A breast cancer diagnosis sends a patient’s life into turmoil, posing a range of challenges even for those who are employed and fully insured. Ellie Fund fills the gap between doctors, insurance, and family support to provide essential, non-medical services during the grueling treatment regimen.

**Breast cancer is widespread and costly**

- 1 in 8 women in the US will be diagnosed with breast cancer over their lifetime.
- 6,700 women in Massachusetts are diagnosed with breast cancer each year.
- 40% of cancer patients nationwide report depleting their savings during treatment.
- 63% of patients we serve report experiencing significant financial stress during treatment.

**Breast cancer is disruptive and affects the whole family**

- 47% of survivors took unpaid time off during their breast cancer treatment.
- 20% of survivors quit or lost their jobs during treatment. 30% stayed in jobs and 24% avoided changing jobs to retain health insurance.
- 28% of patients report they and their families had fewer nutritious meals during treatment.
- 71% of patients report reduced or no ability to maintain their normal daily activities.

**OUR SUPPORT IS VITAL**

- Healthy food on the table with grocery assistance and delivering nutritious prepared meals
- Safe transportation to and from appointments for patients with weakened immune systems
- Childcare reimbursement and housekeeping services to support family responsibilities
- Integrative therapies to relieve side effects and stress like acupuncture and oncology massage

$1 million in services provided to patients in 2019

Over 200 patients per month served in Massachusetts

2,980 months of grocery assistance for patients in 2019
“I cannot express how much [the Ellie Fund] has carried me through a most difficult time. I am a single, 60-year-old woman so self-reliance has been my life. You helped to bridge the 90-day wait period for my Short Term Disability. I made it and can concentrate on treatment because of people like you.” - Anonymous

The Ellie Fund provided me with home care and grocery gift cards during my chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer. Since my diagnosis, my emotions have been a roller coaster. Ellie Fund helped alleviate the additional expenses incurred driving back and forth to the hospital, paying for parking, copays, etc. I am truly grateful you offer these services. - Ziporioa

“When I was re-diagnosed, I was hospitalized for a week, missing my son’s birthday. The pre-school program my son was in could not handle his emotional struggles from the stress at home. They kicked him out... we found a program that was a perfect fit but the tuition was quite a bit higher. I needed something to go right and the Ellie Fund stepped in to help us. - Abby

“My husband of 40 years and I are raising our 12-year old grandchild on a fixed income. Then I found out I have breast cancer and lost my part-time job as a crossing guard due to COVID — we were getting hit from all sides. The gift card from Ellie Fund was very welcome.” - Anita

“My first treatment got me extremely ill, and I used up all my sick time at work. Since then, I’ve had to take time off unpaid. I couldn’t have gotten by the last few months if not for your kind, extremely helpful organization.” - Sharon

Sources include:
American Cancer Society, https://cancerstatisticscenter.cancer.org/#!/state/Massachusetts
Association of Oncology Social Work Tangka et al