



Patricia Ferrer, Shannon Hawkins,  
Gladys Navarro-Andierena and  
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PHOTO: TRACEY BENSON PHOTOGRAPHY

QUANTUM FOUNDATION'S GRANT TO PROMISE FUND *is...*

# Worth Knowing

In its third decade of community investment, **Quantum Foundation** is providing greater engagement in health, access to health resources and stronger connections for healthy communities in Palm Beach County. As part of its 2021 grant funding, the Foundation is distributing \$200,000 to **Promise Fund of Florida** over a two-year span. Promise Fund of Florida works to address health disparities to ensure that all women have access to timely and quality breast and cervical cancer resources and treatment. The grant is helping fund Promise Fund's "Early Detection, Screening and Diagnostic" Initiative.

## HOW WILL QUANTUM FOUNDATION'S FUNDING HELP PROMISE FUND MEET ITS OBJECTIVES?

*Shannon Hawkins, Director of Community Engagement at Quantum Foundation, and Promise Fund Board Member*

Over the two years of this grant, our funding connects more patients like Gladys Navarro-Andierena to Patient Navigators like Patricia Ferrer. This grant is currently supporting Continuum of Care Coordinators and helping increase access to healthcare via Promise Fund's bilingual, culturally competent navigators in underserved communities. We've been fortunate to see positive patient navigator outcomes at other grantee sites as well, such as Caridad, Community Health Center of West Palm Beach, The Guatemalan-Maya Center, FoundCare, Genesis Community Health, Marie Louise Cancer Foundation, MorseLife Health System, My Clinic, Northwest Community Health Alliance, Palm Beach Medical Society and The Glades Initiative.

We're also seeing our funds go toward purchasing and operating a highly sophisticated mobile Hologic SuperSonic MACH 30 Ultrasound Imaging Platform. Promise Fund has identified a need for easily accessible ultrasounds and this resource will bring much-needed health services to our Mammography Screening Center at FoundCare.

The grant is currently helping to underscore the newly founded Patient Care Assistance Fund developed by Promise Fund. The Assistance Fund is combating poverty from being a primary barrier that's preventing women from accessing needed screenings and diagnostics to ensure optimal healthcare. It's a privilege providing timely financial assistance for up to 100 uninsured women who might not otherwise obtain the resources to proper diagnostic testing and/or cancer treatment care.

We're proud to work beside Nancy Brinker who has been Promise Fund's global ambassador for communities of color. She is a force in Palm Beach County and continues to serve neglected populations with the care and respect they deserve.

## CAN YOU WALK US THROUGH YOUR DIAGNOSIS AND WHAT YOU FELT AT THAT MOMENT?

*Gladys Navarro-Andierena, Breast Cancer Patient*

It was a shock to hear the news. Just imagine someone telling you that you need a special test after a mammogram. I never had a breast issue, and I was stunned. Even though my breast was sensitive, and I experienced some pain, it was me who initiated the doctor's visit. I started to imagine the worst — it was difficult news to hear.

## HOW HAS YOUR PATIENT NAVIGATOR SUPPORTED YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR TREATMENT?

*Gladys Navarro-Andierena, Breast Cancer Patient*

She was very understanding and guided me to explore everything

necessary to receive help. She also presented all the necessary documents so that I could receive help and efficiently resolve my situation.

## AS SOMEONE WHO HAS BENEFITED FROM EARLY SCREENING, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE WHO IS HESITANT TO GET A CHECKUP?

*Gladys Navarro-Andierena, Breast Cancer Patient*

I really believe that if you don't feel well, or sense something is off, you need to see a provider to rule out everything. If a woman is hesitant, I would tell her to not hesitate; don't think twice, just do it. Have the specialist check off if you are healthy or if you need to be concerned. Rule out any doubt!

## CAN YOU DESCRIBE WHAT A PATIENT NAVIGATOR DOES AFTER A PATIENT'S DIAGNOSIS?

*Patricia Ferrer, Promise Fund Patient Navigator*

After a diagnosis we contact the patient to go over the diagnosis, the recommendations and explain to the patient the plan of care to follow. We want to convey empathy and understanding.

We want our patient to know that she is under our care and that we are there to walk the walk and support her with what is ahead.

## HOW WILL THIS GIFT REMOVE BARRIERS AND PROVIDE GREATER ACCESS TO WOMEN'S HEALTH?

*Patricia Ferrer, Promise Fund Patient Navigator*

We are the last line of help for these women. This program opens the door to accessing the care needed, but impossible to obtain on their own. The program navigator provides guidance, support, empathy, and loving care to address the clinically unmet needs our patients have. This program saves lives.

## WHY DID QUANTUM FOUNDATION'S BOARD INVEST IN THIS PROJECT?

*Ethel Isaacs Williams, Quantum Foundation's Immediate Past Board Chair*

The need is incredibly clear considering

Florida ranks last in the United States for the number of women under the age of 65 who have health insurance. This especially affects Palm Beach County women — 30% of which are Black women and 40% representing Hispanic populations.

Black women have the highest rates of death from cervical cancer, with breast cancer deaths almost 40% higher than in White women. Also, Hispanic women are more likely to receive a late-stage breast cancer diagnosis compared to White women. The disparities are obvious. When the opportunity to fund this initiative came to us, our grants committee and board at Quantum Foundation unanimously supported the opportunity to be able to give underrepresented women the dignity to access early diagnostics and screenings.

*To learn more about applying for a grant from Quantum Foundation visit [quantumfnd.org](http://quantumfnd.org). To support the efforts of Promise Fund visit [promisefundofflorida.org](http://promisefundofflorida.org).*



Nancy Brinker,  
Founder of  
Promise Fund