ALAMO ADVOCATE PROGRAM : 2026

At the ***San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium***

LIVES WITH PURPOSE :

Meet our 2026 Advocate Mentors & Scholars

Every year the Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation opens its doors to breast cancer advocates from around the world, offering scholarships that bring them to the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium and into the Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation's Alamo Advocate Program. It's a competitive process, as applicants must meet specific scientific criteria, but those who are chosen, the ***Advocate Scholars***, step into something inspiring: helpful Advocate Chats, Educational Programs, and "Hot Topics" Mentor Sessions designed specifically for advocates.

What makes these ***Advocates*** so valuable is their lived experiences. As patients who've walked through the healthcare system themselves, paired with seasoned ***Advocate Mentors***, they carry no hidden agendas, just a clear commitment to seeing the best science move forward. They bring an essential perspective to the conversation around breast cancer research and treatment. They show up not only for themselves, but for every person counting on the next breakthrough to end breast cancer.

By engaging in SABCS and the Alamo Advocate educational programming, ***Advocate Mentors and Scholars*** elevate the patient voice in scientific dialogue, ensuring that breast cancer research remains grounded in the needs and realities of those it ultimately serves. The following pages proudly present this year's ***10 Advocate Mentors, 21 International*** and ***50 US Advocate Scholars***.

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ALAMO BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION
ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE MENTORS : 2026



Carole L. Baas



Vernal L. Branch



Julia Maues



Marylinn C. Minor



Amy E. Parliman



Nancy L. Poorvu



Bob Riter



Valencia Robinson



Barbara Segarra-Vazquez



Stacey Tinianov

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ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLARS : 2026



Michelle Anderson-Benjamin



Amy Arini



Nia Bailey



Sara M. Bojanic



Jackie Branch



Adrienne Brown



Sarah A. Brown



Ronda Brunson



Sarah Buck



Maggie Bush



Daniele Castelo Branco



Susan Chaudoir



Stephanie Christodoulidou



Grace Clark



Nekia Clark



Fabíola L. Constâncio

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Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLARS : 2026



Cynthia Cosme Cravo



Erin Dalder-Alpher



Kristen Elsby



Anna Farris



Judith (Judy) A. Fitzgerald



Rachel M. Ford



Christine Fuselier



Sheila M. Godreau



Judy Greiman



Diane M. Heditsian



Amy Hickman



Claire Houpt



Naomi John



Cynthia (Cyndi) Johnson



T'Ana Johnson



Heather Jose

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Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLARS : 2026



Esra Kadioglu



Bengi Kepkep



Punita Khanna



Allison Ko



Catherine Koch



Brittany R. Lee



Jonise S. Louis



Wanda Lucas



Frances Ira R. Malinis



Ana Mazanishvili



Vicki McGrath



Jade Moran



Vina Morris



Rosa Olmos



Ethel A. Olomu



Valarie Padgett

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Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLARS : 2026



Jane P. Perlmutter



Donna B. Pinto



Sylvia Powers



Tonsa Price-Edwards



Charlotte Safrit



Casey Salvati



Erica Suanders



Ingrid Schroeder Levy



Karen Scott



Lashelle Scott



Lori J. Seawel



Nancie B. Steinberg



Sanna Teinsuu-Piirainen



Valarie Traynham



Kaitlyn E. Turner



Lillian Walker Shelton

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Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLARS : 2026



Charla Weiss



Kyla J. Wenger



Carla Whitbread



Christina Wilhelm



Rayna Wong



Donjeta Zeqa

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ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE MENTOR : 2026



Carole L. Baas

NCI Physical Sciences–Oncology Network (PS-ON)

carole.baas@gmail.com

Carole Baas, PhD, a two-time breast cancer survivor, is the National Advocate for the NCI Physical Sciences in Oncology Network and serves on the Clinical Imaging and Patient Advocate Steering Committees for the NCI National Clinical Trials Network and the Breast Cancer and Experimental Imaging Sciences Committees at ECOG-ACRIN. She is a member of the Baylor Research Institute IRB. Carole is also an advocate for Susan G. Komen, American Cancer Society, and Young Survival Coalition; faculty at ASCO/AACR Methods in Clinical Cancer Research Workshop; and advisor to the CDMRP–funded Convergent Science Virtual Cancer Center. She holds a PhD in Bioengineering from Texas A&M University.

Texas, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE MENTOR : 2026



Vernal L. Branch

UNC Chapel Hill Lineberger Cancer Center, Breast SPORE

verbra@msn.com

Vernal Branch is a 32 year breast cancer survivor and activist. I have been fortunate enough to work with several institutions throughout the United States on research and clinical trials. I am Vice Chair for the NCI Alliance Clinical Trials Patient Advocate group. My focus at the Alliance is Prevention and Health Disparities. I have also been a member of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, been asked to speak at a Congressional meeting, and at the White House when the Affordable Care Act was passed. Outside of my cancer focus, I have been married to my best friend for 55 years, and we have 3 adult sons, who have given us seven grandchildren.

North Carolina, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE MENTOR : 2026



Julia Maues

GRASP

julia@graspcancer.org

Julia Maués has been living with metastatic breast cancer since 2013, when she was diagnosed while pregnant. She is a past Alamo scholar and returning Alamo mentor, and has served on the SABCS conference-wide planning committee. Julia co-founded GRASP, which brings patients and researchers together to shape cancer research, and co-leads the Patient-Centered Dosing Initiative, focused on doses that better fit patients' lives. She is part of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology and the MBC Alliance. A Brazilian living in Washington, DC, she works with researchers and advocates worldwide, recently training Brazilian advocates, and believes research is better with diverse patient voices.

Washington DC, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE MENTOR : 2026



Marylinn C. Minor

National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC)

mcminoradvocacy@gmail.com

Marylinn Minor is a 12-yr breast cancer survivor and passionate advocate committed to improving outcomes for patients/survivors, advancing research to end breast cancer. She is Vice President of the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) Board and State Field Coordinator for the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation (VBCF), leading efforts to advance legislation and secure key research funding. A graduate and mentor of NBCC's Project LEAD® Institute, she serves as a Consumer and Programmatic Reviewer for the Department of Defense's CDMRP, bringing the patient voice to research priorities. She also serves in leadership and advisory roles with NBCC, VBCF, and Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Virginia, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE MENTOR : 2026



Amy E. Parliman

LBCA

amy4lobular@gmail.com

Amy lives with Stage IV Lobular Metastatic Breast Cancer. She shares her story through advocacy. She loves to help people connect with resources and find a voice. She is a graduate of Project Lead, an Alamo Scholar, and has worked in Healthcare for the last 25 years. When she is not doing advocacy, she enjoys time with her husband Chris at live sporting events and concerts. “You can’t give your life more moments, so give your moments more life”.

New York, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE MENTOR : 2026



Nancy L. Poorvu

Dana Farber Cancer Institute

nlp@poorvu.com

Nancy Poorvu is a retired social worker and professor, PhD, MSW. When diagnosed with BC in 2002, and MBC in 2012, she became an active BC cancer advocate. She joined DFCI to create a peer mentor program, SoulMates. A rigorous in-person, mentoring program for women who are newly diagnosed with BC, matching them with others who are at least 3 years out from treatment. She has been a member of the MGH/DFCI BC Advocate Group since May 2014. She is a 2016 graduate of NBCC's Project LEAD and the 2023 update. She has served as a DoD BCRF reviewer yearly since 2020. She joined the MBCA as a Patient Advocate in 2020. She is a 2026 member of the LBBC Hear My Voice cohort.

Massachusetts, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE MENTOR : 2026



Bob Riter

Advocates for Collaborative Education

bobriter@gmail.com

Bob Riter became active as an advocate shortly after his initial diagnosis with breast cancer in 1996. For many years, he served as the executive director of the Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes, a cancer support organization in Ithaca, NY. He especially enjoys working with researchers-in-training in the basic sciences at Cornell University. Bob has been involved with a variety of cancer advocacy organizations including the NCI Council of Research Advocates, the Alamo Advocate Program, Advocates for Collaborative Education, and Komen Advocates in Science. In addition to breast cancer, Bob had also been diagnosed with prostate cancer and was found to have a CHEK2 mutation.

New York, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE MENTOR : 2026



Valencia Robinson

NBCC

robinsonvalencia01@gmail.com

Valencia Robinson, EdS is a nationally recognized breast cancer patient advocate, educator, wellness leader, yoga instructor, and survivor whose life's work is rooted in service, resilience, and a commitment to improving the lives of patients, caregivers, and communities. A 20-year triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) survivor, Valencia uses her lived experience to educate others, influence cancer policy and research, and advocate for greater equity in cancer care.

Florida, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE MENTOR : 2026



Barbara Segarra-Vazquez

University of Puerto Rico

barbara.segarra@upr.edu

Is a faculty member at the University of Puerto Rico. A two-time breast cancer survivor, she is committed to research advocacy, focusing on increasing the participation of underserved populations in clinical trials. She is the co-chair of the SWOG Cancer Research Network Patient Advocates Committee. She serves on the External Advisory Panel for the Participant Engagement and Cancer Genome Sequencing Network. She was a member of Latino Researchers Against Cancer Task Force. She is the founder/co-lead of the Latino Cancer Patient Advocate Training Program, an initiative dedicated to empowering Latino communities through education, representation, and advocacy in cancer research.

Puerto Rico

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE MENTOR : 2026



Stacey Tinianov

Advocates for Collaborative Education

stacey.tinianov@gmail.com

Stacey Tinianov is a 13-year early-stage breast cancer survivor and executive director of Advocates for Collaborative Education. Stacey is dedicated to fostering inclusive, patient-centered approaches across research, policy, and care delivery and sits as a patient advocate on the American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO's) Evidenced Based Medicine committee and Breast Cancer Guideline Advisory Group. She is a research advocate for Komen's Advocates in Science (AIS) and UCSF's Breast Science Advocacy Core (BSAC); a 2017 Project LEAD graduate, 2017 Alamo Advocate Scholar, and 2025 Alamo Mentor. She holds a Master of Public Health from The Milken Institute School of Public Health.

California, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Michelle Anderson-Benjamin

The Fearless Warrior Project, LLC

fearlesswarrior36@gmail.com

Michelle Anderson-Benjamin, MHA, known as The Fearless Warrior, is a mother of two, Stage IV breast cancer thriver, and doctoral student in public health. She founded the Fearless Warrior Organization and Fearless Legacy to create spaces for healing, advocacy, and honest conversations about illness and grief. A certified mental health coach and instructor, grief coach, and death doula, Michelle also serves as a patient advocate, community scientist, and consumer reviewer for the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program. Drawing on her lived experience, she champions people living with metastatic cancer and reminds her community that they are more than a diagnosis.

New York, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Amy Arini

Living Beyond Breast Cancer

Diagnosed with de novo metastatic breast cancer in 2019, Amy has spent the past 7 years turning her experience into a mission of advocacy, awareness, and hope. As a METAvivor Ambassador and leadership volunteer through Living Beyond Breast Cancer's 2026 Hear My Voice advocacy program, she works to amplify the voices of people living with MBC and raise critical funding for research. Amy has attended Stage4Stampede and serves as a METAvivor patient advocate grant reviewer. She also participates in Genentech's Patient Co-Creation Council and Foundation Patient Council. Her advocacy is driven by one goal: to help ensure that MBC patients are seen, heard, supported, and given more time to live.

Michigan, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Nia Bailey

Byrd Cancer Education and Advocacy Foundation

nia@byrdcancerfoundation.org

Dr. Nia Imani Bailey, DPA, M.A.Ed., RT(T), is a proud West Philadelphia native, Radiation Therapist, advocate, storyteller, and community leader. With nearly 11 years in cancer care, she is passionate about advancing healthcare equity, education, and access. She earned her Doctorate in Public Administration from West Chester University, with research focused on breast cancer outcomes and policy reform. Dr. Bailey is President of the Byrd Cancer Education & Advocacy Foundation and serves as Co-Chair of the Health Subcommittee of Pennsylvania's Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs. She is also an author and filmmaker whose work centers on cancer awareness and advocacy.

Pennsylvania, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Sara M. Bojanic

Europa Donna Serbia – The Serbian Breast Cancer Forum

sarasan90@gmail.com

Sara Bojanić is a breast cancer advocate from Serbia and Serbia's National Delegate to Europa Donna – The European Breast Cancer Coalition. With an academic background in communications and a Master of Public Health, her work focuses on health literacy and patient-centered communication. She is the creator of OncoGuide: Breast Cancer Serbia (www.rak-dojke.com), a bi-lingual digital platform that helps women navigate breast cancer, promotes prevention and patient rights, and combats health misinformation through reliable, evidence-based content.

Serbia

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Jackie Branch

Susan G. Komen

bewellbranch@gmail.com

Jackie Branch is a bilingual (English/Spanish) breast cancer survivor, patient and cancer research advocate, and community health educator committed to advancing health equity for Latine and underserved communities. She is pursuing her Master of Public Health at Oregon Health & Science University. A 2026 Alamo Advocate Program Scholar, Jackie brings experience in public service, advocacy, mediation, health education, and community work. She is passionate about bringing patient and community voices into cancer research and using yoga, mindfulness, and trauma-informed practices to support well-being and survivorship.

Oregon, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Adrienne Brown

My Style Matters

brownhil@comcast.net

Adrienne Brown is a breast cancer survivor based in Atlanta. Her 2019 diagnosis taught her that movement is medicine, which led her to become a Cancer Exercise Specialist and, more recently, a Certified Health & Wellness Coach, helping survivors build strength and confidence through every phase of treatment and recovery. She volunteers with My Style Matters, Circle of Friends, and Network of Hope, bringing exercise presentations to under-resourced communities. A Distinguished Toastmaster and Thought Leader, Adrienne is writing Move Anyway: A Survivor's Guide to Exercise When Life Won't Pause. Adrienne is married with two adult children. Adrienne enjoys tennis, Pilates, and meditation.

Georgia, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Sarah A. Brown

American Cancer Society

sarah_a_brown@yahoo.com

I was diagnosed with triple negative metastatic breast cancer in 2023 and have received exceptional care at Fred Hutch Cancer Center. Historically, people with this diagnosis lived only 6 months to 2 years, but I'm here today because of an immunotherapy discovered by cancer researchers. Before diagnosis, I taught online biology for American Military University and loved making complex ideas easy to understand. Now, I use those skills as a volunteer with American Cancer Society through Making Strides and ACS CAN, and I'm a 2025 Living Beyond Breast Cancer "Hear My Voice" alumni.

Washington, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Ronda Brunson

Tata Tuesdays, #breastfriendsunite

leadher@tatatuesdays.com

Ronda Brunson is a breast cancer survivor, patient advocate, and LeadHER of Tata Tuesdays, an organization dedicated to breast cancer education, advocacy, and sisterhood. Diagnosed at age 40, she underwent a double mastectomy in 2023 and transformed her experience into a mission to help women understand their diagnosis, ask informed questions, and advocate for themselves.

Her work centers on Black women and communities underserved or underrepresented in breast cancer education and care. Through community outreach and "Breastfriend" support, Ronda creates spaces where women can learn, share honestly, and navigate breast cancer together.

Maryland, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Sarah Buck

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

sarah.buck1977@gmail.com

Sarah Buck is a breast cancer survivor, advocate and founder of *Breast Cancer Banter*, sharing honest, evidence-informed conversations about breast cancer, treatment and life beyond diagnosis. Diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer in her early 40s, despite having no symptoms or family history, Sarah is passionate about raising awareness, challenging misconceptions and highlighting the realities of survivorship. As a consumer representative across several organisations, she brings lived experience to research, healthcare and advocacy. Through peer support and education, she is committed to amplifying patient voices and helping others feel less alone.

Australia

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Maggie Bush

National Breast Cancer Coalition

mbush@stopbreastcancer.org

Maggie Bush serves as the field director for the National Breast Cancer Coalition, working with hundreds of advocates to advance breast cancer policy. She previously directed nationwide voter engagement partnerships and programs for the League of Women Voters, resulting in millions of voters mobilized in major election years. With more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit programmatic and strategic communications work, Bush has also worked and consulted for a wide range of national advocacy organizations, elected officials, and foundations on issues including voting rights and voter engagement, environmental justice, healthcare access, and women's rights.

Washington DC, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Daniele Castelo Branco

Associação Nossa Casa

danielecbpires@yahoo.com.br

Daniele Castelo Branco is an occupational therapist with specializations in Oncology, Gerontology, and Health Literacy and Empowerment. She is Manager and Vice President of Associação Nossa Casa, in Brazil, and volunteer Coordinator of Rede MAMA – Ceará Breast Cancer Network. Her work focuses on patient advocacy, patient navigation, and improving access to timely and equitable cancer care. She is a member of FEMAMA's Board of Directors and President-elect of FEMAMA for the 2028–2029 term. Daniele advocates for strengthening the patient voice and advancing public health policies that reduce barriers to cancer diagnosis and treatment in Brazil.

Brazil

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Susan Chaudoir

Pink Warrior House Foundation

sbc.cancercare@gmail.com

Susan is an advanced breast cancer survivor and research advocate, driven by the question, “What happens when the life you planned isn’t the life you get?” Her doctoral training in social-science and medical research fuels her curiosity about cancer biology, molecular research, and the human experience behind clinical trial data. She brings that same curiosity to her own care, advocating fiercely for quality of life as an essential outcome of cancer treatment. She credits yoga and birding in saving her life—twice—prioritizes watching sunsets, climbing summits, sailing oceans, planting gardens, baking, and reading her own test results to decide on next steps with her beautiful oncologist.

New Mexico, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Stephanie Christodoulidou

Europa Donna Cyprus

stephanie@europadonna.com.cy

Dr Stephanie Christodoulidou studied Psychology at the University of Reading and holds an MSc in Theoretical Psychoanalytic Studies from University College London (UCL) and a Doctorate in Applied Counselling Psychology and Psychotherapy. She is Head of Psychosocial Services at Europa Donna Cyprus, supporting people affected by breast and gynaecological cancers and their families. She is actively involved in research and has represented Cyprus at international conferences. She also teaches at the University of Cyprus and is a Communication Skills Tutor at the University of Nicosia Medical School.

Cyprus

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Grace Clark

Covering My Sisters INC

cmsisters433@gmail.com

Grace Clark was diagnosed with breast cancer at age thirty-nine. She was a member of the Witness Project of Connecticut (2000), a support group that validated her experiences and guided her on her healing journey. She vowed to give back to the breast cancer community and to create another breast cancer support group. Years later (2017), Covering My Sisters, Inc. was created to continue support, education, and advocacy. Grace also advocates with the Susan G. Komen public policy. Grace is a published author of "From One Survivor to Another, a Breast Cancer Survival Toolkit and Workbook" and a children's book, "Mommy, where is your hair?" She is the proud mother of two and grandmother of four.

New Jersey, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Nekia Clark

Ellie Fund

nekia@elliefund.org

Nekia Clark is Director of Community Engagement & Advocacy at the Ellie Fund, where she leads initiatives that expand access to essential support for people impacted by breast cancer. A breast cancer survivor and experienced nonprofit leader, Nekia brings both lived and professional experience to her work. She also serves as Co-Chair of the Boston Breast Cancer Equity Coalition, advancing health equity through community partnerships, patient advocacy, and education. A passionate speaker and advocate, Nekia is committed to ensuring every patient feels supported, informed, and connected throughout their cancer journey.

Massachusetts, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Fabíola L. Constâncio

Instituto Esporte e Saúde Fabíola Consttancio

fabiolaconsttancio@gmail.com

Fabíola Constâncio is a business administrator, entrepreneur, sports manager, speaker, and final-semester Physical Education student focused on working with women affected by cancer. A breast cancer survivor who faced the disease in 2019 and 2023, she is a former high-performance beach volleyball player with a 12-year career, representing Brazil and the Brazilian Air Force and winning the South American Championship. She founded the Instituto Esporte e Saúde Fabíola Consttancio (IESFC), a nonprofit focused on cancer, exercise and patient support. She is a Patient Advocate in Clinical Research and Exercise Oncology and a member of the International Society of Exercise Oncology (ISEO).

Brazil

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Cynthia Cosme Cravo

Europa Donna Ireland

cosmecravo@gmail.com

Cynthia Cosme Cravo is a breast cancer patient advocate working across Irish and European advocacy, research and patient representation. Diagnosed with primary breast cancer in 2019 and metastatic breast cancer in 2022, she is the Europa Donna Ireland representative and co-founder of UCAN Ireland. She is a EUPATI Patient Expert with a background in law and privacy. Her advocacy focuses on access to care, equity and meaningful patient involvement, with particular attention to the needs of migrant and underserved communities.

Ireland

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Erin Dalder-Alpher

Living Beyond Breast Cancer

ealpher@gmail.com

Erin Dalder-Alpher was diagnosed with metastatic invasive lobular carcinoma in July 2025, after being in remission for 5 years. With over 20 years of professional experience performing educational content strategy for scientific and medical meetings, she offers extensive knowledge in volunteer-based initiatives. Since her metastatic diagnosis she has become active in various breast cancer groups, including advocating with METAvivor and serving as a Hear My Voice Metastatic Advocate with Living Beyond Breast Cancer.

Maryland, United States

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Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Kristen Elsby

Lobular Breast Cancer Alliance

kristen.elsby@gmail.com

Originally from New Zealand and now based in Australia, Kristen Elsby is a breast cancer patient advocate focused on invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC). Diagnosed with stage 3 ILC in 2018 in the US, her experience across US and Australian healthcare systems shapes her interest in disparities, equity and access in breast cancer care. Kristen serves on the Lobular Breast Cancer Alliance Patient Advocate Advisory Board, co-administers a 12,000-member global, online lobular patient community, brings patient priorities to Australian ILC research, serves as a consumer reviewer of breast cancer research, and translates breast cancer science into accessible information for the patient communities.

Australia

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Anna Farris

Metastasierter Brustkrebs Schweiz

anna@mbks.ch

Anna Farris, 38, is a metastatic breast cancer patient and research advocate living in Switzerland. Diagnosed with metastatic triple-negative breast cancer 4.5 years ago, she turned her experience into a commitment to make life with MBC less isolating and more visible. She co-founded Metastasierter Brustkrebs Schweiz (MBKS) and initiated "I am the one who lives," a national campaign featuring 12 women with MBC. Anna provides peer support, is a member of SwissCAPA and contributes to national and international advisory panels. Her work brings lived experience into research, healthcare and access discussions, ensuring patients are not only heard, but meaningfully involved.

Switzerland

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Judith (Judy) A. Fitzgerald

Sisters4Prevention

Sisters4Prevention@yahoo.com

A lifelong educator, breast cancer survivor, patient research advocate, and champion for breast cancer prevention, I transformed my 2009 diagnosis into a mission to empower patients through evidence-based education and research engagement. For more than 17 years, I have supported breast cancer vaccine research at Cleveland Clinic and served as a patient advocate in clinical research. I am a Komen Advocate in Science, Project LEAD and AACR Scientist–Survivor graduate, and contribute to research and policy initiatives involving NCI, FDA, Friends of Cancer Research, and others. I serve as Education Lead for ACE and advocate for patient-centered cancer prevention, research, and care.

Florida, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Rachel M. Ford

Sights and Insights

kaipuravida@gmail.com

Rachel Ford is an Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC) survivor, patient advocate, and therapeutic art facilitator whose advocacy focuses on IBC, AYA cancer, and survivorship. Through Sites & Insights, she leads cancer survivors through mindful therapeutic art experiences that support connection, self-expression, and navigating life after cancer. She is trained in the SAI Method of Therapeutic Art and has facilitated retreats and workshops with Sites & Insights, Image Reborn Foundation, and The Breasties. Rachel has also worked with The IBC Network Foundation and participated in patient advocacy initiatives with MD Anderson. She is passionate about patient-centered and informed integrative care.

Texas, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Christine Fuselier

NBCC

drchristinefuselier@gmail.com

Dr. Christine Fuselier is a business leader, leadership engineer, emotional intelligence consultant, author, and academic leader with more than 30 years of corporate experience and 15 years in higher education. She is the Culture and Values Division Director at HCA Healthcare and owner of The Leadership Doctor LLC. Christine specializes in leadership development, emotional intelligence, organizational re-engineering, and healthcare equity. She created GPS-EI and "Stack Your Deck" card games and holds five academic degrees, including a doctorate in organizational leadership.

Virginia, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Sheila M. Godreau

Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance

thembcthriver@gmail.com

Sheila Godreau has been living with metastatic breast cancer (MBC) for 11 years. She was born and raised in Puerto Rico and currently lives in Florida. She is married and is the proud mom of two young adults. Her hobbies are traveling, singing, dancing, and watching soccer games. Her 30-year corporate career roles include business consulting, project management, and program management. She volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and is an MBC patient advocate volunteering with Project Life, METAvivor, MBC Alliance, and Living Beyond Breast Cancer. She is also a consumer reviewer for the US Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program.

Florida, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Judy Greiman

Metavivor

judy.greiman@gmail.com

Judy spent decades advocating for research and student aid funding, and recently retired from leadership at a major research university. She continues to advise higher education leaders and serves on several nonprofit boards. Since her de novo MBC diagnosis in June 2023, Judy has focused her advocacy on breast cancer legislation, increasing research funding, and expanding integrative health options for people living with cancer. She is affiliated with multiple advocacy organizations including LBBC, NBCC, Komen, and FORCE. Judy holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and DePaul University College of Law. She is committed to living a big and joyful life.

New York, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Diane M. Heditsian

University of California
San Francisco Breast Science Advocacy Core
diane@declarity.com

Diane's twenty-four years of advocacy work is informed by her four breast cancer diagnoses and includes research, patient and policy advocacy. It spans the globe as Diane was awarded a Fulbright Specialist designation in Cancer Advocacy enabling her to help countries around the world develop cancer advocacy initiatives. She brings to her advocacy work a background in communications as founder/CEO of deClarity, a 40-year global life science communications consultancy. For UCSF she serves as a research advocate on the national I-SPY and WISDOM Studies. She advocates for NCI's Metastasis Network through Stanford and for 22 years has served as a peer counselor to newly diagnosed women.

California, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Amy Hickman

MBC Action Australia

amyhickman123@icloud.com

Amy Hickman is a metastatic breast cancer advocate, speaker and community ambassador from Perth, Western Australia. Diagnosed with breast cancer in 2018 and metastatic disease in 2023, Amy is passionate about living well with MBC and using her experience to support others in living well too. After a long career in banking and leadership, she is now involved in cancer research and consumer advocacy, with a particular interest in treatment advances, exercise with bone metastases and patient-centred, long-term supportive care. Amy loves sharing knowledge, connecting with others and bringing hope to the metastatic breast cancer community.

Australia

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Claire Houpt

Pink Ribbon Good

choupt@pinkribbongood.org

Claire Houpt (MSSA, LISW-S) is a clinical social worker and serves as the Manager of Cancer Education Services at Pink Ribbon Good, where she develops accessible, patient-centered education and resources for people affected by breast and gynecological cancers. She holds a Master of Social Service Administration and is a Licensed Independent Social Worker. A seven-year breast cancer survivor, Claire was diagnosed in 2019 with invasive ductal carcinoma, HER2-positive breast cancer. Her professional expertise and lived experience fuel her commitment to helping others feel informed, supported, and less alone throughout their cancer journey.

Ohio, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Naomi John

The Inflammatory Breast Cancer Network UK

info@ibcnetworkuk.org

Naomi John was diagnosed with triple-negative inflammatory breast cancer (TNIBC) in 2020. Before her diagnosis, she managed a consultancy supporting pharmaceutical and clinical research clients with pharmacovigilance regulatory compliance. She has volunteered with The Inflammatory Breast Cancer Network UK since 2022 and is currently Chair of Trustees. Naomi spoke at SABCS 2023 when inflammatory breast cancer was selected as the People's Choice session topic. She advocates for people affected by IBC and collaborates internationally with researchers, clinicians and charities to improve research, awareness and outcomes for this significantly under-researched patient population.

United Kingdom

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ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Cynthia (Cyndi) Johnson

Susan G. Komen

cyndijohn713@gmail.com

I live in southern Minnesota and was diagnosed de novo MBC in 2018 at age 49, with mets primarily in my ribs. I am triple-positive and have been NEAD for approximately five years. After a more aggressive treatment approach at CTCA, I am now receiving care through Mayo Clinic both locally and in Rochester. After 26 years as a high school English teacher I retired to focus on my health and advocacy. My husband is a high school teacher and coach, and I have four grown sons, two daughters-in-law, another son getting mar-riend next June and my first grandbaby is due in September. I am particu-larly passionate about long-term survivorship and quality of life for people living with advanced cancer.

Minnesota, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



T'Ana Johnson

National Breast Cancer Coalition

1kuleana@gmail.com

My name is T'Ana Johnson, MSN, CMSRN, RN-BC. I am the mother of 2 beautiful children that inspire me everyday. I have over 25 years of healthcare experience have gained a diverse knowledge of the many facets of medicine. Breast cancer advocacy came to the forefront of my life when I initially received a breast cancer diagnosis in 2015. Even after enduring varied cancer treatments, the breast cancer returned and advanced in 2022 to Stage 4. My goal is to educate and inform those in underserved and rural communities about early detection, treatment options, clinical trial, research and policy affecting care.

Virginia, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Heather Jose

I'm Still Here Podcast

mail@heatherjose.com

Heather is an occupational therapist who was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer at age 26 and has lived with it for 28 years. She has spent her career helping people do what matters to them, and her own life learning to live well in the presence of uncertainty. Now she brings both together as a patient advocate with a particular interest in survivorship issues: serving on the Patient and Family Advisory Council at Michigan Medicine, hosting a podcast, speaking to audiences, creating digital guides for the MBC community, and launching a book club. She is committed to making sure patients have a real seat at the table.

Michigan, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Esra Kadioglu

Atrium Wake Forest Baptist Hospital

Esra is a metastatic breast cancer patient advocate who brings the patient perspective to clinical trial review meetings at her local hospital. Before becoming an advocate, she was a Computer Science faculty member with experience in academic research, grant writing, publications, and teaching. She completed Project Life Advocacy Training, the Spinning Science–MBC science workshop series, and the MBCRC Advocate Researcher Program (MARP). She serves as a grant reviewer for METAvivor and as a mentor and advocate with GRASP. She also contributes to patient communities focused on treatment side effects, quality of life, and shared decision-making, while learning from fellow patient advocates.

North Carolina, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Bengi Kepkep

Europa Donna Türkiye

bengi@kepkep.org

Bengi Kepkep is a breast cancer survivor, patient advocate, and Board Member of Europa Donna Türkiye. With more than 20 years of experience in strategic communications, she brings her communications expertise to patient advocacy. Her interests include survivorship, quality of life, access to care, psychosocial wellbeing, and stronger collaboration between patients, advocates, and healthcare professionals. She is also involved with Yola Devam ("Moving Forward"), a breast cancer support group incorporating art therapy, and serves as Vice Chair of the Baksı Culture and Arts Foundation.

Turkey

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Punita Khanna

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

punitakhanna1@gmail.com

Punita Khanna is a breast cancer patient advocate and speaker whose advocacy is informed by her experience as a breast cancer survivor and over 25 years in healthcare leadership. She champions early detection, personalized medicine, survivorship, and greater inclusion of diverse communities in cancer research and care.

Punita is an American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) Ambassador Constituent Team Lead, an Oncotype DX Patient Ambassador, and a Community Scientist with Cedars-Sinai Cancer, where she brings the patient perspective to clinical trial protocols. Her advocacy has been featured by Katie Couric Media, Exact Sciences, Parade Magazine and other national platforms.

California, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Allison Ko

Living Beyond Breast Cancer

allison@everythreeweeks.com

Allison Ko was diagnosed with de novo triple-positive (HR-positive, HER2-positive) metastatic breast cancer in 2019. As someone living long term with MBC, she is passionate about quality of life, patient education, peer support, and early access to supportive and palliative care. She is a 2026 Hear My Voice advocate with Living Beyond Breast Cancer, an active member of Breastcancer.org's metastatic support community, and a peer mentor with Project Life. Allison also writes about her experiences living with MBC at everythreeweeks.com.

Nevada, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Catherine Koch

Living Beyond Breast Cancer

I live in Maryland with my husband and two children and teach English as a second language to adults. I was diagnosed with triple positive metastatic breast cancer in November 2023, a few months after I finished nursing my daughter. I completed Living Beyond Breast Cancer's Hear My Voice Advocacy Program in 2025, and I'm excited to continue learning about breast cancer and sharing what I've learned with others. I am passionate about advancing options for all those living with cancer, so we can all live long, full lives.

Maryland, United States

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ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Brittany R. Lee

Huntsman Cancer Institute Breast & Gyn Cancer Research Advocate Committee

legacyinaction2022@gmail.com

Brittany Lee is a two-time breast cancer survivor and patient advocate focused on survivorship, young adults affected by breast cancer, and metastatic breast cancer research. She is a Breast Cancer Research Advocate with Huntsman Cancer Institute, a NBCC Project LEAD® graduate, and a Volunteer Leader with Living Beyond Breast Cancer (LBBC). Living with the lasting effects of treatment while supporting those living with metastatic breast cancer and honoring many young friends lost to the disease fuels her advocacy. She is committed to advancing research, improving quality of life, and ensuring patient voices shape care, survivorship, and research.

Utah, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Jonise S. Louis

Living Beyond Breast Cancer

jonisesainvil@gmail.com

Jonise Louis is a metastatic breast cancer advocate, wife, mother, entrepreneur, and 6 year cancer thriver. Diagnosed with MBC at 35 in September 2020, she is dedicated to showing that cancer does not define one's purpose or future. A former municipal police budget manager, Jonise is now medically retired and manages her family's investment properties while advocating for Black women and underserved communities. She champions MBC awareness, research, clinical trials, and equitable support. Grounded in faith and inspired by her two sons, Jonise chooses to live fully and remind others: we are more than our diagnosis. She is THRIVING.

Florida, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Wanda Lucas

Georgetown Breast Cancer Advocates

wlucasmba@gmail.com

Wanda Lucas was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006. Alarmed by the high mortality rate of African Americans diagnosed with breast cancer, she became actively involved in health disparities research projects at Georgetown University the following year. In 2010, Wanda attended her first NBCC Advocate Training Conference and graduated from Project LEAD®. Currently, she serves on NBCC's Board as a director for the Metropolitan Washington, DC Chapter of NBCC and as Team Leader (MD/DC) for Lobby Day. She was recognized as a Champion of Change by the White House in 2011 and by NBCC for her grassroots advocacy work in 2014. Wanda is a founding member of the Georgetown Breast Cancer Advocates.

Washington DC, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Frances Ira R. Malinis

Living Beyond Breast Cancer

frances@faith-over-cancer.org

Frances Malinis is a proud Filipina, raised between the Philippines and Guam, and has called Las Vegas home since 2000. She is the proud mother of three: Paul Ivan, Alhyza Jayne, and Mariella Grace. Diagnosed at 39 with Stage IB triple-negative breast cancer and a BRCA2 mutation, Frances reached no evidence of disease following treatment. In 2025, at age 42, she learned her cancer had metastasized to her lungs. Now living with metastatic breast cancer, Frances advocates across multiple breast cancer organizations, guided by her faith and using her voice to champion health equity, representation, genetic testing, patient-centered care, and greater access for those impacted by breast cancer.

Nevada, United States

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ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Ana Mazanishvili

Europa Donna Georgia

ann.mazanishvili@gmail.com

I am a healthcare leader and patient advocate dedicated to transforming cancer care in Georgia. As President of Europa Donna Georgia and founder of the Caucasus Onco-Society "HOPE," I lead advocacy initiatives, patient navigation, and community-based psychosocial support, including our "Pink Space" center. Through collaboration with global networks like UICC and ABC Global Alliance, I focus on implementation research, patient empowerment, and bridging structural gaps in oncology and palliative care. Participating in the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium represents a pivotal opportunity to bring international best practices back to our patient community in Georgia.

Georgia

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Vicki McGrath

Breast Cancer Fit

mcgrath.victoria@gmail.com

Vicki McGrath has more than 30 years of experience in fitness, wellness, cancer care, and advocacy. Since 2010, she has served as Senior Director of Wellness at the Peninsula Jewish Community Center, where she created Pink Power, a post-operative breast cancer exercise and wellness program supporting survivors throughout the Bay Area. An ACSM Certified Cancer Exercise Trainer, Vicki has dedicated her career to connecting exercise, education, and cancer care. She serves on the Board of Bay Area Cancer Connections and is a Project LEAD graduate. In 2026, she received the Impact Warrior Award for her breast cancer advocacy.

California, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Jade Moran

10to15.org

Jade Moran is a speaker and research advocate living with metastatic lobular breast cancer (mILC). Her advocacy interests include lobular breast cancer, metastatic disease, nuclear medicine and molecular imaging, and the improvement of healthcare through the inclusion of the voices and expertise of patients.

Jade is an active research partner to scientists around the world and has recently founded 10to15.org, a patient-led scientific community focused on creating and sharing resources for lobular breast cancer.

Massachusetts, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Vina Morris

AfroPink

vina@afropink.org

Vina Morris is a two-time breast cancer survivor, advocate, and founder of AfroPink, a nonprofit advancing breast health awareness, access, and action. Diagnosed with DCIS in 2019 and again in 2020, she brings lived experience to her commitment to early detection, health equity, and patient empowerment, particularly in Black communities. A technology executive, Vina connects innovation with advocacy through TechPink, helping make health information and technology more accessible. She is passionate about translating breast cancer research into knowledge people can use to make informed decisions and advocate for their care.

New York, United States

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ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Rosa Olmos

Con Cáncer y Con Metas, Asociación

rolmos@vidaria.es

I'm a metastatic breast cancer patient advocate diagnosed 19 years ago, president of "Con Cáncer y Con Metas" Association and Podcast, and speaker at SABCS 2025 and ESMO 2023. I serve on the Scientific Advisory Board of CIBER-BBN and co-design trials with SOLTI. Deeply connected to the oncology ecosystem, I am an ambassador for FERO Foundation, co-organize the "Dame5+" movement with CRIS Cancer Foundation, and sit on the Patient Committee of Hospital Clínic Barcelona. A staunch advocate, I testified before the Spanish Senate to fast-track drug funding, bridging research with patient reality.

Spain

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Ethel A. Olomu

Engraced Life Foundation

ethel@engracedlifefoundation.org.ng

Ethel Olomu's cancer journey began with years of misdiagnosis, a delay that meant she was eventually diagnosed at a very late stage. That experience became the fire behind Engraced Life Foundation (ELF), which she founded to make sure no woman in Nigeria's Niger Delta has to fight for a diagnosis the way she did. Today, as a chemical engineer turned certifed patient advocate, Ethel leads ELF's community screening and awareness work, and carries the voices of Niger Delta women into global oncology spaces AACR, UICC, ESMO, ASCO, and beyond. In 2026, she became the first person from Rivers State and the only African, selected for the AACR Scientist-Survivor Program.

Nigeria

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Valarie Padgett

Beyond Breast Cancer & Wellness

valarie.padgett@gmail.com

I'm a breast cancer survivor and advocate, and the founder of Beyond Breast Cancer and Wellness Non-profit, established in 2025. Through my advocacy, I connect survivors with reliable institutions, community coalitions trusted resources, and researchers. My advocacy focuses on increasing awareness of clinical trials, survivorship resources, public policy and health equity. My goal is simple: connect, educate, empower, and advocate for breast cancer survivors, helping every survivor have a stronger voice and the opportunity to live well beyond cancer.

New Jersey, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Jane P. Perlmutter

Independent

janep@gemini-grp.com

I am a long-term survivor of multiple cancers, including 3 breast cancers, and an active advocate. My advocacy interests are broad but often focus on innovative clinical trial design and advancing the involvement of advocates into all aspects of cancer research.

Michigan, United States

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Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Donna B. Pinto

DCIS 411

dp4peace@yahoo.com

Donna Pinto is the Founder and Executive Director of DCIS 411 nonprofit. She is a passionate Patient Advocate, Certified Nutritionist, Author, and Speaker. Since 2016, Donna has served as a Patient Advocate with national and international DCIS research projects: DCIS COMET STUDY and DCIS PRECISION (PREvent Ductal Carcinoma In Situ Invasive Overtreatment Now). After being diagnosed with DCIS in 2010, Donna transformed her personal journey into a mission of advocacy and education, empowering women with knowledge, resources, and support while amplifying awareness of active monitoring, overdiagnosis, overtreatment, and the importance of informed consent and patient-centered decision-making.

California, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Sylvia Powers

Celebrating Life Foundation

sylviahines9@gmail.com

Sylvia Powers is a nationally respected breast cancer advocate, nonprofit leader, author, journalist, photographer, ordained minister, and community servant. She is the founder and executive director of the Celebrating Life Foundation, which provides education, encouragement, and practical assistance to people affected by breast cancer, especially families in underserved communities. She also works with the National Consortium of Breast Centers. Powers is the author of "Celebrating Life: African American Women Speak Out About Breast Cancer" and host of the Pink Cowgirl Hat Podcast, where she leads conversations about cancer, faith, resilience, wellness, advocacy, and joy.

Texas, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Tonsa Price-Edwards

National Breast Cancer Coalition

tepe94@outlook.com

Tonsa Price-Edwards is a dedicated breast cancer advocate passionate about raising awareness for metastatic breast cancer (mBC). Originally diagnosed in 2007, then mBC in 2020, her personal experience has made her a mBC Thrivor focused on providing a strong voice, committed to quality care, and patient education for all but especially for women of color. She comes to Advocacy with several years of strong volunteer experience and works to enable legislative changes, community engagement and proactive, science-based choices for breast cancer patients. Representing Check For a Lump, she is a graduate of the National Breast Cancer Coalition's Project LEAD and has served as a BCRP Peer Reviewer.

Arizona, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Charlotte Safrit

Living Beyond Breast Cancer

cjsafrit@gmail.com

Breast cancer survivor and patient advocate focused on improving patient-led, whole-person care. I co-founded The Wellmate, an AI-enabled digital patient advocate app that supports patients navigating complex health systems. I serve on a PCORI Epic usability board improving EHR usability and oncology care guidance, and on patient advisory boards for Penn Medicine and LVHN. I host the Healthcare in Context podcast, advocate with the NBCC through federal lobbying, and volunteer with LBBC. I also contribute voiceover education for SurvivingBreastCancer.org's MBC series, created LBBC treatment education content, and share my DIEP reconstruction experience on YouTube.

Pennsylvania, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Casey Salvati

Living Beyond Breast Cancer

cliening12@gmail.com

Casey is a 35-year-old living with metastatic breast cancer. She was diagnosed in May 2023 with ER/PR-positive, HER2-negative invasive ductal carcinoma that had already metastasized to her bones. She is currently undergoing treatment, and will continue treatment for the rest of her life. Casey is passionate about advocacy within the cancer community, driven by her experience of being diagnosed at a young age after her concerns were dismissed by multiple doctors. She advocates to raise awareness and to ensure others do not face the same challenges in seeking a diagnosis. Outside of the cancer center and her advocacy work, Casey enjoys being a mom and reading a good mystery/thriller book.

Florida, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Erica Suanders

Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition

esaunders@debreastcancer.org

In 2017, Erica faced a life-altering challenge when she discovered a lump in her breast. After receiving a diagnosis of stage one breast cancer, she embarked on a life changing journey. Her experience with breast cancer ignited a renewed sense of purpose. In 2021, she took on a part-time role as a Survivorship Specialist at the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition. In this capacity, Erica leads a support group for women of color called My Sister's Keeper. Erica is a 2023 Project LEAD graduate, and she holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Wilmington University. Beyond her professional and advocacy work, Erica enjoys running, traveling, and serving with her sorority.

Delaware, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Ingrid Schroeder Levy

Instituto Projeto Cura

ingrid@tradutorajuramentada.com

Ingrid Schroeder Levy is a Brazilian Research Patient Advocate, corporate attorney, sworn English translator, and breast cancer survivor. Diagnosed with Luminal B breast cancer at 49, she completed treatment in 2023 and later completed Brazil's first formal Research Patient Advocacy program, developed by GBECAM and GRASP. She volunteers with Instituto Projeto Cura in Brazil and GRASP in the U.S. A 2026 Alamo Advocate Program Scholar, Ingrid is committed to meaningful patient engagement and bringing the patient perspective into clinical research and drug development.

Brazil

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Karen Scott

North Star Cancer Consortium

karen.scottcolorado@outlook.com

I'm Karen Scott from Boulder, CO. I was diagnosed at age 50 with Stage 1A breast cancer in 2015, two types – HER2+ and HER2-, ER/PR+ in 2015. I had a recurrence in March 2022 in my lung, bones, and other places – again both HER2+ and HER2- with PIK3CA mutations. In my previous life I worked with astronauts on both the Space Shuttle and International Space Station. I have a PhD in Optical Sciences and am a spacecraft window expert. I am very active in research advocacy supporting the North Star Cancer Consortium, Metavivor, GRASP, LBCC etc. I am a 2026 Project Lead graduate and a 2025 Hear My Voice graduate. I attended the 2025 SABCS as a Surviving Breast Cancer scholar.

Colorado, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Lashelle Scott

Tigerlily

lashelledscott@gmail.com

Lashelle Scott is a breast cancer survivor, advocate, policy lobbyist, and political consultant diagnosed with Stage III HER2-positive breast cancer in 2021. A Tigerlily Angel Advocate and RACE Alliance State Lead, she created Texas House Bill 4361, sponsored by Representative Jon Rosenthal, and founded The Hope Project Initiative, providing chemo care packages and patient support. She serves as a Susan G. Komen and ACS CAN Texas Legislative Ambassador, Texas Southern University Breast Cancer Board member, BCRP peer reviewer, AACR and ASCO patient advocate. Outside advocacy, she works as a political consultant and rescues huskies.

Texas, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Lori J. Seawel

Beyond Pink TEAM

Lori Seawel is a breast cancer survivor and NBCC advocate, representing Iowa's Beyond Pink TEAM on NBCC's board of directors. A Project LEAD graduate, she co-founded Iowa Stop Breast Cancer Action Network and co-leads Ignite the Cancer Conversation, whose vision is an Iowa where fewer people hear "You have cancer" and whose mission is to motivate Iowans, advance research, and drive state and local action that reduces cancer rates. Their latest effort is "The Cancer Journey," an online resource of short, high quality videos. Lori is a Senior Educational Technologist Emeritus after 24 years at the University of Northern Iowa.

Iowa, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Nancie B. Steinberg

NBCC

nbsteinb@gmail.com

Nancie is an accomplished healthcare communications professional specializing in PR and media strategy for pharmaceutical, biotech, hospital, and healthcare organizations. Nancie has played a key role in shaping impactful narratives that drive awareness, engagement, and industry collaboration. Nancie has worked alongside PR agencies, research institutions, and industry leaders to amplify groundbreaking medical advancements and patient-centered initiatives. She brings a unique personal perspective to healthcare, as a two-time breast cancer survivor & someone who has been living with chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) for 14 years. Nancie is deeply committed to advocacy, patient empowerment.

New York, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Sanna Tiensuu-Piirainen

Europa Donna Finland

stiensuupiirainen@gmail.com

I'm Sanna Tiensuu-Piirainen, M.Sc. (Econ.), from Finland, a breast cancer survivor, patient advocate and coach. My background is 20+ years in management consulting and HR leadership, which shapes my focus on return to work after cancer. I work as Development and Advocacy Expert at Europa Donna Finland and serve as its Vice Chair. I'm a patient advocate eg in the MYCImmune research project and a MBCR facilitator. I co-authored a wellbeing book for people recovering from breast cancer (2025). I'm in the EUPATI Patient Expert Training Programme. As an Alamo 2026 Scholar, I look forward to bringing a Nordic perspective on survivorship care implementation and learning from other advocates.

Finland

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Valarie Traynham

LBCA

Valarie Traynham is a breast cancer and multiple myeloma survivor, patient and research advocate whose work is shaped by her lived experience with cancer. Diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer, she is passionate about helping patients and communities better understand the science of cancer and cancer research so they can ask informed questions and take an active role in their care. Valarie has contributed to research initiatives, advisory boards, and patient education efforts, with a focus on ensuring the patient voice is included in research questions, study design, and healthcare decision-making.

Illinois, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Kaitlyn E. Turner

Triple T Foundation for Breast Cancer

tripletfoundation@gmail.com

Kaitlyn Turner is a young breast cancer survivor and founder of the Triple T Foundation for Breast Cancer, dedicated to supporting patients and strengthening community care. As an NBCC advocate for North Carolina and a Project LEAD–trained scientific reviewer, she champions evidence-based research, equitable access, and the voices of underserved patients. Kaitlyn blends nonprofit leadership, outreach, and lived experience to drive meaningful change for the breast cancer community.

North Carolina, United States

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Lillian Walker Shelton

After Breast Cancer Diagnosis

Lillian Walker Shelton is originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. While living in Philadelphia, she developed a desire to work with multicultural populations that have lower socioeconomic statuses. A major influence in Lillian's life was the work that she did as a Community Activist and Organizer in Washington, DC. A pivotal part of Lillian's activism happened from the loss of her mother to Cervical Cancer in 1996. Lillian became an advocate with an organization named Cervivor for people with Cervical Cancer. Lillian was diagnosed with Metastatic Breast Cancer in 2024. She uses much of advocacy training since her diagnosis. Lillian is a mentor with After Breast Cancer Diagnosis.

Maryland, United States

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ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Charla Weiss

Minnesota Cancer Clinical Trials Network Community Advocate Program

charlakweiss@gmail.com

Charla is a recent breast cancer survivor passionate about advancing research, patient experience, and survivorship care. A Community Advocate with the Minnesota Cancer Clinical Trials Network and Community Advisor to the Leading Innovation For Cancer Treatment Burden Network, she draws on experience in multiple health systems, including a rural-to-urban move for care. She works with research teams to strengthen the patient voice from study design through dissemination of results and back into the next round of research. Charla champions sustained, reciprocal research partnerships and cares about both what is discovered and how that knowledge is shaped and shared with the people it serves.

Minnesota, United States

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ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Kyla J. Wenger

Living Beyond Breast Cancer

I'm a wife, mom, breast cancer survivor, and passionate patient advocate. I was diagnosed with stage 2B, ER/PR+, HER2+ breast cancer at 30, while raising my young son, and that experience changed my perspective on healthcare and advocacy. With a background as a teacher, I'm passionate about making complex information easier to understand and helping patients feel informed and empowered. Today, I'm involved with several nonprofits, to help with education, social media, and research advocacy to name a few, with a particular interest in survivorship and quality of life. I'm grateful for the opportunity to use my experience to help make a difference for others.

Wisconsin, United States

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ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Carla Whitbread

Europa Donna

carla.whitbread@hotmail.com

Carla Whitbread became a patient advocate following her diagnosis with de novo metastatic breast cancer (MBC) in 2011, aged 37. Living with MBC for 15 years, she is committed to ensuring patient experiences inform research, clinical practice and services. Carla is an ambassador for Força – Strength Against Cancer and contributes to the Wessex Cancer Alliance PPI Steering Group. Nationally, she serves on the Europa Donna UK Executive Committee, is Alternate Representative to the ABC Global Alliance Board and Patient Representative on the NAoME Audit Advisory Committee. She is passionate about evidence-based advocacy, patient involvement in research, and improving quality of life and outcomes.

United Kingdom

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ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Alamo Advocate Program

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Christina Wilhelm

Breast Cancer Now

hello@christinawilhelm.com

Christina Wilhelm is the bestselling author of It's Breast Cancer: Now What? and a cancer patient advocate with more than 20 years' experience in corporate communication across Europe, the Middle East and the United States. Having navigated cancer care across four countries, she brings a unique perspective on the gaps in patient information and support, particularly how risk is communicated to patients. She is a member of Breast Cancer Now's Post-Primary Gamechanger Advisory Group, an Ambassador for Working With Cancer, and a TEDx Bangor speaker.

United Kingdom

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Rayna Wong

Young Survival Coalition

rayna@zerua.ch

Rayna Wong was diagnosed with early-stage ER+/HER2– breast cancer in her early 30s and later with metastatic disease. Alongside her career in the bio-pharmaceutical industry, she is a trained advocate focusing on the intersection of ethics, breast cancer research, and AI and technology. For Rayna, the convergence of these worlds fuels her focus on improving patients' lives.

Switzerland

Alamo Advocate Program

ADVOCATE SCHOLAR : 2026



Donjeta Zeqa

Europa Donna Albania

donjetazeqa@gmail.com

Donjeta Zeqa is President of Europa Donna Albania and a Board Member of EUROPA DONNA – The European Breast Cancer Coalition. A patient advocate for over a decade, she works to advance meaningful patient involvement in cancer research and improve breast cancer care and quality of life. She is a co-author of research published in The Lancet Oncology and contributes to several ongoing studies. Donjeta regularly speaks and participates in leading international oncology congresses and meetings, including ESMO, ASCO, AACR, EORTC, ESTRO and EBCC.

Albania