

Oncology Massage Alliance

Annual Report 2012



OMA Goal: to reduce stress, promote healing, and provide emotional support for cancer patients through Oncology Massage and educate the public.

OMA 2012 Accomplishments

We began the year continuing OMA services at two locations; Texas Oncology Midtown and Texas Oncology Central with the help of our seven therapists. By the end of the year, we had branched out into two additional locations and added three more therapists. With the financial support from our wonderful donors, the expert advice and direction from our Board, and all the heartfelt support from the public we served, 2012 proved to be an exciting expansion year for OMA services. Here are some of the specific accomplishments for 2012.

What We Did in 2012

In early 2012, OMA branched out to a new facility; the New Braunfels Cancer Care Center (NB CCC) as well as continuing services at Texas Oncology Midtown and

Texas Oncology Central locations. New Braunfels oncology massage therapist, Mary Liebermann and OMA Treasurer, Wendy Kamasaki went down to meet the administration of NB CCC who were presented with the opportunity to allow OMA into their facility under the lead of Mary Liebermann. The administration agreed and Mary began one day a week to provide OMA services. She soon recruited another local oncology massage therapist, Tracy Link, to help in the OMA efforts. And although our team in New Braunfels can only provide OMA services a few times a month, it is a valuable and compassionate effort to help cancer patients there.



Mary Liebermann, OMA Lead therapist opens at New Braunfels Cancer Care Center giving chair massages to the staff

In March, then Secretary Colleen Ryan gave a presentation at the Texas Unit of the American Massage Therapy Association about OMA which was well received. Helping to spread the word about OMA and

the benefits of oncology massage to the public is a key goal of ours.

In April, OMA therapists gave staff chair massages at Texas Oncology Central. Six therapists participated, and we gave 40 massages. Working directly with the oncology medical staff and providing these opportunities to show how massage alleviates stress, OMA therapists further strengthens the goal of collaboration with the medical profession.

In May, the therapists at the NBCCC celebrated National Nurses Week and Oncology Nurses Month with brownies and chair massages. Nine nurses and medical assistants received free chair massages. They also held a drawing for one of the participants to receive a free massage. It was a great success and helped to bring more awareness about OMA services to the area.

During October Breast Cancer Awareness month, Wendy Kamasaki manned the OMA booth at Seton South during “Pink Day” where the hospital was offering mammograms and raising money for Komen Austin.

In response to Texas Oncology’s request of OMA to expand services to the North location, Wendy Kamasaki was able to initiate OMA services to this site only once a week. OMA’s goal by partnering with Texas Oncology, and others, is to assist in

training more therapists in the Fall of 2013 who will expand OMA services to current and future locations.



Wendy Kamasaki gives a foot massage to a women receiving chemotherapy at Texas Oncology North.

Who We Helped in 2012

In 2012, OMA therapists gave free hand and foot massages to 900 cancer patients, 91 caregivers, and 91 medical staff in four locations. Our therapists were given so much in return with gratitude and warm smiles from these people. Here are some of our experiences:

A gentleman in his 60’s asked his nurse to get me because he wanted a foot massage. He pretty much relaxed with his eyes closed during the massage. He said, “This puts chemo in a whole new light.”

Elderly man in chemotherapy received a foot massage and states “you’re an angel, thank you so much...you have the healing touch!”

Wife of a patient received a shoulder massage. She readily took me up on the offer of a massage, and then after said, “The last two weeks of stress just went away!”



OMA therapists Colleen Ryan, Madeline Brock, Gail Bailey, Wendy Kamasaki, and Geri Ruane

A couple I have been working on since I started volunteering celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. He initially said no to a massage. I went on to work on others, when he stopped me and asked if he could change his mind. I worked on his feet. He said thank you. As I got to know them, he told me about his neuropathy in his feet because of the Chemo. They also told me that they would be celebrating their anniversary soon at Glacier National Park. She asked me to show her how to work on his feet, because it seemed to be helping with his neuropathy. I worked on her and told her what I was doing. They went on their trip. They had the biggest smiles on their faces when they came back! He was able to hike 3 miles a day! She told me that massaging each other’s feet gave them some

very personal quality time that they enjoyed immensely! They both were gushing with their thanks. I told them the smiles on their faces were thanks enough. She is 73 and he is 83.

A retired private investigator greets me weekly with “There’s God’s angel!” She continues to tolerate her chemo with few side effects. Her spirits are high as the holidays approach and she plans her family reunion. When I finished her hand and foot massage she said “I hope you know how much we love you and appreciate you being here.”

The work we provide is truly a joy to us and the kind words from those we offer our services to is a great reward. All of our donors share in this joy along with us and we are so grateful to you all. With continued and additional donations we hope to reach many more people living with cancer. Please be sure to visit our website to see updates on our efforts and to donate to help continue our work. Donors to OMA are able to specify whether contributions go to a particular location or for training more therapists for oncology work via an Educational Stipend.

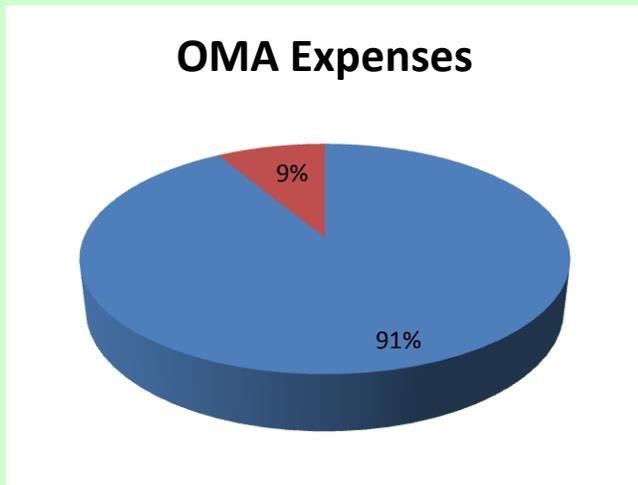
OMA 2012 Finances - What did we spend and where did funds come from?

We are pleased to report that our fundraising increased in 2012. Of course, none of our

accomplishments would have been possible without the generosity and compassion of our donors.

OMA Finances 2012	
	TOTAL
Donations	\$10,299
Donors	\$10,204
Fundraising	\$95
Expenditures	\$8,653
payments to Therapists	\$7,909
Operating Costs	\$744
Balance	\$1,646

The table above illustrates how we have taken in donations in the amount of **\$10,299** and expenses that include the operations of OMA but more importantly, the expenses for providing trained oncology massage therapists in four locations in Texas.



OMA received \$10,299 in donations and fundraising efforts in 2012, of which \$8,653 of these funds were spent during 2012. As the graphic above shows, 91% of funding spent in 2012 went directly to pay for OMA

therapists for their time in the infusion rooms. Only 9% of our 2012 funds went to the operations and administration costs for OMA.

Our Outstanding Donors

We are fortunate to have a major donor for the Texas Oncology Midtown location, Betty Kuhl, who has been our primary supporter since the very beginning. Her wonderful son, Rob Hill, passed away in 2010 as a result of cancer treatment. Rob Hill was the inspiration behind the founding of OMA. We are profoundly grateful to Betty Kuhl. We are very grateful to have the support and backing of our other major donor, Texas Oncology, who continues in partnership with OMA to strive to provide these valuable services.

Our many wonderful donors who have helped make OMA possible are listed here.

GOLD DONORS (\$500 or more)

- Betty Kuhl
- Texas Oncology
- Mary Cooke

SILVER DONORS (under \$500)

- Diane Christopherson, Steven Frantz, Vicky Blackman, Christi Nalle, Kristie Zamrazil, Wendy Kamasaki, Ann Jacobson, and Joyce Timmons