Runway for Recovery provides families with a continuum of support along their journey with breast cancer. We create community by hosting virtual and in-person events and providing services that create joy and inspire hope. With shared understanding we celebrate survivors, honor legacies, and fund families who have experienced loss. With the support of our generous donors, Runway for Recovery has been able to spend the last 12 months honing our services to fit the evolving needs of the families we serve amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Breast cancer crosses all demographic lines, and our program has a significant impact on the families we serve. For example, those we fund with our Family Grants program are confronted with a challenge that is often two-fold: They are experiencing the real and lasting financial side effects of a loved one going through breast cancer treatment and currently fall into a systemic gap in services after the patient passed away.

Runway is not a “typical” breast cancer nonprofit. While many other nonprofits raise money to find a cure, Runway focuses on the family. This year, Runway for Recovery refined and grew our direct services. Now, as we enter our 15th year, we are excited to mark the anniversary with celebration, hope, and gratitude. We are pleased to share the following highlights from our work in FY21:

- We funded fifteen families with grants of $10-30K per family through our Family Grants program, giving away over $215,000 for extra curricular activities, tutoring, groceries, summer camp, counseling, child care, and house cleaning services.
- Our devoted social workers and volunteers have spent over 400 hours working with these families to provide support and pro-bono services after losing a parent to breast cancer.
- The Virtual Runway Show drew an audience of 1300 and raised over $300K for the organization — our most successful annual event to date.
- We are currently serving 135 models (breast cancer survivors, thrivers, pre-vivors and the legacies of those who have passed away) this year as we get ready for our October event. Fitness studios have partnered with us throughout the pandemic to co-host Rally for Runway events and collectively, these events have raised over $13K for Runway with more than 300 participants.
• We continue to grow our organizational capacity and are thrilled to announce that we have hired our second full-time employee who will begin her role as an Executive Assistant in mid-July. She joins a super team of eight part-time contractors who are the heart and soul of why Runway has grown in the ways we have since our re-Imagined 2019 year.

Supporting Families After the Unimaginable

In February of last year we received an application to our Family Grants program from Ben, who had lost his wife three months prior to breast cancer, when their children were five and just under two-years-old. At the time, Ben was trying to put one foot in front of the other for his family, and shared how he had been apprehensive about asking for help. He noted how the social worker 360-evaluation and support was critical for him in figuring out what exactly to apply for, and how funding from Runway could be leveraged to best help them get ahead. We are pleased to share that we were able to fund his application in full, and among other items—including childcare and health and wellness support—we covered the cost of a tutor for his oldest child, Eli, who was having a hard time managing emotions following the death of his mother. Ben wanted to make sure that Eli was supported in his first year of school—and amidst a global pandemic, lockdowns, and being a single parent providing for his young family, he was understandably concerned about Eli having everything he needed. After working with a wonderful tutor over the last year Eli is thriving academically, and Ben recently reflected on how he knows Eli would not have been as prepared as he is now without this support.

A Father’s Genes Can Impact Your Breast Cancer Story

Recently we started to welcome our new “models” to the Runway community for our annual fashion show event in October. One model, Natalie, is in her late 20s, and was introduced to Runway for Recovery when her boyfriend forwarded her an instagram post about early detection of breast cancer and family history. Natalie’s paternal grandmother passed away from breast cancer when her father was six years old. She shared that her father was one of six children, and not long after his mothers passing, his father, who faced many challenges keeping the family afloat also passed. After learning more about Family Grants and support services, Natalie said that she often wonders about how different her dad’s life and upbringing might have been if her grandfather had access to the resources that Runway provides.

After gathering more information about genes and family history’s impact on breast cancer, Natalie made the decision to undergo a full genetic screening. She learned from the genetic panel that she is 40% more likely to have breast cancer at some point in her life, and is now undergoing regular monitoring including annual MRIs. Natalie recently shared that the knowledge of her risk, and her monitoring plan makes her feel empowered about her health and future in a way she didn’t think it would. We are thrilled that she will walk in our Runway Fashion Show this fall, with a goal of raising awareness about early genetic testing, especially among her female family members.
2020-2021 Year in Review

Total Revenue FY21: $566,194

Total Expenses FY21: $484,078

honoring survivors & funding families

29 Water Street, Suite 216 | Newburyport, MA 01950 | (617) 710-2172 | runwayforrecovery.org
I lost the love of my life, and my best friend. She was diagnosed with breast cancer shortly after the birth of our second child two and half years ago. She had a long and painful road, but she fought every step of the way. In the aftermath of her death, I am trying to keep all the pieces of our life together. Who I am as a man, father, and husband, I owe to my wife’s presence in my life, and the beautiful children she gave me. Through Runway for Recovery’s Family Grants Program, I am able to honor her memory by allowing our family to utilize funds to heal, grow, and move forward in our lives.”
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We thank you all for keeping our Runway stable and secure during this unimaginable time, so that together, we can make it shorter for those who need it most.