A Decade of Making a Difference:
The Carol G. Simon Cancer Center Marks Its 10th Anniversary

Her battle with breast cancer lasted for 15 years, but her memory will live forever. Bearing the name of one woman who lost her fight with the disease in 1995, the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center embodies the many people, faced with a similar struggle, who have come through its doors since its opening in 1998.

Morristown Memorial Hospital had been providing superior cancer care to its patients since 1974, but it was through the recommendations of an internal oncology task force in the early 1990s that the idea of a dedicated cancer center began to take shape.

In 1995, the Cancer Center Campaign began, co-chaired by Neil Gagnon and Joseph Williams. With enthusiastic support, they topped the goal of $15.5 million and raised $16.8 million. In making the lead gift William E. Simon paid tribute to his late wife who had used many oncology services at the hospital.

“It was the way she was treated, with clinical excellence, dignity and compassion, that motivated my father to make this gift,” says J. Peter Simon. “He wanted this community to have world-class cancer care close to home.”

The opening of the state-of-the-art Carol G. Simon Cancer Center represented a major leap forward in the ability to care for cancer patients at Morristown Memorial.

The cancer center provided comprehensive outpatient care by centralizing all services; offered a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to care; gave patients a more soothing environment and integrated mind-body services to employ the power of the mind and spirit in the healing process; and gave patients access to cutting-edge technology.

“After only five short years, it became clear that, driven by a fast-growing reputation for clinical excellence and personal service, the patient volume was escalating way beyond our original forecast and the center was quickly running out of space,” recalls Steven W. Papish, M.D., oncologist and medical director of the cancer center. Planning began on a much-needed expansion that would enhance patient care by offering the most advanced methods and technology to diagnose, treat and manage all types of cancer in one location.

As a three-time cancer survivor, Nancy Schaeenen of Madison knew firsthand what a difference the cancer center had made to the community. “Steven Papish was my doctor who led me through infusion therapy with kindness and compassion at a time before the

Each year, patient volume continues to grow at the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center. Inpatient admissions in 2006 were 2,833 with a growth to 2,967 in 2007. Outpatient visits were 91,301 in 2006 and grew to 95,721 in 2007.

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Support Ensures Outstanding Care

The Oncology Philanthropic Leadership Council, led by J. Peter Simon, helped make 2007 a very successful year in fundraising. Below is a sampling of the gifts received:

**Judy Abrams:** $1 million living and testamentary pledge to create the Joe Abrams Oncology Fund which supports the patient liaison position on Franklin 4

**Anonymous donor:** $500,000 to purchase a new digital mammography machine at the Carol and Julius Rippel Breast Center; and $325,000 for a five-year fellowship in breast imaging

**Peter Grimm:** $150,000 to fund the Leslie Grimm Lung Cancer Patient and Family Support Program, which will employ a social worker to work with lung cancer patients and their families

**The Kaplan Sisters Foundation:** Sara Abramson, Lilly Combias and Ruth Kaplan: $100,000 gift to help fund the purchase of a new chest x-ray machine in the Cancer Center

**Christine and James Kenney:** $35,000 to support the Radiation Oncology Research Fellowship

**A.P. Kirby Jr. Foundation:** $25,000 for the Cancer Center Excellence Fund

**Eileen Matt:** $15,000 to support the Cancer Outreach Program

**MetLife of Morristown:** $50,000 grant to be used in areas with immediate needs through the Cancer Center for Excellence Fund

**Robert and Natalie Rooke:** $40,000 for the Cancer Center Excellence Fund

**Frank and Mimi Walsh:** $50,000 to support the Radiation Oncology Research Fellowship

If you would like to help the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center continue to offer world-class cancer care, please contact Hyona Revere, director of major gifts, at 973-593-2429 or hyona.revere@atlantichealth.org.

Stories of Hope

Lisa & Jayce Williams

Lisa Williams, a 50-year-old single mother and artist, had undergone regular mammograms for 10 years, each time receiving a clean bill of health. That changed in December 2006. An irregular screening led to a needle biopsy and a diagnosis of breast cancer. “I felt overwhelmed and scared that I might die,” said Ms. Williams. “And what about Jayce?”

In talking with her 9-year-old son, the Green Township resident tried to explain that hers “was a ‘good’ kind of cancer and that doctors detected it early.” She later learned that “good” was perhaps not the best adjective; after all, there is no good cancer. During a three-month course of radiation following a partial mastectomy, she sought out a support group and other services — music therapy and Reiki sessions — offered at the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center. “Even though doctors were confident that I would be fine, my family and friends didn’t want to or didn’t know how to talk to me anymore,” she recalled. “I needed to speak with someone about how I was feeling, and I realized that Jayce did too.”

That’s where child life specialist Crystal Zelman came in. “Crystal gave my son a place where he felt safe, where he could play and where he could open up about my cancer,” said Ms. Williams.

Occasionally, when she joined her son in his session, Ms. Williams learned what worked in helping Jayce cope and what didn’t. After just a few sessions, she noticed a positive change in her son. With the child life specialist’s help, he created a book of questions about cancer and his thoughts and fears. That book and other activities helped Jayce open up and understand cancer a bit better, an important consideration given that four others in the Williams’ family are fighting the disease.

“Finding out that you or a loved one has cancer is devastating,” said Ms. Williams. “All that the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center has to offer and the wonderful people who work there helped me and my son get through a very difficult time.”

Today, Ms. Williams is cancer free, and Jayce has turned his attention to other pressing matters: scoring goals, sinking free throws, and turning Legos into masterpieces.

Nurse Wins Two Top Awards

This past fall, Patricia Bonder, R.N., B.S.N., won two prestigious nursing awards for exhibiting an outstanding commitment to human rights and exemplifying the philosophy and humanity surrounding nursing. A case manager at the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center and for New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection (NJCEED) of Morris County, she received the Francis Black Humanitarian Award, which recognizes those who are extraordinary inspirations to others, and The New York Times “Tribute to Nurses” Award, which honors the field’s most dedicated and indispensable professionals.

Described as “dedicated,” “caring” and “exceptional in her delivery of patient care” by patients and colleagues alike, Ms. Bonder has devoted particular attention in her 30-year career to those unable to obtain equitable health care. By rallying physicians and health care service providers to volunteer their services, she has screened and educated needy patients young and old who ordinarily may not have sought proper care until it was too late.
cancer center was built,” says Mrs. Schaenen. “Because of my personal experience with both Morristown Memorial and the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, I accepted the task of leading the expansion’s fundraising campaign.”

In 2003 the William E. Simon Foundation kicked off that $6.6 million campaign with a $4 million gift. This incentive and the overwhelming support of the community ultimately brought in $10.1 million and allowed for the addition of a third and a fourth floor — enlarging the cancer center by 41,000 square feet.

Upon completion in 2005, the cancer center added a third linear accelerator to keep up with the increasing volume and technical advances; opened The Carol W. and Julius A. Rippel Breast Center with the latest digital mammography; relocated and enlarged the Peter Doherty Men’s Cancer Center; provided more space for mind-body programs, social services and clinical research; and significantly enlarged the medical oncology office to allow for more complex outpatient chemotherapy for the almost 200 patients seen daily.

As the cancer center celebrates a decade of major achievements in patient care and the emergence as a vital force in the community, its administration continues to look ahead.

“The next five to 10 years should bring important advances in the concept of targeted therapy of cancer; image-guided radiation is a significant step,” says Dr. Papish. “It is my hope that in the future we will have specific targeted therapies to attack the molecular basis of many cancers and possibly spare side effects to normal cells.”

MILESTONES

**NOVEMBER 1974**
Morristown’s cancer program receives first accreditation from the American College of Surgeons

**OCTOBER 1995**
Cancer Center Campaign begins; William E. Simon pledges $2.5 million in memory of his wife, Carol

**NOVEMBER 1996**
Construction begins

**APRIL 1998**
50,000 sq. ft. Carol G. Simon Cancer Center opens

**WINTER 1999**
Stem Cell Transplant Program begins

**SPRING 1999**
Peter B. Doherty Men’s Cancer Center opens

**JULY 2000**
First in nation to launch single slice CT-based Image Guided Radiation Therapy

**FALL 2000**
Mind Body Program offered at no cost to patients

**AUGUST 2001**
Jeffrey Frank Wacks Memorial Fund established for music therapy program

**FALL 2003**
Expansion campaign begins; William E. Simon Foundation makes lead gift of $4 million

**MARCH 2005**
First robotic-assisted laparoscopic radical prostatectomy performed

**NOVEMBER 2005**
91,000 sq. ft. Carol G. Simon Cancer Center is rededicated

**FEBRUARY 2006**
First in state to offer all digital screening/diagnostic mammography at Carol W. and Julius A. Rippel Breast Center

**FEBRUARY 2007**
Installation of nation’s first 16 slice CT Rail Linear Accelerator
If you are interested in hosting an event or promotion to benefit the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, please contact Eileen Heltzer, director of annual giving, at 973-593-2412 or eileen.heltzer@atlantichealth.org.

Many thanks to the 30+ members of the Madchatters Twig for their $11,000 donation to fund the Captiva Monitor, a large television screen, located in the Radiation Oncology waiting room for use by patients and their families.

To r: Sally Abbott, co-president of Madchatters Twig; Wendy Merrill; Cynthia W. O’Donnell, director of gift planning, Morristown Memorial Health Foundation; Janet DeLisa; Lynn Robbins; Phyllis Hendry; and Bobbi Phillips in front of the Captiva Monitor.

Ursula de Bruycker Hamann, a Chester resident and 12-year ovarian cancer survivor, created three original pieces of Scherenschnitt Art (papercuttings) that are pink and white. Ms. Hamann felt strongly about giving back to the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center and donated the pieces to the Carol W. and Julius A. Rippel Breast Center. Thank you for your contribution.

Our sincere gratitude goes to the Kaleidoscope of Hope Foundation for partnering with Atlantic Health in the “Turn the Towns Teal” campaign to raise awareness about ovarian cancer. The Foundation tied teal ribbons around Morris County in hopes of reminding people to be screened for ovarian cancer, since the success rates for treatment and cure are significantly improved when the disease is detected in its early stages.

We are indebted to Marianne Dhuyvetter of Long Valley, who has organized and hosted October bunko marathons since 2004 to raise money for breast cancer research. The cancer survivor’s most recent dice game fundraiser generated $4,570, bringing the total monies raised to over $14,000.

Many people who give of their time and treasure are helping to advance cancer care at the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center. Listed below is just a sampling of the many donors who give to make life better for our patients and their families.

Free Comprehensive Searchable Database of Cancer Clinical Trials Offered

The Carol G. Simon Cancer Center is participating in a wide-range of studies including those sponsored by the Cancer Institute of New Jersey Oncology Group, Cancer Trials Support Unit (CTSU), Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG), Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG), National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP) and the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG). Additionally, The Carol G. Simon Cancer Center conducts Phase II and III clinical trials through various pharmaceutical companies.

Through Trialcheck, a program developed by the Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups, the Carol C. Simon Cancer Center is able to enroll patients in investigative studies to gain access to the most recent therapeutic modalities in cancer care developed by our nation’s top specialists. Once an individual completes the Trialcheck questionnaire located at www.carolgsimoncancercenter.org, a list of cancer clinical trials based on location is provided which can then be discussed with his/her medical team.

For more information on clinical trials, please call 908-522-2043.

Mark Your Calendar

Carol G. Simon Cancer Center 10th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, April 26, 2008
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

A celebration of 10 years of patient-centered cancer care, featuring a presentation from Sean Swarner, the first cancer survivor to climb Mount Everest, as well as informative displays about the programs and services of the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center. For more information or to register, please call 1-800-247-9580.

If you are interested in hosting an event or promotion to benefit the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center at Morristown Memorial Hospital, please contact Eileen Heltzer, director of annual giving, at 973-593-2412 or eileen.heltzer@atlantichealth.org.

Simon Says is published for friends of the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center. For more information, please call 973-593-2400 or visit our Health Foundation web site at www.mmhf.org. Donations can be made online or can be mailed to us at the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, c/o Morristown Memorial Health Foundation, P.O. Box 35558, Newark, NJ 07193-5558.

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