

The Power of Your Giving

Improving health care through philanthropy

Thank You

Welcome to the summer 2019 issue of your donor newsletter, which highlights the impact that donors like you are having every day in our quest to prevent, treat and one day cure cancer at Northwestern Medicine. Through gifts large and small, we celebrate these milestones because of your unwavering support. **Thank you.**



The McNett family

You Gave this Family Hope

Your Generosity Created a Path from Breast Cancer to Good Health and a Bright Future

Through the years, we have asked you for your support of breast cancer initiatives at Northwestern Medicine. Today, thanks to caring people like you, the new Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital Comprehensive Breast Health Center is becoming a reality and is scheduled to open its doors in October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month. More and more patients will receive exceptional care close to home – patients like Staci McNett.

Staci's diagnosis could have easily been missed, because her symptoms were not straightforward. "I went for a regular mammogram and it came back fine," she explained. "A few weeks later, I started having some skin issues and went to see Dr. Velez."

Nitzet M. Velez, MD, General Surgery, is medical director of the new center. She said Staci's story is one of strength and perseverance and hope – noteworthy, given that DeKalb County's mammography screening rate is 60 percent, as compared to a 78 percent screening rate in Illinois overall. "Having this center in DeKalb County will raise awareness of breast cancer and shine a light on the importance of consistent, preventive breast care, and the vital role that regular screenings play in a woman's breast health."

(continued on back)



"When cancer hits one woman, it affects everyone in her life. The Comprehensive Breast Health Center will touch the lives of everyone in our community."

Nitzet M. Velez, MD, General Surgery, medical director of the new Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital Comprehensive Breast Health Center

To make a donation online, please visit foundation.nm.org.



Clinical Trials Provide Better Options for Cancer Care

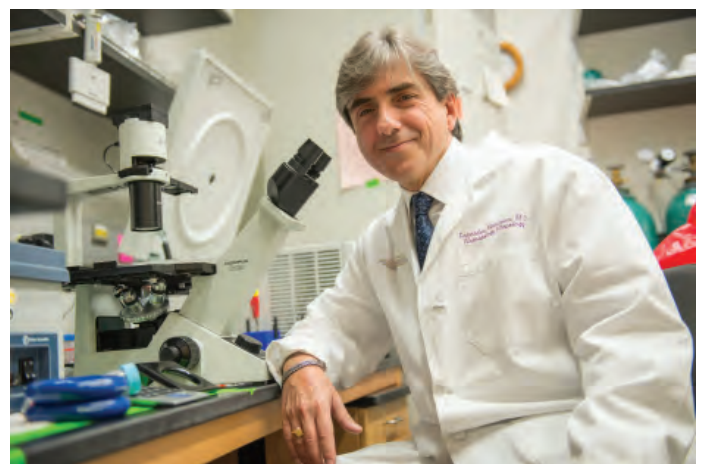
Your Donations Today Improve Medicine Tomorrow

In order to better serve patients, Northwestern Medicine utilizes clinical trials to seek improved outcomes. Every cancer treatment that is saving lives today is the result of a clinical trial. Current and future trials in oncology will yield potentially groundbreaking discoveries that will generate even more effective therapies, which means more people with cancer will be able to live longer, stronger lives.

Propelled by your donations, leading-edge clinical trials in oncology are underway across the Northwestern Medicine health system. Investigators are involved in approximately 300 clinical trials at any given time. Conducted with the help of human volunteers, these trials advance through four phases and are designed to provide researchers with new knowledge about preventing and comprehensively treating cancer. Many trials evaluate the safety and effectiveness of new medications, surgical procedures or medical devices. Still others test ways to prevent disease, diagnose cancer, improve quality of life or help patients manage complex psychological and social issues.

Early-phase trials offer treatment for patients without many other options. With demonstrated positive outcomes, these trials enroll more patients and help to develop a new standard of care. Your support is vital to ensuring that Northwestern Medicine's full complement of clinical trials continues to expand.

In partnership with Northwestern Medicine, the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University is making powerful discoveries through many leading-edge clinical trials. Recently, the Lurie Cancer Center was selected as a Lead Academic Participating Site to provide scientific leadership in the development and conduct of clinical research within the National Cancer Institute's National Clinical Trials Network, a collection of experts coordinating trials at more than 3,000 sites across the United States and Canada.



"Thanks to donors, Northwestern Medicine's precision medicine capabilities are rapidly growing across our health system," said Leonidas Platanius, MD, PhD, director of the Lurie Cancer Center.

The Impact of Your Philanthropy on Clinical Trials

Clinical trials don't happen without donors like you. Philanthropic funds are essential to enabling Northwestern Medicine to enroll additional patients – including members of racial and ethnic minorities – and cover the cost of transportation to and from the trial site for many patients who would otherwise not be able to participate.

5,457 donors
in 2018 gave gifts totaling

\$17,661,582
that helped support

8
Northwestern Medicine
cancer programs

Currently, 20 percent of our patients enrolled in clinical trials live in Chicago, and 80 percent live in the surrounding Chicagoland area. With your additional support, Northwestern Medicine and the Lurie Cancer Center could expand offerings to ancillary sites across our health system – bringing clinical trials closer to many patients' homes.

A wide variety of oncology clinical trials are now available across the Northwestern Medicine health system. The trials focus on many different cancers, including blood, bone and tissue, brain, breast, colorectal, gastrointestinal, kidney, lung, pancreatic, prostate and more.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, deaths from cancer are decreasing. Because of the breakthroughs achieved in clinical trials, new procedures and treatment modalities have been introduced and are proving to be lifesaving and life-changing.

But research is a never-ending quest. There is no question that robust research will be instrumental to ultimately conquering cancer. Because of you and your generosity, Northwestern Medicine is at the forefront of transforming the health and prognoses of people living with cancer.

Summarizing the power of clinical trials, Dean G. Tsarwhas, MD, medical director of the Cancer Center at Lake Forest Hospital, said:



Dr. Tsarwhas with a patient

"It used to be that, when patients would ask me, 'Do you offer clinical trials?', I could only help to facilitate their enrollment in trials in Chicago. Now, thanks in no small part to donors, more and more patients receive care in clinical trials at their local Northwestern Medicine hospital, close to home."

To learn more about our clinical trials, visit <https://www.nm.org/conditions-and-care-areas/clinical-trials-and-research>. To inquire about supporting oncology initiatives at Northwestern Medicine, please contact Karen Kliebhan at 312.926.5798 or karen.kliebhan@nm.org.

You Gave this Family Hope, continued

Staci and her husband Chad, along with their two children, worked with nurse navigator, Jodi, to set a course toward a cure. Jodi ensured the family's needs were met every step of the way, guiding them through the challenges of diagnosis and treatment and connecting them to valuable educational and emotional support services.

Together, Staci, Jodi and Dr. Velez developed a treatment strategy that was tailored to Staci's needs and offered the best possible surgical and radiation options. Staci benefited from the expertise of numerous specialists – such as medical oncologists, breast surgeons and radiation oncologists – as well as access to the latest state-of-the-art equipment. The fact that Staci's care was provided in just one place, close to home, provided her with a sense of continuity and confidence as she received world-class care and services.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

Your support helps advance Northwestern Medicine's work in four critical areas: patient care, community service, research and medical training and education.

The center truly exemplifies the power of teamwork. With generosity and dedication, physicians, nurses, other healthcare providers, corporate partners and donors like you have created this exceptional, trusted destination for breast health services in DeKalb County.

"When cancer hits one woman, it affects everyone in her life," added Dr. Velez. "The Breast Health Center will touch the lives of everyone in our community."

On her and Chad's anniversary, Staci received the call from Dr. Velez that there was no cancer in Staci's pathology report. "I started crying that everything worked," said Staci – an outcome that not only highlights the quality of the care she received, but also offers hope to many other people who are fighting breast cancer.

To inquire about supporting the Comprehensive Breast Health Center at Kishwaukee Hospital, please contact Catherine Wierz at 630.208.3892 or catherine.wierz@nm.org.

"Give What You Can"

When Catherine Harrington thinks about giving, she remembers what her mother used to say: "Share what you have, and you don't have to have a lot in order to share. Just do the best you can."

Catherine took her mother's words to heart. Her decision to include Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital and LivingWell Cancer Resource Center in her will illustrates her belief that adversity provides opportunity for improvement. The gift was inspired by her gratitude for the excellent, compassionate care she had experienced.



"One of the best things you can do for yourself and your community is invest in a community hospital," said Catherine. Her generosity will enable others to access high-quality, state-of-the-art health care focused on helping them live their best life.

"This has been an evolving process over a large number of years," explained Catherine, one that was not without hardship. A 22-year survivor of breast cancer, she now refers others seeking healing and wellness in the face of a cancer diagnosis to LivingWell, noting the value of the individualized psychosocial supportive education and care she received. She felt that same support from caregivers at Delnor Hospital when her husband suffered a massive brain hemorrhage in the middle of the night 15 years ago. Reflecting on his passing, she said, "I know everyone did everything they could, and I appreciated their kindness and compassion."

Today, with her grandchildren, Catherine carries forth her mother's determined optimism.

"Whether a gift of time, money or a smile," she said, "give what you can. Imagine what could be if everyone did the best they could to share what they have."

For more information about making an estate gift to support your Northwestern Medicine hospital, please contact the Gift Planning Team at 312.926.2033 or giving@nm.org.