Cancer Center 25th Anniversary & Campaign 2020: Reinvesting for the next 25+ years

Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the United States. More than 1.7 million new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed this year.

The Ascension Via Christi Cancer Center was dedicated on August 27, 1995 and has served over 8,000 patients and their families since that time. With the support of the Pittsburg and surrounding communities and the Mount Carmel Foundation, the Cancer Center has had the ability to provide compassionate care to our patients, close to home. It is the wish for our talented team of caring clinicians, technicians and support staff to continue this legacy for years to come.

Modernization of the space will improve the environment of care and give our patients the best atmosphere for treatment, to help facilitate their recovery. This will also improve the work environment for our dedicated team that do everything in their power to make the best possible experience our patients encounter within our walls.

The Legacy of Hope II
The Legacy of Hope II is the second part of what was started 25 years ago. The campaign will lead us to prepare for the future. The project will include new flooring, new wall coverings, new bathrooms, and the addition of private infusion rooms. The goal is to raise $770,000 by August of 2020. This will refurbish the entire facility to make it modern, comfortable, and peaceful. An anonymous gift will be used to match all gifts up to $250,000 until August 25, 2020.

Ascension Via Christi Hospital Pittsburg will provide two more updates to the center by updating the HVAC and adding a state-of-the-art new linear accelerator.

All combined these projects will total approximately $6 million in improvements to the Ascension Via Christi Cancer Center.

We call YOU to join US by donating TODAY to prepare for TOMORROW and BEYOND!

2019-20 Board of Directors
Lindsay Smith, President
Jamie Brooksher
Randy Cason
Jeff Elliott
Mindi Garner, DO

Jason Poenitske, Vice President
Devin Gorman
Jenni Hall
Clayton Kent
Ashley Long

Lori Ann Spachek, Treasurer
Susie Lundy
Chantal Marji
Dawn McNay
Lacey O’Brien

Johnna Norton, Secretary
Dan Rank
Amanda Sukraw
Titus Weller, MD
The recent weeks have included change, uncertainty, and emotion. One thing that also came to the surface was a true community spirit and gratitude. Businesses and individuals donated supplies to the hospital, sent notes of thanks, sent food, and made monetary donations to fund the Helping the Hometown Heroes so that our healthcare workers could be fed. Every associate was fed multiple days through donations and are listed on social media. Our community showed their gratitude for our team protecting the health of our community.

Our associates want to sincerely thank the community for being there for them and showing them your support.

The Mount Carmel Foundation was also able to help by providing miscellaneous COVID-19 supplies and also supporting the Associate Hardship Benefit Program for associates experiencing difficult financial times due to the pandemic. The foundation also promoted a gratitude campaign to send letters, pictures, and notes to encourage our staff during the stressful time. If you are interested in helping support any of these patient or associate assistance initiatives, please let us know.

Thank you to everyone inside and outside of the hospital walls that came together to support each other.

Helen Kriegsman Memorial Scholarship: Hope for the Future

The Helen Kriegsman Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of Dr. Helen Kriegsman, a pioneer in learning and professor of mathematics at Pittsburg State University (PSU). She believed in students and in helping provide scholarships to help them achieve their educational goals. Her legacy gift established an endowed scholarship that will go on forever helping students.

This scholarship helps employees or children of employees of Ascension Via Christi Pittsburg who are attending PSU. Hope Touchton will be entering her Senior year in the fall at PSU. She grew up in the Pittsburg area and fell in love with nursing when she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of 12. The nurses that helped take care of Hope really inspired her to become the influence and encouragement to others who may be having a hard time. Hope is thrilled to have the opportunity to use this scholarship to further her education.

If you are interested in learning more about endowments or helping provide scholarships, contact the Mount Carmel Foundation. Best of luck Hope in all your endeavors!

Helping Our Hometown Heroes: Gratitude

Our associates want to sincerely thank the community for being there for them and showing them your support.

The Mount Carmel Foundation was also able to help by providing miscellaneous COVID-19 supplies and also supporting the Associate Hardship Benefit Program for associates experiencing difficult financial times due to the pandemic. The foundation also promoted a gratitude campaign to send letters, pictures, and notes to encourage our staff during the stressful time. If you are interested in helping support any of these patient or associate assistance initiatives, please let us know.

Thank you to everyone inside and outside of the hospital walls that came together to support each other.

Moroccan Magic: 36th Annual Gala

Thank you to all our sponsors, donors, guests, and volunteers for your continued support of the Mount Carmel Foundation. This year’s gala was the best yet! There was vibrant energy and color in the room on January 25, 2020 as nearly 370 supporters gathered for the 36th Annual Gala Moroccan Magic held at the Jack H. Overman Student Center at Pittsburg State University. There were a record 34 underwriters and approximately $117,961 was raised to help with patient and hospital needs. Of that total, $15,081 was raised during the fund-a-need drive for the Cancer Center patient assistance fund that provides gas cards, prescriptions, nutritional supplements, and lodging for the most vulnerable patients. The total raised is an increase over last year’s effort.

Hosts for the evening were Mr. Mark and Mrs. Lindsay Smith, Mr. Ken and Mrs. Debbie Brock, and Dr. Bethany and Mr. Steven Enoch. The evening included a social hour, dinner, live music with dancing, live auction, silent auction, raffles, and cash drawing. A drawing was held for a trip to Morocco and was won by Dr. Elias Tawil. Dr. Kathleen Sandness won the Comeau Jewelry Gift Card Drawing. A Legacy of Hope II Cancer Center Campaign also kicked off that evening. Pictures of the evening can be found on the Mount Carmel Foundation Facebook page (search for Pittsburg, KS). Save the date for the 37th Annual Gala on January 30, 2021. Invite your friends, plan a table, become a sponsor; and we will see you next year!
The Mount Carmel Foundation is excited to announce the first gift to A Legacy of Hope II from Dr Boban Mathew through the Mathew Family Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of Renaissance Charitable Foundation, for $10,001. That gift was announced at the Foundations’s annual gala. Local philanthropist and businessman Richard Miller has also pledged $150,000 to support cancer care and prepare our cancer center for the future. An anonymous gift will be used to match all gifts up to $250,000 until August 25, 2020.

All gifts until August 25, 2020 will be matched up to that amount. This means, YOUR gift can double. We can reach our goal together. Groups can make a gift together or remember family and friends with a memorial gift. Pledges can be made over two years. Donors will be recognized in the center.

The Mount Carmel Foundation will work to collect pledges and gifts to make a special announcement of the campaign total at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Cancer Center in August. We want all our community to be able to have a part in this important campaign and a place so special to our hearts.

Learn more now, and come together for the future.

Campaign Video: https://youtu.be/1Tc5qhcQT1A

Donate NOW:
- Online https://www.viachriti.org/cancer-center-campaign
- Text from your smartphone easily right now via TEXT TO GIVE!
  - Step 1: Create a new text message to 91999
  - Step 2: Text the word MAGIC
  - Step 3: Click the link in the reply message to make a donation
- Mail check or credit card number via pledge card in this newsletter
- Done! Now you have helped with an act of kindness to help our patients today!
Join us in saving lives by donating to the Legacy of Hope II Campaign.

- I am interested in learning more about setting up a planned gift and/or other ways to give.
- I am an Ascension Via Christi Hospital – Pittsburg associate and want to learn more about payroll deduction.
- My check (made payable to Mount Carmel Foundation) is enclosed.
- Charge my gift to my credit card:

  Name: 
  Address: 
  Phone: 
  E-mail Address: 
  Account Number:  
  Security Code:  
  Expiration Date:  
  Signature:  

For online giving, go to https://www.viachristi.org/cancer-center-campaign

Your gift will be acknowledged by mail. All gifts remain local. All gifts are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to the Mount Carmel Foundation.

Return to the Mount Carmel Foundation, PO Box 1173, Pittsburg, KS 66762 | Pay online via “Donate” button on Mount Carmel Foundation Facebook page