



 **West Tennessee**  
HEALTHCARE™

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**ALICE AND CARL  
KIRKLAND  
CANCER CENTER**

a service of Jackson-Madison County  
General Hospital



# 2023 Annual Report



 **West Tennessee**  
HEALTHCARE

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KIRKLAND  
CANCER CENTER**

a service of Jackson-Madison County General Hospital

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## A Message from the Medical Director

2023 marked the 10th anniversary of Kirkland Cancer Center, it is a momentous occasion to reflect on our journey and the profound impact we've made over the past decade. Since our inception, we have been dedicated to serving patients across West Tennessee, striving to provide exceptional care and support to those battling cancer.

In these ten years, we have administered a remarkable 220,070 chemotherapy infusions and delivered 207,084 radiation treatments. Our commitment to comprehensive care is further highlighted by the 433,627 lab visits and 238,985 clinic visits we have facilitated. Additionally, our pharmacy has been instrumental in our mission, providing 30,780,937 units of service.

These numbers underscore not only the significant demand for our

services but also the vital role Kirkland Cancer Center plays in the Jackson community and beyond. Each statistic represents a person—a patient we've cared for, a family we've supported, and a community we've worked to serve.

In our commitment to enhancing cancer care for the West Tennessee community, Kirkland Cancer Center is proud to highlight a significant milestone in our collaborative efforts with the Sarah Cannon Center. This partnership represents a pivotal advancement in our mission to provide the highest quality of care and support to our patients.

Over the past year, our combined efforts have successfully brought the Sarah Cannon Center's renowned expertise to Jackson, enabling us to offer even more comprehensive and specialized care. This collaboration has allowed us to integrate cutting-edge research, advanced treatment options, and a broader range of clinical trials into our local services.

By joining forces, we are not only expanding our capacity to deliver state-of-the-art treatments but also enhancing our ability to offer personalized care tailored to each patient's unique needs. This partnership underscores our shared commitment

to improving outcomes and providing exceptional support throughout each patient's journey.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated teams at both Kirkland Cancer Center and the Sarah Cannon Center for their unwavering dedication and collaborative spirit. Together, we are making a profound difference in the lives of those we serve and advancing cancer care in our community.

We are incredibly proud of what we've achieved and remain deeply committed to continuing our mission. Thank you to our dedicated staff, our supportive partners, and the resilient patients who inspire us every day. Here's to many more years of service, compassion, and excellence in cancer care.

## Cierra Davis Breast Cancer Survivor

Ciera Davis has always been the heart of her small town, Lexington, TN. At 29, she was vibrant, full of life, and has a close-knit family who adores her. She is known for her infectious laughter and her passion for helping others. Though she was young and technically not at the recommended age for routine mammograms, Ciera was diligent about her health. She regularly performed self-checks, and one morning, a concern arose that she couldn't ignore. Fresh out of the shower, Ciera noticed a persistent pain in her breast that just wouldn't go away. As she examined herself, she came across a knot that she knew didn't belong. Her instinct told her something was wrong. Despite being reassured by many that it was likely nothing to worry about, Ciera insisted on seeing her primary care physician, advocating fiercely for her own health.

Her determination led her to a series of tests and, eventually, a diagnosis that she was not expecting. Ciera was diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer, stage 2B—a type of cancer that was particularly aggressive and had taken the life of her beloved aunt not too long ago. The news was heavy and hard to hear. The memory of her aunt's struggle bothered her, and the weight of it all left her feeling both shocked and overwhelmed. Ciera wasn't one to back down from a fight. She began chemotherapy with a courage that inspired everyone around her. Her treatment regimen was intense: weekly sessions for 12 weeks, followed by a shift to every three weeks for four additional treatments. Each session was a battle, but Ciera faced it head-on, supported every step of the way by her loving family. Her family was her rock. They rallied around her with unwavering support, their love and encouragement giving her the strength to endure the grueling treatments. It was this support system and all of the others she met here at KCC along the way that helped her feel less alone. "Coming here and seeing that I am not alone helped me out a whole lot," Ciera reflected, appreciating the community that had formed around her.

As the weeks of chemotherapy came to an end, Ciera found a new rhythm in her life. She began adjusting to what she called her "new normal," a term she used to describe the life after the intense period of treatment. Her resilience was evident in the way she adapted, always with a smile and a positive outlook. Despite the progress, Ciera's journey wasn't over. To ensure the best possible outcome and to reduce the risk of recurrence, she chose to undergo a double mastectomy. The decision was profound, and adjusting to the changes in her body was challenging. Yet, Ciera faced it with the same bravery she had shown throughout her treatment. "This has taken some getting used to but I am alive and I feel like that was the best option for me," she said, her voice reflecting a mix of relief and resolve. Today, Ciera is a beacon of strength and hope. Her journey through breast cancer has transformed her in ways she never expected. She's emerged with a renewed appreciation for life and a deep sense of gratitude for her family and the support they provided. Her story is one of bravery, resilience, and the enduring power of self-advocacy. And though the road was difficult, Ciera's spirit and determination shone brightly, lighting the way for others who might face similar battles.



# Meet Our Kirkland Cancer Center Providers



# Kirkland Cancer Center North



On April 24, 2023, Kirkland Cancer Center celebrated the opening of its new North location, marking a significant milestone in expanding patient care capabilities. With space becoming increasingly constrained at the main clinic, this new facility was established to accommodate the growing need for benign hematology services without requiring patients to travel to the main center.

The new KCC North is designed to streamline care for hematology patients by centralizing services such as lab work, pharmacy, and infusion treatments in one location. This focused approach not only enhances efficiency but also improves patient experience by reducing travel and wait times.

All six of our physicians and nurse practitioners rotate through the North clinic, ensuring continuity of care for both new consultations and follow-up visits. Additionally, the collaboration with Sarah Cannon Center has brought specialized transplant services to KCC North. Dr. Jeremy Pantin, a leading expert in treating blood cancers and complex blood disorders, now sees patients at this location two days each month. This addition significantly enhances convenience for local patients who previously had to travel to Nashville for such specialized care.

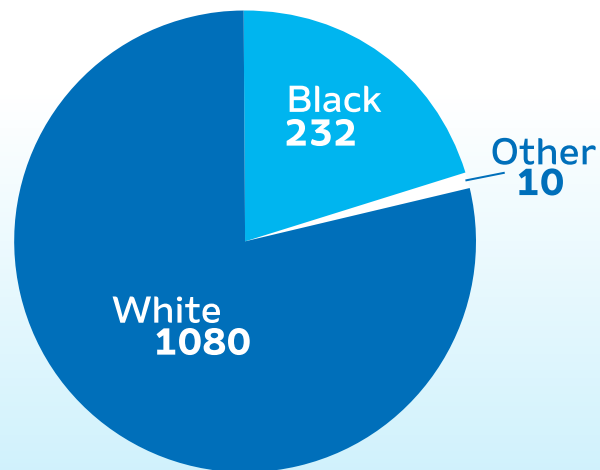
Kelly Stafford, Director of Nursing, encapsulates the sentiment of many patients: "KCC North is so convenient for our patients. Its smaller size makes it easy to get in and out quickly." The opening of this clinic represents a major step forward in delivering specialized, accessible care to our community.

# 2023 Kirkland: 1260

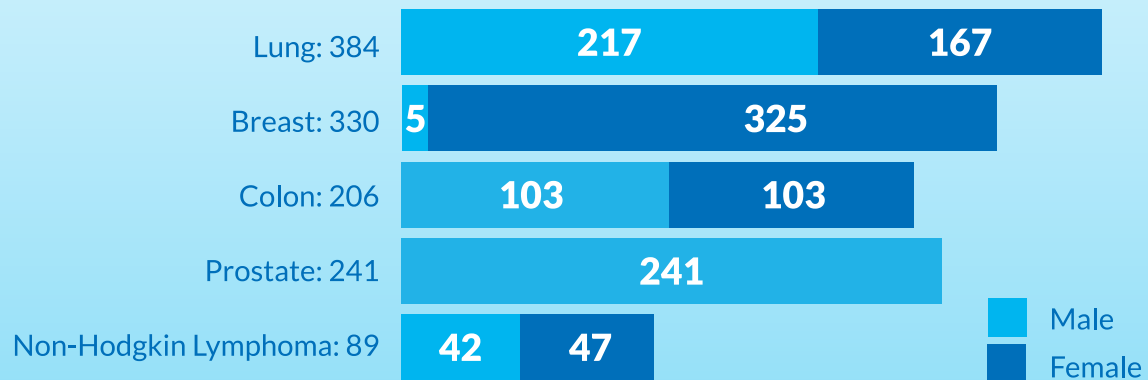
by the numbers

## By Race

- White: 1080
- Black: 232
- Other: 10



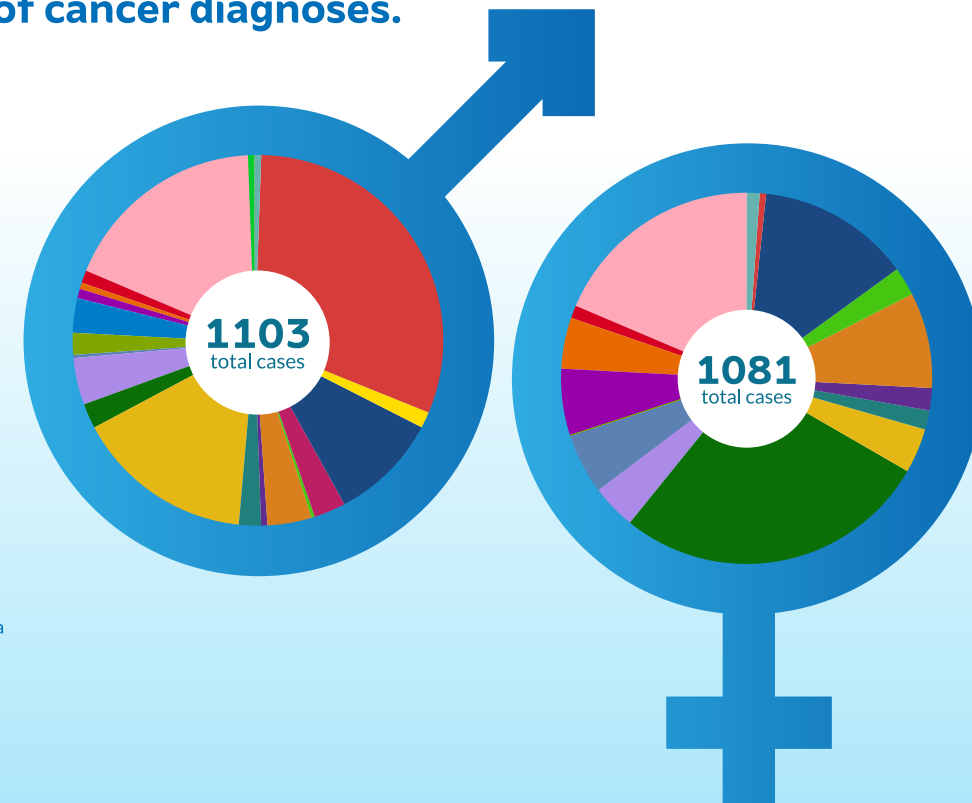
## Top 5 occurrences = 1,197



## total number of cancer diagnoses.

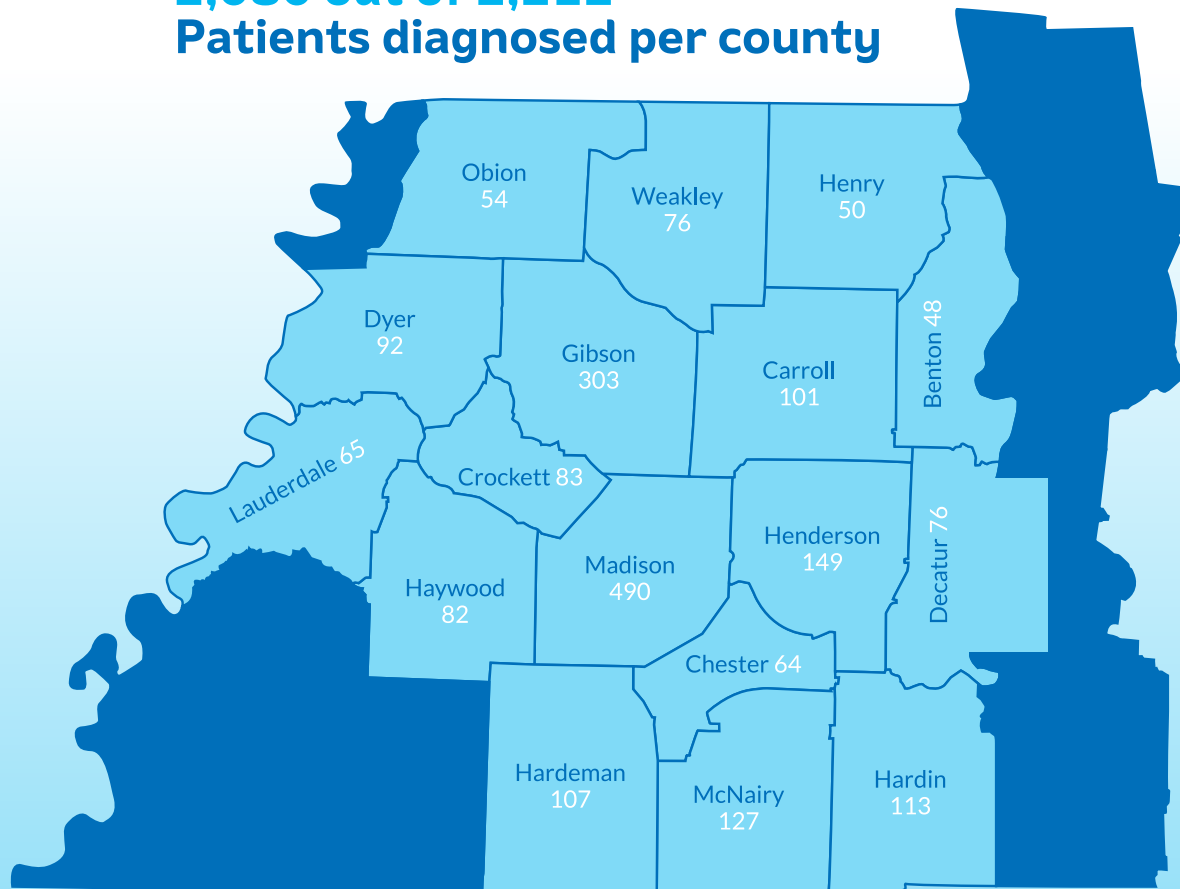
### By Sex

- Brain
- Breast
- Cervix
- Colon
- Corpus Uteri
- Esophagus
- Kidney
- Larynx
- Leukemia
- Liver
- Lung
- Melanoma
- Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma
- Oral
- Ovary
- Pancreas
- Pharynx
- Stomach
- Urinary Bladder
- All other



# 2023 Kirkland by the numbers

2,080 out of 2,212  
Patients diagnosed per county



These numbers only reflect patients at the Kirkland Cancer Center



Karen Ellis

## Executive Director Spotlight

We are thrilled to introduce Karen Ellis as the new Executive Director of Kirkland Cancer Center, joining our team in April 2023. Karen's journey to this pivotal role has been one of growth, dedication, and a deep connection to her roots in Jackson, Tennessee. Native to Jackson, TN, Karen has always held a strong sense of community and family. "I'm married to my best friend, Russ Ellis," Karen shares. "Together, we have two wonderful children, Rusty and Keaton, who are the light of our lives." This foundation of family and love is something that has shaped Karen throughout her life and career. Karen's professional path began with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Lambuth University (now University of Memphis at Lambuth), where she honed the skills that would serve her throughout her career. After graduating, she entered the world of oncology in May 2010, when she joined The West Clinic in Memphis, TN, as the Corporate Controller.

This role marked the beginning of Karen's close affinity to oncology, a field that would become a major part of her life. Her career took an exciting turn when she transitioned to One Oncology, a network of some of the nation's leading oncology practices. Through this opportunity, Karen worked directly with partners across the country, including ECHO-Eastern Connecticut Hematology and Oncology, Arizona Blood & Cancer Specialists, Los Angeles Cancer Network, New York Cancer & Blood Specialists, and The West Clinic. These experiences allowed Karen to expand her knowledge and build strong relationships within the oncology community, giving her a broad perspective on how cancer care is delivered across different regions. In 2021, Karen joined West Tennessee Healthcare (WTH) in Business Development, where she played an integral role in establishing key partnerships. One of her proudest achievements was overseeing the hospital-within-a-hospital relationship between LeBonheur Children's Hospital and Jackson-Madison County General Hospital (JMCGH), as well as launching the hospital-based unit Select Medical, a long-term acute care hospital inside JMCGH. This work provided Karen with valuable insight into healthcare administration and the importance of collaboration in improving patient care. Now, as the Executive Director of Kirkland Cancer Center, Karen reflects on the impact that West Tennessee Healthcare has had on her. "West Tennessee Healthcare is a unique organization with leaders who truly feel it is their responsibility to care for the community of West Tennessee as a whole. Immediately after joining, I felt that this is where I belonged." Her passion for service and commitment to her community shines through in everything she does. Having spent many years away from her hometown, Karen is especially grateful for the opportunity to make a positive impact on and strengthen the well-being of the community that raised her. "I was born and raised in Jackson, TN, and although we spent many years away, being able to serve as the Executive Director of Kirkland Cancer Center now is the time for me to give back."

Karen is continually inspired by the dedication and compassion she witnesses at Kirkland Cancer Center. "Every day, I am in awe of the care our providers, clinicians, and staff give to our patients, as well as the strength and resiliency of our patients. It's a blessing to be a part of this incredible team and to contribute to the healing process for so many people." With her deep ties to the Jackson community, extensive experience in healthcare, and genuine commitment to serving others, Karen Ellis is excited for the future of Kirkland Cancer Center and the patients it serves. We are grateful to have her as part of our leadership team and look forward to the continued growth and success under her direction.

## Golf Tournament

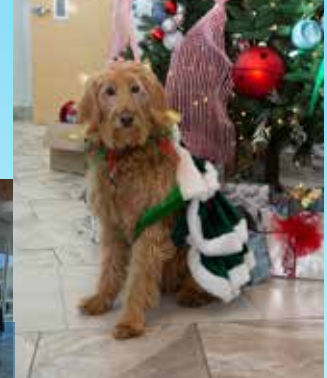
A few years ago, Ann-Marie Kelley was facing the unthinkable. Diagnosed with cancer, she underwent treatment with a courage that spoke volumes. Despite the physical and emotional toll, she never lost sight of the greater picture. Her own battle made her acutely aware of the struggles faced by other patients—those who grappled not only with the disease but with the financial burden it often imposed.

Determined to make a difference, Ann Marie envisioned a way to channel her experiences into something profoundly positive. Thus was born "Swinging Fore Hope," a golf tournament held in September at the Chickasaw Golf Course. It wasn't just a charity event; it was a manifestation of her hope for a world where no one had to choose between treatment and basic necessities.

Local businesses, many of whom had been touched by Ann Marie's story or had faced their own battles with cancer, rallied around her cause with generous donations and enthusiastic participation.

The tournament was a huge success. Beyond the friendly competition and camaraderie on the golf course, the true victory was in the incredible sum raised—over \$100,000. This money was directed towards the Patient Needs Fund, a lifeline designed to alleviate the financial strain on cancer patients. The fund covers essential costs, such as pharmaceuticals, transportation to and from treatment, and even rent, ensuring that patients could focus on their recovery rather than their bills. The impact of Swinging Fore Hope was immediate and profound. Patients who once feared they might have to choose between crucial treatment and paying their next rent check now had one less thing to worry about. Ann Marie's vision and tenacity has not only created a successful event but has sparked a wave of compassion and solidarity within the community. Her efforts illuminated the path to hope and relief for countless individuals, proving that even in the face of great adversity, there is always the potential for extraordinary kindness and generosity. The West TN community, along with local businesses, rallied together in gratitude for Ann Marie's unwavering dedication. Her story became a testament to the power of one person's heart and how it can mobilize an entire community towards a cause.

Ann Marie's legacy, through Swinging Fore Hope, continues to grow, touching lives and offering solace to those in need. Her journey from a cancer survivor to a beacon of hope is a reminder of the profound impact that one person's vision and compassion can have on the world.



# 10 year Anniversary

In December 2023, the Kirkland Cancer Center (KCC) proudly celebrated its 10-year anniversary, marking a decade of dedicated service to the West Tennessee community. Since opening its doors in December 2013 with a focus on radiation therapy, and expanding to include chemotherapy treatments in January 2014, KCC has grown substantially, both in its facilities and in its capacity to care for patients.

Over these ten years, KCC has become a cornerstone of cancer care in the region, delivering state-of-the-art treatments and support. The center has administered 220,070 chemotherapy infusions, provided 207,084 radiation treatments, and managed 433,627 lab visits. Additionally, there have been 238,985 clinic visits and 30,780,937 units of service from the pharmacy. What began with no providers has expanded to a team of 15 dedicated professionals.

To commemorate this milestone, KCC hosted a festive day filled with activities for both patients and staff. The celebration included goody bags, delightful treats, and a range of entertainment from musicians of The Jackson Symphony and J-Town Coffee to contributions from The Arts Council and pet therapy sessions.

This anniversary is not only a time to reflect on the achievements and impact of the past decade but also an opportunity to express gratitude. KCC extends its heartfelt thanks to the patients, staff, and community for their unwavering support and looks forward to continuing its mission of providing exceptional cancer care to West Tennessee for many more years to come.

## Breast Brunch Ever

This year marked the inaugural Breast Brunch Ever at the Crown Winery in Humboldt, TN, a milestone event aimed at educating and empowering our community. The sold-out event brought together over 100 women for a morning of brunch, shopping, and meaningful connection, all while focusing on the critical topics of breast cancer prevention and early detection.

The event was a vibrant mix of educational and social elements. Attendees enjoyed a delicious brunch, explored various shopping opportunities, and listened to inspiring guest speakers. Sharleen Morgan highlighted the significance of proactive prevention and early detection, while Ciera Davis, a 30-year-old breast cancer survivor, shared her journey through diagnosis and treatment.

The success and enthusiasm surrounding the first Breast Brunch have set the stage for it to become an annual tradition. We are excited to announce that the second Breast Brunch will take place on October 27, 2024.

Elizabeth Newman, our Marketing and Community Outreach Manager, expressed her gratitude: "We are so thankful to be able to provide prevention and education events for our community so that others can come together to learn and support people in their community." The support and camaraderie demonstrated at the event truly exemplify the strength and unity within our community.

