

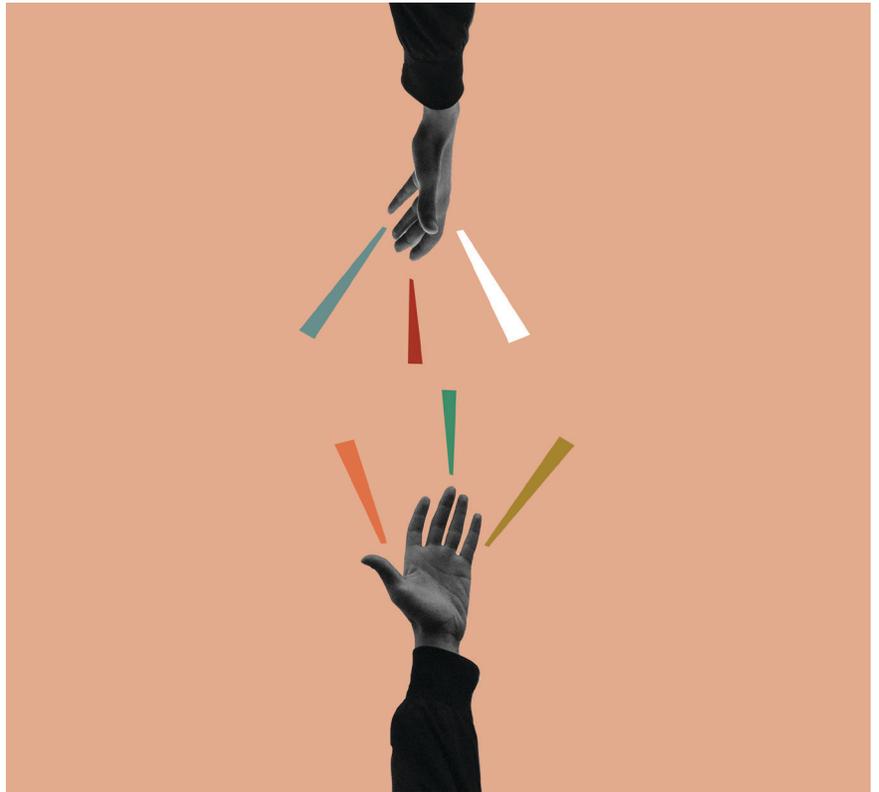
Returning to the Nest

I wish everyone a lifetime of silver linings

If you ask my children about one of my most annoying characteristics, they will likely say that I always try to find the silver lining in any situation. As we begin to age, finding the silver lining and the humor in life becomes even more vital as we deal with medical challenges for our parents, our friends and ourselves. It seems even more relevant when the entire country is caught up in a global pandemic during an election year where society is not only challenged by a health scourge, but also rampant racism and questions of our moral character. And yet, there is always a silver lining.

For me, having my kids move back home has been such a treat. After being an empty nester for almost a decade, I was a bit unsure about how this new living arrangement might work. From my perspective, there are way more wins than losses, even if picking take-out seems to be a contentious event.

What is truly unexpected, however, is the COVID silver lining at work. Tower Cancer Research Foundation has grown and adapted. Our patient support programs at Magnolia House transitioned online in April after we made the difficult decision to end in-person classes mid-March. Since that time, our class participation has skyrocketed as COVID became a serious consideration in the day to day life of cancer survivors. Not only are we seeing a huge increase in the numbers of participants, but we are also noticing an expansion of the geographic reach of the programs with classes attracting people from across the country and sometimes across the globe.



Equally important, our supporters have truly stepped up in this challenging year. Our May gala was our most successful to date, no doubt because of our outstanding honorees, Dr. Barry Rosenbloom and Michele Kaplan, and our recently completed Spirit of Hope Lunch-In was our second highest grossing luncheon for the Magnolia Council. The event was an amazing livestream production that featured our fabulous mother-daughter honorees, Jeanne Schnitzer Marks and Samantha Paige Davis.

Tower's Cancer Free Generation also took on the challenge of a COVID virtual event, creating the first MOVE OVER CANCER event featuring two honorary husband and wife Co-Chair teams, Drs. Ghazal and Sep Rokshar and Drs. Sarah Koller and Nick McAndrew. As of today, this dynamic group is just shy of their goal and I have no doubt that it will be another home run for our future leaders.

While silver linings cannot completely erase the darkness that comes with life challenges, it is important to recognize that we can feel both defeat and hopeful, both grief and gratitude at the same time. For me, recognizing how extraordinarily lucky we are for our blessings is the first step towards happiness and I for one could not be more grateful to our community for the unwavering support during this incredibly difficult time.

I wish everyone a lifetime of silver linings.



Linda David
Executive Director