who together made it a success:

Thank You to Our Supporters

- **Our Event Committee** – A standing ovation for our phenomenal event committee, led brilliantly by co-chairs Lori Burnstein Taylor and Linda Kovan. Committee members include Dana Burnstein, Emily Lark, Nancy Berry, Barbara Horowitz, Susan Feber, Julie Yaker, Tina Sula, Meeta Singh, and Genise Kerner. Your vision, countless hours of planning, and attention to every detail transformed this event into an unforgettable celebration.
- **Our Amazing Volunteers** – Special thanks to the incredible team from United Wholesale Mortgage, the outstanding students from Kettering High School's National Honor Society, and our other event volunteers for making this day so special.
- **Our Sponsors and Donors** – We're so grateful to our sponsors and donors. Your generosity makes a real difference in people's lives every day. Because of your support, we can continue providing excellent care to everyone who walks through our doors.

Thank You to Our Exceptional Clinic Volunteers

One of the evening's most powerful moments was recognizing the volunteers who serve our clinic every day. These special people embody the spirit of service and compassion:

- **Barbara and Michael Horowitz Family Foundation** - Inaugural Recipients and Legacy Honorees
- **Deb Teasdale** - Volunteer Award Medical
- **Joe Silverstein** - Volunteer Award Pharmacy
- **Zaky El-Nachef** - Volunteer Award Dental
- **Dr. Jerry Gold** - Volunteer Award



Thank You to Phyllis Williams for Your Courageous Story

We were so deeply moved by Ms. Phyllis Williams, who courageously shared her personal story with us. Her words reminded everyone there why this work matters and the profound difference our clinic makes. Thank you, Ms. Williams, for your inspiration.

Join Us Next September!

As we celebrate this year's tremendous success, we're already looking ahead. Mark your calendars for September 2026!





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