

EXPANDING HOPE



Reaching More Lives

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





COMPASSION AND CARE

To Those Who Need It Most



A letter from our **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends of Cancer Support Community South Bay,

As we reflect on 2024, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the generosity, dedication, and enduring support of our community. It has been a year of growth, change, and heartfelt remembrance as we continue our mission to uplift and strengthen those impacted by cancer.

This past year, we took an exciting step forward, reimagining our signature fundraising event, Celebrate Wellness, transitioning from a time-honored garden party to a Gala. The sold-out evening raised an impressive \$340,000, supported by our first-ever \$20,000 Platinum Sponsors. We are also deeply grateful for our community partners whose support was key to our fundraising success in 2024, contributing an additional \$185,485 through beneficiary events, and for our local service organizations, whose generosity continues to help us serve more families in need.

It has also been inspiring to see young people stepping up to support our mission. In 2024, we launched the CSC South Bay Youth Leadership Council, a dynamic group of high school students dedicated to raising awareness, supporting fundraising efforts, and expanding our reach. Their passion is helping build the next generation of advocates for those facing cancer.

The demand for our services grew significantly in the past year, with a 40% increase in child and family support programs, a 19% rise in healthy lifestyle programs, a 21% increase in adult social events, a 29% boost in educational programs, and a 9% growth in support and networking groups. We also expanded our Spanish-language programs, ensuring greater accessibility for all individuals and families who need support. As our programs have grown, we also continue to build upon our hospital partnerships to further expand access to essential support services.

We are honored to have been named Nonprofit of the Year and Best Counseling Company in the Daily Breeze and Beach Reporter's South Bay's Best Readers' Choice Awards for the second consecutive year, recognition that reflects both the passion of our team and the incredible support of our community.

While we celebrated these milestones, we also honored the life and legacy of our beloved Director Emerita, Judith Opdahl, whose 25 years of leadership shaped the foundation of CSC South Bay. Her vision and dedication continue to inspire our work, and her impact will forever be felt.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on our three-year strategic plan, with a commitment to expanding our reach into Long Beach and under-resourced areas of the South Bay, ensuring that more families have access to the support they need. Your generosity makes this possible, allowing us to strengthen our programs, grow our impact, and bring hope to those who need it most.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. Your kindness, belief in our mission, and continued partnership make everything we do possible. Together, we will continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of many.



Jillian

Jillian Van Leuven, MPA
Executive Director/CEO



Voted the South Bay's
BEST Nonprofit Organization,
BEST Counseling Company,
FAVORITE Cancer Treatment Center,
FAVORITE Workplace.



Lou Sidella, owner of Body One Fitness, continued his dedication to CSC South Bay's mission by hosting the 9th Annual "Row for a Reason" event.



Participant Pam Tarlow, accompanied by her husband Erik, expressed gratitude for how CSC South Bay has supported her throughout her cancer journey at our Celebrate Wellness event.



A "puppy party" is among the favorite activities offered by CSC South Bay's Kids Community, bringing joy to children impacted by cancer.



Sound healing expert Jeralyn Glass led an engaging workshop at CSC South Bay, introducing attendees to her new book *Sacred Vibrations*.



Vistas for Children's commitment to supporting our Kids Community Programs helps provide children with opportunities to grow, learn, and thrive through creative and therapeutic activities.



CSC South Bay provides a diverse range of healthy lifestyle classes, including weekly online and in-person Tai Chi classes to reduce stress, improve balance and flexibility and calm the mind.



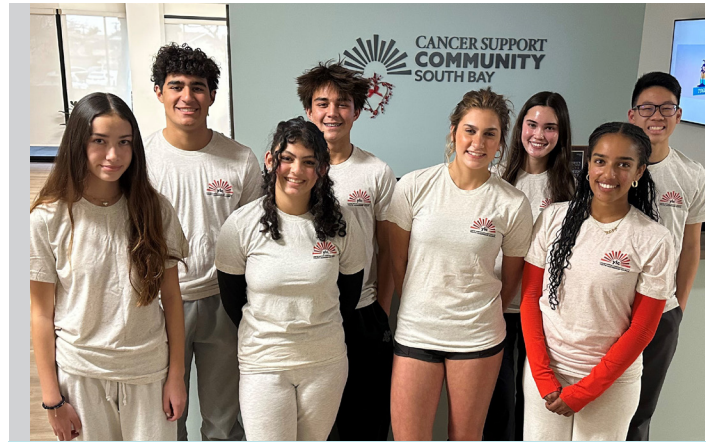
Sandpipers generously assist our families in need during the holidays, and their ongoing support allows us to serve our participants in impactful and meaningful ways.



Terranea Resort, Providence Little Company of Mary, and City of Hope-South Bay supported the 9th annual Birdies for Breast Cancer, benefiting CSC South Bay, as part of the Terranea Turns Pink Initiative for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



We took an exciting step by reimagining our 27th annual Celebrate Wellness event, successfully transitioning to an evening gala. The sold-out evening was a tremendous success, raising record-breaking support for our mission.



Volunteers are at the heart of our work, we're grateful for their support. The CSC South Bay Youth Leadership Council, established in 2024, empowers high school students to raise awareness, fundraise, and inspire future cancer advocates.



CSC South Bay's expansion of Spanish programming included a heartfelt Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration, featuring food, music, and remembrance to honor loved ones.



Las Candalistas' generous support helps sustain our Kids Community Programs and essential services for cancer patients and their families.



CSC South Bay was honored to team up once again with the Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research and the Uncle Kory Foundation for the 12th Annual Tour de Pier.

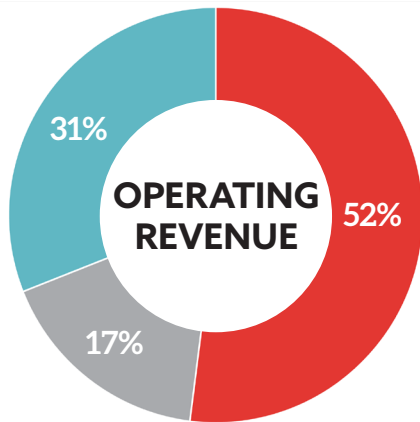


CSC South Bay is beyond grateful for the ongoing support of Palos Verdes Peninsula High's annual 'Walk for Life.' Every year, the students, faculty, and staff come together to raise crucial funds for our cause.



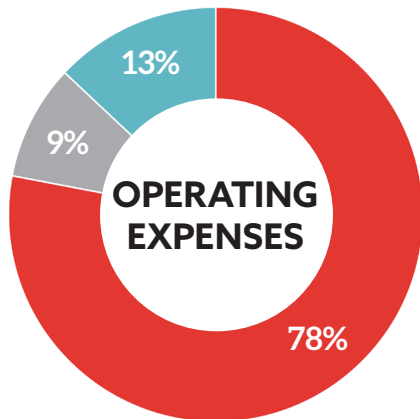
The Catalina Island Rugby Festival, originally founded by Joe Hendrix and now organized by his twin brother Tom in his memory, has raised funds for CSC South Bay for nearly 20 years.

Financial Overview*



Fundraising Events - 52%
Individual Gifts - 31%
 Grants - 17%

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE:
\$1,000,042



Program Services - 78%
Fundraising - 9%
 General Administrative - 13%

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:
\$1,720,419

LEGACY of HOPE SOCIETY

Through planned giving, donors dedicate resources such as property, retirement plans, trusts, and life insurance to CSC South Bay.

TOTAL 2015-2024 BEQUESTS:
\$9,635,480

TOTAL 2024 BEQUESTS:
\$999,532

* Unaudited at the time of publication.

2024 Program and Services Overview



SUPPORT GROUPS

CSC South Bay offers 40 support groups including those for specific cancers, for family, caregivers, bereavement, life after cancer, and general support.

931..... Group Sessions
 4,747 Visits to Support Groups
 1,862 Hours of Clinical Time



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

More than 70 classes are led each month by professionals who donate their time and talent to support our community.

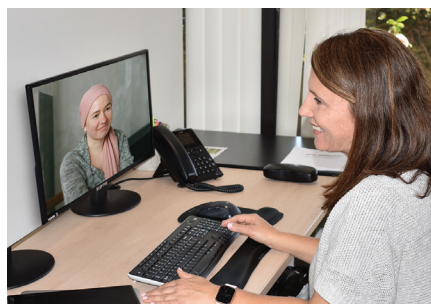
799..... Adult Healthy Lifestyle Activities
 6,329 Visits
 36 Volunteer Instructors
 756..... Volunteer Hours



KIDS COMMUNITY

For kids 5-17 facing a loved one's cancer diagnosis or their own, these programs offer a creative and supportive space to process emotions. As demand grows, the program continues to expand to reach more families.

49 Kids/Teens Programs
 321..... Visits



COUNSELING

Individual and family counseling is often helpful during a patient's cancer journey. CSC South Bay offers 6-10 individual or family counseling sessions free of charge for all participants.

481..... Individual Counseling Sessions
 Estimated Value of Sessions: \$72,150



WORKSHOPS / SOCIAL

A variety of educational workshops and social activities are offered each week and change monthly as determined by the needs of the community.

254 Workshops and Social Activities
 5,044 Visits
 89 Volunteers
 279..... Volunteer Hours



Meet **ROSA CRUZ**

Participant Testimonial

My journey with cancer began in 2021 when I was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a rare bone cancer, on my hard palate. It was a diagnosis that changed my life, but it also led me to an incredible community that has become my second home, CSC South Bay.

When I first heard the words “it’s osteosarcoma, a bone cancer” I was in shock. My family had no history of cancer, and I was overwhelmed with sadness and confusion. However, I had suspected something was seriously wrong when I noticed a tiny bump on my hard palate rapidly growing to the size of a quarter in just a week. It took doctors eleven months to diagnose me, a frustrating journey that required constant self-advocacy. Six months into my diagnosis, I had already undergone chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and my first of many surgeries.

During this difficult time, a compassionate social worker from my palliative care team, herself a breast cancer survivor, introduced me to CSC South Bay. She spoke so highly of it that I reached out immediately. I didn’t know then how profoundly this community would change my life.

The support groups at CSC South Bay were my place to heal. They provided a space where I could openly share my experiences, receive encouragement, and connect with others who truly understood. The friendships I made became a source of strength, transforming my initial fear and uncertainty into empowerment and joy. I was determined that my cancer diagnosis would not define me or diminish my spirit.



One of my biggest challenges was coping with limited mobility and severe side effects of treatment. CSC South Bay helped me discover new passions that didn’t require physical exertion, like crochet. I joined the Knit & Crochet group, where kind members taught me to create my own scarf, an accomplishment that filled me with pride. As my mobility improved, I built up the courage to join yoga, which helped me reconnect with my body, regain strength, and rebuild my confidence.

The Young Cancer Survivorship Support Group was invaluable in helping me manage side effects. Members shared advice, resources, and encouragement, reminding me I was loved and supported. I also found solace in sound baths, which helped me practice self-care and reconnect with my inner self, and in art classes, which reignited my passion for creativity. As someone with a background in theatre arts, this was especially meaningful.

CSC South Bay is more than a support center, it is a place of love, acceptance, and community. I have built lifelong friendships, learned new skills, and found hope in the kindness of others. Programs like Zumba bring me joy, reminding me to celebrate life, while events like Loteria help me connect with my cultural roots. Every workshop, class, and support group meeting strengthens my spirit and helps me embrace my journey with resilience.

Thanks to CSC South Bay, I feel understood in my cancer diagnosis. I have found a family here, one that supports, uplifts, and empowers me to live my life fully, despite my diagnosis. My journey continues, but with CSC South Bay by my side, I feel supported and loved, ready to face each day with renewed hope and strength.



310.376.3550 | www.CSCSouthBay.org
 2601 Airport Drive, Ste 100, Torrance, CA 90505

Our mission is to uplift and strengthen people impacted by cancer by providing support, fostering compassionate communities, and breaking down barriers to care.

2025 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jillian Van Leuven, Executive Director/CEO
 Nancy Lomibao, MS, LMFT #36645, Program Director/CCO
 Pamela Martis, Director of Finance & Operations
 Theresa Plakos, Public Relations Director
 Carla Bick, Data Analyst and Reporting Specialist
 Goli Eslami, Event & Volunteer Manager
 Norma Gonzalez, Cancer Support Navigator
 Karla Haynes, MS, LMFT #100393, Assoc. Clinical Supervisor
 Melody Lomboy, Development Coordinator
 Vinian Meyer, Participant Engagement & Operations Manager
 Kelsey Schaible, Marketing and Communications Manager
 Rebecca Sul, Program Manager

2025 LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Stephen Lottenberg, MD, PsyD, G41490
 Jo Ann Panitch, LMFT, LMFT #44284
 Nadine Shoukry, LMFT #129529
 Ruth Schriebman, PsyD, LMFT #3990

2025 GRADUATE INTERNS

Amanda Linzmeyer, MFT Trainee
 Brittany Anvari, AMFT #128113
 Chiara Petrone, PCC Trainee
 Cristina Scott, MFT Trainee,
 Outreach & Kids Community Manager
 Jay Chang, AMFT #149255, APCC #17480
 Kari Wendt, MA, APCC #11021, Facilitator
 Linda Shrader, AMFT #109891
 Lali Borovich, MFT Trainee
 Lizette Bojorquez, AMFT #143141
 Maria Page, MA, APCC #17924

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Sacha Duncan, Vice President/Secretary
 Scott Magee, Vice President/Finance
 Melanie Friedlander, MD
 Daniel Hovenstine, MD Emeritus
 Gina Koency, PhD
 C. Edward Langhammer Jr.
 Katherine Annuschat McCaig
 Kris Nishihira
 Kelli Vieweg

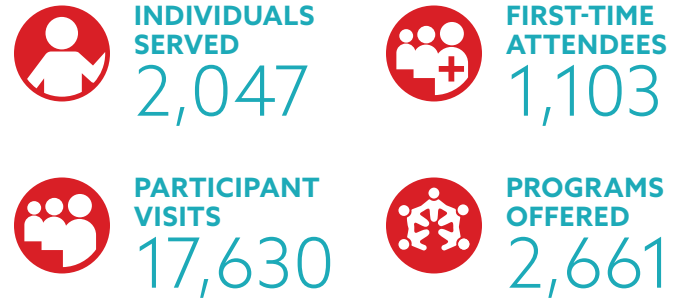
2025 PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Neil Bhayani, MD, Chairperson, Surgery
 Fikret Atamdede, MD, Gynecology/Oncology
 Carey Cullinane, MD, MPH, FACS, Surgery
 Christine Dauphine, MD, Surgery
 Thyra Endicott, MD, Radiation/Oncology
 Lisa Fisher, MD, Obstetrics/Gynecology
 Lawrence Flechner, MD, PhD, Urology
 Melanie Friedlander, MD, Surgery
 Gregory Ginsburg, MD, Surgery
 Garth Green, MD, Radiation/Oncology
 Andrew Horodner, MD, Oncology
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 Peyman Kabolizadeh, MD, Radiation/Oncology
 Usama Mahmood, MD, Radiology/Oncology
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 Wade Nishimoto, MD, Hematology/Oncology *
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 Brittany Plut, LCSW, OSW-C
 Marianne Ryan, MD, Surgery
 Patricia Sacks, MD, Radiology/Nuclear Medicine*
 Thomas G. Simko, MD, Radiation/Oncology*
 Mary Welch, RN, MSN
 Deborah Wong, MD, PhD, Hematology/Oncology

*Emeritus Status

2024 Community Impact

In 2024, we expanded our programs through virtual, in-person, and hybrid support, meeting the growing needs of our community. Participation grew across all areas, including a 40% rise in child and family programs, as well as continued engagement in support groups, healthy lifestyle activities, and educational workshops. We also expanded our Spanish-speaking program offerings, ensuring greater accessibility for diverse communities. Strengthened partnerships and outreach in Long Beach and under-resourced areas helped broaden access to vital resources and care.



WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY SOUTH BAY SUPPORTERS

To our over **250 volunteers** who selflessly gave their time and talents to uplift our programs and events. To the **625 individual donors** whose generosity fuels our mission. To the devoted members of our Legacy of Hope Society, whose **planned gifts of \$999,532** will sustain our future.

To the **34 sponsors** and **more than 300 attendees** who made our sold-out Celebrate Wellness Gala a resounding success. To the **290+ businesses and individuals** that contributed **vital in-kind donations** to enhance our programs. To our **grant providers** who entrusted us with **19 grants** to expand our reach. To our **local media partners** who support us with advertising and help us raise awareness. To the compassionate **local businesses, organizations, and individuals** who **fundraise on our behalf**, ensuring no one faces cancer alone.

Thank you for your support and belief in our mission!

Scan the QR code or visit www.CSCSouthBay.org to make a donation online.

