

World Cancer Congress

Geneva, Switzerland
17–19 Sept 2024



YEARS

of Support, Strength,
and Community



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About Cancer Support Switzerland

25
YEARS

WHO WE ARE

Cancer Support Switzerland is a non-profit organisation made up of professionals and trained volunteers who understand the life-changing impact of a cancer diagnosis. Since 2000, we have been providing cancer support in English to individuals throughout Lake Geneva. Over the past 25 years, we have steadily expanded our reach and now provide support across Switzerland and neighbouring regions.

OUR MISSION

We provide emotional support, practical assistance and physical wellbeing activities in English and free of charge to people affected by cancer. This includes patients, families, caregivers, the bereaved and loved ones. Our services are open to individuals of all nationalities, ensuring that language or background is never a barrier to receiving support.

OUR VISION

No one faces cancer alone.

WHERE WE OPERATE

Our services are available in the cantons of Geneva, Vaud, and Zurich and neighbouring regions, as well as online.

- In **Geneva**, our Centre offers a welcoming space where individuals receive support from trained volunteers and professional staff in a compassionate environment.
- In the cantons of **Vaud** and **Zurich**, we continue to strengthen our local presence, now providing in-person counselling, peer support and support groups in both locations, as well as a Drop-In Centre in Vaud.
- Through **online services**, we ensure that anyone across Switzerland and nearby regions can access support.



“

I joined the group after my own cancer diagnosis and treatment in 2000. My wish to talk to someone who had had a similar experience with cancer was what inspired me, and I felt I could offer a sympathetic ear to a newly diagnosed person going through similar challenges. As this small group grew, I met Patsy, the new leader, and Thea, the psychologist who set up training sessions for us would-be volunteers. I intend to continue this rewarding work for as long as possible!

- Sally Alderson, Peer Supporter and Drop-In Volunteer

“

“I have been a volunteer with Cancer Support Switzerland for 19 years in many different functions. The most important one being the weekly physical activity group for women with breast cancer which addressed special issues but also a space to share information and feelings.

I am honoured to be part of this community and being able to accompany the people we support during a difficult time in their lives and having their trust.

- Karin De Lamarter, Peer Supporter and part of the Caregivers Support Group



“

Being a volunteer in our association is sharing in the support of people affected by cancer. It's given me a strong sense of purpose to build a community with so many wonderful people.

- Gary Buell, Peer Supporter and Info Stand Volunteer

25 YEARS

of Support and Growth

Cancer Support Switzerland Timeline

From a small bookshop meeting to a national network of support

2000

Making it official

The organisation is established as a not-for-profit association with six founding members.

2004

Broadening support

The organisation is renamed the English Speaking Cancer Association (ESCA). A Breast Cancer Support Group launches, alongside a Drop-In Centre and a lending library, formalising group-based and practical support services.

2015

Strengthening peer connection

A walking group launches, reinforcing low-barrier, peer-led support in an outdoor setting.

2009

Wellbeing services expand

A fitness class is introduced, recognising the role of physical activity in emotional and psychological wellbeing.

2005

Improving access to care

In Other Words, an English-French cancer phrasebook, is published to help patients navigate medical care in Switzerland.

2007

Paddle for Cancer Support

The annual Dragon Boat fundraising event launches, becoming a long-standing pillar of community fundraising.

2003

Professional support introduced

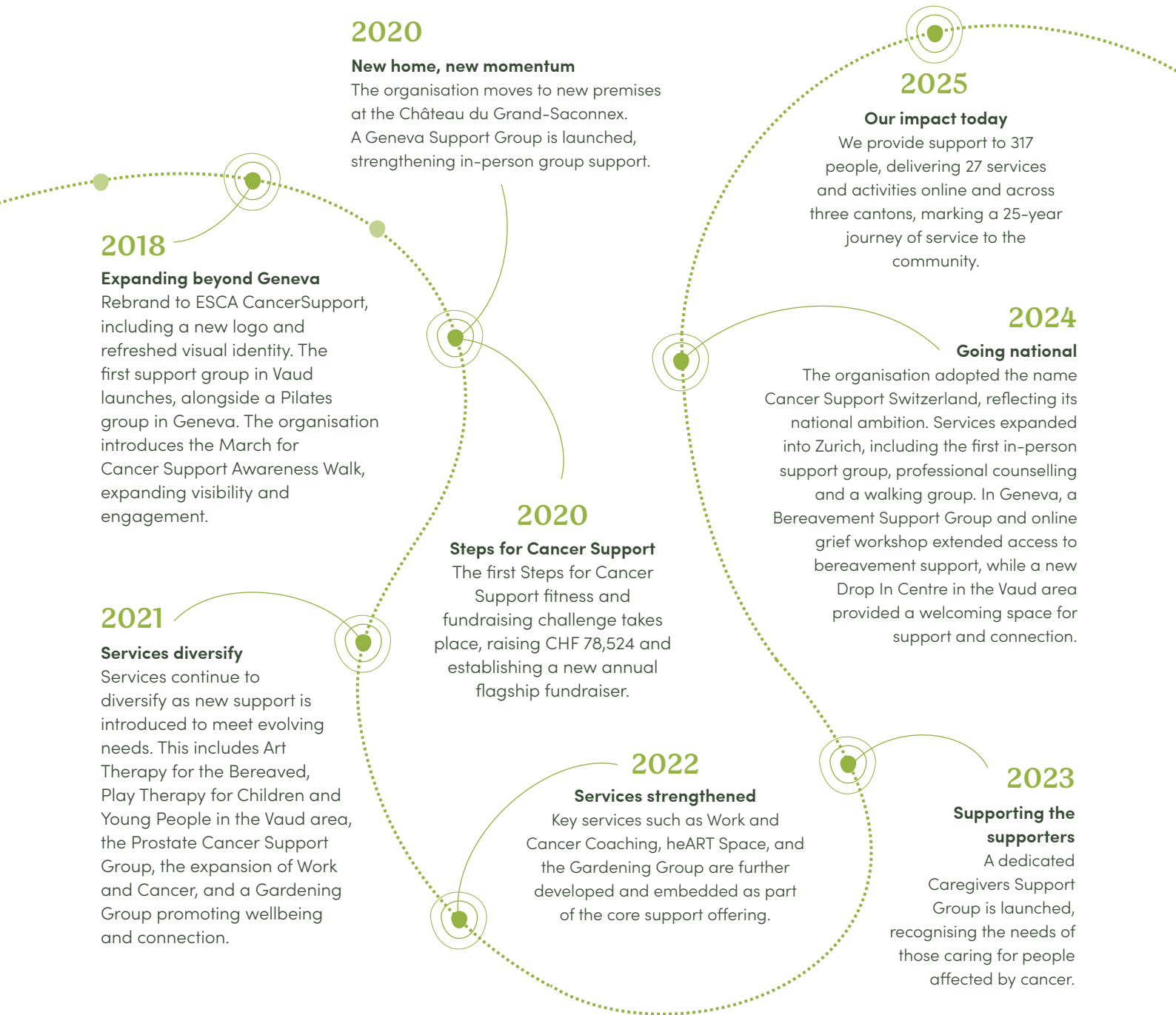
Trained volunteers deliver structured peer support and the organisation welcomes its first psychologist, marking the start of one-to-one professional counselling, which continues to grow over time.

1999

First meeting

The English-speaking Cancer Support Group forms to provide peer support for people affected by cancer, initially meeting in an English-language bookshop in Geneva.







Message from the President

The year 2025 was a pivotal one for Cancer Support Switzerland, as we celebrated our 25th anniversary. We honoured our founders and all the volunteers, patients, families and caregivers who have been part of our organisation since its beginning twenty-five years ago. What started as a local community-based organisation in Geneva called the English-speaking Cancer Support Group (ECSG) is today present and growing across the country as Cancer Support Switzerland. Many of our services can be delivered online today, enabling us to reach people in need across the country. But feedback surveys have also revealed the importance of having physical locations for people to meet and gain strength from being together. Thus, we are expanding our presence and services in two additional regions: the cantons of Vaud and Zurich.

To be sure we are on the right track, we consulted with our Board, management team, staff, volunteers, members of the medical community, donors and partners, and created a robust 2026-2028 Strategic Plan. It will guide us going forward in our efforts to strengthen and grow our services, increase visibility and outreach, expand our resources and invest in our organisation's development. This growth strategy will help us to expand our geographic footprint nationally and reach many more people affected by cancer. That includes designing services tailored to men as well as the increasing number of young people whose lives are impacted by cancer. We are committed to being there for those that need us.

Our plans are ambitious, but they need to be in order to fulfil our promise that no one should face cancer alone. They are made possible by our extraordinary community of volunteers, management and staff, and the members of the Board who all personally offer countless hours to our cause. Our thanks also goes to our partners and donors who help make it possible.



Janet Voûte
President
Cancer Support Switzerland

Executive Director's Report



This was a year of continued growth and strengthening for Cancer Support Switzerland. We supported more people than ever before, while staying focused on what matters most: providing steady, compassionate support in English, at no cost, to anyone affected by cancer. The increase in requests in the Zurich region was particularly notable, fuelled by the outreach efforts of our team of local staff and volunteers. A renewed focus on Vaud also led to the engagement of our first Region Coordinator in the canton.

We deepened our engagement both regionally and nationally. This included adjusting our service offer in line with need, strengthening services where demand was growing, and laying the groundwork for supporting more people in new regions, while contributing to national conversations and initiatives related to psychosocial cancer support. In parallel, we worked to strengthen medical outreach and partnerships, recognising the importance of strong referral pathways and collaboration in order to reach people earlier in their cancer journey.

This year also marked a focus on reinforcing our organisational capacity. We welcomed new region coordinators, counsellors, coaches, board members and many new volunteers. Together, these

additions have expanded our reach, deepened our expertise, and reinforced the collaborative foundations that underpin our work across Switzerland. Alongside this growth, we continued to strengthen the systems that underpin our work, including improvements to data management, reporting, and privacy protections, ensuring that the organisation grows responsibly, as well as sustainably.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, donors and partners. I am sincerely grateful for the trust placed in Cancer Support Switzerland and for the shared commitment to our vision.

With warm thanks,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Elina Viitaniemi". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a dark green background.

Elina Viitaniemi
Executive Director
Cancer Support Switzerland

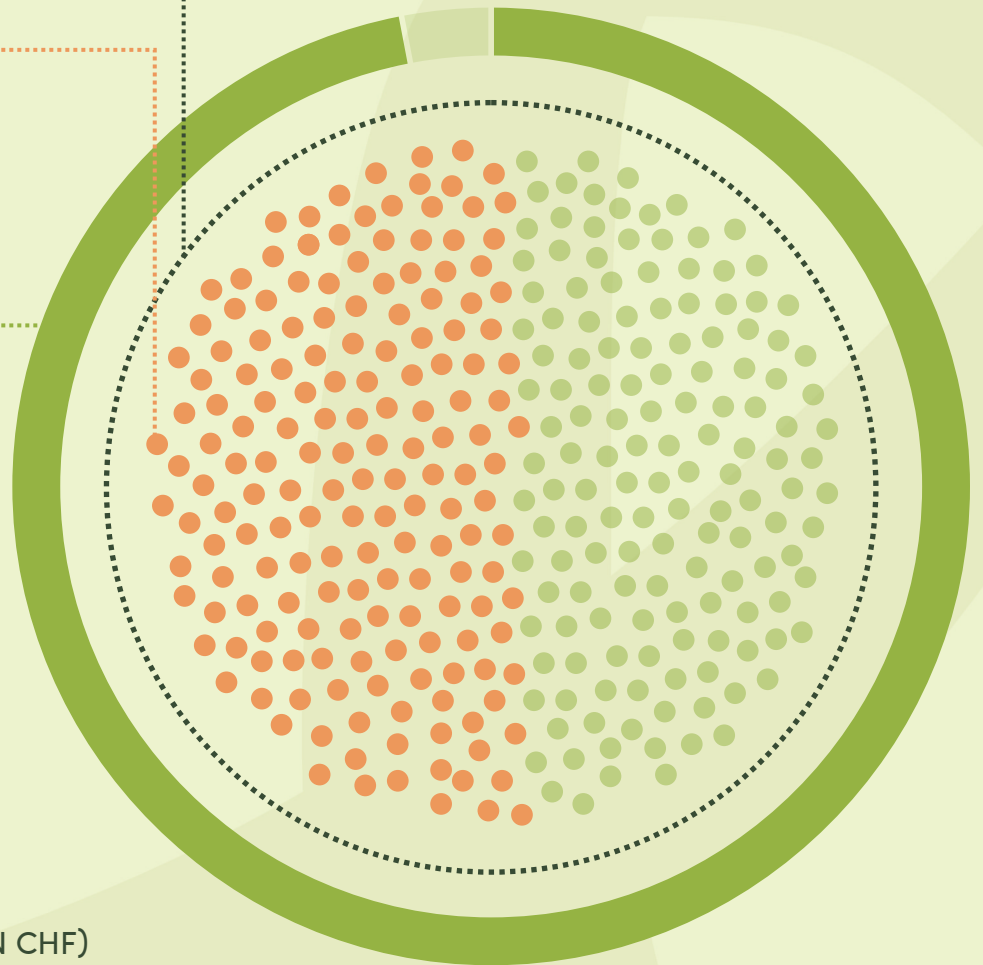
Achievements in 2025

317 
People Supported
in total

172 
New People
Supported

97% 
Satisfaction
Rate

2,882
Hours of Direct
Support Provided



 AMOUNT RAISED (IN CHF)

1,267,444

 COUNSELLING HOURS

885

 WELLBEING ACTIVITIES

24 Wellbeing
& awareness
events held

4 Corporate
trainings
conducted

VOLUNTEERS 

100+

VOLUNTEER HOURS 

Direct support
1,261h

Indirect support
862h

Community spaces
349h

Awareness
1,554h

Management,
Operations and
Finance
1,494h

Fundraising
(incl. Steps for
Cancer Support)
398h

LIST OF SERVICES OFFERED IN 2025

IN-PERSON & ONLINE across Switzerland

Counselling

Peer Support

Work and Cancer Coaching

Library and Resources

Caregivers Support Group
(alternating monthly online
and in-person)

IN-PERSON

in Geneva, Vaud & Zurich

Geneva

Bereavement Support Group

Geneva Support Group

heART Space

Yoga at the Centre

Look Good Feel Better

Pilates at the Centre

Drop-In Centre

Vaud

Drop-In Centre

Vaud Support Group

Zurich

Zurich Support Group

ONLINE

across Switzerland

Breast Cancer Support
Group (Bosom Pals
Coffee Meeting)

Living With and Beyond
Cancer

Mindfulness-Based
Cognitive Therapy for
Cancer Patients

Online Grief Workshop

Online Support Group

Online Yoga

Prostate Cancer
Support Group

Support Line/Email

Under-45s Support
Group

COMMUNITY SPACES

Walk'nTalk
(Geneva, Vaud and Zurich)

At the Garden in Geneva

Needles & Hooks in Geneva

Art and Creativity in
Geneva

Singalong in Geneva

Men's Barbecue



Support Services

This year, Cancer Support Switzerland accompanied 317 people through cancer and its many impacts - up 29% from 2024 - and provided 2,882 hours of tailored support. Our work centred on meeting people where they are: emotionally, practically and geographically. We continued to combine professional expertise with human connection, ensuring that everyone who reached out received care that was responsive, respectful and grounded in lived experience.



CARINE KARNOUK, PhD
Director of Counselling
& Support Services



We adapted our services to provide more online support for younger adults, those living with and beyond cancer, and caregivers, while maintaining the quality of care at the heart of our work. This year, we invested in understanding the needs of the Zurich community and started recruiting local facilitators to implement new services that we will launch in 2026.



Counselling continues to be our most utilised service nationwide. Beyond families and couples, we also supported 117 adults with individual counselling (people living with cancer, caregivers, and those who have lost someone to cancer), and 16 children through play therapy, offering them a safe space to make sense of experiences that are often too difficult to put into words.



Our counselling team augmented its ongoing professional development by attending the first conference on psycho-oncology in Swiss Romandie, and learning about the therapeutic use of psychedelics in cancer care. We trained nine new peer supporters across Geneva, Zurich, and Vaud, held a total of 18 regional peer support meetings, and strengthened collaboration between regions through online sessions. We also organised a Last Aid course delivered by *Palliative Genève*, alongside a mental health training for peer supporters.



Growing Together So No One Faces Cancer Alone

25 YEARS

BY: PATSY ALLEN

Our Work and Cancer Coaching programme grew significantly this year, supporting more individuals and delivering four workplace trainings designed for employees and managers who have colleagues affected by cancer. The team was strengthened with the addition of a new coach, Caroline Brenot, which increased our capacity to respond to the evolving needs of people navigating cancer in the workplace.

SURVEY

97% satisfaction rate

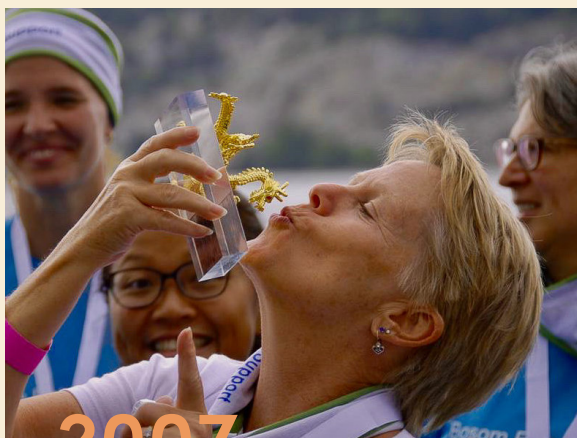
For the third year in a row, we conducted a satisfaction survey to evaluate and uphold quality of care. With a reported 97% satisfaction rate, we see a strong level of overall quality of services and remain committed to continuous learning and service improvement.

I have been part of this association for many years, in many different roles. But it all began in 2002, when I walked into the Bookworm Tearoom looking for support for myself, and found something far greater. What started as a moment of personal need became a lasting commitment.

In the early days, there were just three women united by a shared understanding of how deeply cancer can affect individuals and families, especially when navigating diagnosis, treatment and care in a language that is not their own. We had limited resources, little structure, and no clear sense of how far we might go. What we did have was a strong belief that no one should face cancer alone, and that people in their most vulnerable moments should be supported free of charge.

Those beginnings were driven by heart, but it soon became clear that the need was great. As more people joined, we were no longer simply offering peer support; we were building a community where people felt understood and less alone. Over time, that community has flourished, expanding from a small space in the Ecumenical Centre to the Centre we have today.





2007

In 2007, we took a bold step with the first **Paddle for Cancer Dragon Boat Festival**. It was an ambitious idea, but one that reflected our determination to find creative ways to sustain and grow our services. The success of that first event allowed us to expand our reach, strengthen our programmes, and bring our vision to life.

While growth and numbers matter, the true measure of our work has always been the people we support. Providing emotional and practical help, meaningful activities, and a sense of belonging has remained at the heart of everything we do. As the organisation grew, so did our ability to reach more individuals and families when they needed it most.

Today, we are a strong and comprehensive network, supported by a dedicated professional team, passionate volunteers, and trusted partnerships across the healthcare and corporate sectors. None of this would have been possible without the many people who have walked alongside us, from volunteers and donors to the patients and families who have trusted us with their journeys.

There is still much to be done. The need for compassionate, accessible support remains as real as ever. But with the foundation we have built and the people who continue to believe in this work, I am confident that we will keep growing, keep reaching those in need, and continue to be a place where no one has to face cancer alone.

Support Service Highlights: Listening to Our Community



SMITA SINGH

Psychosocial Counsellor and
Support Services Coordinator

The past year has been one of heartening growth and connection for us. While we have introduced new initiatives, our established core services – including one-to-one counselling, wellbeing activities, and our long-standing support groups – continue to be the bedrock of our mission. We are deeply grateful to see all our services flourishing, a testament to the trust placed in us by the people we support. Every session held, and every cup of tea shared, represents our ongoing commitment to providing a warm, professional haven for those affected by cancer.

As we continue to grow, we remain dedicated to evolving alongside our community.

This year, based on feedback from our community, we developed two new services to address specific, previously unmet needs:

Moving Forward Together: Living With and Beyond Cancer

For many, the end of active hospital treatment is not the end of the journey, but the beginning of a complex transition. Our Living With and Beyond Cancer group was created to provide a sanctuary for those navigating this ‘new normal’. Counsellor Raynelle Arcaini leads a monthly online space where participants explore the long-term emotional and physical impact of a cancer diagnosis. Since its launch, the group has seen steady growth, confirming that the need for compassionate support in English continues long after the initial medical crisis has passed.

Connection Through Shared Life Stages: The Under-45s Group

A cancer diagnosis under the age of 45 can bring a deeply personal set of challenges that may feel profoundly isolating. Many of our younger members have shared a longing for a space where they can be alongside others at a similar stage of life, gently connecting through shared experiences such as young parenthood, building a career, and the particular emotional weight of being a “younger” patient.

In response, the Under-45s Support Group was created, led by counsellor Christina Grivea. Over the past year, it has grown into a meaningful and comforting source of support for those finding their way through the impact of cancer, alongside the emotional, relational, and practical complexities that can emerge during this time of life. Offered online, the group is a supportive space where participants can connect, feel understood and less alone.

Sofia's story: Support through Caregiving, Grief and Healing

When I moved to Switzerland from Greece in my early twenties, I was looking forward to building a new life - a career, friendships, a future. Cancer was not something I expected to face so soon, or from a distance.

In 2019, my mother was diagnosed with stage 3 metastatic breast cancer. Two years later, my grandmother was diagnosed with stage 3 ovarian cancer. Living in Switzerland while my family remained in Greece, I found myself supporting them through frequent travel, constant communication, and the emotional strain of long-distance caregiving.

Alongside the practical challenges, I experienced anticipatory grief. Even joyful moments felt fragile. I was present, but part of me was already grieving.

When my mother died, everything changed overnight. The urgency of caregiving disappeared, leaving silence. Grief brought exhaustion, brain fog and confusion. I knew my mum had died, but I could not make sense of what was happening to me, physically or emotionally.

After returning to Switzerland, I reached out to Cancer Support Switzerland, which provided me with one-to-one grief counselling. It gave me a safe space to process my loss, and the long caregiving journey that came before it. Counselling helped me understand my emotions, my body's reactions and the non-linear nature of grief.

I also joined an Online Grief Workshop, where I connected with others who had lost loved ones to cancer. Hearing their stories helped me feel less alone and reassured me that my experience was shared. I was provided with resources on grief that helped me better understand what I was going through.

Over time, I learned that grief is not something you move on from, but something you learn to live with. With encouragement from my counsellor, I used creative expression to process emotions that were difficult to put into words.

Looking back, I wish I had found this support earlier, during my caregiving journey. No one should face cancer, caregiving, or grief alone. Having the right support made a real difference for me.



Scan the
QR code



Zurich A Growing Community of Support



Cancer Support Switzerland continued to strengthen its presence in Zurich, responding to a clear and growing need for services in English in the region.

Growing Usage in Zurich		2024 – 2025
People who accessed our services nearly doubled	29 → 55	
Service hours more than doubled	156 → 362	

People affected by cancer in and around Zurich used 18 different services, including individual counselling, couples and family support, the monthly local support group, peer support by trained volunteers and Walk'nTalk Zurich, which combines gentle movement with shared conversation.

Counselling remained the most-requested service, and in response to rising demand, we recruited an additional professional counsellor to strengthen the team and maintain a timely response.

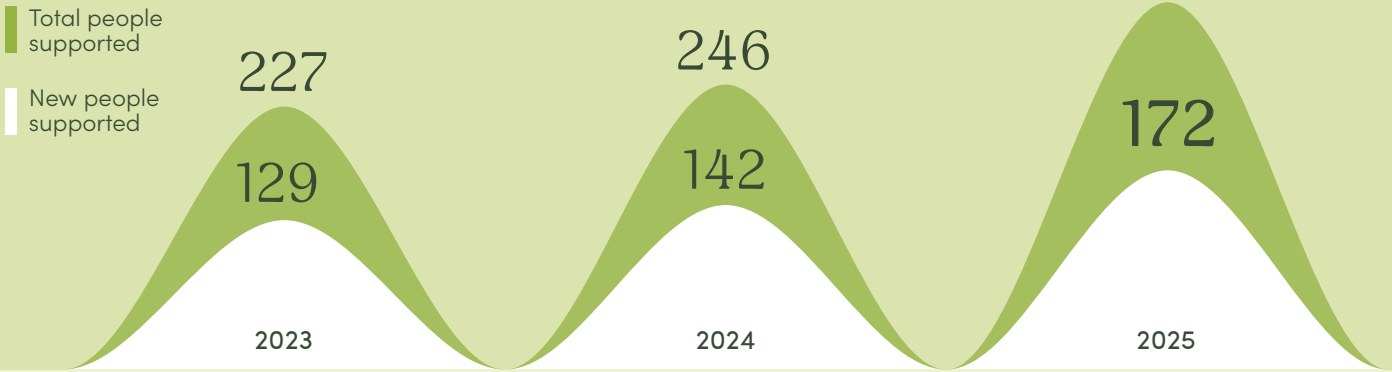
Alongside service development, 2025 saw increased focus on partnerships, medical outreach and community engagement. The team worked with

local hospitals, cancer organisations and community partners to raise awareness and strengthen referral pathways, including signing a formal partnership agreement with the Hirslanden Tumor Centre. We also participated in many awareness-raising events, including Cancer Survivor Day with University Hospital Zurich, the Expat Expo Zurich, Pink October events, Steps for Cancer Support walks and community gatherings.

Volunteers are at the heart of the Zurich community and have been instrumental in establishing and growing our presence in the region. Our energetic local volunteers help with support services, community activities, outreach efforts, organising events and raising awareness. Their time, care and local knowledge help ensure that people affected by cancer can access support that feels both professional and personal.

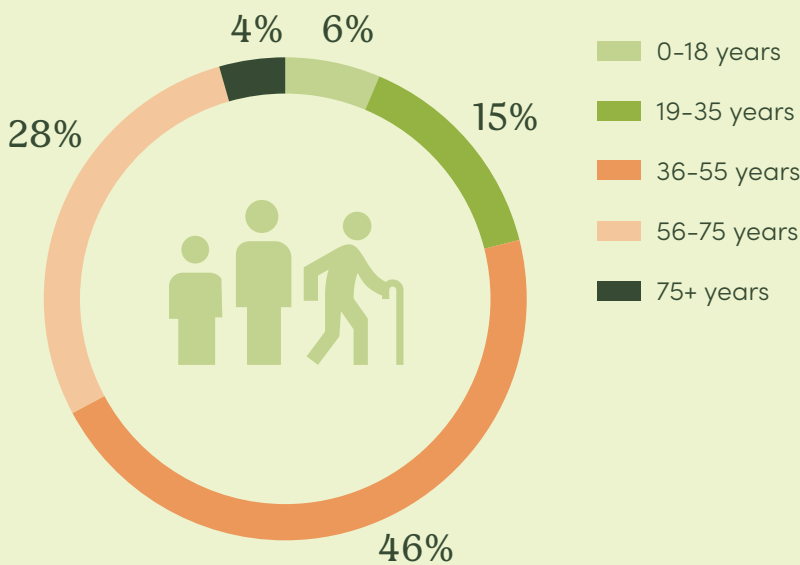
Thanks to the hard work of many, by the end of 2025 Zurich was now firmly established as one of Cancer Support Switzerland's in-person regions. The focus moving forward is to reinforce this excellent foundation by strengthening referral pathways, supporting our volunteer community and continuing to raise awareness of our services.

Our Work in Numbers



Who We Are Supporting

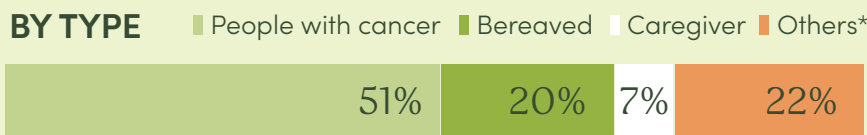
BY AGE GROUP



BY SEX



BY TYPE



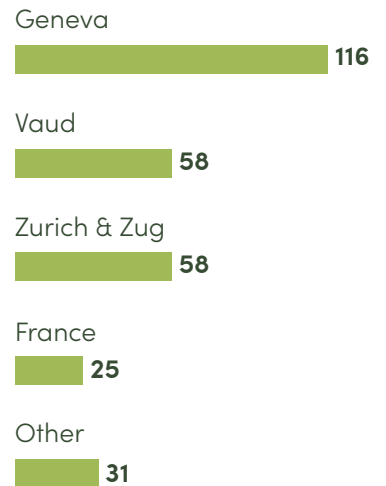
*Includes minors + unknown

REGIONS SUPPORTED

Regions Served

16 Cantons of Switzerland + France

Number of people supported



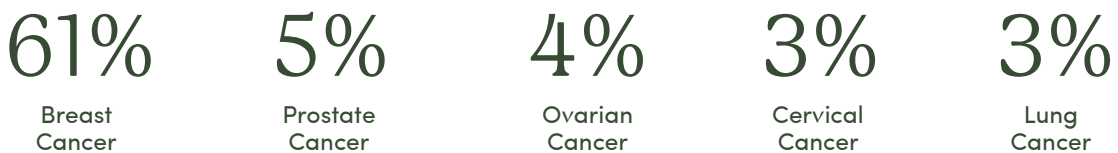
SUPPORT HOURS



39 NATIONALITIES SUPPORTED



MOST COMMON CANCERS AMONG PEOPLE SUPPORTED



Support inquiries by treatment phase ■ In treatment ■ Post treatment ■ Newly diagnosed





Sanjay's Story: Not Facing Cancer Alone

Cancer! I couldn't believe it. It was June 2024. The biopsy was done. The verdict was in.

The senior urologist at the Geneva hospital looked me in the eye and told me I had an aggressive form of prostate cancer, borderline very bad.

I was reeling. I was told that the best option for me was surgery. After a few days, I grudgingly accepted the inevitable.

Seeing my anxiety, the surgeon suggested Cancer Support Switzerland and gave me the contact information. I was reluctant. I had never been to a counsellor in my life and didn't want to start now. But my wife called the number immediately

In July 2004, I walked into the Château du Grand-Saconnex, where I was greeted warmly and immediately put at ease.

Apprehensions melted away as I was shown around and introduced to others in the group. It was an unexpected embrace from people who were both welcoming and caring. I met a counsellor who held my hand through the initial worries about the diagnosis: questions of life and death, of physical pain and mental anguish. He was there for me in the post-operative period as I contended with recovery and rehabilitation. I was invited to barbecues organised by Cancer Support Switzerland, where I met with others confronting similar issues. The realisation that I wasn't alone in facing prostate cancer and its specific difficulties was extremely reassuring, as was the opportunity to discuss ways to ameliorate the problems. I was included in the Prostate Cancer Support Group led by a counsellor. We meet online monthly and some of us have met in person at the Château.

After surgery, I was declared cancer-free, but within five months it reared its ugly head again. My blood PSA levels had begun to surge, indicating that the beast was still lurking within. The oncologist recommended radiation and hormone deprivation treatment, the line of treatment I had dreaded the most.

Currently, as I deal with the harsh effects of the treatment, my counsellor is still by my side. I continue to engage with the online group and look forward to meeting others at the Centre.

Thank you, Cancer Support Switzerland. You've made a huge difference in helping me deal with my predicament. It's one of the reasons I've been able to remain positive through it all.

Community Fundraising

Throughout 2025, community fundraising not only generated vital financial support, but also helped raise awareness of Cancer Support Switzerland across different regions.

More than 20 Community Fundraisers led a wide range of initiatives, reflecting the diversity, creativity and commitment within our community.

One fundraiser whose efforts stand out this year is Alex, who accessed our services following his own cancer diagnosis. Motivated by the support he received, he decided to give back by undertaking the incredible challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. Through this significant personal

endeavour, Alex raised both awareness and funds for our organisation, while also helping to open dialogue about prostate cancer and the value of support services for those affected.

With the help of all our fundraisers, in 2025, a total of CHF 26,202 was raised. These funds contribute directly to the continuation and development of our services, ensuring ongoing support for individuals and families affected by cancer.

We are deeply grateful, not only to Alex but also to everyone who dedicated their time, energy and commitment throughout the year. Their collective efforts demonstrate the powerful impact of community-led action and remain a vital part of our work.





Collaborations and Partnerships

Collaboration is central to how we reach people who may otherwise remain unaware that support is available to them. In 2025, partnerships and joint initiatives helped increase visibility, strengthen referral pathways and build trust within the community, and within the health ecosystem.

Information stands remained a direct and effective outreach tool across the country. Meeting people face-to-face in hospitals, community spaces, and public events offers a human point of contact at what can often be an overwhelming time. These moments of connection, driven by our volunteers, ensured that people had the chance to learn about our services early in their cancer journey.



Collaboration with the medical community continued to develop throughout the year, recognising the importance of close coordination between clinical care and psychosocial support. In Zurich, a formal partnership agreement with Hirslanden strengthened referral pathways. We also joined the Swiss Cancer Patients' Alliance (SwissCAPA) as one of its early members, an excellent opportunity to contribute to national conversations on cancer care and support.

Partnerships also enabled broader dialogue and learning, as we co-hosted the first Swiss conference on cancer, palliative care, and psychedelic-assisted therapy with *Palliative Genève* and *La Maison de Tara* in Geneva. Other initiatives, including community events and facilitated conversations about death and dying, created spaces for reflection, connection, and shared understanding.

Corporate collaborations extended Cancer Support Switzerland's reach, particularly within the international community. Initiatives such as Steps for Cancer Support connected us with companies, bringing increased awareness, participation, and fundraising.

Our Work and Cancer Coaching program offered another meaningful entry point, through presentations and exchanges with employers on the impact of cancer in the workplace and how they can best support employees. During the year, several presentations were delivered to companies in different regions, helping raise awareness of our services while strengthening relationships that support the sustainability of our work.

Key awareness moments during the year included initiatives on breast cancer awareness in October and Movember activities highlighting men's health.


Together, these collaborations, reflected in the many events and activities undertaken throughout the year, help ensure that Cancer Support Switzerland remains visible, trusted, and responsive as it continues to grow.



Steps for Cancer Support

Steps for Cancer Support exceeded expectations in 2025! We raised CHF 366,750 – our highest total to date – with 1,900 participants who walked, ran, danced and hiked an incredible 441 million steps.

 **Collective steps walked** **441M**

 **Number of participants** **1,900**

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED THROUGH THIS FUNDRAISER (IN CHF)

363,603

From companies (in CHF)

217,323

From communities (in CHF)

146,280

We launched the fitness challenge for Steps for Cancer Support with scenic walks in Geneva, Zurich, and Lausanne.

Thanks to the American International Women's Club of Geneva and dedicated volunteers and supporters, we organised ten additional community walks across Switzerland. These gatherings strengthened connections between participants and reinforced the community spirit at the heart of the challenge.



“The atmosphere of sharing created by this challenge is very pleasant. It unites people around a cause and makes all of us realize that health matters more than work.”

- 2025 participant



COMPANIES WITH CORPORATE TEAMS:

- _____
- AstraZeneca
- _____
- Barclays
- _____
- Beckman Coulter
- _____
- Bunge
- _____
- Cargill
- _____
- Global Health Security Fund
- _____
- Hirslanden Clinique des Grangettes
- _____
- Hôpital de La Tour
- _____
- IMD - International Institute for Management Development
- _____
- Intuitive
- _____
- IXM
- _____
- SOCAR
- _____
- TotalEnergies
- _____
- Trafigura
- _____
- Vitol
- _____
- Webster University Geneva Campus

108 Corporate teams
96 Open teams
57 Individuals not in teams

AWARDS CEREMONY

We marked 25 years of service to the community with an awards ceremony honouring the top teams and individuals for their steps and fundraising accomplishments. The 2025 edition was unforgettable - fuelled by energy, generosity, and heart. A huge thank you to all who organised, donated, took part and cheered us on.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

We're excited to build on this momentum in 2026 by inviting more corporate partners to join and finding new ways to highlight their involvement. We want to keep the passion alive within our community, inspiring more participants to join us and boosting the spirit of friendly competition. In 2025, we launched a new website to facilitate registration and peer-to-peer fundraising. We will continue to improve the participants' experience by building and launching a new step-tracking app for the 2026 campaign. The journey continues... No one walks alone. Together, every step counts.

Acknowledgements

As we reflect on the past year, we want to recognise the extraordinary contribution of our volunteer team, whose commitment continues to shape everything we do. This year marked an important moment of growth, with the expansion of our Zurich team that allowed us to offer more in-person support in the region. At the same time, our Vaud team continues to show enormous commitment, and we look ahead with confidence as plans to expand this team take shape in the coming year. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our Geneva-based volunteers for their ongoing devotion and steadfast support, which remain central to our work.

We are delighted to see greater diversity within our volunteer community, with men now making up almost 20% of the team. Together, our 100+ volunteer team brings an exceptional range of skills, experience and perspectives. Their contribution is helping us to strengthen and adapt our internal systems as we grow, expand our fundraising and events, increase our visibility in the community and, most importantly, offer more support to those who need it.

Our volunteers remain our constant, and we thank each one for their generosity, dedication and compassion. You are all amazing!

Our heartfelt thanks also always go to our funders, whose generosity and commitment to our vision makes our work possible.

OUR GENEROUS FUNDERS:

Oak Foundation

Marguerite Foundation

Fondation pour la Recherche et le Traitement Médical

Claude & Catherine Dauphin Foundation

Fondation Philanthropique Famille Sandoz

République et Canton de Genève

Fondation Alfred & Eugenie Baur

Sonarsource

Mercury Engineering Group

Ernst Göhner Stiftung

The Kent-Mullen Family

Clary Foundation

The American Women's Club of Zurich

The American International Club of Geneva



Finances

Income in 2025 increased significantly compared to the previous year, reflecting the continued success of our fundraising strategy and stronger engagement across both corporate and individual supporters. Growth was driven primarily by new and increased grants as well as by our Steps for Cancer Support initiative, where improved event delivery and a new donations platform contributed to higher participation and increased giving. Community fundraising also performed well, supported by both new partnerships and a rise in individual initiatives.

Expenditure increased in line with this growth and with our strategic priorities. Spending on counselling and other support services reflects the continuing demand for our core services and the expansion of complementary programmes. Investment in fundraising rose in line with our budget as we looked to strengthen our platform, including enhanced event management, consultant support, and early preparation for future editions of Steps for Cancer Support. At the same time, administrative costs remained well controlled, demonstrating ongoing efficiency in our operations.

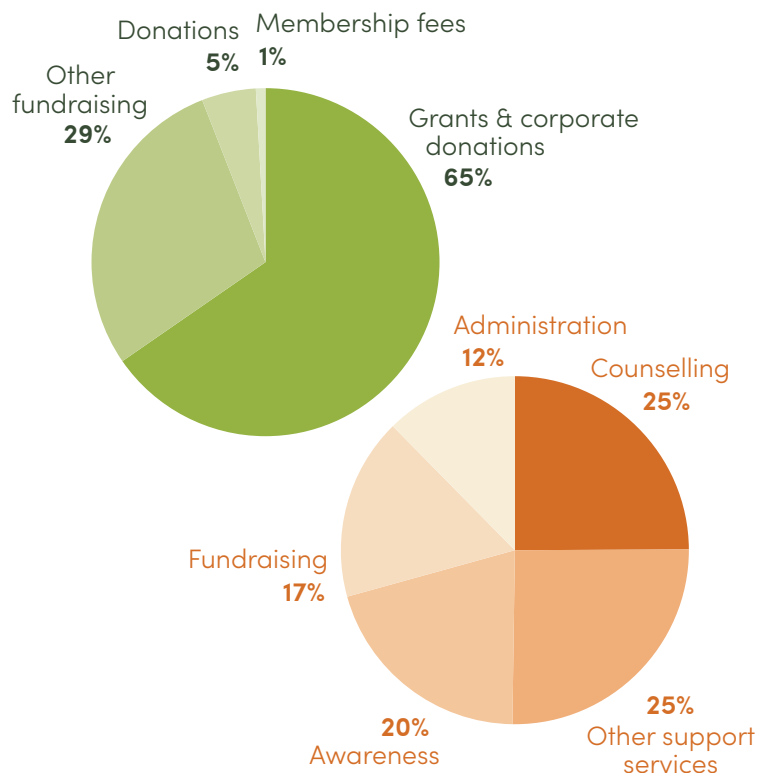
The financial year closed with a positive result, following the prior year’s deficit. This reflects both increased income and careful cost management, while continuing to prioritise investment in sustainable growth.

Overall, 2025 represents a strong year financially, with increased resilience, diversified income streams, and continued focus on delivering and expanding support to our community.

A full version of the audited financial statements is available on our website.

INCOME

Grants & corporate donations	CHF 828,529
Other fundraising	CHF 363,760
Donations	CHF 63,855
Membership fees	CHF 11,300



EXPENDITURE

Counselling	CHF 289,301
Other support services	CHF 293,529
Awareness	CHF 237,581
Fundraising	CHF 196,503
Administration	CHF 143,586

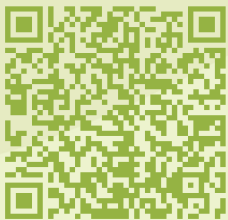
Governance

We have developed a new three-year strategy to guide the organisation's work from 2026 to 2028. This strategy builds on a period of significant growth and learning, providing a clear framework for the next phase of development.

The strategy is designed to ensure that Cancer Support Switzerland continues to offer high-quality, relevant support and respond to increasing demands across the country. A central focus is on consolidating and strengthening services, ensuring that our service offer is guided by need, capacity and impact. This includes maintaining service quality in established locations, expanding our services, and continued development of online support that transcends regional boundaries.

Increased visibility and outreach remain a key priority. The strategy emphasises strengthening communications and partnerships, particularly with medical and community organisations, so that people are aware of available support earlier in their cancer journey. We also aim to diversify our resources, including financial sustainability, staffing and volunteer capacity, to support long-term impact.

Finally, the strategy recognises that strong internal foundations are essential for sustainable growth. Continued investment in systems, processes, and the wellbeing and development of staff and volunteers will support a cohesive, resilient organisation that is well-equipped to meet future challenges and opportunities.



Read our
**Organisational
Strategy**

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Janet Voûte

Treasurer

Dave Mason

Secretary

Bill Laneville

Members

Craig Smallbone

Erik Mansager (From May until
December)

Dr. Alfredo Addeo

Dr. Gregory Wirth

Jessica Silberman Dunant

Korin Avigdor

Michael Fadus (From May)

Sandra Hedinger (From May)

Ramona Azarnia (Until May)

Thea McFarlane (Until May)

2025 MANAGEMENT TEAM

Executive Director

Elina Viitaniemi

Centre & Operations Coordinator

Anne-Liis Lääne-Sáez

Communications & Awareness Manager

Alana Dunsmore

Director of Counselling & Support Services

Carine Karnouk

Vaud Region Coordinator

Ursula Chauvineau (from November)

Volunteer Coordinator

Nicola Bowers

Zurich Region Manager

Rachel Thibodeaux (until September)

Zurich Region Coordinator

Lisanne Spilgies (from November)



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