BREAST CANCER AT 28 CAN BE A LONELY EXPERIENCE.

Through Sharsheret, I received the support that I needed, and the connection that I had been missing. Through the work of this incredible organization, the weight of my diagnosis and treatment had been lifted.
MESSAGE FROM
OUR PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Knowledge is power; Sharsheret empowers YOU to take action. When it comes to breast and ovarian cancer, reliable information about new research, medical advancements, state of the art technology, accessible genetic testing, up-to-the-minute online information, and culturally relevant support enables you to take necessary steps to improve and save lives. Through this Impact Report you will experience first-hand the life changing power of taking action through the inspiring stories shared by Amy, Mollie, Alyson, Michael, Kasia, and Laura.

Sharsheret has established regional offices in states with the largest Jewish populations across the US, launched new partnerships with major medical centers from LA to DC to NY, facilitates educational programs on college campuses, in community centers, and online, and collaborates with the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With our multi-faceted plan and new strategic structure, Sharsheret will expand the scope and breadth of our services to serve even more women, families, and the Jewish community at-large, when they need us most.

All Sharsheret does is made possible because of you - our passionate volunteers, strong supporters, esteemed Board members, and devoted staff. We truly appreciate your time and dedication. We are deeply grateful to members of our Jewel Circle who strengthen Sharsheret’s chain.

We invite YOU to take action with Sharsheret today. Call us to explore how you can protect your health, raise awareness about breast and ovarian cancer and cancer genetics, support others, and share your experience and expertise as we grow. Together we will secure a better tomorrow for you, your family, your community, and beyond.

Thank you for your support of Sharsheret.

Lauryn Weiser
Amy Tadelis
Nikki Sausen
Gail Propp
Jonathan Mirsky
Keith Mendelson
Dr. Patricia D. Cayne
Rochelle L. Shoretz A”H, Founder

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A Breast Cancer Survivor Story

By: Amy Tadelis

One of my favorite memories of when my twin daughters, Sophie and Rachel, were three or four, was when they got into trouble with their nursery teacher for telling friends that they hadn’t come from their mother’s womb, but rather their aunt’s. Sophie and Rachel weren’t just a pair of imaginative toddlers telling tall tales. This is an extraordinary life, as is the multicultural Jewish family that my husband, Jamie, and I made with their two other siblings, Levi and Ruby. This story begins when I was diagnosed with breast cancer 18 years ago, before Sharsheret was founded. I was 28, happily married, and living my best life until I heard those fateful words - you have breast cancer. I was lucky to have the constant and unwavering support of my family and friends, but, still, breast cancer at 28 can be a lonely experience. As I was in treatment, I read an article about another young mom who had been recently diagnosed and was launching an organization to provide support for Jewish women with breast cancer. I immediately called Sharsheret and spoke with the incomparable founder, Rochelle Shoretz A”H. We spoke for hours, and I received the support that I needed, the connection that I had been missing. It felt like the weight of my diagnosis and treatment had been lifted.

As we took on the challenges of breast cancer treatment and surgeries, Jamie and I never gave up on our dream of having children. Luckily, with the support of my medical team, before I started chemotherapy, I began the process of in vitro fertilization and had eggs extracted, fertilized, and frozen. For months we shuttled between home and hospital as I underwent chemotherapy following a bilateral mastectomy and as Jamie and I never gave up on our dream of having children. Luckily, with the support of my medical team, had become a family of five. In a surprise twist, during Levi's adoption process, we learned he had a newborn sister. There was no debate; if and when she was available for adoption we would welcome this most special baby girl into our family. After more than two long years of waiting, our precious gift, Ruby Shai, came home. Our beautiful family was now complete.

Our children enrich our lives every day. While Levi and Ruby are Chinese and have converted to Judaism and Sophie and Rachel are of Jewish descent, ethnicity has never been an issue. We are simply a family. Their personalities all come together perfectly.

This past August, I was lucky enough to celebrate my 18th Chai anniversary of being cancer free, a few short months before Sharsheret’s 18th Chai anniversary. From the very first day when I picked up the phone to talk to Sharsheret, my life has been interwoven with Sharsheret’s chain. Over the past 18 years, I have been fortunate to play many roles at Sharsheret from volunteer to staff member, to even President of the Board of Directors. But the most meaningful role has been the constant and unwavering support of my family and friends, and my Sharsheret support, both financial and emotional, has been truly amazing. I’m so very grateful.

My Sharsheret story began when I found someone to talk to, who truly understood what I was going through, and 18 years later my Sharsheret story continues to unfold.

Building Our Jewish, Multicultural Family: A Breast Cancer Survivor Story

Amy Tadelis, mother of four, fitness enthusiast, and breast cancer survivor, was diagnosed at age 28.
We are deeply grateful to the Rochelle’s Dream and Jewel Circle families who annually make significant contributions enabling thousands locally and across the country to benefit from one-on-one support, financial subsidies, and community-wide education and training programs.

For more information about Rochelle’s Dream, the annual Jewel Circle, or naming a Sharsheret program, please contact Director of Development Galit Reichlin at greichlin@sharsheret.org
Sharsheret improves the lives of Jewish women and families living with or at increased genetic risk for breast or ovarian cancer through personalized support and saves lives through educational outreach.