



bloom

Issue

03

February
2010

Reach to Recovery International - RRI

Reach to Recovery International is committed to improving the quality of life for women with breast cancer and their families.

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RRI launches a new logo

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News from around the world

The History of Reach to Recovery



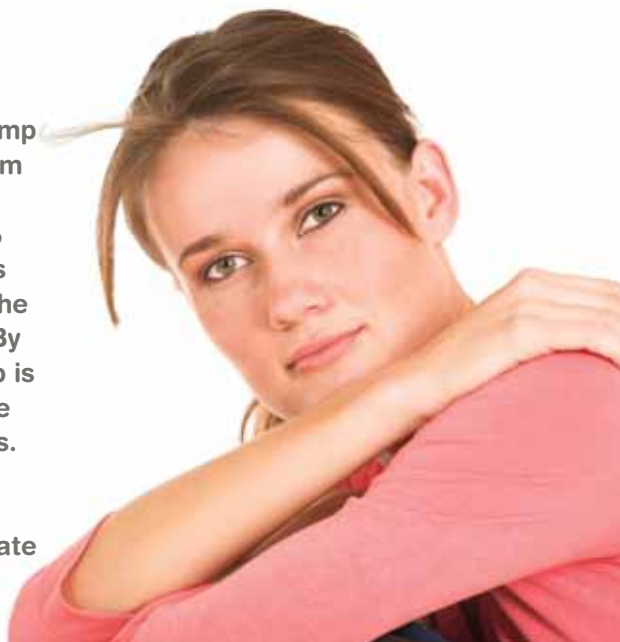
Terese Lasser began Reach to Recovery in the United States in 1952. Following her own operation for breast cancer, she persuaded the medical community that patients could benefit from the opportunity to talk with someone who had been through a similar experience. Reach to Recovery grew to be widely accepted and highly regarded by patients and doctors around the world.

In 1974, Francine Timothy and the American Cancer Society introduced Reach to Recovery to Europe. By the time she retired as chair of Reach to Recovery International in 1994, Francine Timothy had seen the program embraced in many countries throughout the world. She was also very successful in convincing medical staff to open their hospitals to Reach to Recovery volunteers.

As a program of the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) since 1994, RRI has continued to grow and now reaches women in nearly 100 countries around the world. In May 2009, Cancer Council Queensland took on responsibility for the RRI program. It is an exciting time as RRI members and volunteers look to the future and continue to build on the rich history of Reach to Recovery International that was first inspired by Terese Lasser in 1952.

CANCER FACT:

The first noticeable symptom of breast cancer is typically a lump that feels different from the rest of the breast tissue. More than 80% of breast cancer cases are discovered when the woman feels a lump. By the time a breast lump is noticeable, it may have been growing for years. Lumps found in lymph nodes located in the armpits can also indicate breast cancer.



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bloom

Issue 03 February 2010

Bloom is published by Reach to Recovery International. Contributions to Bloom are welcome, please email info@reachtorecoveryinternational.org. For more information about RRI, go to www.reachtorecoveryinternational.org.



We respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous women of our global community, the traditional custodians of our environment.

Reach to Recovery International is supported by the UICC and Cancer Council Queensland



Message from Ann Steyn

President of Reach to Recovery

The start of a New Year sees many resolutions!

Resolutions that may include aiming for a better and healthier living style, widening our knowledge in order to better serve and support the communities we work in and striving to balance work and family commitments with time for fun and relaxation.

We hope that you will find in the forthcoming issues of Bloom this year articles that will assist you in these aims.

This issue of Bloom will give you further details of the next RRI Conference to be held in Taipei, November 2011. The theme is to be Reach Towards A New Horizon. Like Brisbane it too will cater for the many different people who work to improve the quality of life of women with breast cancer.

You will find an announcement regarding the Young Women's Breast Cancer Conference. I hope those of you who are able will make an effort to attend this conference. It is important that young women have a platform to express their concerns and interests.

If any of you have a conference that you would like us to announce please contact us with the information. Bloom is circulated widely. The

editorial team would also be happy to receive articles you have written (a New Year resolution?!) and will try to include them in following issues of Bloom.

This issue we celebrate with Switzerland on the 30th anniversary since the founding of Vivre Comme Avant. We also have articles from Pakistan and Kenya. Educating women about breast cancer, advocating for suitable breast health policies and improving the quality of life of women with breast cancer is universal. Reading about these activities by groups of dedicated women can inspire us in the work we do in our regions.

Good progress has been made with the strategic planning for a new look Reach to Recovery International. An important part of this process was a new logo. After much deliberation and discussion and with the assistance of professional graphic designers a new logo for RRI has been settled on. We are proud to launch it in this issue of Bloom, and look forward to its world wide recognition before long.

Warm Reach to Recovery greetings!o

.....
Ann Steyn
President, Reach to Recovery International
annsteyn@reachtorecoveryinternational.org



Ann Steyn, President of Reach to Recovery International



NEW

Reach to Recovery Logo!

Reach to Recovery is entering a vibrant new era of growth and change, exemplified by the most recent RRI conference in Brisbane – the largest, most diverse and successful conference ever held.

We are now strengthening our brand and sense of identity by launching our new logo:

The logo gives us a fresh new look to complement our new direction and honours the heritage of RRI and its unchanged central principle: a woman who has lived through breast cancer and gives freely of her time to help another woman facing the same experience is a valuable source of support.

The design retains sweeping lines that are reminiscent of the

old logo, enhanced by a more modern and sophisticated style.

The logo features two reflective letter 'R' motifs which connect at the base, standing for Reach to Recovery, but also conveying the shape of two women reaching out to one another to provide support, and symbolising the connectedness that we create by reaching out through our work.

We have developed a full logo suite so that different versions of the logo can be used across all areas of our work, whether online or in print o

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All RRI member organisations will be able to access the logo suite by emailing info@reachtorecoveryinternational.org



邁向新境界
REACH TOWARDS A NEW HORIZON

Reach Towards a New Horizon

16th Reach to Recovery International
Breast Cancer Support Conference



November 2011 is fast approaching, with planning well underway for the 16th Reach to Recovery International Breast Cancer Support Conference in Taiwan. Hundreds of RRI members and supporters from around the world are expected to attend and we invite you to join us for this important meeting.

The conference website is now live, at www.reachtorecovery2011.org/, with registrations set to open in July this year.

The 2011 Conference will focus on three key areas:

Impact - the shock of diagnosis

Care - journey towards recovery

Revival - a whole new world

Within the above three key areas, speakers from around the world will present issues on advanced treatments and oriental healing methods for breast cancer, psycho-social support, diet and nutrition, public policies, and support groups.

The Conference Program Committee is working to include both regional and international perspectives with multinational speakers and focusing on coping, managing, and defeating breast cancer, with particular emphasis on workshops and sessions sharing knowledge and experiences from both eastern and western perspectives.

The Program is scheduled to be finalised later this year, and will be featured on the website along with information about the program, speakers, abstracts, awards, exhibition, lodging travel, and more.



The laughing Buddha, just one of the many cultural experiences that Taiwan offers!

The Conference is being convened by the Formosa Cancer Foundation and the Taiwan Breast Cancer Alliance, with support from Reach to Recovery International.

About the Formosa Cancer Foundation

The Formosa Cancer Foundation (FCF) was founded in December 1997 to respond to Taiwan's growing cancer crisis. The Foundation is strongly backed by professional medical organizations such as the Taiwan Oncology Society and National Health Research Institute (NHRI) as well as by corporate and individual supporters. The FCF works to reduce cancer incidence and mortality through public education that focuses on encouraging healthy diet, achieving early detection and raising the quality of medical care for cancer treatment. The Foundation also provides services and support to cancer survivors. In 2007, the FCF was honored at the highest level with a National Civic Service Award to recognize the important services its dedicated team provides.

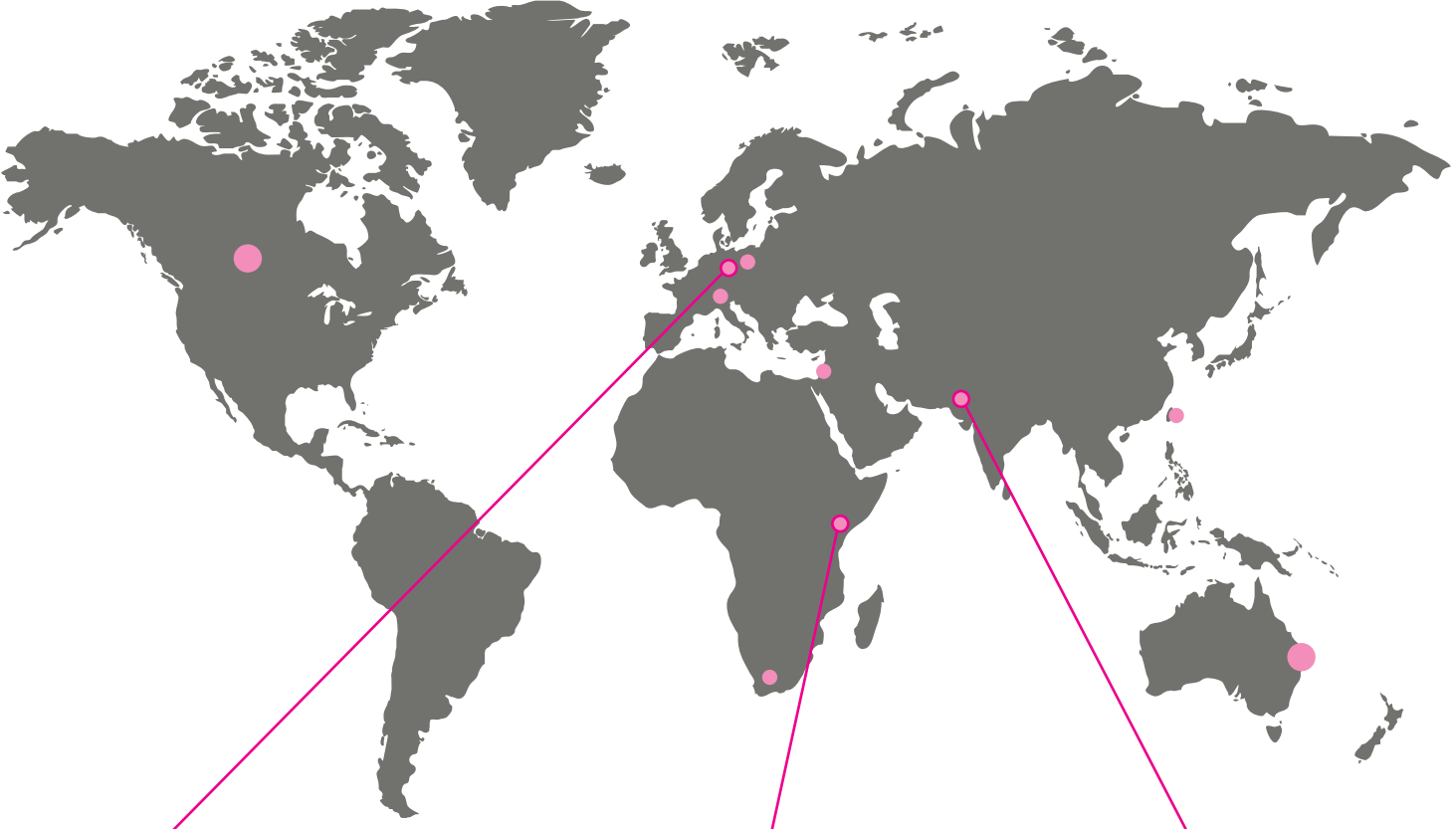
About the Taiwan Breast Cancer Alliance

The Taiwan Breast Cancer Alliance was founded on April 21, 2002. TBCA unites and serves over 30 support groups nation-wide. As lead and powered by survivors, TBCA cherishes the passion and experiences of all our volunteers. TBCA's work focuses on promoting breast cancer prevention, screening, and early detection; advocating for national health insurance system improvement; providing peer support to breast cancer patients; training and educating volunteers; assisting and establishing support groups; engaging in international knowledge sharing; creating an information database for breast cancer in Chinese. In 2006, TBCA was selected as the best cancer support NPO and is eager to exchange knowledge with breast cancer support groups world-wide.

Follow us on Facebook – just search for keywords 16th RRI Breast Cancer Support Conference, Taiwan.

NEWS

from around the world





CANCER FACT:

Breast cancers can be classified by different schemata, including stage, pathology, grade, receptor status, and the presence or absence of genes as determined by DNA testing.

Australia

Australian volunteers boost the availability of breast prostheses in other countries

Edith Cooper has been involved in the Reach to Recovery movement in Australia since its inception. She was one of over 600 delegates for last year's conference in Brisbane, and also opened her home by becoming a homestay host:

When we organised to host a guest during Reach to Recovery last year I never imagined what the outcome would be!

Our visitor was from Zimbabwe and our neighbours billeted two wonderful young girls from Uganda. Whilst travelling to and from the conference we talked non-stop and learned that women from these countries often cannot afford breast

prostheses. We knew we could help, and collected all the spare second-hand prostheses from our local breast cancer support group to send back to Africa. Not just to Uganda and Zimbabwe, but to Nigeria as well.

Since then, I have collected prostheses and sent 68 to Uganda and 10 prostheses to Zimbabwe, using airfreight for Uganda and ordinary post for any smaller batches.

I plan to send as many as I can collect. We have had a request from Fiji and I plan to send some to Nigeria. If you have contacts in other countries that are in need, or if you have second-hand prostheses to donate, please contact me at murraye@bigpond.net.au or via Cancer Council Queensland. ◊

Edith Cooper
Reach to Recovery International
C/o Cancer Council Queensland,
PO Box 201, Spring Hill, QLD, 4004

Canada

Be a part of the 2011 World Conference on Breast Cancer

Leila Springer is a breast cancer survivor and President of the World Conference on Breast Cancer Foundation (WCBCF):

My first World Conference on Breast Cancer was in 2001 - two years after my diagnosis with breast cancer. I haven't missed a conference since! Over the years, attending the conference has blessed me with many rich memories. The opportunity to join hundreds of women from all over the world, of various walks of life, cultures, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds has provided a forum for me to share my experience with breast cancer. It has been one of the many opportunities to meet, network and exchange ideas with a large and diverse group of breast cancer advocates, researchers, clinicians and survivors. To say the very least, this spectacular event generates an energy that has kept me motivated over the years, enabling me to educate and comfort other women.

Through these conferences, WCBCF hopes to develop and implement breast cancer programs, services, and techniques that will assist in global efforts to eradicate incidence and mortality for women everywhere.

Canada is a great setting for the conferences. The vast multicultural make-up of the country makes it a microcosm of the distinct cultural nuances. The rich diversity that exists in Canada allows organizations, health-care providers and delegates to build awareness and knowledge of techniques that can be used to educate women from different backgrounds, to improve support and, ultimately, outcomes. Importantly, our conversations can be incorporated in our efforts to support women on a global scale. We understand and recognize the significance of diversity in addressing the topic of breast cancer and ensuring that our response is meaningful for women from all over the world.

My hope is the upcoming June 2011 conference in Hamilton, Ontario, will help with the growth of our international WCBCF community and build greater international knowledge of the breast cancer experience. Importantly, the ideas and projects that flow from the conference will be delivered in a framework that has relevance across national, state, and territory borders. ◊

For more information on how you can participate in the 2011 World Conference on Breast Cancer, please visit www.wcbcf.ca



Leila Springer, breast cancer survivor and President of The World Conference on Breast Cancer Foundation



Germany

Transforming feelings through art

When German artist Siglinde Kallnbach was first diagnosed with cancer in 2000, she decided to address the disease through her artwork.

In 2001, she launched 'A Performancelife', an interactive way for people to express empathy for cancer patients by contributing poems, drawings, photos, stories or simply a signature.

A Performancelife also allows people affected by cancer to express their feelings through the creative arts, helping to stimulate transformation and acceptance. More than 40,000 people have contributed to A Performancelife, including the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel.

Our breast cancer support groups a performancelife e.V. and LAW (Laugh and Walk), based in Cologne, have further promoted solidarity and empathy for those affected by cancer, supporting A Performancelife and hosting a range of events such as exhibitions, readings and workshops.

We recently participated in the annual Cologne Carnival, supporting members of A Performancelife in two parades through the city. We would welcome RRI volunteers and member groups for the next Cologne Carnival! ◦

You can contact us by email on verein@a.performancelife.com for more information and to let us know you're coming!

Kenya

Facing our fight together

Elizabeth Ragui is a breast cancer survivor and the Chief Executive Officer of Reach to Recovery Kenya:

Time has really flown since our organization came into existence legally two years ago, although our activities started way back in 2006 after our initial training as volunteers by Ann Steyn.

It is a fact that cancer is a life-threatening and distressing experience. It did, however, improve at least one aspect of my life, causing changes that were so radical and profound that they rekindled my appreciation of dear life, a powerful reminder that life is experiential.

As distressing as cancer is for so many people, exposing common vulnerabilities, members of our organization feel stronger, more resilient and more compassionate for others as a result of their experience and connection with others through our work. Hence our motto, 'Out to touch', which goes a long way to communicate why we do what we do; and the fulfilment we get from touching another person's life. It motivates us to move on, whether in supporting a patient or making one aware.

We do this willingly, despite some of us having faced recurrences and therefore uncertainty of our own mortality; lack of funds and rejection by friends and at times, relatives.

We have also vowed not only to support patients, but to create awareness and increase breast screening through grassroots campaigning.

The reality on the ground is so grave that one woman out of every 10 checked needs attention, and we have collected enough data to support this.

We are committed to fight this scourge and determined to join hands with others worldwide. The medical fraternity estimates that 80 per cent of breast cancers presented in Kenya at a late stage, and where effective treatment was unavailable, could have been saved through awareness and screening.

Let us strive for a cancer free society. ◦

**Elizabeth Ragui,
Breast Cancer Survivor
Chief Executive Officer
Reach to Recovery Kenya**



Pakistan

Pakistan takes the first important step to beat breast cancer

The Pink Ribbon National Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign Pakistan and Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Oncology (INMOL) of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission have launched the first breast cancer mobile mammogram clinic in Pakistan.

Pakistan has the highest rate of breast cancer for any Asian population. Every year, 90,000

women are diagnosed with breast cancer and 40,000 women die from the disease. Information available on breast cancer is very insignificant, with only advanced cases of breast cancer being reported.

The breast cancer mobile mammogram clinic is equipped with state-of-the-art mammography and ultrasound machines and will be used to reach out to the poorest women to provide free screening at their doorsteps, in the hope of saving thousands of precious lives. ◦

For more information, email Omer Aftab at info@pinkribbon.org.pk



Palestine

A bold beginning for breast cancer awareness in Palestine

In October 2009, the first breast cancer awareness day was held in Palestine by the Patient's Friends Society of Jerusalem and the Sunrise Group:

After months of organizing, seeking donors and volunteers, we welcomed over 400 participants to the Cultural Palace in Ramallah. We had great weather for everyone to join our short and symbolic march! The Minister of Social Affairs opened the event and joined in our march.

The day included presentations by those with expertise in breast

cancer, together with celebrations and a film. Local specialist, Dr Sahar Araj, gave a presentation to raise awareness and this was followed by the screening of the first animated Palestinian film, Fatenah, about a young woman from Gaza and her struggle with breast cancer. After the film, participants joined in a question and answer session with a representative of the Sunrise Group (and a trained RR volunteer!) and Dr. Araj.

To conclude the day, the Edward Said conservatory sent musicians to perform for the crowd. We are most grateful for the efforts of the donors and volunteers who made the event possible.

Participants, including men, women and children from all over the country, travelled by bus to attend

the day, thanks to the generosity of several bus companies. There were booths to purchase food, embroidered items and other goods. We held a raffle to raise funds to help cover costs and to support the activities of Patient's Friends Society-Jerusalem and the breast cancer project Sunrise Group.

The event received an awesome response from all participants, and we have since been inundated with requests to hold awareness day events all over the country!

We even developed a unique logo to represent Palestine's commitment to providing breast cancer awareness and support.

Video conferencing support

Our next big project is to reach out to women in rural areas

offering support, guidance and information. For many who can't reach us we are trying to organize video conferencing. We face many obstacles (geographical, political and financial) but with the assistance of local organizations and generous donors, we will make this happen. Watch this space!

If you can offer us advice or would like to make a donation, please contact us at info@pfsjerusalem.org or fax + 972 2 6264673.

Thank you! ◦

For more details please visit us at www.pfsjerusalem.org



Members of the Patient's Friends Society-Jerusalem and the Sunrise Group celebrate their achievements.



Visit the Amazons' website to see the group's full photo gallery:
www.amazonki.com.pl/en/index.php



Poland

Poland inspires progress through solidarity

There is one thing stronger than all armies of the world, and that is an idea whose time has come...

Amazons is dedicated to supporting women affected by breast cancer in Poland, with 180 clubs around the country. The movement was founded nearly 25 years ago, with an aim to use the experiences of breast cancer survivors to build community understanding for cancer patients.

And we can say we have succeeded, motivated by the principle that "Helping others you help yourself". We have much more work to do though.

Medical science has advanced rapidly, offering many new treatments for cancer, but in spite of this, many Polish patients cannot access proper health care and Poland still lags behind Europe. This lack of access prevents many patients from receiving the treatment they need, effecting survival rates and quality of life. There is a great disparity between the treatments available in Poland and in other parts of Europe.

These inequities have motivated Amazons to move beyond its existing activities to unite the community in a great social movement to improve the quality of oncological care. It is the right time to put the idea of a nationwide patient movement into effect and we have therefore established the Polish Amazons Social Movement.

The Movement will include affected women as well as men, both those from the high risk group and those who are simply committed to improving oncology services and practice in Poland. Everyone who has had to face the illness will have an opportunity to share his or her knowledge and experience.

Our mission is to make the Movement a strong, serious and representative partner in dialogue with all levels of government and other health organizations. We want to propose systemic solutions, to inform decision makers and the community about the needs of cancer patients and the standards of treatment they require, and to encourage civic activity to influence progressive health care policy.

A National Census of Breast Cancer Treatment

Our starting point is to do a National Census of Breast Cancer Treatment. The census will check the treatment process and cancer care received by patients, and use this as an opportunity to estimate the number of women with breast cancer in Poland. This information will be vital in helping us to get a real picture of cancer treatment in our country. We aim to publish the results within two years of the census launch date, using it as a basis to revise the benefits provided to patients in the public system.

Bearing in mind the standards of health care that patients require, we want to identify and promote distinguished cancer centers as models of practice and care. From this, we will rank the best cancer centers in Poland and hopefully raise the overall standard of support for patients.

Formation of a Citizen's Guard

As part of our advocacy, we will establish a Citizen's Guard to monitor the performance of health services and decisions related to changes in the health care system. The Guard will play an important role in ensuring that health services comply with laws and guidelines for patient welfare and clinical treatment.

Creation of a Home for Cancer Patients

In parallel with these activities we intend to build a Home for Cancer Patients. It is going to be a place where patients with cancer, regardless of the progression or stage of the disease, can receive round-the-clock professional medical and psychological assistance and nursing.

Our aim is to provide comfort and support throughout the patient's treatment, in an environment that is sensitive to the needs of each individual.

The reality around us is changing all the time and we know we have lots to do. We strongly believe that the only way to achieve the change we need is by uniting as a community! ○

.....
Agnieszka Dabrowska
 Warsaw Amazons



South Africa

Mammography screening succeeds in South Africa

My name is Lize de Jonge and I am the Project Manager for Cause Marketing Fundraisers. Having had breast cancer cost me both my breasts during separate periods of my life, and guided me to ask the question, "What is femininity"?

We are women and are created to feel compassion, be nurturing and gentle with the ability to provide tender loving care. We are women with or without our breasts. The answer was quite simple. Femininity is all that is womanly. Yes, breasts do come into play, but they are not the defining factor – it's the sum of the parts that makes the whole woman!

In August 2009, Cause Marketing Fundraisers, under the management of CEO Noelene Kotschan and major sponsors, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals and M-Net, launched the first Mobile Mammography Unit in South Africa. At the same time, we launched a Mobile Educational Unit, to support our activities, and they were fondly christened the "Twins".

In her role as CEO, Noelene Kotschan had the courage to introduce South Africa to standardized mammography facilities, irrespective of a woman's medical insurance status. The project is designed to be self-sustaining, which is achieved by screening patients in the private sector and charging them standard medical rates (reimbursable through medical aid), which in turn allows public patients to have

a free mammogram. As a result, every patient that pays from the private sector, guarantees a free mammogram for a public patient.

Although the project receives no government funding, Cause Marketing Fundraisers work closely with both local and regional governments to identify areas where there are no mammography facilities available.

Since inception during August to December 2009, the project achieved the following outcomes:

Public Sector:

- Mobile Mammography Unit: 323 screenings
- Educated: 2,721

Private Sector:

- Mobile Mammography Unit: 297 screenings
- Educated: 186

The Mobile Educational Unit is a free service and focuses mainly on Community Health Clinics around Gauteng, where health workers and churches get involved in spreading the word of the Unit's arrival.

The Mobile Mammography Unit works as a doctor's office on wheels. Visitors and patients alike are impressed by the state-of-the-art equipment, wooden floors, granite tops and air conditioners. This was done deliberately to achieve a pleasant, serene space where women can feel comfortable and safe. This unit is also manned by a qualified mammographer and supporting nurse.

The Mobile Education Unit is permanently manned by a qualified

nurse and support staff and has 60 chairs that are neatly stored under the roof awning. Biscuits and cool drinks are offered at every venue, because many women walk great distances to be seen by our nurses. The full service includes a 20 minute educational session on breast health, including information about the changes to look out for, risk factors that may lead to breast cancer, what a breast lump feels like and a demonstration of how to physically perform a breast self-examination. Afterwards each patient has the opportunity to step onboard the medical facility, where the nurse can examine each individual in privacy. We also introduced a free bra measurement service, because 70 per cent of all women wear the incorrect bra size. This has been met with great enthusiasm!

Collaborating with other non-government organisations has been an integral part of our success. With years of experience behind them, Reach to Recovery has supplied educational material and support since the start of the project.

Our vision for 2010 is to be even more active in the public sector by adding five more hospitals to the existing four we are already servicing, giving more women the opportunity to have free mammograms.

Early detection saves lives and increases the success of treatment. ◦



The Mobile Mammography Unit
A doctor's office on wheels!

Lize de Jonge
Project Manager – Cause Marketing Fundraisers.

Switzerland

Switzerland celebrates 30 years of breast cancer support

In October, Vivre Comme Avant Geneva celebrated its 30th anniversary.

The organisation was inspired by the foundation of Reach to Recovery in the USA in 1953 by Teresa Lasser, and was formed with the support of the Genevoise League against Cancer.

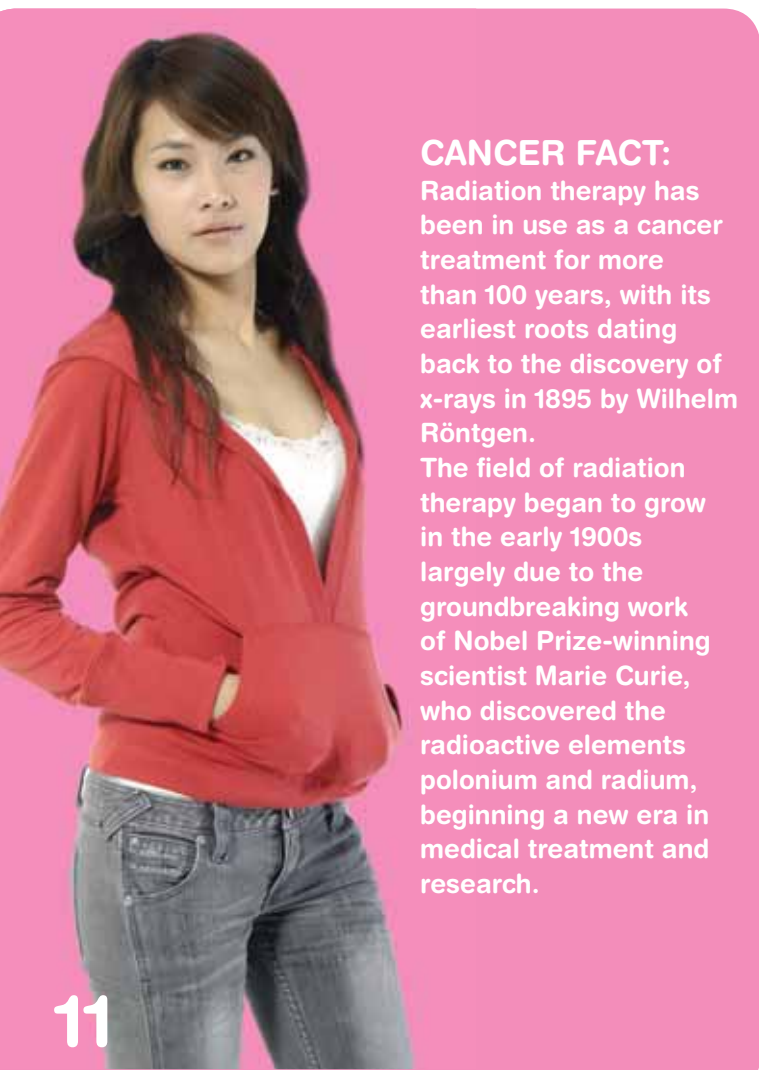
Today, the Vivre Comme Avant movement is represented across Europe, through association with other organisations affiliated with Reach to Recovery International.

Its mission, like that of Reach to Recovery, is to provide peer support to women affected by breast cancer.

Vivre Comme Avant volunteers support women affected by breast cancer through all stages of their journey, and also advocates for improved breast cancer support services and treatment. ◦



Vivre Comme Avant Geneva staff celebrate their 30th anniversary
Photo courtesy of Michèle Vuichard, President



CANCER FACT:
Radiation therapy has been in use as a cancer treatment for more than 100 years, with its earliest roots dating back to the discovery of x-rays in 1895 by Wilhelm Röntgen. The field of radiation therapy began to grow in the early 1900s largely due to the groundbreaking work of Nobel Prize-winning scientist Marie Curie, who discovered the radioactive elements polonium and radium, beginning a new era in medical treatment and research.

Taiwan

Taiwan introduces insurance coverage for treatment drug

The Taiwan Breast Cancer Alliance (TBCA) is celebrating a major achievement, successfully lobbying for the Taiwanese Bureau of National Health Insurance (BNHI) to add Herceptin to its list of preferred treatments for early stage breast cancer patients.

The achievement comes after many years of advocacy by TBCA.

From January 1 this year, eligible early stage breast cancer patients in Taiwan will no longer have to pay for Herceptin.

According to the BNHI, about 450 patients fit the criteria and are expected to receive the preferred treatment, which would otherwise cost these patients about NT\$800,000 a year.

Herceptin was approved as a payable drug for cancers that had spread to the breasts from other parts of the body in 2002 in Taiwan. However, early stage breast cancer patients were previously required to bear the entire financial burden for the use of this treatment, even if they presented with over-active HER2.

Under the new plan, Herceptin has been elevated to a preferred drug for post-surgery or post-chemotherapy patients with over-active HER2 to prevent the spread of the cancer cells.

The new plan is a significant milestone for Taiwan's breast cancer community and has been widely rejoiced by breast cancer groups and women across Taiwan.

September 2010
GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA



The 2nd National Conference for Young Women Affected by Breast Cancer

Cancer Council Queensland is set to host Australia's 2nd National Conference for Young Women Affected by Breast Cancer, on Queensland's Gold Coast.

Conference organiser for Cancer Council Queensland, Megan Dwyer, says young women from Reach to Recovery International's network would benefit from the attending the conference.

"Our aim is to help young women affected by breast cancer to form meaningful support networks, such as those inspired by Reach to Recovery, so that they don't have to go through breast cancer alone.

"A diagnosis of breast cancer can be particularly distressing for younger women, who never expect to face the confronting reality of cancer at a young age," she says.

"This conference will be an opportunity for young women to learn, network, share, raise awareness and further advance the needs and issues of young women diagnosed with breast cancer in Australia and internationally," Ms Dwyer says.

"The conference program will be educational and inspiring, focusing on every phase of a young woman's breast cancer journey, from diagnosis, treatment and living with advanced breast cancer, to post-treatment, and years beyond."

Conference speakers will include leading breast cancer specialists, researchers and health professionals.

"Our goal is to ensure young women affected by breast cancer have access to all the latest information on breast cancer research and clinical care, so that they can empower themselves to make informed choices about their treatment and well-being," Ms Dwyer says.

"Delegates will also have the opportunity to gather resources to help navigate their breast cancer journey and network with peers who can relate to their experience."

250 delegates are expected to attend, including young women affected by breast cancer, their family, friends and carers, as well as health professionals and support group leaders. The conference will be held at the Radisson Gold Coast Resort, in Queensland, from September 10-12, 2010.

Be part of this special event! All Reach to Recovery members and volunteers are welcome - REGISTER ONLINE now!

For more information and to sign up for regular email updates visit www.ywcaustralia.org.au



EVENTS

SHANGHAI, CHINA April 2010:

**1st Shanghai International Breast Cancer Rehabilitative Forum & 3rd
Global Chinese Breast Cancer Groups Alliance
April 23 - 25, 2010**

For more information go to www.yksl.org/2010/

SHENZHEN, CHINA August 2010:

**UICC World Cancer Congress
August 18 - 21, 2010**

For more information go to <http://2010.worldcancercongress.org/>

GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA September 2010:

**2nd National Conference for Young Women Affected by Breast Cancer
September 10 - 12, 2010**

For more information visit www.ywcaustralia.org.au/

HAMILTON ONTARIO, CANADA June 2011:

**World Conference on Breast Cancer
June 7 - 11, 2011**

For more information visit www.wcbcf.ca/conference/home/

TAIPEI, TAIWAN November 2011:

**16th Reach to Recovery International Breast Cancer Support Conference
November 9 - 12, 2011**

For more information visit www.reachtorecovery2011.org/

**Do you have a contribution for Bloom?
If you have a story, a poem, an event,
a news item,
or any type of creative piece,
please email our editorial team at
info@reachtorecoveryinternational.org**

We welcome any feedback and suggestions you have!

Our mission

Reach to Recovery International is built on a simple yet universal principle: a woman who has lived through breast cancer and gives of her time and experience to help another woman confronting the same experience is a valuable source of support. Reach to Recovery International is committed to working to improve the quality of life for women with breast cancer and their families through a wide range of services offered worldwide.

For more information about RRI and bloom, please email info@reachtorecoveryinternational.org or visit our website at www.reachtorecoveryinternational.org

