



## Panerathon 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Featured Survivors Contact Information

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*Kathryn  
Audia*



*By Rachel Gobep, Story330*

Katie Audia had a cyst for two years. After she gave birth to her daughter, she realized it had changed – growing to the size of a softball. She sought help at the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center.

Audia, 32, had just bought a house with her husband. Her daughter was 10 months old when she got a call from the center while at working at Turning Technologies in Youngstown.

When the biopsy results came back, she learned it was cancerous.

“It was initial shock. I wasn’t sure what to do. But honestly, I worked the rest of the day,” Audia said.

She decided to tell everyone after work, and her husband couldn’t believe she worked through the day.

“I’M JUST THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT YOU KNOW, I KIND OF JUST PUSH THROUGH THINGS ... IT’S ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT I CAN’T CHANGE ... IT IS WHAT IT IS,” AUDIA SAID.

She said there is a history of breast cancer in her family, but there has been no genetic testing.

Her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer when she was 41 in 1995 and had a single mastectomy. She has been cancer-free for over 20 years. In 2014, her aunt endured both breast and ovarian cancer at 53.

She said this has changed her outlook on life and has made her become closer with her mother and aunt through talking about their experiences.

Audia finished chemotherapy in April and the radiation process began after Easter.

She said it made her realize she needs to make changes in her life, such as becoming healthy, striving to live every day and changing eating patterns because her cancer is estrogen-induced.

This experience has taught her to listen to her body and to know what’s right and wrong. She said it was caught early because she knew about the cyst and realized something was different.

Audia said she has had a great experience at Joanie Abdu since Day One, and had all same day services. She said Dr. Nancy Gantt, who conducted her surgery, is “better than the best.”

Although she has not participated in the Panerathon which benefits Joanie Abdu, she said she will take initiative to become more involved. She plans to participate in the 10th annual Panerathon on Aug. 25.

Roslyn  
Castillo



By Alyssa Weston, Story330

Before her Stage 2 breast cancer diagnosis in August 2018, Roslyn Castillo's life was a balancing act between raising her three children and working. When she was given her diagnosis, Castillo, 43, was in shock.

"After it hit me, I started getting nervous, worried, sad and afraid."

It became clear to Castillo that breast cancer would not only affect her, but also her three children.

"My mind goes 'What if I'm out of this life? How are they going to take care of themselves?'"

Although too young to understand the full extent of her diagnosis, her children knew she was sick – or had a "boo boo" as they called it. She was getting treatments and losing her hair.

Castillo procrastinated on getting her first mammogram and didn't go until she felt a lump.

When Castillo felt the lump, her sister-in-law, who works for Mercy Health, suggested she go to the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center in St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital for a mammogram.

Castillo described the staff at the Joanie Abdu as welcoming and informative.

"It was my first mammogram. I didn't know what to expect, how it is done, or if it hurt. But the (nurses) are really nice and friendly. I was nervous. But after it was explained, I was more relaxed," she said.

Her mammogram results showed two lumps. Because it was Castillo's first mammogram, they were unable to tell how long the lumps had been there. She needed a sonogram and a biopsy.

"I felt scared, nervous. I waited five days for the results."

One lump was cancerous. Surgery was set for two months later. Castillo finished eight rounds of chemotherapy. Radiation continued through this spring.

Although Castillo has never been to Panerathon, she has heard about it and is planning to attend this year.

Castillo said having breast cancer gave her a push to get healthy again and eat better. Her manager let her take time off work and now she is focused on taking time not to rush through life and take care of her body.

*Kristina Juratovic*



*By Rachel Gobep, Story330*

Kristina Juratovic describes herself as “patient zero” because there was no history of cancer in her family.

“It was a big shock for everybody,” she said.

Juratovic, a pharmacist at St. Elizabeth’s from Brookfield, did her breast exam two and a half weeks before she found the lump.

“I realized [I was] one of the few people that did my monthly breast exams,” Juratovic said.

She went to the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center for a mammogram and ultrasound in November 2014 and had a biopsy the same day. Three days later she was diagnosed with Stage 3c breast cancer. She had cancerous spots on her ribs and sternum and had lymph nodes under her arm that were positive. After going through the scans, she found that her cancer was growing about a centimeter a week in each direction.

Juratovic said by the time she began chemotherapy, she believes her original lump grew to about 80 percent of her left breast.

“From Day 1, there was not one step of the process that I had to do alone. I had all the resources, help and guidance that I needed to fight my battle and become a survivor,” Juratovic said.

She said she had no question about where she was going to go for treatment, and she believes Joanie Abdu is fantastic, relaxing and state of the art. Juratovic was diagnosed at 36 and has had three sets of stable scans as of April, which she said she has taken a long road to get to this point.

“They tell you you’re cancer free, but you’re never cancer free in your brain. You worry about it all the time ... It’s something you live with for the rest of your life,” Juratovic said.

She has gone through chemotherapy, had a double-mastectomy with reconstruction, “extensive” radiation and a total hysterectomy.

“Children were not a priority before. But when that’s taken away, it’s a really hard situation because it’s just not something that’s ever a possibility,” Juratovic said.

She then developed lymphedema in 2018, which can be caused by the removal of lymph nodes and causes swelling of the arms and legs. She said that before she was diagnosed, she feels like she didn’t appreciate life like she does today.

“AFTER GOING THROUGH TREATMENT AND EVERYTHING I WENT THROUGH, I WAKE UP EVERY DAY HAPPY TO BE ALIVE,” JURATOVIC SAID.

She said Panerathon’s fundraising is fantastic.

“Panerathon’s helping take care of people,” she said.

Additionally, Juratovic said it shows that people in the community are pushing what Dr. Abdu set up in the area.

“He did it in memory of somebody like me. He did it in memory of his wife, to support her and what she had to go through in the hope that somebody else wouldn’t.”



*By Alyssa Weston, Story330*

Bodybuilder and animal lover Michelle Apple ignored the lump she found in her armpit for a year and a half before getting a mammogram. She was told it was just a lymph node and not to worry. The lump grew as she took care of her sick mother, but she ignored it. When Apple's mother passed, she decided to get retested at Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center. She was diagnosed with Invasive Carcinoma Breast Cancer. The center was unable to do her lymph node transfer, so she had that procedure at the Cleveland Clinic.

"The scary part was when they did do my surgery, they did remove lymph nodes, and 21 were cancerous. So, moving forward, obviously, that makes me a little anxious," she said.

Before cancer, Apple spent her days working and traveling for her full-time job as a dietitian for AVI food systems in Warren Ohio, as well as balance her home life, fur babies and a fitness routine. Apple said she has continued to work and exercise during her treatments, and her body has responded well to chemotherapy and radiation. Although she has maintained a sense of normalcy, cancer has taught her to slow down her "type A" personality.

"It's OK to have a bad day. But don't stay in those days. Pick yourself right back up and the next day you continue to go. Allow yourself to have those moments," she said.

Apple said through the bad days, her support system of family and friends have been there to lift her spirit. A difficult part for Apple was telling her father. He has leukemia himself and lost his wife to cancer 18 months before.

"I stood strong. I did not cry in front of him because I didn't want him to worry. The first thing I told him is 'you know, I competed as a bodybuilder and I rode my bike hundreds of miles. I'm a strong woman and I'm going to get through this.' I think that reassured him that I was going to be fine."

Apple finds strength in mentoring other cancer patients at the Cleveland Clinic and Joanie Abdu, just like women from Apple's job and gym mentored her. In Apple's opinion, being in good physical shape before diagnosis and her bodybuilder mindset helped her navigate her cancer journey.

"I have an athletic mindset. I really truly believed as I approached cancer, I approached it the same way," she said.

It was important for Apple take full control of the effects of the chemotherapy treatments and shave her own head. So, she invited her girlfriends over for wine and to help her shave. "I felt like Demi Moore in G.I. Jane," she said.

Apple participated in Panerathon last year and did the 2-mile walk. She plans to take part this year.

"Panerathon is a great event. I think it's a great way to advocate, meet survivors and to honor those that we've lost," she said.

In Apple's opinion, Panerathon is heartwarming and a great way to raise money for Joanie Abdu.

"It is impactful. You see these people coming together for a cause to raise money to bring not just awareness, but information so that we can help other patients and bring new technology to this area," she said.

"I believe now, it's my duty and my responsibility to advocate, promote and talk about the Joanie Center and talk about this great facility that we have here."

Marie  
Dicesare



By Alyssa Weston, Story330

Marie Dicesare feels like she was twice struck by lightning in 2017 and 2018. First, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Then, she learned she had Stage 2 Invasive Ductal Carcinoma Breast Cancer. But the cancer survivor didn't let the thunderbolt diagnosis bury her beneath the ashes. Instead she was jolted to take her challenges head on and live life to the fullest.

"I didn't let it get me down to the best of my ability. I don't I don't think I've changed a lick. I think I'm just the same as I was before, just a little bit smarter and a little bit wiser of things that I don't take for granted a lot of things now," Dicesare said.

After finding a lump on her breast in the shower, Dicesare visited the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center for a mammogram on January 2018. The tests showed two areas that required biopsies. Both areas had cancer cells present. From there, she developed a relationship with Dr. Gant, Dr. Francis and Dr. Peterson at Joanie Abdu. Dicesare had surgery in March 2018, followed by eight chemotherapy treatments and 30 radiation treatments. In January 2019, she was given a clean bill of health. She thought being diagnosed with cancer was never going to happen to her.

"Boy, you know, it's a reality check. I learned that it can happen to anybody."

But this reality check didn't just affect her, Dicesare's family shared the pain of her diagnosis, especially her parents and three kids.

"[My mother] was a lot better than I thought she would take it. My father was a wreck being that he was diagnosed with cancer twice (prostate and lung). He cried," she said.

Dicesare's youngest son, Jaden, was 9 at the time of her diagnosis.

"HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT THE HECK WAS GOING ON. HE JUST KNEW THAT I WAS BACK AND FORTH TO THE DOCTORS AND THAT I WASN'T FEELING WELL. MY OLDER KIDS I THINK WERE A LITTLE CONFUSED, BUT THEY UNDERSTOOD. BUT TRY EXPLAINING TO THE 9-YEAR-OLD," SHE SAID WITH TEARS IN HER EYES.

She had to stay strong – not only for her own sanity, but for her family, especially Jaden. But Dicesare's family was there to support her every step of the way. Her brother helped her shave off her hair once it started falling out from chemotherapy treatments. He told her if she was going to lose her hair, he had to be the one to shave it off for her.

"We are Indians fans and I said, 'there's an Indians game on tonight. Let's order pizza and let's shave this head.' So, he did. He came over on that night. It was a Thursday night. And we sat there, then he shaved what was left," she said. "I wouldn't want anyone else to go through that with me."

Although Dicesare has not attended Panerathon, she is interested in attending in 2019 and feeling the positive energy the event provides for cancer patients and survivors alike.

Dicesare said her experience at Joanie Abdu was wonderful and she was welcomed with open arms.

"I hope I never have to go through this again. But, if I did ever have to go through this again, I would come back here without a second thought."

*Cyndi DiClaudio*



*By Rachel Gobep, Story330*

Cyndi DiClaudio became a grandmother soon after she was cleared from breast cancer. She never thought she would get this far in life after cancer.

“There’s a lot of what-ifs and struggles through the treatment,” she said.

DiClaudio, 54, from Warren, came to the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center. She paid for a 3D mammogram to make sure all was fine because a lump was found in her left breast that was not cancerous about two years before, after a 2D mammogram.

In September, a suspicious lump was found in her breast.

“They would not have found that out if they did not do that 3D mammogram. The 2D did not show it,” she said.

DiClaudio said at the time of her diagnosis, she had no lumps. It was a shock. Her treatment began a little more than a month after her biopsy.

“It was just so fast. It was just a whirlwind,” she said.

When DiClaudio was told her diagnosis, she didn’t cry. She felt like she was in good hands because she said Joanie Abdu is better than any place she has gone for a mammogram.

“I knew that I was in a good place for some reason,” she said.

DiClaudio underwent six rounds of chemotherapy and 30 rounds of radiation.

She said this is not the first tragedy she has been through. She lost a son.

“Losing a child is a parent’s worst nightmare,” DiClaudio said.

She said she believes it helped her through this experience.

**“I WASN’T GOING TO LET CANCER BEAT ME,” SHE SAID.**

DiClaudio said cancer has changed her life because things she thought were important aren’t so important to her anymore – such as cleanliness of her house and doing the dishes. She found what is more important is going out to dinner with friends and enjoying life.

DiClaudio also loves to travel and wants to experience everything that is around her.

“I want to take [my grandson] and show him what the world has to offer,” she said.

DiClaudio attended Panerathon for the first time in 2018. At the time, she was still getting radiation, so she couldn’t walk the whole way.

“I was just in awe. I could not believe how big and how wonderful the whole situation was,” she said. “It was overwhelming.”

DiClaudio said she believes Panerathon has done a lot to educate and allow people to know that there are others going through breast cancer.

“When you find out that you have cancer, you can look. You can do research,” she said. “You can ask doctors questions ... but until you talk to somebody else that has had cancer... that’s when you feel like you connected. I think Panerathon does that. It allows people to get connected.



*By Alyssa Weston, Story330*

For Susan Aey, breast cancer was the furthest thing from her mind until one night in bed.

"Imagine my shock when late one night while lying in bed, I had a sharp uncomfortable pain in my left breast, half asleep. I felt for a small lump the next morning – not sure if I had been dreaming. Unfortunately, it was," she said.

Aey – a physician herself – said it was difficult just calling her gynecologist and saying the words, "I have a breast lump."

Even though her tests came back inconclusive from the first breast cancer center she went to, Aey's gynecologist urged her to visit the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center. After being tested immediately, she got her diagnosis.

"I'm kind of an example of what not to do because I just never, ever considered that breast cancer was a possibility for me. I had no family history; had no risk factors. I was active and I felt healthy; I felt wonderful. Because of that attitude, I stopped doing breast exams," Aey said.

Before breast cancer, Aey was a stay-at-home mom with a hectic lifestyle of running her kids around. Her unexpected diagnosis hit her hard. Aey didn't think the lump could be cancer and was hopeful that her biopsy would come back fine.

"I still have kids at home, I really was thinking more about them than myself. It was scary. It really was scary."

In Aey's opinion, she is fortunate that she had the sudden pain and caught her cancer in the early stages. Otherwise, she might not have found out for another six months when she was due for her next mammogram. Aey said with her medical knowledge, she felt she was in good hands at the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center and was impressed at how frequently evaluations were.

"(The center) is so calming and comforting. It's not like a normal clinic where you're, you know, sitting in a large waiting room with a lot of other people under the bright lights," Aey explained.

Aey's advice for other cancer patients going through similar treatment is that although it's scary and anxiety provoking, the treatments have come so far and the prognosis for most breast cancers is good now.

"You just have to look at the end result and try not to get bogged down and so worried about the process in between. It isn't pleasant all the time. But you know, if I can get through it, I think most people can," she said.

Cancer gave Aey a reset that she didn't ask for – it slowed her down.

Aey navigated a new pace while going through chemotherapy and radiation treatments because she was unable to do all the "hustle and bustle" and rushing around she did before.

"It just makes you think of what's important," she said. "I just feel I have a lot of gratitude to everyone along the way from Joanie Abdu that helped me through this."



A portrait of Krissie Moore, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a black top, with her arms crossed. To her left is a larger, faded version of her face. The name "Krissie Moore" is written in a cursive font over the faded image.

Krissie  
Moore

By Rachel Gobep, Story330

For Krissie Moore, her journey through breast cancer was the “deepest, darkest foggy day” for a year and a half.

“I was walking through that fog [not knowing] what was in front of me,” she said. “I knew someday there’d be a rainbow at the end.”

Moore, 48, of Liberty Township found the rainbow in 2015, when she learned she was cancer free. When she was diagnosed, it was an exciting time in Moore’s life. The day before Moore’s son graduated from high school, she felt a lump in her breast while taking a shower. But while she didn’t want to deal with it, something in the back of her head told her to take care of it. Moore said she made an appointment at the doctor’s office, and they told her it was probably nothing because she was so young, but to get it checked. She immediately scheduled an appointment at the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center, and she was in there two days later. Moore said when she was told she needed a biopsy, she wanted to leave immediately.

“At that point, everything is a blur,” she said.

The staff at JACBCC told her they did not feel comfortable letting her leave. Moore said that they knew she had cancer. The biopsy would see what kind of cancer it was. She was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. In just five days, it had spread to her lymph nodes. Her treatment started within a week. She believes JACBCC saved her life.

“There was no waiting game. It was immediate ... They take such good care of you,” Moore said.

Telling her children of her diagnosis was very hard.

“I tried to be strong in front of them. I never cried in front of my children. If I had to cry, I went into my own room or the bathroom,” she said.

Moore said it became her “new normal.”

“They get used to seeing mom sick, and you just put on a brave face and tell them that you’re going to be okay ... They persevered through it, and they’re a lot stronger for it,” she said.

She underwent 15 months of chemotherapy, six weeks of radiation and multiple surgeries. Moore said she had a difficult time emotionally with her diagnosis. But after she was cancer free, she wanted to share her story to help other women.

“You have to not only be smart and be your own advocate, but you have to make sure you’re going to the right places to get the care that you need,” she said.

If it wasn’t for her diagnosis, Moore would have never been able to experience things she’s passionate about – such as walking dogs at Animal Charity.

“It made me want to do it for them. It took me out of the picture,” she said.

The first time she went, she could only walk one dog for about a half a block. After a while as she healed, she would walk every dog in the kennel around the block twice. She became active in Panerathon in 2015. She said it was emotional and overwhelming for survivors.

“You just look around and you know that there are other women there who have been through what you’ve been through. You’re so happy to see them. You’re happy to learn their stories.”

*Sherri Spivey*



*By Alyssa Weston, Story330*

At age 53, Sherri Spivey's life was back on track in January 2016, having just re-enrolled at Youngstown State University to finish her social work degree. Then she was diagnosed with Stage 1 breast cancer. When the doctor told Spivey the lump in her breast was a small tumor, she immediately thought of death and believed her life was coming to a sudden halt just as she felt she had started living again.

"[I thought] 'Oh lord, I'm getting ready to die,'" she said. "I just broke down and I just cried for like two hours before the doctor could even finish telling me the rest of my diagnosis."

Before breast cancer, Spivey, now 56, described herself as a happy-go-lucky. The diagnosis, however, made her shutdown – crippled by worry that she was on death's doorstep. But through the support of the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center in St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital, her friends and family as well as the power of prayer, she said "not today" to death. During her treatment, Spivey had a lumpectomy to remove much of her left breast and the lymph nodes to ensure the cancer hadn't spread. After the surgery, she had to have four cycles of chemotherapy over 3 months and 30 radiation treatments five days a week for two months.

Although she was overwhelmed with the thought of chemotherapy and losing her hair, Spivey was determined not to stay home and feel sorry for herself. One of the most difficult experiences of battling cancer for Spivey was telling her son and daughter about her diagnosis. They were devastated. Her son ran in the other room and shut the door. Her daughter fell in the corner and cried.

"[They] automatically thought 'Oh, mommy's gonna die.'"

Although it was a difficult time, Spivey's children were by her side every step of the way. Spivey participated in a clinical trial at Joanie Abdu which involved new medication to help renew the blood cells that chemotherapy damaged.

"Participating in this trial made me feel like I was doing something to help myself and other women," she said.

Through Spivey's experience at Joanie Abdu, she gained a second family. She still keeps in touch with the staff and regularly visits the center, even without an appointment, just to say hello. Additionally, Spivey is now part of a support group called Joanie's Sisters.

"If it wasn't for the center, I honestly don't know what I would do," Spivey said.

Now a two-year survivor, Spivey is done with her treatments but still comes to Joanie Abdu for check-ups. Although Spivey has never attended Panerathon, she is looking forward to attending it this year as her first year, and to be surrounded by the love and support of the community.

"As I began this journey, the important part of this was not me losing my hair, but living and having the ability to share my story with other women who may be going through the same situation," she said.

Spivey has three classes left at YSU and is using her new life as an advocate of regular breast exams. She believes that early detection is a cure.

"I realized that I am here for a reason."



Goldie  
Tillman



*By Rachel Gobep, Story330*

Goldie Tillman said she is fighting breast cancer for her three children because she wants to make sure she sees them grow up, graduate and start their own lives.

“I don’t want what I’m going through right now to have their minds not really on ‘kid things’ because you only get to be a kid once,” she said.

She wants her children to still be kids and tries not to put too much pressure on them with her diagnosis.

Tillman, from Warren, was diagnosed with cancer at 29 after she found an abnormal lump in August 2018.

She said she originally put it off and went to the doctor after the new year. But feels lucky that she found it when she did because it did not spread.

Tillman said she this experience has been an eye-opener and that tomorrow is not really promised. She learned that she needs to stop putting things off and procrastinating.

She always did breast exams at home because she has larger breasts, and her biggest fear was needing to have a mastectomy because she is so young.

“(Breasts) for me is the biggest part of being a woman, especially a young woman,” she said.

Tillman’s OBGYN recommended her to the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center after a positive biopsy. From Day 1, she said her experience at the center was beautiful – from the kindness of the staff to the environment.

She began her first round of chemotherapy in April.

She was scared at first because she was the youngest person there and felt out of place at times because she was the only black woman in the room, but she was made to feel at home.

“This is a great place. I would most definitely recommend this place to any and everybody ... I have a decent team of people. I love them, and I know they love me.”

Tillman said she is trying to explain to her 9-year-old daughter that cancer is not something a person can just “catch.” It’s not contagious and the treatment is not something that she can be scared of.

“I know my body, and that’s something [my daughter] needs to learn too ... because nobody can tell you about your body but you,” she said.

She said this experience has changed her life because she was going through a lot before her diagnosis and thought everything was going to be back on track, but then she found the lump.

Her hopes for the future are to be cancer-free, to move on, be healthy and live in the now.

Tillman plans on attending the Panerathon, a 10K/2-mile walk or run in downtown Youngstown that benefits JACBCC, with her family and friends on Aug. 25.

*Dr. Rashid  
Abdu*



*By Story330*

It was a tragic event in his own life that allowed Dr. Rashid Abdu, who treated people for decades, to see what his patients were going through. In 1993, Dr. Abdu's wife, Joanie, was diagnosed with breast cancer. She, too, was a medical professional as a registered nurse.

The husband-wife medical professionals became everyday, pedestrian patients:

Multiple appointments, tests, traveling between facilities, long delays etc. They even traveled out of town for treatments not yet available locally – Cleveland, Pittsburgh and more.

They were hopeful Joanie would get the correct course of treatment, recover, and they would resume their happy lives.

It was not to be. It became evident that the aggressive cancer Joanie had would soon take her life.

"Joanie was the kind of person who saw only the good in people. She was the love of my life," said Dr. Abdu. And cancer came and stole her away from me."

Dr. Abdu promised her as she died:

Youngstown would have a comprehensive breast care center in her name so that others would not suffer as she did.

It was to be yet another test of wills in the fascinating, unimaginable life of Dr. Abdu.

Born in Yemen in 1932, he was a part of a large, poor farm family that lived off the land. His cousin lived in a big city that had "lights without kerosene," cars and all these other amazing things. As a 12-year-old, Dr. Abdu traveled three days on a camel to get there and visit. A relative became sick and a doctor saved him.

That moment was seared in his memory. He, too, would be a doctor some day.

In that city, an American counselor took a shine to Dr. Abdu and enrolled him in a school for half a day while he worked the rest of the day to earn his way.

That counselor eventually moved back to America, and they invited Dr. Abdu to make his way over if he wanted. He did, arriving in 1948, and went to high school in the U.S. The king of Yemen learned of Dr. Abdu's improbable story and paid for his college. In the letter, the king left Dr. Abdu with one vital prompt:

"Do what has to be done as it should be done."

The Joanie Abdu Center did not happen fast. It would take 18 years. Dr. Abdu had been planning and researching and donating his own funds to create the Center before his dream came true. In 2011, he was able to open the \$8 million Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center at St. Elizabeth Health Center in Youngstown.

Pieces of its last funding came from the new Panerathon race program that was just getting started. The two programs have been joined ever since.

"We have a beautiful community," said Dr. Abdu. "They understood our mission. They embraced it. It has become a community project. For me, I am so grateful."