

Native American Interviewers:

Mary Helen Deer Smith (*Kiowa*), Judith S. Kaur (*Choctaw/Cherokee*), Mary P. Lovato (*Santo Domingo Pueblo*), Angela Russell (*Crow*), Barbara J. Stillwater (*Yurok/Inuit*), Don Thornton (*Western Cherokee*)

Special thanks to our Native American "patients" for sharing their stories to help others through this experience.

Katherine Big Hail (*Crow*), Mary Lou Calabaza (*Santo Domingo Pueblo*), Mary Lou Davis (*Caddo/Cherokee*), Georgianna D. (*Fort Bend*), Ruth Demit (*Athabaskan-Tanacross*), Eloise D. (*Standing Rock Sioux*), Patricia Horse Johnson (*Kiowa*), Jennie Joe (*Navajo*), Frances Johnson (*Fish River Inupiaq/Yupik*), Candi Miller (*Haida*), Martha Red Willow (*Oglala Sioux*), Dominga Rosetta (*Santo Domingo Pueblo*), Angela Russell (*Crow*), Carolyn Shubert (*Fish River Inupiaq*), Carolyn Spotted Horse (*Crow*), Norma Staples (*Mandan/Sioux*), Gloria Suazo (*Taos Pueblo*), Cyndi Thornton (*Western Cherokee*), Evelyn Trujillo (*Yaqui*), Esther ("Bunny") Venes (*Inupiaq/Yupik*), Annie Williams (*Yupik*)

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this booklet is to share stories of strength from Native women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. The intended audience for this booklet is others who are going through a similar experience, and for their loved ones. Although we have made videotapes of these stories, for many Native families, print materials are easier to use. We have prepared these materials to help prevent anyone from going through this experience alone. Many Native American cultures discourage discussing personal health problems. But with a disease like cancer that is surrounded with so much misinformation (such as a cancer diagnosis means a death sentence), we need to help one another through the experience. By sharing such information for this booklet, the Native women wanted others to learn from their stories so that they would seek diagnostic services and if cancer is present, that it be diagnosed and treated in early stage of growth (while it is still curable). These women shared their stories to help others through this experience.

Our program had many delays in developing these materials. We experienced severe budget cuts and without the help of our current supporters (see the back panel of this booklet), we would not have been able to produce these materials.

It has been an honor to learn from these women.

Dr. Yvonne Kunkasetzjanov