

September 20, 2019

Dear [First Name],

A breast cancer diagnosis for a 34-year old woman hoping to become a mother **is devastating.**

***"Will I be able to breastfeed? Will I even be able to have children?
If not, will I have the confidence that I'll live long enough to feel
good about adopting?"***

These questions, and many others, echoed in Shannon's head as she began treatment for Stage 2 Breast Cancer just after Thanksgiving in 2016.



Shannon's husband Mike and her parents were there every step of the way as she made decisions about surgery, treatment, and reconstruction. **But none of them had been through it - as hard as they tried, they couldn't truly understand what she was going through.**

Yearning for connection with others her age, and also recognizing how many folks lacked the support her family provided, Shannon began making comfort bags for the hospital staff to share with patients. It became Shannon's way of "spreading the love". This project enabled Shannon to help others feel less alone, but **she still desired a much deeper level of connection** as she wrestled with her questions around motherhood and accepted her new normal as a survivor.

Shannon's desire for connection was finally met when she joined the new Annapolis chapter of Ulman's young adult support group, which launched soon after she wrapped up chemotherapy . In this group, she found understanding, empathy, shared experiences, and true camaraderie.

The generosity of volunteers and donors - you! - made the expansion of Ulman's "Where YA Meet" support group possible. Philanthropy also enabled the replication of our long-standing Patient Navigation program at Anne Arundel Medical Center last year. **Thank you!**

Shannon now benefits from working with Megan, AAMC's Patient Navigator, as she continues to face decisions and challenges related to reconstruction and survivorship. In the first year of Patient Navigation at AAMC, 237 other young adults who would have otherwise been navigating cancer alone also benefited from Megan's knowledge and presence - and your generosity.

Through the Ulman community, you create meaningful and lasting change in the lives of so many young adults, including Shannon.



But there's a problem: 5 out of 6 young adults diagnosed in the state of Maryland every year still face cancer alone - or at least without the unique resources Ulman provides. We envision a presence like the one that now exists in Anne Arundel County in **every county** across Maryland - and we need your help to get there.

Will you send a gift today to help us extend our reach - before one more young adult faces the scariest moments of their life alone? Use the enclosed reply card and envelope, or go to www.ulmanfoundation.org/donate today to give [amount string]

Even though Shannon still has questions and worries, she knows she doesn't have to figure it all out on her own. 💙💛 Thank you for making sure that more young adults can gain access to Ulman's life-changing community, just as Shannon has.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brock Yetso".

Brock Yetso
President & CEO