



**Shanti Project**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SHANTI PROJECT CANCER PROGRAM EXPANDS  
TO SERVE PEOPLE OF ALL GENDERS**

***SAN FRANCISCO, September 24, 2025*** – Shanti Project (Shanti), a community-based nonprofit providing care navigation and support services to individuals with terminal, life-threatening, or disabling illnesses or conditions, has expanded its Cancer Program, formerly known as the Margot Murphy Women’s Cancer Program, to serve clients of all genders. This program expansion will help ensure more individuals with cancer receive comprehensive care navigation, peer support, and psychosocial services.

“We are very excited to announce this expansion of services,” said Kimberly Scrafano, Shanti’s Chief Executive Officer. “The need in the community for those with limited resources and living with cancer in San Francisco is very high, and we are honored to have been chosen to provide these services and be able to expand on them. With the support from the City and County of San Francisco and our very generous institutional and individual donors, along with the partnerships we have with community-based organizations and medical providers and centers, Shanti will be able to reach more people in need in the community.”

In 1974, Shanti began to provide emotional and peer support for terminal patients at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Cancer Institute. With UCSF seeing patients diagnosed with a new illness in the early 1980s, Shanti became one of the first community-based organizations serving those living with HIV/AIDS. In 2001, Shanti expanded its services to include women diagnosed with breast cancer, and in 2015, expanded again to serve women facing any cancer diagnosis. With this new expansion, individuals of all genders facing cancer can receive quality, tailored care navigation, peer, and emotional and practical support services at Shanti.

“The goal of Shanti’s Cancer Program is to mitigate the barriers clients face after a cancer diagnosis,” said Ai May Tan, the Cancer Program Director. “These services augment hospital-

based care by providing care navigation, including accompanying clients to medical appointments, as well as emotional, practical, wellness, and survivorship support. Our services are provided in multiple languages, and our services help empower individuals with cancer overcome linguistic, social, and systemic barriers to access and complete treatment and move into survivorship.”

Shanti’s Cancer Program primarily serves clients who are patients of the Cancer Navigation Program (CNP), a team of cancer navigators embedded in services at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (ZSFGH). Clients served include, but are not limited to, cisgender women and men, as well as transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming individuals. Shanti provides psychosocial, wellness, and practical support to anyone who qualifies, which includes individuals with low or no income (80% of San Francisco Area Median Income or less) and those with limited or no health coverage. Shanti strives to support those who are medically underserved, marginally housed or unhoused, or have limited or no access to other resources. Shanti’s Cancer Program services are offered in Cantonese, Mandarin, and Spanish, and language support services are provided for speakers of other languages.

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## **ABOUT SHANTI PROJECT**

Shanti Project is a 501c3 nonprofit that builds human connections to reduce isolation, enhance health and well-being, and improve quality of life for people with terminal, life-threatening, or disabling illnesses or conditions. Founded in 1974 at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Cancer Institute, Shanti was one of the first volunteer organizations in the United States to provide support to people with life-threatening illness. Shanti emerged from the UCSF cancer ward halls to become one of the world’s very first community-based organizations to help support people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS during the epidemic’s early, most traumatic days.

In 2001, Shanti began providing cancer services again, prioritizing women diagnosed with breast cancer, and in 2015, expanded its program to serve women facing any cancer diagnosis. Shanti merged with community partner Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS), which became a program of Shanti’s, in 2015. Shanti again expanded its model of care to more members of the community with the LGBTQ+ Aging & Abilities Support Network (LAASN), which addresses social isolation as well as emotional, behavioral, and health challenges faced by LGBTQ+ older adults and adults with disabilities. From its earliest days, Shanti has engaged and inspired members of our community to be the difference between zero and one – the difference between facing life’s most difficult challenges alone or with one person by your side.

For more information, please visit us at [www.shanti.org](http://www.shanti.org).