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## Cancer & Fertility Options



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By [Rachel K](/profile/41292/8702/rachel-k) (</profile/41292/8702/rachel-k>), Editor  
on Saturday, May 12, 2012

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Mother's day isn't just for current moms. It's also a day to celebrate aunts, grandparents and even moms-to-be. Even celebrity moms too like Giuliana Rancic. After finding out she had breast cancer last year, she thought she'd never be able to have children. Now her and husband Bill are expecting with the help of a gestational carrier. Rancic has really made it known that there are options for women facing the dual challenges of cancer and fertility.



Cancer can affect the fertility in women and men too. Undergoing the radiation and chemo therapies opens the door to many side effects which can include your ability to have or carry a child. It's a new concept and hurdle that couples and families are now facing.

### THE STATISTICS

In 2009, 7.3 million women between the ages of 15-44 experience an impaired ability to have children, while recent surveys suggest that even though oncologists are discussing the potential impact of cancer treatment on fertility, less than half (39 percent to 47 percent) routinely refer patients to specialists in reproductive medicine

Men and women are unfortunately uneducated about cancer infertility, as the doctor diagnosing the cancer is normally not a fertility specialist who can provide advice

### YOU HAVE OPTIONS

Enter the non-profit organization "[A Rhea of Hope](http://arheaofofhope.org/) (<http://arheaofofhope.org/>). There are many options for women and men who are dealing with cancer and want to start or grow their family. That's one of the main goals of "A Rhea of Hope," educating people on their options, "Our trusted board of ten national and international directors led by Dr. Togas Tulandi MD, MHCM provides members of Rhea of Hope with the most up-to-date technology and options available. It is with their guidance that we are able to offer the best in patient education, access to fertility services and treatments through financial assistance and a scholarship program, as well as build continued awareness for men and women on how to lead a healthy lifestyle," says founder Jason Rossie.

- Provide reliable information and encouragement to those facing infertility.
- Provide financial support to families who require a helping hand to protect their opportunity of one day having children to love, raise and cherish.

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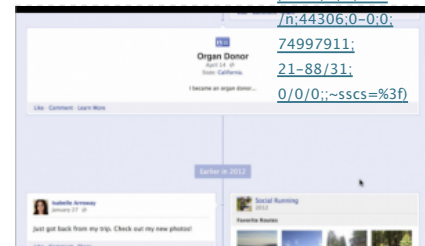
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- Educate both the general public and healthcare providers about infertility options.
- Support the research and development of new treatments relating to fertility issues and the causes and diseases that can lead to sterility.

#### SERVICES OFFERED

It's so important to nurture the emotional side of this process. "A Rhea of Hope" has outlets for the supportive husbands and a network for the other women to rely on during the process. Another big concern for families is money. Freezing eggs and going through IVF is extremely expensive, but the organization does provide financial support.

- Increasing awareness of the sterilizing effects that cancer treatments can have on fertility;
- Providing education on the possibilities of parenthood after cancer;
- Providing emotional support to cancer survivors facing infertility;
- Providing financial support for cancer patients who seek fertility preservation or infertility treatments;
- Increasing fertility preservation funding through grants, donations and corporate sponsorships;
- Creating a public forum for knowledge, resources and support for cancer-related infertility;
- Improving the disclosure process between patients and physicians regarding the risk of sterility following cancer therapy and treatments.

A [Rhea of Hope](http://arheaofhope.org/) (<http://arheaofhope.org/>) is partnering with businesses nationwide- SiSpa, minfulCity and food trucks such as Treehouse Truck and CS Brisket Bus via the Feed Fertility Movement. They are constantly looking to partner with businesses nationwide to increase awareness.



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