

Philanthropy supports Phase Two expansion

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Holy Cross Health continues fulfilling its vision to deliver a market-leading, community-based, comprehensive Cancer Center that provides state-of-the-art, responsive, timely and personalized care.

“In the next ten years, in Prince George’s and surrounding counties, cancer diagnosis is expected to grow exponentially,” says Lorena Montecino. “Having fully employed medical oncologists and surgical oncologists shows the breadth and depth that Holy Cross is going to have, providing that total wrap-around care for our cancer patients.”

“We have to do our best strategically to be able to provide cancer care expediently, for patients to be seen the same or next day—because when you get a cancer diagnosis, you don’t want to have to wait six weeks,” Lorena says. “They will know they can be treated in the same spot and have that continued care from diagnosis to survivorship.”

PHASE TWO CALLS FOR MORE ENHANCEMENTS AND SERVICES:



A total of **31,000 square feet** of space



Infusion services to deliver the latest advancements in chemotherapy and immunotherapy



Screening and diagnostic **breast imaging services** relocated from Holy Cross Hospital



Exam rooms for oncologists and surgeons to see new patients and conduct follow-up visits



Supportive care, including nutrition, genetic counseling, physical therapy, nurse navigation, behavioral therapy, survivorship, palliative care, and financial counseling



A dedicated team of medical oncologists employed by Holy Cross Health



An integrated patient experience differentiated by exceptional care coordination, collaborative treatment plans, and disease site-specific expertise



Expanded and enhanced cancer screening programs to detect disease at an earlier stage and improve treatment outcomes



On behalf of the many who benefit from the new Cancer Center, THANK YOU!

Your generosity has enabled us to provide a welcoming, modern facility that offers light and hope to patients facing one of the most formidable battles of their lives. You have made it possible for Holy Cross Health to help them heal and thrive.



The Cancer Center is located at:
11006 Veirs Mill Rd.
Suite L1
Wheaton, MD 20902



About the Holy Cross Health Foundation

A 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization, the Holy Cross Health Foundation exists to improve the health of our community through the generosity of our patients, colleagues, community members, foundations and corporations. Your partnership enables us to continue providing equitable care to our most vulnerable patients and their families.

For more information, please visit HolyCrossHealth.org/Donate, email Foundation@holycrosshealth.org or call us at 301-557-GIVE (4483).

HC HOLY CROSS HEALTH FOUNDATION

Holy Cross Health Cancer Center

One-Year Anniversary Impact Report

HC HOLY CROSS HEALTH FOUNDATION

Holy Cross Health Cancer Center BY THE NUMBERS



\$3,000,000

Funds raised since our first Cancer Center donation in the fall of 2018



400

Number of philanthropic partners

875

Number of patients served at the new facility



3,244

Number of radiation therapy treatments provided



Edge on Technology: ADVANCING CANCER TREATMENT

Holy Cross is the first in the metropolitan area to provide the Varian Edge radiosurgery system, allowing for sub-millimeter accuracy while delivering radiation at a faster rate, decreasing treatment times for patients while sparing healthy tissue around the cancer. Normally reserved for intracranial radiosurgery, this level of precision can now be used on other body sites. With HyperArc Radiosurgery Software combined with the Edge system, we can now deliver best-in-class radiosurgery while minimizing treatment times.

Cancer Center turns 1, offering better access, more comfort and convenience, promoting better healing for patients

Patients diagnosed with cancer frequently navigate a long list of logistical challenges and hardships just to get treatment. With Holy Cross Health's Cancer Center, celebrating its one-year anniversary on January 31, 2024 that list is much shorter. In fact, it's been life-changing.

Access — Parking is free, the treatment center is on the main floor, and public transportation is conveniently nearby.

"Response from patients has been incredible," says Dr. Dawn Walton, vice president of medical affairs at Holy Cross Health. "Access is significantly better. Parking is easy. It's right on the metro for patients who have to undergo radiation therapy. You'll often go up to 20 times over five or six weeks, so being able to have easy access is key."

Social worker Kyra Wingstad says the new facility enables her to be more patient facing. At the hospital she had to rely on phone calls. Because she's there daily, she's now a familiar face at the center, for patients and her colleagues.

"If something comes up on the way to or after treatment, or over the weekend, I'm available," Wingstad says. "We're here together. As a team we can answer each other's questions in person. If I need a diagnosis or a signature for a referral, I don't have to wait days to get the paperwork back."

Comfort — Lorena Montecino, director of the Radiation Treatment Center, says it was like night and day coming from an old facility to a brand new one.



"Patients treated at the old center who transitioned to the new center said it was like going through a time machine," she says. "The facility and all our equipment are state-of-the-art. The rooms are open and modern. It gives a good, warm feeling."

Large windows and comfortable new furnishings make the visit less stressful, connecting patients with nature and light.

"Our old radiation treatment center was in the basement of a windowless area," Walton says. "Having this new center—open, with the beautiful, airy, bright areas, the calming and healing environment—has been phenomenal."

More room also means more privacy. Wingstad works with patients to solve problems like transportation, food insecurity, insurance, work or school issues, FMLA paperwork, disability insurance and social security. The old facility lacked places for patients to have difficult conversations they didn't want to have in front of others.

"In the new building, we have a lot of opportunities and spaces for us to have those private conversations," she says. "Here, there are consult rooms or offices we can step into without taking up a medical room."

New Cancer Center gave her more space, light, and hope

Monica Cager faithfully went to her annual exams. And even though she had no symptoms, she learned in April 2022 that she had stage 2 cancer.

"I was terrified when I heard it," says Monica, a bus operator who lives in Waldorf, Maryland. "The first thing that went through my mind was, am I going to beat this or not?"

Her primary care physician gave her a list of oncologists, and she went down the list and did her research. She interviewed doctors and went to various facilities in the state, ultimately choosing Holy Cross Health and oncologists Dr. Sheela Modin, Dr. James Barter and Dr. Frederick Min.

From July through December 2022, Monica was treated at the older radiation facility. By the time she was deemed cancer free, the new facility was open, and she began her follow-up appointments there.

While Monica felt that everyone from the receptionist to her surgeons gave her the same level of care as they had in

the old facility, she noticed right away the new technology and equipment. The windows let in more light, the new furniture was welcoming, and the facilities were roomy and spacious.

"As soon as you walk in the door, even going back to the examining room, I felt comfortable," she says. "Everything was clean and new—especially that little chair they have, that was wonderful. It was very inviting."

Together with the medical team, the new facility will help patients feel less stressed.

"What I do know as a patient and a human being, you're already scared. Stress is no good when you're going through that type of ordeal," she says.

Monica also credits the kindness and care of the physicians and staff at the center who continue to support her every step of the way. "They really make a difference because they become family," she says.

