

The Problem of Financial Toxicity

Everyday throughout New England, cancer patients and their families are battling not only the disease, but the financial stress that often comes with it. Following a cancer diagnosis, many patients and their families face a dramatic decrease in household income because one adult must stop working or significantly reduce their hours to care for themselves or a loved one.

This loss of income, combined with a significant increase in out-of-pocket expenses related to treatment, creates a stressful situation for the family battling the disease. This economic stress, known as **financial toxicity**, can force a patient to make dangerous choices – do they skip a medication or delay a procedure to buy food or pay a household bill?

The Hidden Cost of Cancer: Financial Impact on Treatment Adherence & Health Outcomes¹

42% of new cancer patients lose their entire life savings in two years because of treatment, losing \$92,098 on average.



62% of cancer patients are in debt because of their treatment, with 55% of them owing at least \$10,000.

Cancer patients are 2.65X more likely to file for bankruptcy than non-cancer patients.



Cancer patients who filed for bankruptcy had a 79% greater risk of death than patients who did not file for bankruptcy.

Duke Medical Center found that patients reporting financial distress made life threatening decisions related to their prescriptions with **20% of patients taking less medication than prescribed, 19% partially filling a prescription, and 24% not filling the prescription to defray treatment cost.**

Our Mission

The Joe Andruzzi Foundation (JAF) is committed to providing help, hope, and a reason to smile, for New England cancer patients and their families by contributing financial support when it is needed most.

Direct financial assistance remains the core of JAF's work. Through the distribution of grants and gift cards, the Foundation covers basic non-medical needs that patients and caregivers impacted by cancer often find themselves unable to afford – including housing, food, transportation, and utilities.

The Foundation strives to keep families positive during their cancer treatment through our (Up)Beat outings. JAF believes that sometimes laughter can be the best medicine and aims to help families forget the burdens of treatment, if only for a day, through fun, laughter and good times.

JAF Impact in 2018



JAF distributed a record-breaking **\$1.13M** in direct financial assistance, impacting **more than 4,000 people affected by cancer.**



56% of the funding JAF provided through direct financial assistance was **used to stabilize housing** – helping with mortgage, rental payment and taxes.



59% of distributed JAF grants **helped patients and families who reported living on \$25,000 or less** – the amount an average family income can drop to following a cancer diagnosis.



¹. Gilligan A, Alberts D, Roe D, Skrepnek G. Death or debt? national estimates of financial toxicity in persons with newly-diagnosed cancer. American Journal of Medicine. 2018.