

The Karen Weidinger Foundation (KWF)

WHO ARE WE?

The Karen Weidinger Foundation (KWF) was established in 2004 to honor our dear friend Karen who lost her battle with breast cancer at the age of 38. We are located in the St. Charles area, staffed entirely with volunteers and are focused on improving breast cancer awareness and early detection, as well as providing comfort and hope for families in St. Charles and surrounding communities whose lives have been affected by breast cancer.

Our most important objective, besides the patients themselves, is to keep the money we raise in the St. Charles area. These funds are being used to purchase “items of compassion”, such as post-mastectomy camisoles, wigs & head coverings and “quillos”, a unique pillow-quilt combination given to women during their chemotherapy treatments. Other programs have been funded, such as yoga classes and post-treatment dietary consultation. Most, if not all of these, are typically not covered by insurance, but can immediately and dramatically affect patients in a positive way. As our foundation continues to grow, so does our ability to reach out and assist more patients and more programs. Together, we really can make a difference.

OUR HISTORY:

2002: In June, Karen was diagnosed with breast cancer. She received treatment and was given a clean bill of health.

2003: In the fall, Karen was re-diagnosed with breast cancer.

2004: On March 29th, after a relentless struggle, Karen lost her battle with breast cancer. Her co-workers at Chase Mortgage held the “1st Annual Karen Weidinger Memorial Golf Tournament” and raised \$5000, which was donated to a local breast cancer foundation. The Karen Weidinger Foundation (KWF) was formed on June 29th, 2004.

2005: The 2nd Annual Karen Weidinger Memorial Golf Tournament was held. A donation of \$12,000 was made to SSM's H.W. Cancer Center in St. Charles.

2006: The 3rd Annual Karen Weidinger Memorial Golf Tournament, and the 1st Annual Karen for a Cause (K4AK) 5K were held. A donation of \$32,000 was made to SSM's H.W. Koenig Cancer Center.

2007: The KWF is granted 501(c)3 tax status, allowing donations to be fully tax-deductible to the extent of the law. The 4th Annual Karen Weidinger Memorial Golf Tournament and the 2nd Annual K4AK are held. A donation of \$38,000 was made to SSM's St. Joseph Foundation.

2008-2009: The 3rd & 4th Annual K4AK were held, and a donation of \$28,000 & \$30,000 were made to SSM's St. Joseph Foundation.

2010: The 5th Annual K4AK and the 1st Annual GOT PINK? RAFFLE PARTY were held, allowing a donation of \$40,000 was made to SSM's St. Joseph Foundation.

2011: The 6th Annual K4AK and the 2nd Annual GOT PINK? RAFFLE PARTY were held. A donation of \$40,000 was made to SSM's St. Joseph Foundation.

2012-2017: The Karen for a Cause continues (7th – 12th Annual) to be the primary fundraiser for the KWF, and \$216,000 is donated to the St. Joseph Foundation. The majority of these funds are from the K4AK, but the remaining funds have been donated by outside groups/families that have chosen to raise money through their own events and donate the funds to the KWF. We are extremely grateful for each and every one of these businesses, families and individuals for their support.

2018: The 13th Annual Karen for a Cause 5K was held on May 12th and a donation of \$32,000 was made.

2019: **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** The 14th Annual Karen for a Cause 5K is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th in Frontier Park in St. Charles, MO. *Hope to see you there!*

*To date, the Karen Weidinger Foundation has proudly donated over **\$500,000** and each and every dollar has remained in St. Charles County! This would not be possible without the generosity of so many in the community. We'd like to thank each and every one of you for your support!*



**To find out more information about the KWF and how you can make a difference in your community, contact: Brian Wies, KWF President, at 314.307.0237
www.karensfoundation.org**