

PIVOT Leader Team



Cheryl Jernigan

Lead Patient Research Advocate
Kansas City, MO

I am a 23-year breast cancer survivor. And a co-survivor with my husband, who was a 6-year HPV tonsil cancer and 12-year metastatic prostate cancer survivor. Prostate cancer took him January 2018. For over 20 years, I have worked extensively as a cancer and research advocate nationally and locally. Other pursuits include sharing time with family and friends; walking outdoors, especially with my dogs; and exploring new adventures!



Broderick Crawford

Kansas City, KS

My advocacy journey began 10 years ago as a caregiver for my father, a prostate cancer survivor. Over the last decade, I have worked with researchers to give a voice to minorities, who are under-represented in medical research. I believe that the role of research advocate is crucial in bridging the divide between scientific and minority communities. I am a consummate community volunteer, dedicated to improving the lives of those who are less fortunate. I am the Executive Director of the NBC Community Development Corporation and have been an active member of New Bethel Church since 1974.



Julie Crotts

Dodge City, KS

I am a survivor of Hodgkins Lymphoma after being diagnosed at age 14. I am a current patient at the KU Cancer Center Survivorship Transition Clinic, which provides survivorship care for adult survivors of pediatric cancer. I work as a family nurse practitioner in rural southwest Kansas. My special interests include long-term survivor care and young adult survivorship. I believe that research advocacy is important to ensure that the research process incorporates the lived experience of cancer.



Kent Culbertson

Phillipsburg, KS

My personal journey with cancer began during my senior year of high school when my mom was diagnosed with colon cancer. She beat the odds by surviving a recurrence on her ovary in 1998. She is currently undergoing treatment for bladder cancer, diagnosed earlier this year. Being a co-survivor can feel helpless at times. Getting involved in PIVOT is my way of doing something about cancer beyond being a resource to families going through treatment. As a fifth generation banker from a close-knit community in Northwest Kansas, I am passionate about being a voice for rural communities.



Kristine Darnell

Kickapoo Reservation, Horton, KS

My journey of being a cancer advocate and caregiver began at the age of 28 when my mother was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. I am a mother of three grown children, a grandmother of six girls, and a grant writer. I am also a survivor who has been in remission from stage III(c) breast cancer for seven years. Over the past five years, I have advocated for long-term and late effects of cancer and its therapies through my participation in numerous research studies. Giving back through research advocacy is my passion and purpose – an opportunity to bring my voice as a cancer patient to researchers, an opportunity that can and will bring tremendous progress in the immediate future.



Ashley Flynn

Olathe, KS

After my rectal cancer diagnosis at age 24, twenty-six years before typical screening age, I knew spreading awareness would become a large part of my life. I hope to use my cancer experiences in PIVOT to help create a better working environment between patients and providers, which in turn will produce research that is beneficial for all.



Sylvia Hernandez
Overland Park, KS

I am the single parent of three wonderful children, including one who was diagnosed with medulloblastoma (brain tumor) at age 4 ½. Thankfully, she is now 8 years in remission. This pediatric cancer journey has made me an advocate in every sphere of our lives. As a master-level social worker with a heart for children and families, my goal is to ensure that this journey does not limit us, but rather empowers us and others to endure and be resilient in the face of this disease.



Michele Longabaugh
Wichita, KS

I am a wife, mother of three grown children, author, and registered nurse working in Cardiac Rhythm Management in Wichita, KS as a field clinical support for pacemakers and defibrillators for Biotronik Inc. Diagnosed with Stage IV Anal Cancer in February 2010, I work and volunteer in the area of cancer survivorship, awareness and advocacy for rare and stigmatized cancers. This work is important as it truly humanizes cancer for the researcher and it allows me to contribute despite my advanced stage of cancer. I am inspired knowing that I can bring a face to the cancer cells that researchers study and a voice that will possibly resonate for cancer patients for generations to come.



Peggy Johnson
Wichita, KS

I am a 29-year cancer and access to care advocate and a 6-year breast cancer survivor. Public policy has always been a large area of focus for me, working to make sure everyone has access to the best quality of healthcare and treatment. As a patient advocate, working to assure the patient's voice in treatment decisions and research has become my passion. After being diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer I am still a patient advocate but with a different voice. In my work at Wichita Medical Research, I work to assure all possible patient protections in clinical trials. I am honored to serve as the patient advocate on a number of research projects at KUCC. When not working and serving as a patient advocate I enjoy cooking, spending time with my husband, family and our pets.

PIVOT

PATIENT AND INVESTIGATOR
VOICES ORGANIZING TOGETHER



Kim Jones

Kansas City, MO

I am a nail technician and salon owner. Cancer has been a part of my life since I was a young girl. Three of my grandparents died of cancer, including my grandmother who committed suicide while undergoing chemotherapy treatment. For 9 years I supported a friend in her fight against ovarian cancer; then I was diagnosed with breast cancer January 2012. Praise God I won the battle and have now launched Sisters Living Beyond The Ribbon, an organization to help others in their fight. Being involved in PIVOT has given me knowledge about cancer research that I can take to others in my community.
