



## *Saint Agatha Foundation 2025 Recap*

### **Looking Back With Gratitude & Looking Ahead With Purpose**

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As the winter season settles in, we're reflecting with gratitude on an impactful year full of growth, new partnerships, and powerful moments of connection.

From expanding our support into more communities, to amplifying awareness during Breast Cancer Awareness Month and beyond, 2025 brought new opportunities to keep the mission of our founder, Laurie Mezzalingua, at the forefront: We remain committed to easing the burdens faced by breast cancer patients across Central New York.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Here's a look back at some of the most notable moments 2025, and we look forward to continuing our impactful work as we move into 2026!

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### **Growing Our Impact**



## Expanding Into Broome and Tompkins Counties

2025 resulted in meaningful growth and impact as we welcomed several new grantees into our partner network. We expanded support into the Southern Tier, including Broome and Tompkins Counties.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Saint Agatha Foundation has recently partnered with Guthrie Lourdes Hospital and UHS Foundation to move our services into Broome County.

Another key part of this expansion has come through two recent partnerships with local YMCAs: the Cortland County Family YMCA and the YMCA of Ithaca & Tompkins County. Both are launching a **"Laurie's Legacy" program**, a holistic, no-cost support initiative for breast cancer survivors and their families.

Our partnership with the YMCA of Ithaca & Tompkins County is especially exciting, as it helps extend our reach into Tompkins County, deepening our commitment to serve more patients with compassion, care, and dignity.

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## Doing Good Through Grassroots Efforts: The Hooter Crew

We're incredibly grateful to **The Hooter Crew** for their support. The Hooter Crew is a passionate group of Oswego-based women and breast cancer survivors committed to helping breast cancer patients in their local community.

In 2025, their donations went directly toward Saint Agatha Foundation, easing the burden for local breast cancer patients, helping cover costs for treatment, support services, and recovery resources through our foundation.

Their efforts are a shining example of what's possible when local generosity meets a shared mission. To date, they have raised more than \$10,000 for Saint Agatha Foundation.

Learn more about their fall breast cancer walk and contribution to Saint Agatha Foundation below.

[Read the Article](#)





## Supporting Community Events

We were proud to sponsor and participate in several impactful community events this year, including:

- Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walks in Syracuse & Utica
- CancerConnects' Putting for a Purpose Golf Tournament
- The Beyond the Ribbon Survivor Retreat with the Auburn YMCA



*Pictured: Jacqueline McKenna, granddaughter of Kathleen Mezzalingua, at the Making Strides Walk*

We look forward to sponsoring more events in 2026!

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## Building Awareness



### Bridge Street Interview

Our President, Kathy Mezzalingua, and Shamin Thakur, Executive Director of CancerConnects, went live on Bridge Street this October to raise awareness for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and share how our partnership is providing hope and assistance to breast cancer patients and their families.

[Watch the Interview](#)



*Pictured: National Philanthropic Trust Staff, Shamin Thakur, Executive Director of CancerConnects, CancerConnects Staff,*

## 2025 Partner Convening

In October, we brought together our grantees and partners for an in-person convening focused on collaboration, shared learning, and future planning, with an emphasis on building awareness around Saint Agatha Foundation.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed your insights to help shape the road ahead! Based on the positive feedback from our partners, we will be making this an annual event. We're already looking forward to our 2026 event. More to come!

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## *Your Support Makes a Difference*

To our grantee partners, donors, volunteers, and advocates, we thank you for another incredible year. Your support is making real, tangible differences in the lives of breast cancer patients and their families in our local communities. We can't wait to continue this journey with you in the year ahead.

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## Stay connected with us!

Follow Saint Agatha Foundation on social media to see how your support is making a difference for breast cancer patients across Central New York. From community events to grantee stories and local impact, we're sharing hope-filled news and meaningful highlights all year long.



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