

# The Assist Line



Assistance Fund

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EDITOR: MARILOU NIGGEMANN

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## BEAT BREAST CANCER

BY: EMILY HESS



**Cancer is a word, not a sentence!**

For most women, no disease is dreaded more than breast cancer. It produces fears related to loss of body image and sexuality, surgery, and death. As with other cancers, the exact cause remains unknown and no current cure exists, but prevention is key.

Each year, over 200,000 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in women in the United States. To date, the most vital strategy in increasing survival is still breast cancer screening and early detection. Doctors urge patients to examine breasts regularly for any unusual changes, such as lumps, that can

indicate the early signs of a breast tumor.

If you are 40 or over it is strongly recommended to have a yearly mammogram. However, if you have a family history, were treated with radiation therapy between the ages of 10 and 30, or have a BCRA1 or BCRA2 gene mutation, the age for annual mammograms drops to 30 years old.

The average cost of a mammogram is \$100, but many can range from \$75 to \$250. **Are you looking for a free mammogram?** If your income is low, or you are uninsured, you may be able to get a low-cost or free mammogram.

Here is the national resource for low-cost or free mammograms:

### [National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program](#)

Administered by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and its purpose is to provide low-income, uninsured, and underserved women with access to screening and diagnostic services. Funding is available for all 50 states, District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and American Indian/Alaskan Native tribal organizations.

Based on where you live, discounted mammogram information is available at the following organizations:

- [The American College of Radiology](#)
- [Planned Parenthood Clinics](#)
- [YWCA Encore Plus Programs](#)

We also encourage you to contact your local support organizations:

- [Susan G. Komen Foundation Affiliates](#)
- [American Cancer Society](#)
- [Breast Cancer Network of Strength](#)
- [American Breast Cancer Foundation](#)

Stay informed. Don't skip your mammogram because of a lack of money. Help is out there!



## IT'S RENEWAL SEASON

2012 Renewal Applications for copay assistance are in the mail.

Return your application & supporting docs by Dec. 15, 2011.

## TAF WELCOMES A NEW BOARD MEMBER, DR. MOSLEY-MENDEZ BY: MARILOU NIGGEMANN

The Assistance Fund, a leading 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, announces the appointment of Dr. Kellie Mosley-Mendez to its Board of Directors. "The Assistance Fund staff and current board are happy to welcome Dr. Mosley-Mendez to our organization. The addition to the Board of Directors ensures The Assistance Fund will continue to advance through leveraging various backgrounds and perspectives," said Jeff Spafford, Executive Director of The Assistance Fund.

Dr. Mosley-Mendez is a practicing board certified dermatologist with two locations in Florida. She completed her

residency in dermatology and cutaneous surgery at Broward General Medical Center/Nova Southeastern University School of Osteopathic Medicine, Division of Dermatology in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Dr. Mosley-Mendez brings expertise in adult and pediatric dermatology, skin cancer diagnosis and treatment, and cosmetic procedures to The Assistance Fund Board of Directors.



"Dr. Mosley-Mendez's experience in dermatology, including skin cancer diagnosis and treatment, brings a fresh and positive outlook to the organization. She will help The Assistance Fund continue our mission to help individuals with chronic or life threatening illnesses receive greatly needed financial assistance for prescription medications, health care premiums, and genetic testing," said Spafford.

Assist Line wishes to extend a warm welcome Dr. Mosley-Mendez to The Assistance Fund family!

## MEET SHARON PENNANT, PATIENT ADVOCATE

### Why did you start working at The Assistance Fund?

I began working at TAF after researching all of the innovative ways they are enhancing people's lives. I wanted to begin a career with a company that I can grow with and utilize my talents and skills that I've learned at the University of Central Florida and from past employment. Being apart of The Assistance Fund Team has been a dream come true and more. I am honored to be apart of such a breakthrough organization.

### What has been your most memorable experience since you started working here?

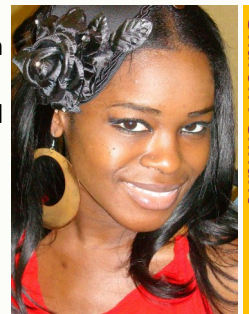
My most memorable experience was when everyone decorated my desk then surprised me with gifts and cards for my birthday. I felt very special because it was so unexpected. My heart was smiling because it was one of the best birthdays ever!

### What do you want readers to know about yourself and The Assistance Fund?

I want readers to know that I have a passion to be of service to others. It is truly rewarding for me and I take pride in being their patient advocate. I realize getting access is life changing and I'm here to guide them every step of the way.

### What do you do in your free time?/ What are your hobbies?

In my leisure time, I love to surround myself with the people I cherish the most. I enjoy travelling around the world to learn about different cultures. I also love going to the beach, taking a boat ride out on the lake, or relaxing by the pool. My hobbies include cooking, exercising, participating in community service, and attending church.



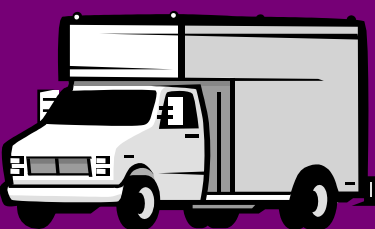
Sharon Pennant

## [ SIDE NOTE ]

We're moving!!

Mid-November, TAF will have a **new** home and a **new** address!

Keep an eye out for our change of address notice in the mail!



## TAF SUPPORTS

BY: SHARON PENNANT

The Assistance Fund and friends of TAF look for ways to celebrate and acknowledge notable groups or people.

In honor of the economic and social contributions of American workers this year, TAF coordinated a

company potluck for Labor Day. We all brought an array of sweet treats and savory dishes to share. Everyone also showed support for national Wear Teal Day—wearing teal and sporting ribbons—to help increase education about ovarian cancer.



— Proud to Wear Teal —

The Assistance Fund staff and Friends of TAF



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