



ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 1, 2024 - APRIL 31, 2025

LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

To our Pink Pearl Canada community,

Over the past year, I've had the immense honour of witnessing firsthand the courage, compassion, and community that define Pink Pearl Canada. Our mission—to support, connect, and empower self-identifying young women facing cancer across this country—continues to be guided by the inspiring stories of those we serve and the generosity of our donors, volunteers, partners, and ambassadors.

This year was marked by growth, innovation, and deepened impact:

- We delivered multiple retreats and wellness experiences in southern Ontario that offered safe, restorative spaces for connection, reflection, and shared understanding.
- Our support packages and one-on-one counselling support were distributed throughout the year, offering practical tools and emotional resources to help young women navigate the difficult moments of diagnosis and treatment with confidence and dignity.

Over the past year, we were fortunate to be included as the charity of choice in the Spotlight Gala put on by the team at King Events. We hosted our annual golf tournament and walk, and also launched our first Giving Tuesday Virtual Travel Auction, which was a great success.

These events not only raised crucial funds but also amplified the voices of women whose lived experiences continue to shape our work. We are grateful to every sponsor, donor, and volunteer whose belief in our mission transforms words into action. None of this impact would be possible without the vibrant community that rallies behind our mission. From the support shown online to the energy at every event, your involvement has helped us build an inclusive network of care that transcends geography, diagnosis, and circumstance.

As we build on this year's achievements, our focus remains clear: to evolve and expand the ways we support young women facing cancer—through tailored programming, strengthened partnerships, and deeper community engagement. We are committed to innovation in care, intentional peer connection, and removing barriers so that no woman feels she must walk her cancer journey alone.

Thank you for walking beside us, for sharing in the mission, and for believing that every young woman deserves support, community, and the opportunity to thrive beyond a diagnosis.

With gratitude,
Elise Gasbarrino
Executive Director, Pink Pearl Canada

OUR MISSION

Pink Pearl Canada is a community-oriented charitable organization that provides support, facilitates connections and empowers self-identifying young women who are courageously overcoming the social and emotional challenges of being diagnosed with cancer across Canada.



OUR STORY & CAUSE

Pink Pearl Canada was conceived by ovarian cancer survivor Elise Gasbarrino. While undergoing cancer treatment at 21 years old, Elise felt certain elements were missing from her experience—a way to connect with women her age facing the same issues, and a means for them to conquer their issues together. Her vision transformed into Pink Pearl Canada.

Pink Pearl Canada is a registered charitable organization that provides support, facilitates connections and empowers self-identifying young women who are courageously overcoming the social and emotional challenges of being diagnosed with cancer across Canada. We have successfully raised more than \$700,000 to date through reputable initiatives, such as Black & White with a Touch of Pink, our annual fundraising event, and Together 5k, our virtual fun run and fundraising initiative. Funds raised provide effective and fully-funded programming for young women facing cancer of any type.

OUR VALUES

Peer support enables us to connect with other young women to face the mental and emotional challenges of cancer together.

We can use knowledge to empower decision-making throughout the cancer experience.

Take the time for reflection and self-care.

Everyone has a story, and cancer is only one chapter.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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OUR PROGRAMS

Our programs are developed using experience-based design, taking into consideration the needs of self-identifying young women between 18-40 years, and building effective programming to fulfill those needs, at no cost to the participants.

Retreats encourage program participants to connect, self-reflect, and share experiences in a safe and peer-supported environment

One-on-One offers individual counselling sessions for young women to feel supported while navigating a cancer diagnosis

Pink Pearl Support Packages contain helpful resources, guided questions, and a symbolic bracelet of hope for young women newly diagnosed with cancer in participating hospitals and wellness centres across Canada

Peer Support Training and Program provides sessions of connection and facilitation that are designed to learn what peer support is and how it helps; setting effective boundaries, and how to share your own story. The program is designed for mentors to support those who wish to connect with a peer while navigating a cancer diagnosis

Post-Secondary Scholarship awards funds to a young woman with cancer who is involved in her community and attending a post-secondary institution

Legacy Program provides an ever-evolving list of resources, tools and experiences to young women to begin exploring their own journey with end of life planning

Ambassador Program invites our participants to share our work within their community

Private Facebook Group provides an online community of support for young women with cancer to share and learn together

SUPPORT
YOUNG
WOMEN

PARTICIPANT PERSPECTIVES



"Me and my daughter attending the Nutcracker performance. What a lovely treat, it was so much fun. Spending quality time with her and seeing her face light up was lovely. I couldn't have done this last Christmas when I was mid-treatment so it was really special. Thank you again."

-Kate, Program Participant

We were again the receiptent complimentary tickets to The "Share The Magic" performance of "The Nutcracker" generously donated by The Slight Family Foundation, where young women who attend our programs are invited to bring a guest to share in the magic of the holiday season.



"Being part of the Pink Pearl community has served to remind me that I am not alone in this journey. Through the community, I have been able to reach out to other young women who understand the issues of having cancer at this age, and all the struggles that come along with it. That sense of community has given me strength and inspiration as I work towards both personal recovery and professional growth."

Program Participant



"I loved every bit of the class. I learned a lot of new techniques that I never knew before, and feel so confident after attending Sephora's Brave Beauty Class with Pink Pearl."

- 2024 Class participant

SEPHORA

This year, Sephora partnered with Pink Pearl Canada through its Classes for Confidence program, offering Brave Beauty classes designed to uplift and empower self-identifying young women facing cancer. With two virtual sessions and multiple in-person classes, teams created supportive environments where participants reconnected with their sense of self during an incredibly challenging time.

Sephora's generous donation helped bring several of our core programs to life this year.

2024 - 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECEIPT



Congratulations to Wendy, our
Scholarship recipient this year!

Wendy is attending Memorial
University of Newfoundland pursuing
a Masters of Educational Leadership.
Over the years, she has endlessly
volunteered, been there for her family,
has gone through her own cancer
experience and believes the journey
of life is more about appreciating the
importance of each moment.

Through her Masters, she would love to create and teach in an effective
environment where everyone; students, teachers, administrators, and
principals contribute to the learning process. Wendy believes, just as we
do, that all students can learn when given a positive learning environment
that welcomes exploration and enhances student confidence.

Thank you to the Beacham family for your generous donation in
continually supporting our scholarship, we greatly appreciate it!

FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

We have successfully raised more than \$700,000 to date to directly fund our support programs for young women facing cancer through our key annual fundraising initiatives:

Black and White with a Touch of Pink: This year, our B&W took on a new light with King Events hosting the event for us, raising \$17,000 to support young women facing cancer. Courtney's vision to "spotlight" unique businesses in the event industry transformed into an evening where we gathered to celebrate all that we do.

PAR for Pink Pearl: Thank you to the 40+ golfers, sponsors and supporters who joined us to tee off and make a difference for young women facing cancer.

Together5k: This past August, participants from across Ontario joined us for Together5k, our virtual walk for good, clocking endless miles in support of young women facing cancer, and collectively raising \$3,210!



THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS!

Thank you to our long-time supporters Sephora Canada, Harness the Hope, Anchor Niagara, Delta Bingo St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, The Beacham Family for supporting our work. We wanted to extend our thanks to those who hosted birthday fundraisers for us, including Ella, who created a fundraiser to support young women facing cancer in honour of Michelle Fazzari, a dear friend of Ella's and her family. Thank you to the MAC Team for your support.

KEY LEARNINGS

We continually work to supporting young women facing cancer by focusing on the strengths and expertise of our dedicated team and building meaningful partnerships, we continue to evolve our organization. The following key learnings and highlights reflect our continued growth:

Our Programs

This year, we hosted two Retreats, providing young women facing cancer with safe, supportive spaces to connect, heal, and feel heard. In partnership with Sephora Canada, we were also proud to once again welcome young women from across the country to Brave Beauty Classes, creating opportunities for participants to feel beautiful inside and out.

Demand for our One-on-One Program continued to grow, with the program reaching capacity this year. We distributed over 480 support packages to women newly diagnosed with cancer through participating hospitals and wellness centres across Canada and awarded a \$1,000 post-secondary scholarship to support a young woman pursuing her education.

Our Peer Support Program continued to flourish with our Peer Support Training, strengthening our network of trained volunteers and creating more opportunities for connection and community.

Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on expanding our One-on-One counselling program and developing meaningful, accessible experiences that support young women throughout their cancer journeys. Our goal remains to ensure that no young woman has to navigate the words “you have cancer” alone.

Our Volunteers & Team

Guided by our dedicated Board of Directors and strengthened by the generosity of our volunteers, community members, and supporters, we remain committed to delivering programs that are meaningful, responsive, and impactful. Our part-time Executive Director, Programs and Communications Manager, and contracted Social Workers work collaboratively to ensure the organization operates effectively while continuing to deliver programs that respond to the evolving needs of our community. Staying closely connected to our participants is central to this work. By listening to their experiences, priorities, and interests, we gain valuable insight that allows us to continually refine our programs and create opportunities that genuinely reflect and support their journeys.

Our Fundraising

Pink Pearl Canada’s revenue is generated through a diverse range of fundraising initiatives, including third-party events, individual and community donations, corporate support, and our annual fundraising campaigns. As a national organization committed to providing our programs at no cost to young women facing cancer, we remain focused on responsible financial stewardship and keeping operational expenses as low as possible. This approach allows us to direct our resources where they matter most: toward creating accessible, meaningful, and supportive programs for young women across Canada.