

Dear Friends,

Thanks to the many advances that have been made in the detection and treatment of cancer, more people than ever before are able to call themselves cancer survivors. But not too long ago, things were very different.

While I was in dental school, I worked as an orderly on an oncology unit at Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. My duties were supportive in nature—to make the patients as comfortable as possible. In those days, treatment options were limited and the side effects of radiation and chemotherapy could be devastating. Working there was hard, but it was also rewarding. It's an experience I'll never forget.



Years later, I opened my current practice, Olney Dental Wellness. One day, a patient of mine, Lou laquinta, started telling me about the Capital Campaign for Oncology at MedStar Montgomery Medical Center and his role as campaign chairman. Needless to say, he got my attention. I agreed to join the campaign as a member of the Friends and Community Division to help raise funds and awareness for this worthwhile cause.

Lou introduced me to Radiation Oncologist Luther Ampey III, MD, medical director of The Helen P. Denit Center for Radiation Therapy, and I discovered another way I could help. Chronic dental problems can become problematic and can interfere with the progression of a patient's therapy. Yet many cancer patients with dental issues don't get the dental care they need. I decided to collaborate with Dr. Ampey by providing dental care at no cost to referred cancer patients who are experiencing dental emergencies that can delay or stop their treatment. I'm grateful I am able to contribute in this way as well.

The Capital Campaign for Oncology is an important step in the hospital's quest to ensure that all patients have access to the highest quality cancer care—for years to come. While significant funds have been raised to date, enabling the hospital to complete the construction, renovating and expanding the existing Radiation Therapy Center, the \$4 million goal must be met. In order to continue to provide cancer patients with innovative radiation therapy treatment, we must reach our financial goal.

You'll read more about the Capital Campaign for Oncology in this issue of Soaring Visions. You'll also learn about a number of other initiatives that enable the hospital to provide more programs and services.

Despite the progress that has been made in the treatment of cancer, it continues to devastate lives. But by working together to support efforts like the Capital Campaign for Oncology, we can offer those affected by this dreaded disease and their families hope for the future. I thank all of you, in advance, for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Neal F. Hoyson DMD

Neal F. Hoyson, DMD
Friends and Community Division
Capital Campaign for Oncology