

TOWARD
HEALTH
EQUITY FOR
BLACK
PEOPLE
IMPACTED
BY
TNBC

2022 Progress
Report & Learnings

A MESSAGE FROM GILEAD



Deborah H. Telman

Executive Vice President,
Corporate Affairs and General Counsel
Gilead

Gilead has a long a history of profoundly impactful grant-giving in HIV and viral hepatitis, and this heritage is one I'm proud to bring to our Gilead Oncology Corporate Giving efforts. The Toward Health Equity for Black People Impacted by Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) grantee cohort is purposeful in its design and goals, supporting organizations that are creating innovative and effective ways to bridge the health equity gap and eliminate barriers for Black women living with and affected by TNBC.

Gilead's commitment to health equity recognizes at its core that it takes more than medicine to effect real change. Through our corporate giving efforts, we support organizations making a real difference for people impacted by TNBC. The stakes are high, but among these grantees, there is a real and voracious appetite to meet the challenge. I'm proud to present this progress report featuring this impressive roster of organizations, and we've only just begun. I am pleased to share these first steps toward health equity for Black people impacted by TNBC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deb'.

A note on language: Language holds power and is personal, impacted by an individual's identity as well as regional differences. It is our priority to always speak in a way that is as inclusive and appropriate as possible. While we recognize that not all words are interchangeable, we use "women" and "people" as well as "Black" and "African American" throughout this report. This is an effort to honor the preferred language by the organizations in this cohort.

A MESSAGE FROM RENEA DUFFIN



Renea Duffin

Vice President, Cancer Support,
Outreach & Clinical Research
Mary Bird Perkins

Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) uniquely impacts African American people and their villages. We know that African American women are more likely to be diagnosed with this aggressive disease: three times more likely than white women. Yet they have not been the focus of the research and funding they deserve. Many organizations have been working for years to address disparities in breast cancer care. Still, it has sometimes felt like a lonely fight to advocate for racial equity in TNBC. What makes this coalition a powerful movement is its emphasis on collaboration. Through convenings and support from Gilead, we have established a sisterhood where we can support each other in our shared commitment to keep TNBC, particularly in African American people, at the center of everything we do.

Each organization brings immense vision, leadership and knowledge to solving the challenges and barriers faced by African American people impacted by TNBC. With our diverse backgrounds and experiences and by working together, we can begin to “let our light shine” on this issue. And to my fellow grantees, I am so grateful for the opportunity for us to be together, and I feel renewed in our common goal to create the bright future we want to see.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renea A. Duffin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue shadow effect behind the text.

BACKGROUND



More than 280,000 people are expected to be diagnosed with breast cancer in the U.S. this year, and many of them will survive and thrive.¹ But women with triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) have a far less optimistic outlook – particularly Black women. Huge disparities exist for Black women with TNBC, due to systemic racism and the impact of social determinants of health on health outcomes.

TNBC is the most aggressive type of breast cancer, and its impact is not equally felt: **Black women are twice as likely to be diagnosed with TNBC as white women.**²⁻⁴ And when they are diagnosed, it's more often at a later, more dangerous stage.⁵

But the statistics don't stop there. Compared to other types of breast cancer, TNBC is also diagnosed more frequently in younger and premenopausal women.^{3,6} It's associated with higher rates of recurrence and is more likely to spread to other parts of the body.² And treatments are far more limited.

Compounding this, research further suggests Black women's health outcomes are impacted by a myriad of systemic biases they face based on both race and gender.⁷

- ▶ **Yet, for all of these sobering statistics, both health equity and TNBC have been afterthoughts in the breast cancer conversation: one panel out of 15 at an advocacy meeting or one study out of 500 at a medical congress.^{8,9} The stakes for Black women are higher than ever. Expanding the conversation, following the leadership of Black women, and addressing barriers across the cancer care continuum are critical to changing the trajectory and outcomes for Black people impacted by TNBC.**

42% Overall, Black women have a 42% higher mortality rate from breast cancer compared to white women.¹⁰

References: **1.** American Cancer Society. Breast Cancer Statistics 2022-2024. 2022. **2.** American Cancer Society. Triple-negative breast cancer. 2021. **3.** Keegan, T, et al. Occurrence of breast cancer subtypes in adolescent and young adult women. *Breast cancer*. 2012. Res 14, R55 **4.** Plasilova M, et al. Features of triple-negative breast cancer. *Medicine (Baltimore)*. 2016, 95(35): e4614 **5.** Cho B, Han Y, Lian M, et al. Evaluation of Racial/Ethnic Differences in Treatment and Mortality Among Women With Triple-Negative Breast Cancer. *JAMA Oncol*. 2021;7(7):1016–1023. doi:10.1001/jamaoncol.2021.1254 **6.** Breastcancer.org. Triple-Negative Breast Cancer. 2021. **7.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Racism and Health. 2022. **8.** Taken from a search of ASCO 2022 Annual Meeting abstracts.meetings.asco.org 2022. **9.** Taken from a search of NBCC's Leadership Summit agenda. <https://www.stopbreastcancer.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Snapshot-Schedule-Summit-4-20-2022.pdf>. 2022. **10.** DeSantis, C.E., Siegel, R.L., Sauer, A.G., Miller, K.D., Fedewa, S.A., Alcaraz, K.I. and Jemal, A. (2016), Cancer statistics for African Americans, 2016: Progress and opportunities in reducing racial disparities. *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*, 66: 290-308. <https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.21340>

INTRODUCING GILEAD ONCOLOGY CORPORATE GIVING

Gilead Oncology Corporate Giving was launched in 2021 and has been intentionally designed to directly contribute to the overall goals of decreasing cancer incidence, increasing survival rates and improving health equity among historically neglected populations. **Toward Health Equity for Black People Impacted by TNBC** is the inaugural grant program developed from this strategy and is dedicated to supporting three specific pillars:

1

Patient-centered programs

2

Organizational capacity-building

3

Collaborations and coalitions

- ▶ **The oncology corporate giving strategy is informed by decades of lessons from Gilead's Corporate Giving in HIV, including an understanding of the role social determinants of health play in health outcomes, the importance of data-driven decision making, the necessity of a health equity approach and the value of community-informed processes.**

In 2021-2022, the first cohort of grantees received funding for Toward Health Equity for Black People Impacted by TNBC.

Many grantees are community-based groups, focused on grassroots efforts, and others are elevating issues of inequity at multi-state and national levels. Across the program, Gilead Oncology Corporate Giving's intent is not only to support these local initiatives to effect change but also to facilitate best practice-sharing, community-building and networking that can help amplify efforts.

With this in mind, Gilead hosted an in-person convening in September 2022 for all grantees focused on improving health outcomes for Black people impacted by TNBC. The convening followed a series of essential steps earlier in 2022, including a kick-off in January for grant recipients, regional site visits in the spring and a virtual convening in June.

TNBC COHORT AT A GLANCE

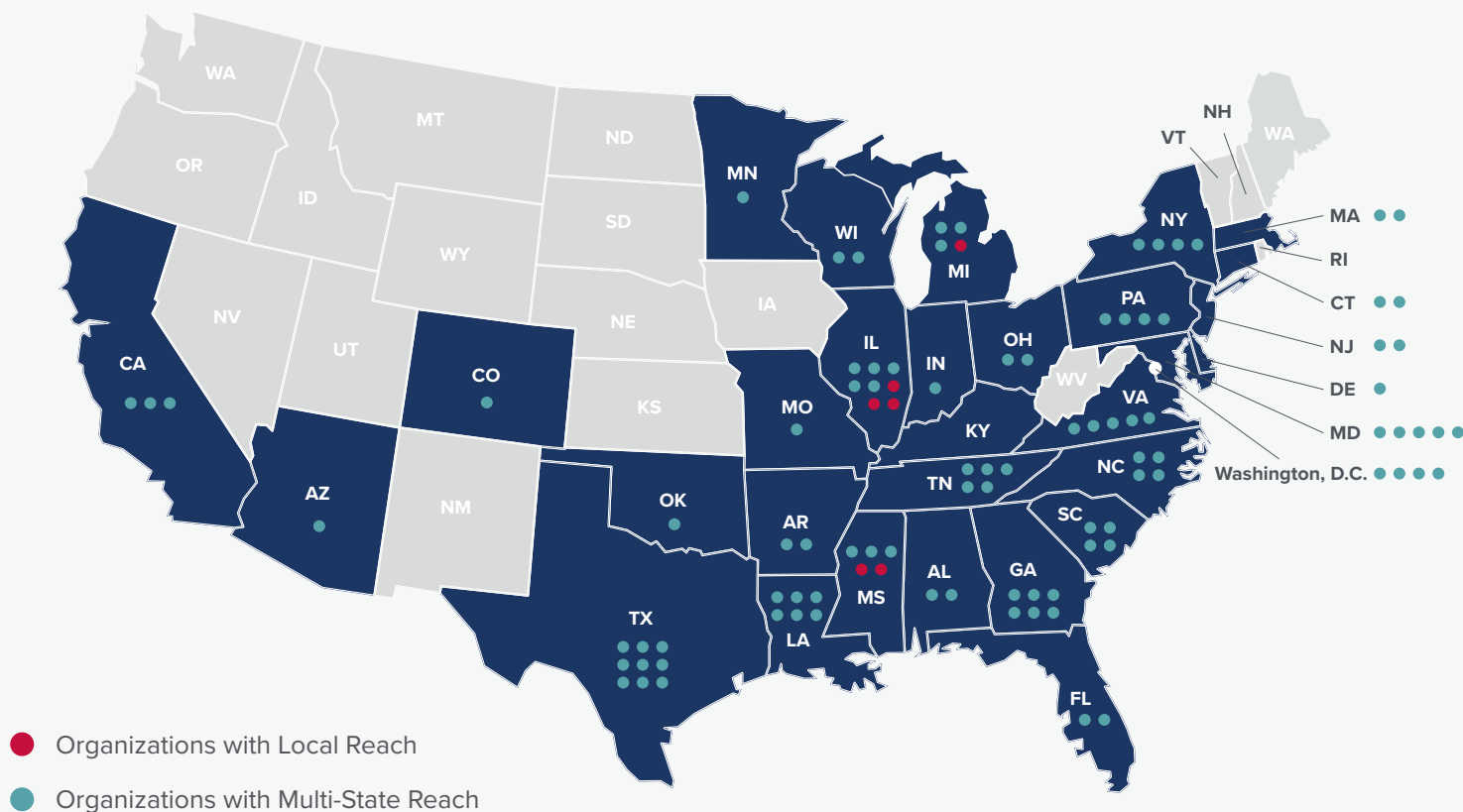
21 organizations from around the U.S. received support

\$5.7 million in grants

Priority to states with the highest rates of Black people diagnosed with TNBC ^{1,2}

GRANTEE PROGRAM REACH

Twenty-one organizations across the U.S. received funding for a variety of local and multi-state projects across the cancer care continuum. Programs included work in more than 25 states and Washington, D.C.



Organizations

- Advocates for Community Wellness
- Association of Community Cancer Centers
- Black Women’s Health Imperative
- Center for Excellence in Nonprofits
- Equal Hope
- Family Reach
- Gilda’s Club Metro Detroit
- Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health
- Kay Yow Cancer Fund
- Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center

- Patient Advocate Foundation
- SHARE Cancer Support
- SisterLove, Inc and The B. Edmond Project
- Sisters Network
- Sisters Working It Out
- The Chrysalis Initiative
- Tigerlily Foundation
- TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance
- Tougaloo College
- Unite For Her

 **Alabama**

- TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance
- Unite for Her

 **Arkansas**

- Family Reach
- Unite for Her

 **Arizona**

- Unite for Her

 **California**

- Center for Excellence in Nonprofits
- SHARE Cancer Support
- Unite for Her

 **Colorado**

- Unite for Her

 **Connecticut**

- Kay Yow Cancer Fund
- Unite for Her

 **Delaware**

- Unite for Her

 **Florida**

- TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance
- Unite for Her

 **Georgia**

- Black Women's Health Imperative
- Family Reach
- Kay Yow Cancer Fund
- SisterLove, Inc and The B. Edmond Project
- SHARE Cancer Support
- Unite for Her

 **Illinois**

- Advocates for Community Wellness
- Equal Hope
- Family Reach
- Patient Advocate Foundation
- Sisters Network
- Sisters Working It Out
- SHARE Cancer Support
- Unite for Her

 **Indiana**

- Kay Yow Cancer Fund

 **Louisiana**

- Association of Community Cancer Centers
- Family Reach
- Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center
- SisterLove, Inc and The B. Edmond Project
- TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance
- Unite for Her

 **Maryland**

- Association of Community Cancer Centers
- SHARE Cancer Support
- Tigerlily Foundation
- TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance
- Unite for Her

 **Massachusetts**

- TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance
- Unite for Her

 **Michigan**

- Family Reach
- Gilda's Club Metro Detroit
- Sisters Network
- Unite for Her

 **Minnesota**

- Kay Yow Cancer Fund

 **Mississippi**

- Family Reach
- Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health
- Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center
- Tougaloo College
- Unite for Her

 **Missouri**

- Unite for Her

 **New Jersey**

- Kay Yow Cancer Fund
- Unite for Her

 **New York**

- Association of Community Cancer Centers
- Family Reach
- SHARE Cancer Support
- Unite for Her

 **North Carolina**

- Association of Community Cancer Centers
- Kay Yow Cancer Fund
- Sisters Network
- Unite for Her

 **Ohio**

- SHARE Cancer Support
- Unite for Her

 **Oklahoma**

- Unite for Her

 **Pennsylvania**

- Kay Yow Cancer Fund
- SHARE Cancer Support
- The Chrysalis Initiative
- Unite for Her

 **South Carolina**

- Association of Community Cancer Centers
- Kay Yow Cancer Fund
- SHARE Cancer Support
- Unite for Her

 **Tennessee**

- Family Reach
- Kay Yow Cancer Fund
- Patient Advocate Foundation
- SHARE Cancer Support
- Unite for Her

 **Texas**

- Association of Community Cancer Centers
- Family Reach
- Kay Yow Cancer Fund
- Sisters Network
- SHARE Cancer Support
- Tigerlily Foundation
- TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance
- Unite for Her

 **Virginia**

- Association of Community Cancer Centers
- Kay Yow Cancer Fund
- Tigerlily Foundation
- TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance
- Unite for Her

 **Washington, D.C.**

- Family Reach
- Tigerlily Foundation
- TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance
- Unite for Her

 **Wisconsin**

- Sisters Network
- Unite for Her



SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS



The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) is a national organization of more than 30,000 multidisciplinary practitioners and cancer programs and practices around the country. It is estimated that 65% of the nation's cancer patients are treated by a member of ACCC, who rely on the organization for education and advocacy support in adapting and responding to changes and challenges in the delivery of quality cancer care. Yet across centers, ACCC identified the need to empower Black patients to share decision-making with physicians and trust themselves to seek a second opinion on care.

With funding from this initiative, ACCC is partnering with **Tigerlily Foundation**, a leading community-based Black breast cancer organization, to address disparities in access to diagnosis and treatment among African American women with TNBC in Louisiana, South Carolina, Virginia, North Carolina, New York and Texas. **The program is developing a patient-provider intervention care sequence plan that will map the patient care journey, creating a resource center with training materials and piloting interventions for stakeholders to promote guideline-concordant care.**

The partnership has built a diverse, multidisciplinary advisory committee of experts in health equity and quality TNBC care from academic and community cancer programs, including organizations such as TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance. The committee is establishing research objectives and currently administering patient and provider surveys to complete the first step of care journey mapping. The organization is also working to immediately address community hospitals' limited access to clinical trials by facilitating partnerships with academic institutions to discuss available clinical trials for their patients who otherwise would not have access.

Sisters Network Inc. (SNI) is a national African American breast cancer survivorship organization with over 25 survivor-run affiliate chapters. For nearly 30 years, SNI has been implementing national and regional support for survivors, financial assistance and breast health education programs in at-risk Black communities across the country. Over the past decade, the organization has seen firsthand the emerging Black breast cancer crisis of TNBC nationwide and works with local affiliate chapters to increase culturally relevant education to address the gap contributing to the rising number of Black women diagnosed with TNBC.

With support from this grant and other partners, SNI hosted the **2022 Pink Power Tour: Triple Negative Breast Cancer Talk with My Sisters** to educate Black women about TNBC, empower survivors, and provide an opportunity for women to learn more about the SNI support system and important resources in their community. The five-city tour is co-hosted with SNI affiliate chapters, features local TNBC medical experts, and includes partnerships with Black women's organizations and faith-based groups. The tour included stops in Durham, NC, Chicago, IL, Dallas, TX, Detroit, MI and Milwaukee, WI.





equal  hope

SPOTLIGHT ON PATIENT-CENTERED PROGRAMS

Equal Hope has been working with community partners for more than a decade to confront systemic barriers to cancer care in Chicago's African American community, including providing free mammograms and supporting uninsured and underinsured women to access primary care. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the group recognized that breast cancer screenings decreased significantly among Black women and are pushing forward with a targeted educational outreach program on the importance of returning to screenings.

This funding is enabling Equal Hope to collaborate with community partners, including groups focusing on women under 40, to educate about the risk of TNBC and to promote resources via local radio, TV and social media. More than 40,000 at-risk Black women and counting have already been reached as part of the first wave of the program.



Institute for the
Advancement
of Minority
Health 

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health is focused on reducing health disparities among historically neglected minority populations in Mississippi, including Black women. In evaluating regionally specific health threats, TNBC has emerged as a significant issue, compounded by a lack of information and a pervasive mistrust between medical providers and patients.

This grant is supporting a new initiative to identify African American women between 18 and 50 who are at higher risk for TNBC with BRCA (BRest Cancer gene) mutations to educate and facilitate access to the necessary screening and preventative care services. The group has begun collaborating with local clinics and recruiting students from nearby universities to identify targets in their communities. Programming will include the creation of a network of healthcare providers, establishing a call center, and referrals for genetic counseling and screening.



BLACK WOMEN'S
HEALTH IMPERATIVE

SPOTLIGHT ON CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS

Black Women's Health Imperative (BWHI) is a nationally recognized organization leading health policy, education, research, knowledge, leadership development, and communications designed to improve the health outcomes of the nation's Black women and girls. Over the past seven years, BWHI has invested nearly \$20 million in innovative solutions that combine science, policy and community assets to promote health equity at national, state and local levels.

BWHI is identifying grassroots organizations around the country doing powerful work but without the necessary operational resources to make the most of efforts at the level of community and policy impact. With the help of this initiative, **BWHI will share nonprofit best practices and tools created and collected for nearly four decades of service with five Black women-led nonprofits that deliver services to women affected by TNBC.** Plans are underway to provide one-to-one mentorship, coaching, and group seminars focused on efficient management, fundraising, Board and volunteer engagement, and strategic planning for growth and sustainability.



Center for Excellence in Nonprofits (CEN) is dedicated to empowering nonprofit leaders through continued learning that can help improve the long-term sustainability of their organizations. **With nonprofits that have a focus on improving the health of Black women, they are working to increase programming to support Black health equity efforts and to help Black healthcare providers cope with racialized harm.**

CEN has already contacted **more than 400 organizations** to learn how to best support them and has begun to implement workshops, group roundtables and consulting to support the programming needs identified by initial listening. Initial partnerships include the African American Community Service Agency, California Life Sciences and California Black Health Network.

SPOTLIGHT ON COLLABORATIONS AND COALITIONS

A key component of the Gilead Oncology Corporate Giving strategy is to give organizations the space to collaborate, evaluate and problem-solve together. While there are groups all over the country focused on changing the outlook for Black women with TNBC, professional networks are limited, and opportunities to speak directly are rare. Programming focused heavily on a space for sharing and concrete steps to amplify the work of these groups:

1

Continued learning and collaboration among grantees:

Grantees have worked to sustain the connections built through the grant process, and several have already found opportunities to partner on upcoming events and support projects where expertise aligns.

2

Steps to build a resource hub that leverages assets nationally:

A brainstorming session began a compilation of assets across all grantees so that organizations can leverage each other's skills and support. Grantees acknowledged a need for an online directory that can be updated with contacts, events and other resources, informed by people living with and impacted by TNBC.

3

Alignment on the needs to target:

Identification of gaps in resources and problem-solving for solutions to improve outcomes. Examples include: additional languages (supporting ESL/ASL needs), caregiver support, and cultural humility education for providers and TNBC journey maps that identify barriers to care at each stage and help patients address them with providers.

“ I actually felt safe saying how I felt and sharing ideas. It was the first time where I did not have to worry about making white people feel comfortable. There was immediate connection, which fostered community and opened the door for new ideas and concerns for the Black community without being dismissed. ”

- September convening participant

▶ Across 2022 convenings hosted by Gilead, grantees identified 127 assets and 93 resources among programs and experiences that could benefit each other.

OUR GRANTEEES ARE ALREADY PARTNERING FOR PROGRESS:

Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center and **Unite for HER** to provide resources for patients in Louisiana



Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health and **Tougaloo College** for on-the-ground community insight-gathering in Mississippi



Patient Advocate Foundation, **Sisters Working It Out** and **TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance**, for community events in Chicago and Atlanta

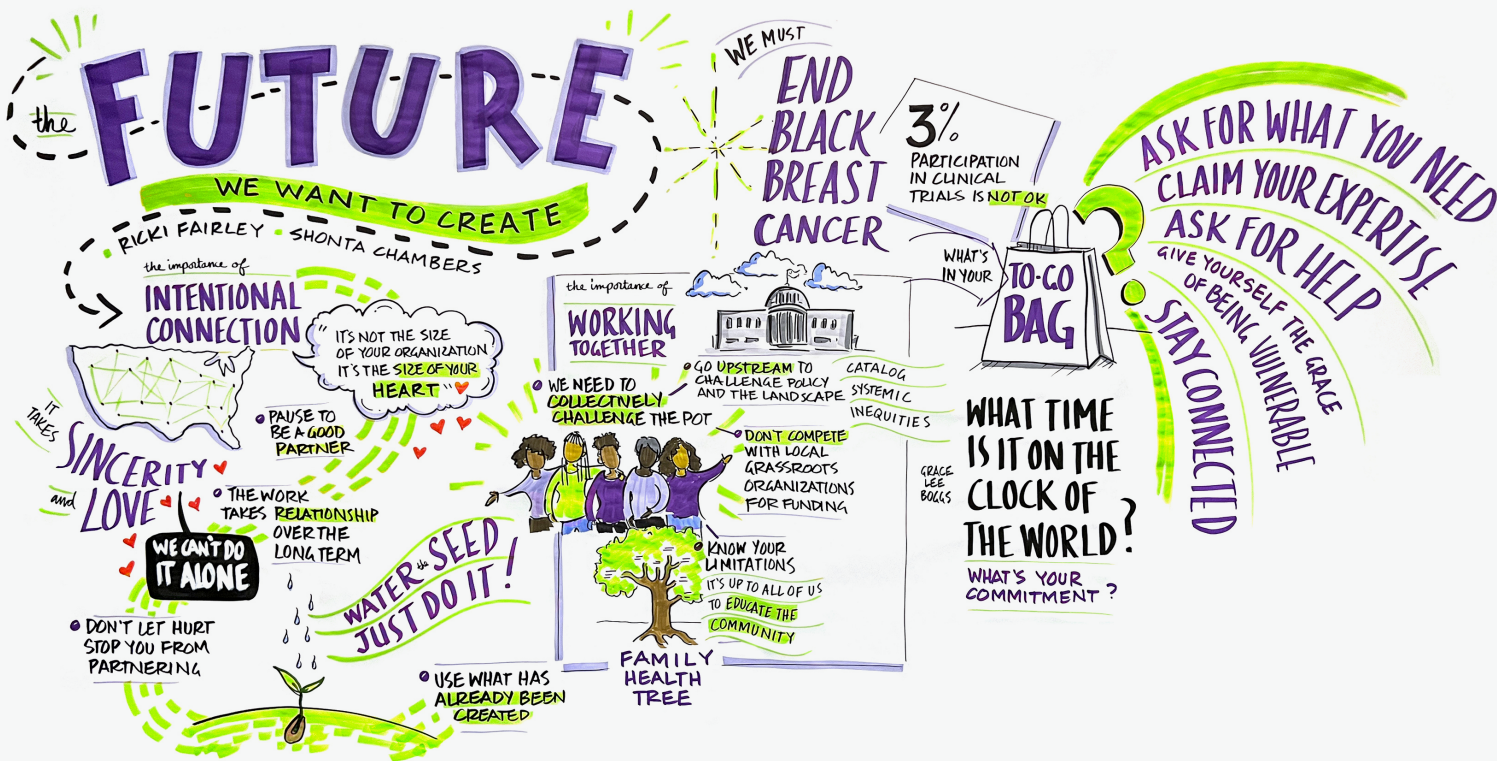


A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Gilead recognizes grassroots organizations and Black-led programming are best suited to meet community needs. Gilead provides grant support to organizations doing this important work and convenes grantees to provide the space to collaborate and learn from each other so synergies between programs can amplify collective impact.

Part of a health equity approach means evaluating our impact. Gilead has developed a grantee guide to evaluation, where grantees will report data that provide insights on the impact of their work. Through the reported numbers and their successes, learnings and new focus areas will be identified. This evaluation plan is key to ensuring our efforts have a meaningful impact and can adapt with evolving community needs.

In especially challenging circumstances coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, amid looming economic difficulties and an increasingly politicized health landscape, our grassroots grantees are already making impressive progress.





LOOKING AHEAD TOGETHER

The collective power of this approach is perhaps best summed up by the vision articulated in the powerful closing to our September convening, where grantees Ricki Fairley of TOUCH, The Breast Cancer Alliance, and Shonta Chambers of the Patient Advocate Foundation led a discussion among attendees to articulate a shared aspiration for an equitable future for Black women impacted by TNBC. This vision is grounded in a commitment to collaborate and work together:

- ▶ **Focusing on intentional connection** as critical to get us to a better future
- ▶ **Working together to pool resources** across local and national efforts
- ▶ **Identifying opportunities to maximize the collective voice**

Finally, a commitment to ask for what you need and claim what you know. Black women are the experts on the Black experience in TNBC. At Gilead, we are proud to be a partner to the organizations who are doing the work to create a healthier, more equitable and brighter future for women with TNBC.

