

2021 Annual Report

720 West Forest, Jackson, TN 38301 • 731-541-1700 • kirklandcancercenter.org



West Tennessee
HEALTHCARE™

ALICE AND CARL
KIRKLAND
CANCER CENTER

a service of Jackson-Madison County General Hospital



A Message from the Medical Director

Our exceptional, well-trained nursing staff are without a doubt the best in West Tennessee. Whether in infusion suite, the medical oncology clinic or radiation suite, they are often the patients' most trusted confidants and ensure that the patients are properly educated on the therapies given. For a specific example, over the past few years the availability of oral chemotherapy has had exponential growth. With this growth, we now have an outstanding team of nurses and staff that assists the patients on oral chemotherapy in obtaining and complying with the medication. This ensures that patients receive the medication properly and leads to better outcomes.

I remain impressed daily by our nursing staff's commitment as a whole to continual education on cancer treatment while also ensuring that they continue the friendly, wholesome relationship that West Tennesseans are used to.

Our cancer navigators routinely meet with both patients with newly diagnosed cancer and patients who are currently undergoing therapy. Navigating the intricacies of a new cancer diagnosis while also simultaneously dealing with the stress of the diagnosis can become insurmountable. Our navigators work diligently to make sure that the patients are able to organize the numerous tests, visits and referrals that may arise during treatment.

Nutrition is vitally important to reduce side effects of therapy and prevent catabolism from chemotherapy. Moreover, our population of head and neck cancer patients will need determination of nutrition maintenance as their ability to consume oral sustenance is impaired. Our dieticians on staff provide exceptional assistance during their consultations to address these issues.

Our triage staff and nurses provide a vital lifeline for patients who need quick access to our providers and daily assistance for issues that may arise during therapy. They also offer prompt responses to referring clinics when a new cancer patient needs to be seen.

Though quite unnerving, life outside of the doctor's visit does not stop after a cancer diagnosis. In fact, we often say that life stressors multiply after receiving a cancer diagnosis. Our social workers work diligently to help ease these stressors with the available resources and often are able to assist patients with needs such as transportation, housing and medication assistance.

In my humble opinion, the culmination of the above services merged with the advanced diagnostic and therapy options we offer make the cancer care at the Kirkland Center unparalleled as we continuously strive to improve cancer outcomes in West Tennessee.

Dr. Joseph Fouché

While our dedicated group of physicians and providers at the Kirkland Center excel at ensuring that our therapies exceed the quality of other top comprehensive cancer centers, I regard our center's ability to provide thorough supportive care to be unrivaled.

Too often we tend to primarily gravitate our focus to the latest targeted drug therapy or the newest research trial. However, cancer therapy goes far beyond matching a treatment with a diagnosis on a screen. Cancer therapy is truly an interwoven concert of assessing patient characteristics, applying available data proven therapies, and ensuring the ability of each individual patient to receive therapy.

To obtain optimal outcomes we must always consider each patient's individual circumstances and life stressors when initiating treatment. At Kirkland we understand that addressing these confounding issues are vital to providing our best care.

To achieve this, we utilize a collection of highly skilled professionals. I believe that highlighting their services and strengths would help emphasize the vital importance of the work they do.

Josephine Norment Breast Cancer Survivor

Josephine Norment is a breast cancer survivor that was diagnosed in January 2011. She has no family history of cancer. In fact, she only had a few health setbacks with two hip replacements prior to receiving her cancer diagnosis. However, she said that her support system—her mom, dad and brother stuck by her through her early sickness.

She has overcome tremendous loss of her support system through the years. Josephine's mother passed away of natural causes, her dad passed away from an internal bleed from an accident and her brother passed away from a stroke.

Growing up in Bolivar, TN, Josephine had no time to slow down raising 3 kids; a set of twin girls and one boy. She worked two jobs most of her life. As the school custodian she enjoyed seeing the students each day and had a personal mission of helping any kids that may be going through problems. She also worked at a group home where she enjoyed seeing the residents and caring for them.

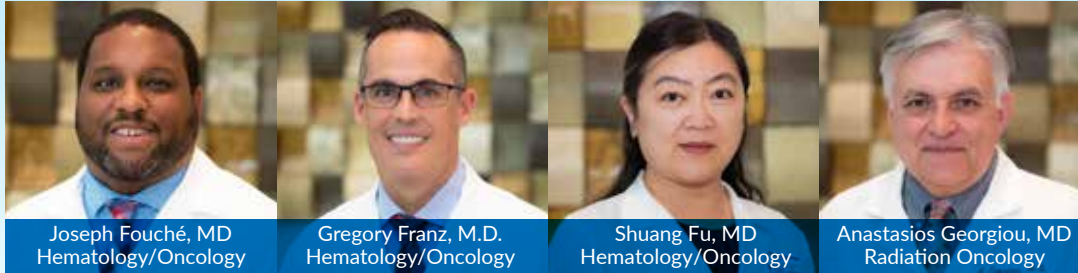
As a mother and employee, Josephine spent her time working, cooking, cleaning and taking care of others. Her story is unique in that she knew that something wasn't right, but didn't expect cancer. She said "that her breast were burning for a couple of months but that she thought it was due to drinking sodas but finally decided to go to the doctor." Josephine's primary doctor scheduled her for a biopsy of the breast.

The test results of her biopsy confirmed that Josephine had HER2-positive breast cancer. The biopsied breast tissue was tested for hormone receptors to help determine her treatment options. She had a mastectomy of the breast and was referred to Dr. Walker at Kirkland Cancer Center. She said she felt at ease since her treatment started at Kirkland because "it is an excellent place and they take care of her."

Eleven years have passed since her initial diagnosis. The cancer came back a second time in a different place. She is a testament of going through many ups and downs but she credits Dr. Walker for bringing her this far and her mighty God! She is a survivor and is continuing to receive Herceptin, a chemotherapy drug as a treatment to slow the growth of the cancer cells. When asked what her motivation to get through this treatment is, she smiled and replied, "To be well enough to do the things she wants to do like go out and shop."



Meet Our Kirkland Cancer Center Providers



Role of Advanced Nurse Practitioners in Oncology

Nurse Practitioners at the Kirkland Cancer Center may have several interchangeable titles. Whether you label us as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN's), Advanced Practice Nurses (APN's) or Nurse Practitioners (Np's), we all play an important role in the daily operations of the clinic. The oncology nurse practitioner is in a unique position to see patients throughout the cancer continuum. From initial diagnosis, staging and treatment, to survivorship, follow up and beyond.

Collaborating with our supervising physicians, one of our key roles is to help educate patients and their families as they face a new diagnosis, understand their treatment plan and potential side effects, and helping patients take control of their health as they navigate a new chapter in their lives both during and after cancer treatment. We see patients to workup new problems, prescribe interventions to minimize side effects from treatment and recommend evidence-based surveillance/screenings to detect recurrence or new disease early on. All of this helps optimize the efficiency of our physicians' schedules so they can accommodate for new patients to be seen in a timely fashion, work-in patients having complications from treatment, or see existing patients who have had a recurrence of their cancer.

Another special aspect of care offered at the Kirkland Cancer Center is our Survivorship Clinic. In seeking to meet our Commission on Cancer (CoC) standards, we offer an educational visit following the completion of all curative treatments for a cancer diagnosis. During these visits patients are given a printed care plan describing the treatments they received, potential long term side effects of treatment, abnormal symptoms that should be reported to their oncology team, support resources available to them and recommended screening guidelines as they move beyond their cancer diagnosis.

Patients tell us frequently how wonderful the Kirkland Cancer Center is, how kind and compassionate the providers, nurses and staff are and how grateful they are that Jackson has an institution where they can receive high-quality care while staying close to home. We are thankful for the opportunity to work alongside all of these amazing people as we seek to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

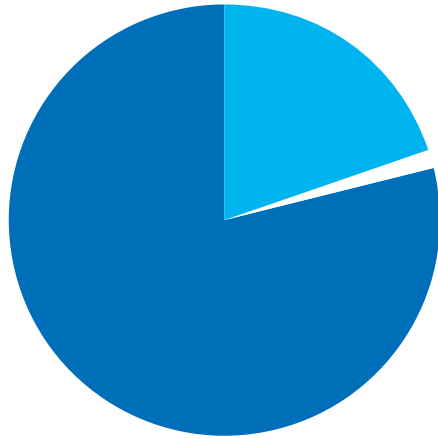


2021 Kirkland • 1975

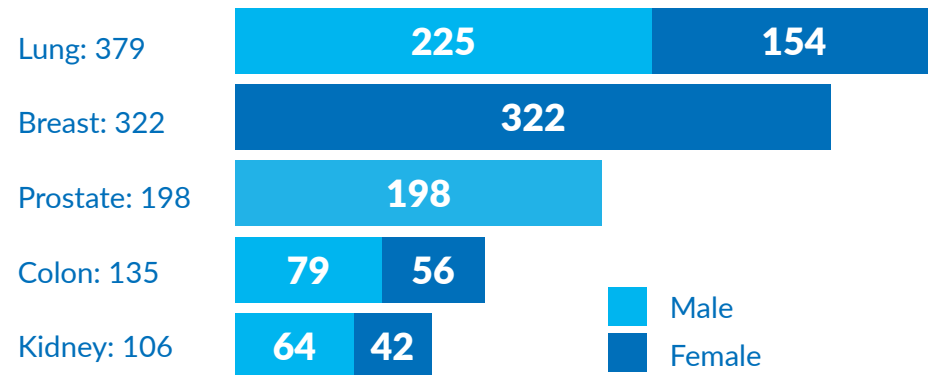
by the numbers • total number of cancer diagnoses.

By Race

- White: 1558
- Black: 393
- Other: 24

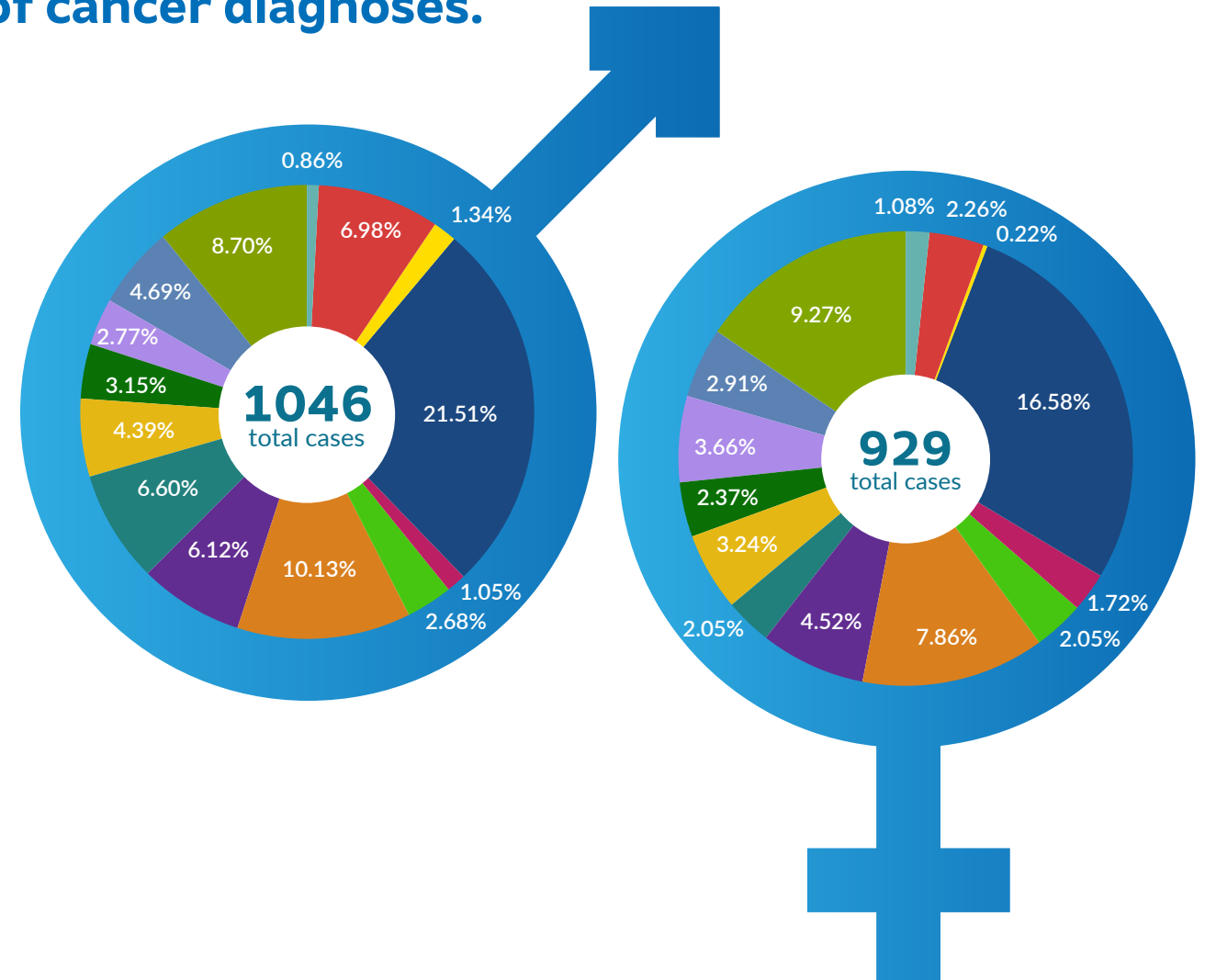


Top 5 occurrences = 1140



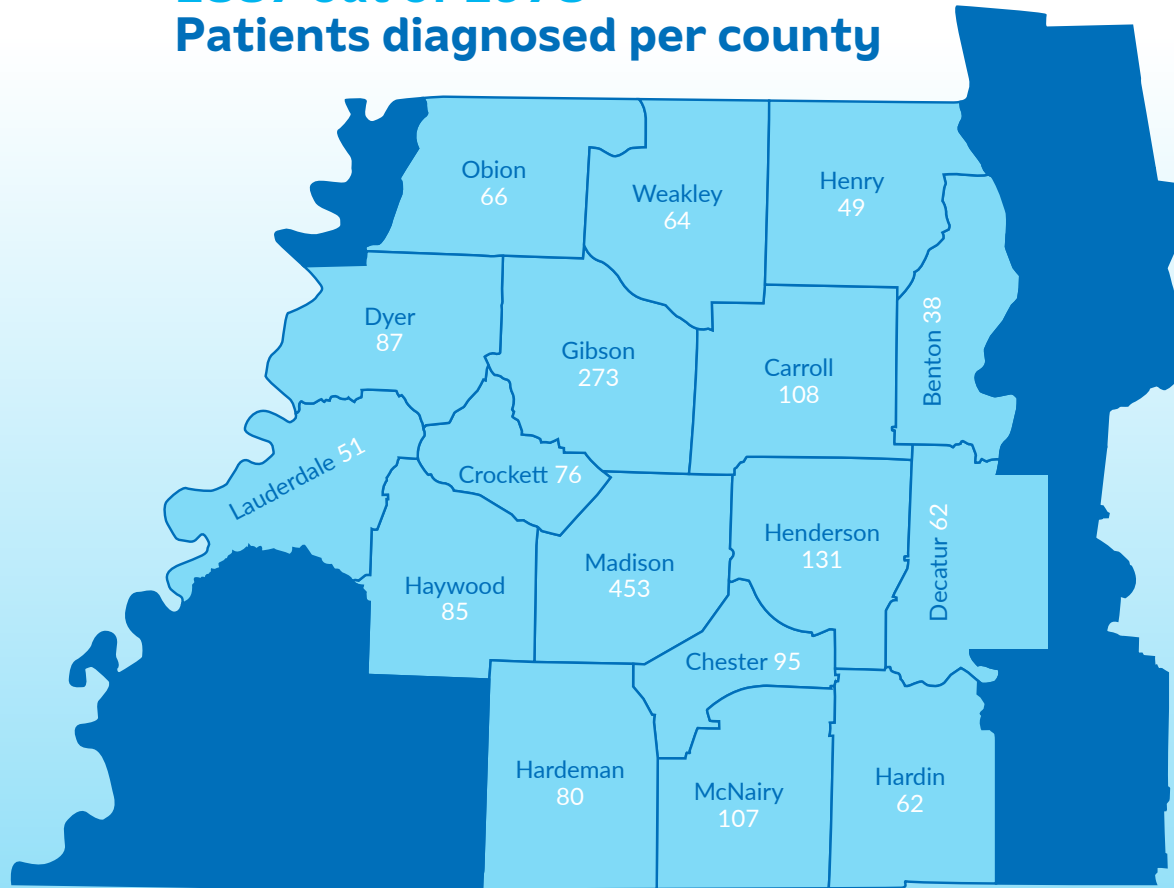
By Sex

- Brain and Nervous System
- Lip, Oral Cavity, Pharynx, Larynx
- Esophagus
- Lung
- Stomach
- Pancreas
- Colon/Rectum
- Kidney
- Urinary/Bladder
- Other Digestive Organs
- Melanoma/Skin
- Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Leukemia
- All Other Sites



2021 Kirkland by the numbers

**1887 out of 1978
Patients diagnosed per county**



These numbers only reflect patients at the Kirkland Cancer Center

Breast Screening and Tennessee Breast and Cervical Program Update

The Tennessee Breast and Cervical Screening Program (TBCSP) Grant was awarded to Jackson Madison Co. General Hospital by the CDC's National Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP). This grant is managed by Kirkland Cancer Center with a mission to prevent unnecessary disease, disability and premature death due to cancer of the breast and or cervix. The primary key to this is to provide early detection screenings such as mammograms and Pap smears to women who are un-insured or under insured and assist them with timely follow up and treatment. Adora Butler serves as the Women's Health Navigator for this program and has been recognized on a STATE level for increasing access to this program and in targeting populations that meet that income, age and medical guidelines for this program. Through her efforts in reaching out to community programs and the medical community, she has been able to triple the number of women served each year.

Each October the Kirkland Cancer Center, along with the West TN Imaging Center, sponsors a FREE Breast Screening Clinic in which physicians and medical staff provide breast exams and mammograms to un-insured women. Typically, 100-150 women are served at this annual event which has successfully linked women to much needed clinical services. We are also able to facilitate enrollment for full Medicaid benefits (TennCare) for those who are under age 65, with no insurance coverage, and who are identified through the TBCSP as being in need of treatment for breast or cervical cancer.

By having a dedicated Women's Health Navigator in Madison County, more women than ever before are being reached and navigated through their healthcare journey.





Cypress Grove Community Church: The Importance Of Giving Back

The Cypress Community Church group donates items to our patients each month. We wanted to acknowledge their servant leadership and ask them a few questions regarding why they give and the importance of giving back. Our patients are truly blessed by their generosity each month. Thank you from everyone at Kirkland Cancer Center!

Tell us a little bit about who is a part of the Cypress Community Church group that donates items to Kirkland Cancer Center patients each month? The ministry “Cypress Cares” is a fund that was established in memory of “maw” to meet the needs of the community. Mary Annette Wheeler (special education teacher/pianist) and her husband are instrumental in organizing the ministry. Cypress Community Church is a very giving and supportive ministry.

How do others get involved at your church to be a part of such a great ministry opportunity?

We have to work nights once a month to put together items for patients. If someone cannot help with a work night, but want to give monetarily that is also appreciated. Another way to get involved includes simply writing handwritten notes of encouragement.

How are donations collected? Donations are collected through memorials, Sunday giving and church members.

How do you decide on what to bring to meet the needs of KCC patients? We have a friend that is getting treatment at Kirkland Cancer Center. She shares with the ministry what is useful to get while receiving treatment and things that resemble joy for the patients. For example, Ginger, a church member, has a flower garden where she grows flowers for the patients.

Where is Cypress Community Church located? Cypress Community Church is a small rural church between Bells and Alamo. It has approximately 70-90 members who attend.

What are the goals of the group? To show God’s love through Jesus by being his hands and feet. Each gift is prayed over from a lot of people in the community.

What are some benefits of donating? The benefit of donating is that our hearts are full and the more blessings you will receive when you give.

Why did you choose Kirkland Cancer Center patients to donate to? As a result of Covid people were no longer going to church. We decided to reach out to Kirkland to see if we could start a ministry of hope.

Why is it so important to give back to your community? Jesus calls us to love our neighbor. Our church is not interested in accumulating wealth, we are vested in giving back to those in need.

Jackson Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #7

Kirkland Cancer Center is located in Madison County, Tennessee. Madison County has many organizations that give back to our community. The Jackson Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police is one of those that continually gives back to our community. The Fraternal Order of Police is recognized each year for their “Shop with a Cop” program, but many do not know about their generous gift card donations each year to Kirkland Cancer Center patients.

The Fraternal Order of Police is comprised of local, state and federal law enforcement officers. They are dedicated to representing their brothers and sisters in blue, but they also strive to be a benevolent organization and assist those in need.

The Jackson Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police donates gift cards to Kirkland Cancer Center patients each year. These gift cards are donated to patients that may not be eligible for other resources. The social workers at Kirkland Cancer Center are able to quickly identify needs and provide patients with gift cards that may not otherwise qualify for financial assistance.

Kim Tucker, a social worker, at Kirkland Cancer Center stated that the “Fraternal Order of Police has been graciously making donations for years and they need recognition because our patients are truly blessed by them”

Thank you to our local law enforcement organizations that continually support the Kirkland Cancer Center mission of helping patients and their families and also by enhancing the quality of life for all citizens of Jackson Madison County and West Tennessee.

Pictured: Randy Hampton, FOP and Retired JPD Lieutenant; Kim Tucker, Social Worker at Kirkland Cancer Center; and Jerry Priddy, FOP Office and Retired JPD captain and current deputy with Madison County Sheriff’s Department






Impact of Covid and Delayed Cancer Diagnosis

In 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic reached the West Tennessee area, many healthcare services were scaled back or completely shut down. Kirkland Cancer Center remained open with a full staff allowing our patients to continue their cancer treatments. In 2021, we recognized one of the largest consequences to affect our region was the decrease in cancer screenings. This has become an issue throughout the nation. According to information released by the American Cancer Society and American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC) delays in screening for breast, colorectal and lung cancers would lead to many Americans being undiagnosed and untreated or to delays in diagnosis and treatment. For our demographic, delays in screenings have led to a higher rate of later stage III and IV cancers than in previous years.

In 2021, the COC released a return to screening study. The Kirkland Cancer Center was among 748 accredited facilities across the nation that joined the study. The goal was to increase our return to screenings by 10% from 2020. We chose to host our annual breast screening event for uninsured women in November of 2021. We screened 134 women compared to 86 the previous year. The Kirkland Cancer Center exceeded our goal with numbers that resembled pre-covid screenings. As a result of that screening there was one individual who was diagnosed with breast cancer and is currently in treatment. Cancer screenings are critical in early diagnosis and treatment. Kirkland Cancer Center will continue to provide its annual breast screening event as well as return to screening opportunities in 2022/23 for skin and colorectal cancer.



A Diagnosis But Not a Destination

Tromping through the coals and brushing off the ashes to get to that moment of glee, happiness and hope is a regular habit for Santa Claus especially on the annual eve of December 25th. One would even feel sorry for Mrs. Claus as she cleans and scrubs through that soot to get a glimpse of the rich red velour suit underneath all that dark grime, but the hope of returning it to its original glory is all the prize that is needed for her efforts.

A special Mrs. Claus, Melissa McMinn, had a pile of ashes and soot to sift through herself in the year of 2019 when she found out she had DeNovo Stage IV Non Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC). She was no stranger to the healthcare world and knew what a devastating diagnosis it was. Unlike the surprises of a magical Christmas morning, Melissa's surprises were in the facts that she was a young 58 year old female who had never smoked and who did not have any of the symptoms that would go along with a diagnosis of lung cancer that had already spread to her bones and brain. The surprise was being relatively healthy one day and being on death's door the next. It was more than a surprise, it was a shock!

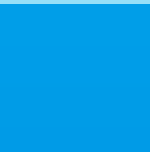
Melissa was resigned to whatever God had in store for her and thus like any wife of Mr. Claus, she already knew how to start sifting through the ugliness and darkness (in this case in the form of cancer) to find those rare and precious gifts that were waiting to be discovered and opened.

Her first gift came in the form of a couple of doctors at Kirkland Cancer Center, Dr. Gregory Franz, Medical Oncologist and Dr. Anastasios Gerogiou, Radiation Oncologist. They both knew that Melissa's brain metastasis needed to be addressed first and foremost, and thus recommended stereotactic radiosurgery along with 5 external beam radiation treatments to her hip. She remembered her father's radiation treatments prior to there being a Kirkland Cancer Center and in contrast, she felt as if she were at the spa each day pelt perfect peace with no anxiety.

Her next gift was an unlikely shiny discover made from the orders of Dr. Franz. He admired Melissa's strength, bravery and calmness in spite of all that she had been dealt and how measured her thought process was with her hope for the future. He knew how important her nonsmoking history was and urged her to hold to that hope while he dug deeper into her tumor's molecular target. The specific biomarker he was looking for was an EGFR mutation and metaphorically, he went down the chimney for her and through the ashes it was discovered. There is only a small subset of NSCLC patients that have this drugable mutation, but it was worth the search because Melissa was one of the 10-15% and would be able to be put on a targeted agent in the form of one daily pill called Tagrisso.

Melissa's third gift, her faith, was evident among her family, friends, and doctors. From the beginning she was resigned that God had a plan for her life and she had a destiny to fulfill that plan. She never wavered and she never let cancer define who she was. She knew it was her diagnosis but it was not her destination.

Melissa tolerated her treatment very well and today she continues to be cancer free. She continues to share her gifts throughout the year to others searching for answers regarding lung cancer, searching for treatment from a compassionate team, or just searching for hope.





The Hospice Home is Making Room For Love

Making Room For Love is a call for our community to join us in supporting advanced health care for our region. Through this philanthropic initiative, West TN healthcare is seeking to better serve our hospice patients throughout West TN with a Hospice Home.

Our Goal: To establish our regions first residential hospice facility that looks and feels like home and serves all of West TN with highly individual care that respects the sanctity, dignity and spiritual welfare of each person.

Our Plan: The Hospice Home will enhance the end of life services for Jackson and West TN, providing the best clinical care for those unable to stay home. The Hospice Home is designed with families in mind to share stories, laugh, cry and celebrate a life well-lived. We will have a loving team of specialized doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains and trained volunteers. Together, they will ensure the best quality of life possible with the understanding that every patient, and every family faces the end of life differently.

Our Need: To build a \$10 million dollar, 20,000 square foot space with functionality of a West TN Healthcare facility while maintaining a sense of home. We plan to offer 20 private, furnished suites full of homey comforts, and playground areas to take your loved ones outside. Open and airy with the feel of home, the space will offer plenty of room for extended family to gather and for compassionate caregivers to help patients find peace, purpose and dignity. With your generous support, we can fill this critical need by creating a very special non-profit hospice home for Jackson and our West TN community full of mercy, comfort and love.



"I am very passionate and understand the need we have in our community for a Hospice Home. It has been such a blessing hearing stories and talking to others who have used Hospice Homes or could have used one for their love one. Everyone deserves to have a place of comfort for their end of life care and spending quality time with the ones they love."

-Donna Stines