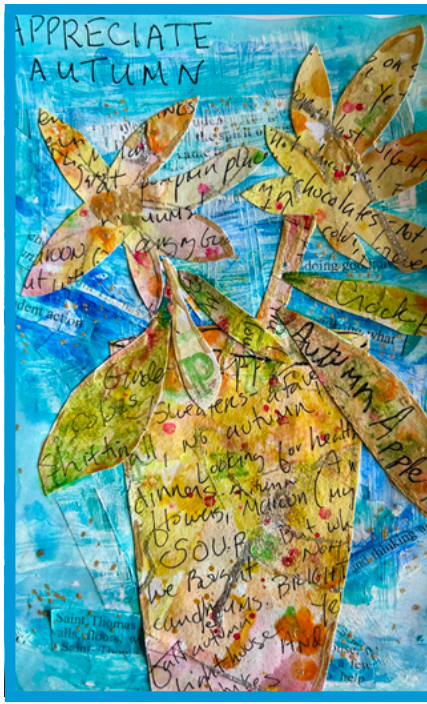


# 2024 IMPACT REPORT



## NEW HEALING ARTS PROGRAM

Four-week art journaling online class series that inspired mindfulness, creativity and kinship.

Photo/class by [greenbushmedia.com](http://greenbushmedia.com)

**nbmtLINK** earned **Candid's GuideStar 2024 Platinum Seal of Transparency**

This top rating from Candid illustrates our commitment to transparency and showcases our goals and strategies.



**33,000+** downloads for our podcasts. We hosted **104** episodes over 15 seasons since 2019.



## NEW THIS YEAR

We partnered with **Incyte and Bag It** to offer free, specialized **GVHD bags** upon request to survivors.

**12** "Marrow Masters Minutes" have garnered a total of **2,200** views as YouTube Shorts to this year.



This year we produced a Spanish version of our Finance Guide, to be released soon, which focuses on the many unique costs related to transplant.



**Tandem Texas Style:** Cindy Burke and Peggy Burkhard attended this conference in San Antonio in February 2024. The GVHD Alliance partners collaborated to raise awareness in recognition of GVHD Day, Feb. 17.

Visit [nbmtlink.org](http://nbmtlink.org) or call **800-LINK-BMT** to learn more.





Year End 2024

Dear Friends of the LINK,

My name is Bill Alkema. Thirty years ago, on Sept 9, 1994, I received my sister Susan's bone marrow to cure me of relapsed acute myeloid leukemia (AML). I was 38 years-old and had relapsed from the more typical induction and intensification therapy mostly used in those days after a short two years. In those days there were very few resources explaining what bone marrow transplant patients would experience, what Graft Versus Host Disease (GVHD) really meant, or what a "new normal" might look like. I am now 68 years old and consider myself in very good health.

It was only after my bone marrow transplant that we, my wife, Sue, and I discovered nbmtLINK and in gratitude to my survival, we both began to be peer support mentors to leukemia patients and caregivers alike. Through the early years, we chatted with many patients who were considering or who had undergone a transplant. In those days, little information was available as the internet was brand new. Even the selection of a transplant center was difficult, since there were not that many. And stem cell transplant was just starting to be used as an alternative to a bone marrow transplant, GVHD was much more prevalent and certainly more of a mystery than it is today, thankfully.

The work that nbmtLINK took on more than 30 years ago was greatly needed. It was a new organization in those days and the LINK founder, Myra Jacobs and her team worked very hard developing resources and connecting patients with peer support individuals. Sue and I mentored up to four or five patients at a time for numerous years. It was extremely fulfilling and helpful to us as we dealt with my own recovery. The LINK even invited me to speak at a conference in Detroit, which was a great experience.

But then, over time, my experience became dated, less current, and the number of requests to mentor patients dwindled. And, with a renewed busy life—a true blessing—time slowly hampered more connections of this type.

Today, the nbmtLINK continues its mission of helping patients and their families before, during and after a transplant with numerous programs—too many to list here. My wife and I feel the LINK is a wonderful organization doing good work. For this reason, we recently donated in honor of my 30th transplant anniversary. We were pleased and thankful to be able to make this contribution.



At this time, I invite you to share whatever you can to fuel the mission and support the National Bone Marrow Transplant Link. Please consider a donation, any size, to the nbmtLINK when you determine your annual charitable donations. Please visit their website, [www.nbmtlink.org](http://www.nbmtlink.org) to see how your donation will make a difference in the lives of cancer patients and their loved ones.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Alkema".

Bill and Sue Alkema