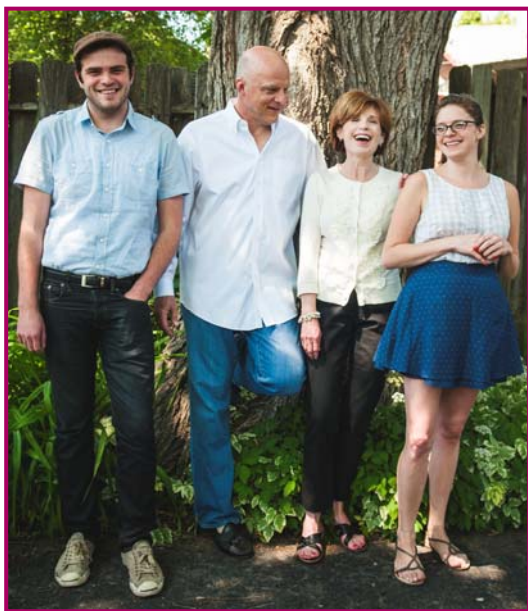




KOMEN'S COMMITMENT TO THOSE LIVING WITH METASTATIC BREAST CANCER

Komen's commitment to those living with metastatic breast cancer (MBC) begins, but does not end, with research. We have invested in every aspect of [metastasis research](#) from biology, prevention and early detection to treatment. In just the past seven years, over **\$90 million** in funding has been awarded to help learn how and why cancer spreads, discover which genes can suppress tumor growth, develop therapeutics to target metastasis and find ways to help the immune system fight metastasis. We also join in the efforts of leading researchers worldwide developing global guidelines for the care of patients living with MBC at the [ABC2](#) conference in Lisbon, Portugal this November.

At Susan G. Komen, we understand that a diagnosis of MBC along with treatment and survivorship is a complex experience and that finding reliable information can be challenging. Susan G. Komen has developed a wide array of [educational materials](#) to help MBC patients and their caregivers become informed advocates for themselves and their loved ones during this stressful time. Support can also be found on the Komen Living With Stage IV Cancer [message boards](#). We also fund travel scholarships for conferences organized by [Living Beyond Breast Cancer](#) (LBBC) and the [Metastatic Breast Cancer Network](#) (MBCN) where those living with MBC have the opportunity to receive the most recent information from a variety of experts as well as meet a powerful community of survivors with shared experiences.



As research advances, women are living longer with MBC; some live with their cancer for many years. These survivors often wonderfully defy our expectations of what it means to have metastatic breast cancer.

Kate Sommer was diagnosed with breast cancer 26 years ago. She was a young mother of two who just wanted to get through treatment and get on with her life. Despite a recurrence at five years and a diagnosis of METS after 23 years of survivorship, Kate has gotten on with her life. She became a schoolteacher, she raised her two children and celebrated her 35th wedding anniversary. She now looks forward to the marriage of her daughter and declares, **"I will not go gently into that good night."** Her resolve is as strong as ever.

"There are so many times when I should say no and I don't. I can't, when it's Komen. Komen is empowering and survivors need to be empowered."

Kate has also spent 20 years advocating for those with breast cancer. She was instrumental in bringing the Race for the Cure to Omaha, Nebraska where she was a founding member and eventual two-time president of the [Komen Nebraska Affiliate](#). **"I'm proud of the outreach and grants that we have been slowly been able to build up across the state of Nebraska,"** Kate says of the resources now serving women in 91 counties. Kate has also served on the 2010 Survivorship Task Force and the 2012 Metastatic Roundtable organized through Susan G. Komen headquarters in Dallas, TX. Click [here](#) for a blog from Kate and [here](#) to read more about Kate's story.

Kate isn't alone. There are an estimated 155,000 people living with MBC in the US alone, every one with a story and a voice. In honor of October 13th, **Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day**, we encourage you to embrace and acknowledge all those who are living with MBC.

For more inspiring stories of survival, please visit the [Chronicles of Hopes](#) and learn more about dedicated researcher Dr. Neal Spector, in the [Behind the Science](#) series at [Komen.org](#).