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COLLABORATIVE SCIENCE

UNC LINEBERGER COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

2014–2015 DONOR HONOR ROLL
Your generosity in action
The saying goes that ‘hindsight is 20/20.’ As I look back over the past year at UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, I can clearly see a long and impressive list of accomplishments that have added to our reputation as one of the finest cancer centers in the country. We owe much of that success to you, our generous supporters who believe in our mission and are committed to our ongoing work of next-generation cancer research and exceptional patient-centered care.

In this year’s Donor Honor Roll, you’ll get a glimpse of the amazing advances that are taking place in cancer care. As an oncologist and a cancer researcher, I’m very excited about the powerful tools we now have to identify, isolate and treat a disease that affects one in four Americans. Tumor sequencing, clinical trials and genetic testing are all terms you’ll be hearing more about, for they offer us the valuable information that leads to new discoveries and offers hope to the citizens of North Carolina.

When we look to the future of cancer care, immunotherapy will play a vital role in fighting diseases like cancer; it is precision medicine at its finest. By using the power of a patient’s own immune system, we will be able to target the treatment therapies that will go directly to the source of the cancer, rather than treating the entire body unnecessarily. The people of our state will have access to the most cutting-edge treatments available, right here in their own back yard. Our capabilities have certainly put us on the map as one of the top cancer centers in the world.

Speaking of top cancer centers, you may have heard that the National Cancer Institute (NCI) made a site visit to UNC Lineberger in May as part of its five-year institutional review and consideration of renewal of our core grant. The grant award, which runs through 2020, would provide essential support for UNC Lineberger’s research program and facilities. I’m thrilled to announce that our grant renewal application received an “exceptional” rating, earning one of the top scores ever awarded to any cancer center since NCI began rigorously rating them. This truly reflects the scope and strength of the work being done by our researchers, clinicians and staff members.

Read on, and you’ll find that our patients are powerful storytellers. When they share their personal experiences of diagnosis, treatment and healing, they help us to remember that our efforts – be it in research, caregiving or investing in UNC Lineberger through our gifts – truly make a difference in peoples’ lives and give them hope for the future. I think you’ll enjoy hearing some of their personal journeys.

Yes, hindsight is 20/20, and we’ve made great strides this year at UNC Lineberger. But we couldn’t have done it without your help. I want to personally thank each of you for sharing your time, your energy, and your faithful financial support in our fight against cancer; your philanthropic spirit and your trust in us mean more than you know.

Norman E. Sharpless, M.D.
RESEARCH

UNC Lineberger is the largest research entity at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, drawing more than $71 million in National Cancer Institute funding. Members hold over $280 million in external research funding.

We offered more than 225 clinical trials of the latest treatments developed at UNC or available through affiliation with national clinical trials groups.

We sequenced 10,000 tumor samples to create a comprehensive atlas of the genetic changes in cancer.

We launched a groundbreaking T-cell immunotherapy research program with trials opening in 2016.
The fog of confusion that surrounds cancer is slowly but surely lifting. After decades of research, scientists now understand that, fundamentally, this is a genetic disease caused by gene mutations that drive the uncontrolled growth of cancer cells in the body. Based on this knowledge, UNC Lineberger is leading a national, multi-year, collaborative effort to characterize the genetic changes in nearly 30 cancer types. Earlier this year, we reached a major milestone in this effort – sequencing 10,000 samples of cancer tumor tissue. As the samples are being uploaded to a public database accessible to researchers around the world, the work is expected to continue to shed new light on cancer and potential cures.

Sequencing leads to clinical trials

Meanwhile, cancer patients are now receiving treatments based on the genetic mutations found in their cancer. UNC Lineberger oncologists have been designing clinical trials – called “basket trials” – and enrolling patients to test this approach. In these basket trials, patients are selected for treatment with targeted drugs based on whether they have certain gene mutations or molecular alterations. This strategy represents a definite shift away from treating patients based on where their tumors originated, since patients are eligible for a trial if their tumors are found to have a specific mutation.

"Historically, we looked to treat cancers based on where they started in the patient," explains Juneko Grilley-Olson, MD, a UNC Lineberger member and medical oncologist. "But now, we understand that sometimes molecular changes found across different types of cancers lead to a more sophisticated way to treat them."

This approach is being tested in a new, nationwide clinical trial co-developed by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). For this trial, known as the Molecular Analysis for Therapeutic Choice Trial, or NCI-MATCH trial, several thousand people are expected to be screened for molecular alterations, and about 1,000 of those will be enrolled. More than 20 drugs or drug combinations targeting a specific genetic mutation are expected to be tested, according to the NCI.

"By using treatments targeted to molecular alterations in individual tumors, we are putting precision medicine into practice," says Dr. Grilley-Olson.
Life after lung cancer: Bobby Kadis

When UNC Lineberger Board of Visitors member Bobby Kadis was diagnosed with Stage 2 non-small cell lung cancer in the spring of 2013, he received his primary care at UNC Rex Cancer Care under the treatment of Jeremiah Boles, MD, along with consultation from Thomas Stinchcombe, MD, at UNC Lineberger. After the surgery and several months of chemotherapy, Bobby was back doing the things he loves, like throwing beautiful, hand-crafted pottery, traveling and participating in Bikram “hot” yoga sessions.

But in the fall of 2014, Bobby started to show symptoms of fatigue and shortness of breath, something not normal for the very fit 78-year-old. Following a scan and a biopsy in October 2014, Bobby and his wife Claudia learned that his cancer had returned; it was Stage 4. At that point, Bobby was referred from Rex to UNC Lineberger to meet with Dr. Stinchcombe to discuss entering a clinical trial.

“I’ll never forget Dr. Stinchcombe saying to me, ‘Your cancer is shrinking.’”

During his earlier treatment, Bobby’s tumor was sequenced using next generation sequencing at UNC Lineberger to better understand the specific genetic mutation that was driving his cancer. In Bobby’s case, this was a mutation known as epidermal growth factor receptor or ‘EGFR,’ a mutation found in the tumors of advanced non-small cell lung cancer patients. Knowing this, his care team decided Bobby was eligible for targeted therapy, specifically, a clinical trial using a new combination of drugs. The trial results would determine which treatment worked better in patients with EGFR mutant non-small cell lung cancer – the combination therapy or the standard therapy.

Bobby started his treatment in the clinical trial shortly after his recurrence diagnosis, with a combination therapy of an infusion every 21 days and a daily oral pill. After two months, doctors were pleased to report Bobby had experienced ‘significant regression.’

“I’ll never forget Dr. Stinchcombe saying to me, “Your cancer is shrinking.”’ said Bobby. To date, his cancer is no longer observable on scans. The side effects from the dual therapies are mostly treatable and tolerable, and Bobby’s response continues to be very positive. “We learned from Dr. Stinchcombe that cancer is a part of our life, but it’s not our life,” says Claudia.
NC Lineberger is leading a major initiative to harness the power of the human immune system to fight cancer. This treatment, called ‘immunotherapy,’ uses materials either made by a person’s body or in a laboratory to do three things: to stop or slow the growth of cancer cells, to stop cancer from spreading to other parts of the body, and to help the immune system work better at destroying cancer cells.

Analysts predict that in 10 years, immunotherapy will be used to treat as many as 60 percent of people with advanced cancer. Here at UNC Lineberger, major investments in facilities and research are underway to bring life-changing treatment to the people of North Carolina. Clinical trials are expected to be opened in early 2016.

Science and a second chance for Phineas

Less than two years ago, Carlos and Tina Sandi were faced with a fear that was all too familiar – the fear of losing a child to cancer.

Their son, Phineas, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at age 4. He was their second child to be diagnosed with cancer after their daughter, Althea, was diagnosed six years earlier with another form of leukemia. She died from the disease just after her second birthday.

Faced with the horrific news of their son’s diagnosis, the Sandi family sought treatment at UNC under the care of Philip Roehrs, MD, pediatric oncologist at UNC Lineberger. Within days of his diagnosis, Phineas was undergoing an aggressive chemotherapy treatment for his disease. Unfortunately, the treatments did not work.

Analysts predict that in 10 years, immunotherapy will be used to treat as many as 60 percent of people with advanced cancer.

“Even after several rounds of chemo, Phineas still had evidence of disease,” says Dr. Roehrs. “In order for Phineas to get to the next stage in his care – to receive a bone marrow transplant – we needed him to be cancer-free, but the standard of care was just not working for him.”

With the chemotherapy not working, Phineas’s care team frantically searched for other options. Dr. Roehrs began searching for open trials and contacting centers across the country that were testing a groundbreaking form of treatment called T-cell immunotherapy. He finally found one that would take on Phineas – the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Maryland.
“We had heard about these experimental trials that used a patient’s immune system to fight the cancer,” says Carlos. “The last thing we wanted to do was leave Chapel Hill and switch care teams, but at that point, it really was his only remaining option.”

Phineas completed the NIH trial and was in full remission within 28 days.

Back at UNC following the trial, Phineas underwent his transplant and came home on Christmas Day, 2013. Today, Phineas is back to doing things a six-year-old should be doing: vacationing in Disney World, meeting new friends in first grade and taking a multi-state road trip with his family.

Because of amazing medical successes like the story of Phineas, UNC Lineberger will soon make this experimental form of immunotherapy available in North Carolina with the launch of a new clinical research program. “What was once available in only a handful of cancer centers will now be available to patients in North Carolina,” says Jon Serody, MD, associate director of translational science at UNC Lineberger and medical oncologist in the UNC Lineberger Leukemia and Lymphoma Multidisciplinary Care Program.

UNC Lineberger has recruited two internationally-renowned leaders from the Baylor College of Medicine to help launch T-cell therapy clinical trials. Gianpietro Dotti, MD and Barbara Savoldo, MD, PhD, have been pioneering efforts and developing clinical trials in this area at Baylor since 1988. The cancer center will initially open a trial for Hodgkin lymphoma, followed by acute lymphoblastic leukemia and additional cancers as the program expands. The trials for Hodgkin’s disease will only be available at two locations in the U.S.

Coupled with the launch of these trials is the opening of a new “clean” facility where the T-cells will be developed. The T-cells are then multiplied in the facility and infused back into the patient’s blood. These “super” cells then seek out the cancer cells and launch a precise immune attack against them. As seen in Phineas’s case, T-cell therapies have shown remarkable results in early clinical trials against some advanced childhood and adult leukemia patients who had run out of therapies.

“This will give people hope where there used to be no other options,” Tina says. “It could mean that their children get to live, that they will get to see their children grow up instead of planning their funerals. That’s what this really comes down to.”
One of the many accomplishments we’re most proud of at UNC Lineberger is our clinicians’ ability to translate new research findings into sustainable improvements in patient care in a timely manner. While it used to take years, sometimes decades, for research discoveries to directly benefit patients, our health care providers have drastically reduced the gap between the science we know and the care we provide. The following patient experience is just one example of how scientific evidence has been put into action at lightning speed.

“Ellen Martin: You have breast cancer”

During the summer of 2014, Ellen Martin was a busy mom with two kids heading into vacation mode. While she was ready for some relaxation, she had a nagging feeling that something wasn’t right. A few weeks earlier, she had noticed a knotty lump under her arm.

“We were down at the beach with my parents. I remember saying to my mom, ‘Something is telling me to get this checked out,’” recalls Ellen. When she got back home from vacation, Ellen went in for a mammogram and an ultrasound. Based on the results, her doctor recommended she get a biopsy the same day. When the test results came three days later, Ellen received the news: she had breast cancer.

“I have benefited so directly from transformative cancer research at UNC Lineberger that I feel compelled to do anything I can to let my elected officials know how important investments in cancer research are to saving lives.”

Within days, Ellen came to UNC and began chemotherapy in August 2014 under the care of medical oncologist Carey Anders, MD. Following pathology review of her tumor, UNC doctors discovered that Ellen’s cancer was both ER (hormone receptor) and HER2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor) positive, a type of tumor that is aggressive and feeds both on the hormone estrogen and the HER2 gene.

“Based on those results, we were able to map out a plan with targeted therapy to treat Ellen’s specific type of breast cancer,” says Dr. Anders. Ellen began an 18-week course of trastuzumab and a new drug, pertuzumab, in combination with two additional chemotherapy drugs, a regimen that was recently approved by the FDA. The drugs work to shut down the HER2 pathway – essentially the driving forces behind the cancer.

Following the chemotherapy regimen, Ellen elected for breast conservation and underwent surgery with surgical oncologist Karyn Stizenberg, MD, followed by a six-week course of radiation under the care of radiation oncologist Ellen Jones, MD.
Research returns home

While Ellen was undergoing radiation, Dr. Anders attended the 2014 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, the most popular breast cancer research meeting in the country. “I literally was in the meeting, hearing these amazing results and thought immediately of Ellen,” recalls Dr. Anders.

During that meeting, findings were presented about the effects of ovarian suppression on breast cancer recurrence. Researchers had found that by adding ovarian suppression medication to five years of either tamoxifen or exemestane following chemotherapy, women with hormone receptor-positive early breast cancer experienced markedly greater reduction in breast cancer recurrence, compared to women who received standard therapy with tamoxifen alone. Dr. Anders knew that Ellen was the perfect candidate for this new treatment approach. When she returned from the conference, she began giving Ellen the new combination of medication.

“As a patient, it was just amazing to benefit so greatly from the latest in cancer research,” says Ellen. “The doctors at UNC stay on top of the research in their field and then take that back and immediately put it into practice.”

Now in remission, Ellen has made it her goal to raise awareness of the importance of cancer research. On May 7, 2015, she traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the 2015 Capital Hill Day for Cancer Research, an event hosted by the American Association for Cancer Research, Association of American Cancer Institutes and American Society of Clinical Oncology.

“I have benefited so directly from transformative cancer research at UNC Lineberger that I feel compelled to do anything I can to let my elected officials know how important investments in cancer research are to saving lives.”

We want a cure for Claire

Longtime UNC Lineberger board members Raye and Bennett Sapp have supported cancer research and innovative medicine for years. But these days, the fight to find a cure for cancer has become more important to them than ever before. The Sapps’ 11-year-old granddaughter Claire was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia on September 29, 2014, and is currently going through chemotherapy treatment at the N.C. Cancer Hospital.

“The doctors and nurses at the cancer hospital have one mission, and that’s to help Claire and so many other children who are battling cancer to get well,” says Raye. “Their personal touch, the care they provide and the connection they make with the children is just overwhelming, and we can’t thank them enough.”

While both Raye and Bennett have had their own struggles with cancer (Raye beat breast cancer in 2010, and Bennett is periodically treated for skin cancers), they say watching their grandchild face leukemia has been one of the most difficult things they’ve ever done. “This disease takes so many lives and affects so many people around the world,” Raye explains. “We’ve got to stop it, and the only way that can happen is through research. That’s why we give to UNC Lineberger, and we’re encouraging others to join us. We hope that one day, when our granddaughter has children of her own, cancer will be a distant memory because of the research we’re helping fund today.”
More than two decades ago, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center researchers wanted to close a gap that existed in breast cancer screening rates between black and white women in eastern North Carolina. With part of a 3-year, $6.5 million grant from the National Cancer Institute, they were able to launch a targeted intervention, the North Carolina Breast Cancer Screening Program (NC-BCSP), to attack the disparity in five rural North Carolina counties. But it was a smaller, $4,000 seed grant given by the cancer center in 1990 that helped lay the foundation for that work. The seed grant helped to fund an analysis of whether race-related barriers to screening existed in two eastern North Carolina counties. Researchers also used the seed money to ask residents about the types of obstacles rural minority women faced when urged to go for mammograms.

“This seed grant helped us complete preliminary work that documented that the racial gap was there,” says Jo Anne Earp, ScD, a UNC Lineberger member and professor in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, and the principal investigator for that grant project. “We came to Lineberger because no one else would take that risk. Given our focus, there wasn’t any more appropriate, more receptive place. We needed data that the problem existed if we were going to mount an effective program to do something about it.”
Seed Grants: Bringing projects to life

For more than 25 years, the Lineberger seed grant program has been helping researchers bridge early project ideas into larger grants and scientific papers. The program was launched with the understanding that the cancer center needed to invest in early-stage research in order to generate the preliminary data and results that are pivotal to successfully compete for large, outside research grants.

“Funding agencies don’t just assume that your ideas are good. They like to see some indication that they might work,” says Shelley Earp, MD, director of UNC Cancer Care and the former UNC Lineberger director.

The impact of the awards has grown alongside their size, Dr. Shelley Earp says. And generous donors have made this increase possible as well, including the Carolina Capstone Challenge matching gift program that was launched in 2007. Led by Bob and Penny Barnhill of Tarboro and Eddie and Jo Smith of Greenville, the challenge raised more than $2.6 million. There are currently 33 permanently endowed, named seed grant funds.

“The cancer center has grown in size and stature, and a big part of that is the ability to compete successfully for extramural support grants from foundations and the National Institutes of Health,” Dr. Earp says. “The seed grant program has been instrumental in our ability to secure those outside grants.”

The seed grant program is competitive, and many more projects are proposed than are funded. These grants help to fund potentially high-risk, high-reward projects that may not be attractive to traditional funding agencies in their early stages, Dr. Earp says. They also support research in areas that have more difficulty in attracting research funding.

The importance of the seed grant program is only expected to grow as competition for federal research funding increases. Competition is greater than ever in part because flat funding and inflation over the last 10 years have cut the purchasing power of NIH grants by 30 percent. Ten years ago, the success rate was above 25 percent. Now it is below 15 percent, according to Earp.

“This program has become even more important, and the results are in. UNC Lineberger faculty members are consistently winning a lot more than their share of NCI dollars,” Dr. Earp explains.
DONORS

WE HAD A TOTAL OF 6,438 DONORS FROM...

95 OUT OF 100 COUNTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

42 STATES, AS WELL AS PUERTO RICO AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

5 COUNTRIES (US, CANADA, ENGLAND, JAPAN AND SWITZERLAND)

OUR DONORS RANGE IN AGE FROM 7 TO 101.

Steve and Jan Capps: Seeing the need, meeting the need

Mother Teresa once said, “I alone cannot change the world. But I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”

Steve and Jan Capps are known for ‘making ripples’ at UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Board members since 2009, the Capps have established two endowed funds to help provide financial support for UNC cancer patients and families. They’ve donated a beautiful Yamaha baby grand piano for patients to enjoy in the N.C. Cancer Hospital. They’ve helped host a regional UNC Lineberger donor event in Wilmington, N.C. And the list of contributions goes on.

As a way to show our gratitude for their leadership, service and loyal support to our cancer center, Steve and Jan have been named the recipients of the UNC Lineberger 2015 Outstanding Service Award.

“Steve and Jan have worked tirelessly on the behalf of UNC Lineberger,” says Norman E. Sharpless, MD, director, UNC Comprehensive Cancer Center, Wellcome Distinguished Professor of Cancer Research, Departments of Medicine and Genetics. “They’ve embraced our mission as their own, and year after year, they show through their words and actions what it means to ‘pay it forward.’ Their generosity is really overwhelming.”

The Capps, both graduates of the university, have always been ‘Carolina-proud.’ But Steve was exposed to a different side of UNC when his father, Allen, came here in 2005 to receive treatment for lung cancer. “When my parents arrived at UNC Hospitals, they were met by the warm and friendly people who work in the various areas of the hospital,” says Steve. “Everyone played a part in making the atmosphere bright and uplifting, from volunteers and parking lot attendants to the doctors, nurses and other caregivers. I’ll never forget their kindnesses to my father and our family.”

Following his father’s passing, Steve and Jan wanted to do something to honor Allen and to thank UNC Lineberger for the care he received while being treated here. They chose to leave a lasting legacy by creating the Allen E. and Julia W. Capps Endowed Fund for Patient and Family Support. The Fund provides direct monetary assistance to patients who are experiencing financial difficulties during their cancer treatment at UNC. A few years later, Steve and Jan decided to expand their financial support of cancer patients and their families by establishing a second fund – the Stephen Allen Capps and Jan Rowe Capps Endowed Fund for Cancer Patient and Family Support.

“We have a great deal of respect for the people at UNC Lineberger who are doing amazing work, and we are proud that we can play a part in that,” Steve explains. “Now, Jan and I want to challenge others to step up to the plate and to do what they can to support our state’s cancer hospital. You don’t have to give staggering sums of money to make a difference in a person’s life. Any size gift to UNC Lineberger can make a ‘ripple’.”
If you’re a parent, it’s only natural that you’d want the best things in life for your child: a high-quality education, a kind and loving spouse and, of course, the best of health and prosperity. So when you hear, ‘Mom and Dad, I have breast cancer,’ it completely throws you for a loop, according to Tom Chewning, a UNC alum and father to Wilson Steele, his 44-year-old daughter who lives in Greensboro with her husband Brent and sons Avery (18) and Brandon (14).

“Wilson was diagnosed in July 2013,” says Tom. “And we had begun to research the best breast cancer treatment options for her. We happened to be in the North Carolina Mountains when we ran into a close friend (and UNC Lineberger Board of Visitors member) David Routh. We told him about Wilson’s cancer, and he strongly suggested we consult with Dr. Lisa Carey at UNC Lineberger. In fact, he was kind enough to make a phone call to her and arranged for us to meet her. When my wife Nancy and I went with Wilson and Brent to talk with Dr. Carey at UNC, we immediately knew we were at the right place. She’s the medical director of the UNC Breast Center, the chief of Hematology/Oncology, and the physician-in-chief of the N.C. Cancer Hospital. She’s one of the best breast oncologists in the country.”

“Our hope is that this fund will ensure that many other women battling breast cancer will have access to this same great care.”

After reviewing Wilson’s MRI, Dr. Carey recommended that Wilson see David Ollila, MD, surgical director of the UNC Breast Center, who performed a lumpectomy and lymph node evaluation. The results showed Wilson’s cancer had already spread to her lymph nodes and was a Stage 3 invasive ductal carcinoma.

“Dr. Carey told me it would be best to have a mastectomy, followed by chemotherapy and radiation,” explains Wilson. “Although it was a difficult decision, I had great trust in her. She is a wonderful combination of intelligence, experience and research, plus she’s compassionate and caring. I couldn’t have asked for a better doctor.”
Wilson is now cancer-free and working hard to regain her strength following a mastectomy and a nine-month course of treatment. She walks and swims, which has given her the energy to serve others as the director of women’s ministries at Westover Church in Greensboro. “I hope I can use my experiences to help people, to try to give back and make a difference,” Wilson says. “I’m so grateful to have a second chance.”

Tom and Nancy are also grateful to have a healthy daughter. So grateful, in fact, that they’ve made a $1 million gift to UNC Lineberger in support of the Dr. Lisa Carey Fund for Breast Cancer Innovations.

“We are investing in excellence, in someone and something that will benefit so many people,” says Nancy, who has, over the past 21 years, helped various organizations raise more than $2.5 million in net proceeds to benefit breast cancer research. “We put our total trust in Dr. Carey and her use of these funds. She is an asset to UNC and to the people of North Carolina, and we want her work to be fully supported. She has been a wonderful, caring doctor for our daughter. Our hope is that this fund will ensure that many other women battling breast cancer will have access to this same great care.”

The Dr. Lisa Carey Fund for Breast Cancer Innovations is an unrestricted fund that will allow Dr. Carey and her colleagues to accelerate novel ideas in breast cancer research, while at the same time fulfilling other patient-centered priorities within the program. One of those priorities especially meaningful to the Chewnings is the patient navigation program. “Cancer is life changing, and people need to be aware of the resources and support services that are available to them here at UNC,” says Tom. “This program ensures that patients and their families receive the reassurance, encouragement and understanding they need during their cancer journey.” Also, by naming the fund for Dr. Carey, the Chewnings have created an ideal opportunity and vehicle for other grateful patients and their families to make gifts earmarked for Dr. Carey’s work.

As Tom reflects on the past two years of his daughter’s cancer journey, he now sees UNC in a whole new light. “As an alum who has supported a number of different areas of the university over many years, I can’t believe it has taken me so long to understand what an amazing cancer center UNC Lineberger is. World-class minds are engaged in cutting-edge research and technology, which are having a significant, positive impact on the lives of people in North Carolina and throughout our nation. Nancy and I can’t think of a better place to support with our dollars. We would encourage anyone who loves Carolina and their fellow citizens to join us in giving to UNC Lineberger.”
Ronnie and Cyndi McNeill of Wilmington are an important part of the history of UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Serving on the Board of Visitors since 1996, they have been instrumental in our efforts to increase public awareness and advance the mission of the cancer center. The couple is driven by a passion for giving back to their state and supporting cancer research.

Cyndi, who lost both of her parents to the disease, believes finding a cure for cancer is a team effort. “Cancer affects everyone, and it’s up to all of us to make a difference where we can,” she says. Ronnie’s perspective as a UNC Lineberger champion evolved from his years of experience in the health care business. He was a partner in a large clinical research firm and is co-owner of Liberty Healthcare Group, a statewide provider of post-acute medical services. “We own the oldest continuously-operated family pharmacy in the state, which was started by my great-grandfather in 1875,” explains Ronnie. “We now run a network of nursing, home care and therapy services, serving over 5,000 patients every day. My family has a long legacy of health care delivery in North Carolina.”

The McNeills have numerous friends and family members who have been patients at UNC Lineberger, and everyone has been impressed by the superb quality of care. “UNC Lineberger provides excellent direct patient care,” says Ronnie. “Over and over again, they demonstrate a combination of expertise with a compassionate, personal touch.”

“In today’s competitive funding environment, it’s important to help young scientists get started with innovative research. We are so proud to support UNC Lineberger, and we look forward to many more years of service.”

The quality of care provided, along with UNC Lineberger’s reputation as one of the most respected cancer centers in the country, inspired the McNeills to make a gift to the cancer center. The UNC Lineberger Seed Grant Program offered them the perfect vehicle to support the innovative research they are passionate about. Seed grants are funded by private donors and awarded through a rigorous competitive process administered by UNC Lineberger’s senior leadership. The funding provided by these grants supports novel, early-stage research. The Ronald B. and Cynthia J. McNeill Fund for Cancer Research provides some of the vital funds for young investigators to collect initial data and positions them to be more competitive in the quest for larger government and foundation grants. The McNeills say they are very pleased that the Seed Grant Program offers a way to leverage their gift into further research grants.

“In today’s competitive funding environment, it’s important to help young scientists get started with innovative research,” says Ronnie. Cyndi shares in Ronnie’s excitement for helping bright, young investigators build a foundation for their promising cancer research, saying, “We are hopeful that cures will be found.”
In May 2015, Northwestern Mutual in North Carolina, in partnership with the Northwestern Mutual Foundation, made a gift of $125,000 to the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center Pediatric Oncology Retreat. The retreat benefits patients and their families being treated within the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Program at the N.C. Cancer Hospital, the clinical home of UNC Lineberger.

“At Northwestern Mutual, we understand that when a child receives a cancer diagnosis, the family does as well,” says Mike Condrey, managing partner of Northwestern Mutual in Raleigh, North Carolina. “This partnership will allow our financial representatives, team members and staff another opportunity to volunteer and help our community in the fight to cure childhood cancers.”

The Northwestern Mutual Pediatric Oncology Retreat for Families with Cancer will support two events per year at the Chapel Hill Aqueduct Center, a peaceful, rural setting perfectly suited for families to come together and take their minds off the, at-times, daily deluge of infusions, scans and treatments. The gift of $125,000 will be pledged and paid to support retreats over a five-year period.

“Families leave the weekend feeling renewed with lifted spirits,” says Stuart Gold, MD, division chief of hematology and oncology in the UNC Department of Pediatrics and member of UNC Lineberger. “This event is tremendously helpful for families going through the treatment of a child with cancer.”

On average, more than 400 children in North Carolina are diagnosed with cancer each year, and almost half of those children are under the age of five. Northwestern Mutual is committed to accelerating the search for cures to childhood cancers and to providing support to families battling the disease. To date, Northwestern Mutual and its network of financial representatives have raised more than $7 million, totaling more than 50,000 hours of research to help discover life-saving treatments for kids. Northwestern Mutual is also committed to helping ease the financial and emotional impacts of childhood cancer on families and children, including financial support for families who need to travel for treatments at select medical institutions throughout the country.
In health care organizations around the world, the Internet has truly revolutionized how caregivers practice medicine. Through the UNC Cancer Network, UNC Lineberger now has the ability to connect health care providers in real-time using common technologies such as computers and mobile devices. This type of instant health care communication is called ‘telehealth,’ and it’s being used throughout North Carolina to enhance patient access to care and even lower health care costs.

Because of telehealth, UNC physicians can easily:
- participate in remote discussions with other physicians about best practices for patient care
- share advanced techniques and cutting-edge research with each other
- take part in long-distance continuing medical education

“It is a great benefit to consult and collaborate with a multi-disciplinary team of caregivers at UNC on my cases without having to travel to Chapel Hill every other week,” said Krystal Bottom, MD, pediatric oncologist at Mission Children’s Hospital in Asheville, N.C. Dr. Bottom regularly participates in what is known as a virtual ‘tumor board’ – an in-depth review of a particular patient’s case with a team of doctors from UNC and from the community where the patient lives.

“It is a great benefit to consult and collaborate with a multi-disciplinary team of caregivers at UNC on my cases without having to travel to Chapel Hill every other week,” says Dr. Krystal Bottom, pediatric oncologist at Mission Children’s Hospital in Asheville, NC.

At UNC Lineberger, telehealth is also making it possible for patients to receive guidance and expertise from their oncologists and to participate in groundbreaking clinical trials, all without leaving the comforts of their hometown. Much of this effort is supported by the University Cancer Research Fund (UCRF). UCRF is a State of North Carolina initiative to fund innovative research to detect, treat and prevent cancer, North Carolina’s leading cause of death. The Fund builds upon the exceptional research base at UNC Lineberger, our state’s only public, NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center.

“UCRF has also been critical in the launch and success of our telehealth program,” said Tom Shea, MD, director of the UNC Cancer Network. “Using the infrastructure supported by UCRF funds, we can connect with health care providers and patients across North Carolina.”
Todd Baron, MD, director of advanced therapeutic endoscopy at UNC, is a nationally-known advanced endoscopist who joined UNC in 2014 after spending 15 years at the Mayo Clinic. Using the latest in telehealth technology that enables him to record and transmit live procedures in real time, Dr. Baron is sharing his advanced techniques with thousands of physicians and surgeons throughout the state, U.S. and around the globe.

This remote communication between caregivers is made possible through the generous financial support of private donors like Ron Elliott and Mark Tamagni. In January 2011, Ron was diagnosed with a growth in his small intestine that, if left untreated, would become cancerous and spread throughout his abdomen. Ron’s search for care led him to the Mayo Clinic, where he received his first good news from Dr. Baron, who proposed an innovative and complex endoscopic technique. Nine months and two procedures later, the growth was successfully removed. A few months later, Dr. Baron was recruited to join UNC Hospitals.

Driven by their gratitude towards Dr. Baron and their commitment to help share his treatment options with others around the world, Ron and Mark provided a generous gift to support Dr. Baron’s endoscopic telemedicine program. Reflecting on the gift, Ron says, “We feel that Dr. Baron has a wealth of important knowledge that can be shared with physicians around the world. Dr. Baron’s expert techniques can literally save lives, and that’s incredibly important to us.”
Major gifts are critical to UNC Lineberger’s ability to recruit and retain the very best minds in the cancer field, invest in high potential research, provide innovative patient care and support programs and ultimately find cures. Our deepest appreciation is extended to the following donors who have made generous commitments this year.

$1,000,000-$1,999,999
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald B. McNeill to establish the Ronald B. and Cynthia J. McNeill Endowed Fund for Cancer Research

$500,000-$999,999
Tom and Nancy Chewning to establish the Dr. Lisa Carey Fund for Breast Cancer Innovations
Mr. Thomas W. Hudson Jr. to establish the Mary and Thomas Hudson Distinguished Professorship in Geriatric Medicine in honor of his wife Mary

$100,000-$499,999
Be Loud! Sophie Foundation to fund a full-time position dedicated to working with adolescent and young adult cancer patients
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Capps to support promising new ideas for cancer research, prevention and early detection
Mr. Ronald C. Elliott and Mr. Mark P. Tamagni to equip the endoscopy unit with state-of-the-art telemedicine equipment
John William Pope Foundation to support the John William Pope Distinguished Professorship in Cancer Research and the John William Pope Clinical Fellows Awards
Mr. Zeb V. McMillan Jr. to support the Zeb V. McMillan Jr. Medical Endowment Fund for Cancer Research
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company to fund the annual Pediatric Oncology Retreat to help children better cope with cancer diagnosis and treatment
Mrs. Jo Allison Clary Smith to establish the Jo Allison Smith Endowment Fund to help advance innovative cancer research
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Williams to support leading-edge cancer research and care programs
The V Foundation for Cancer Research to support the translational research of Dr. Kimryn Rathmell and Dr. Ian Davis
$50,000-$99,999
CJB Foundation to support priority cancer research and care programs where the needs are greatest
Estate of Mr. Lovick P. Corn to support the pediatric oncology research of Dr. Barbara Savoldo
Dr. Mary Ann Morris* to support the Benjamin Calvo and Patricia Rivera Endowed Seed Grant For GI and Thoracic Oncology Research
She ROCKS, Inc. to support the ovarian cancer research of Dr. Vickie Bae-Jump
Triad Golfers Against Cancer to support the triple-negative breast cancer research of Dr. Nikolay Dokholyan
Vs. Cancer Foundation to support pediatric cancer and to provide supportive care services for pediatric patients and families
Mr. and Mrs. Roy A. Williams to establish the Roy and Wanda Williams Fund in support of innovative cancer research

$25,000-$49,999
Atlantic Corporation of Wilmington, Inc. to sponsor the 10th Annual Fast Break Against Cancer in honor of Coach Roy Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Barnhill Jr. to establish the Barnhill Seed Grant Fund for Cancer Research
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Capps to establish the Stephen Allen Capps and Jan Rowe Capps Fund for Cancer Patient and Family Support
Carlson Family Foundation to support the cancer research projects of Dr. Peter Voorhees and Dr. Tom Shea
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Clement Jr. to establish the James Edwin Clement Jr. and Louise Johnson Clement Seed Grant for Cancer Research
Constellation Brands to support Corona Cares benefitting patient and family support services at the N.C. Cancer Hospital
Dr. Ivan David to support Dr. Tom Shea and the Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplant Program
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Graham III to personally sponsor the 2015 Blue Ribbon Gala
Mr. Stanley P. Greenspon and Ms. Maureen J. O’Keefe to provide support for families of pediatric patients facing financial hardships
Mr. John R. Isner hosted the Ebix Charity Challenge to name the multidisciplinary clinic waiting room in the N.C. Cancer Hospital
Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Kabat to establish the Matthew I. Milowsky, MD Fund for Genitourinary Oncology
Dr. Myla Lai-Goldman and Dr. Eric H. Lai to fund the Goldman Family Fund for Innovative Lung Cancer Research
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth B. Lee to support the Kenneth and Frances Lee Seed Grant for Melanoma Research Fund
Mr. R. Owen Mitchell* to support the 10th Annual Fast Break Against Cancer in honor of Coach Roy Williams
Dr. Minhthu Nguyen and Mr. Padrick Barrett to support the breast cancer research of Dr. Chuck Perou
Dr. Seth A. Rudnick and Mrs. Carolyn Fay Rudnick to support priority cancer research and care programs where the needs are greatest
Dr. Michael A. Stegman to support the Nancy W. Stegman Fund for New Ideas in Cancer Research
The Titmus Foundation, Inc. to support innovative clinical trials
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Woerner to fund the Betty and Otto Woerner Endowment Fund for Patient and Family Support
When Dr. Hy Muss and his wife Loretta left the brutal winter weather of Burlington, Vermont and moved to Chapel Hill, North Carolina in 2009, they knew they were in the right place. “We knew several wonderful people here, UNC had a great reputation, and we wanted to get out of the snow!” laughs Dr. Muss. It didn’t take long for the couple to become beloved members of the UNC Lineberger family, Dr. Muss as the highly-respected leader of UNC’s new Geriatric Oncology Program with a focus on research, clinical trials and direct patient care, and Loretta as coordinator of the Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC), a group of volunteer patients, family members, caregivers and staff that works together to ensure patients receive the highest level of care at NC Cancer Hospital.

Not only have Dr. Muss and Loretta become an integral part of UNC Cancer Care, they’ve become valued contributors as part of the Lineberger Leadership Partners Program (LLP). LLP distinguishes and recognizes donors who give $1,000 or more annually (July 1 – June 30) to any area of UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Over the past 40 years, our many generous philanthropic partners have contributed more than $79 million to help provide financial support of UNC Lineberger’s mission.

“We would challenge every faculty and staff member to support UNC Lineberger. It’s the right thing to do.”

“We’ve always supported the medical institutions we’ve been affiliated with,” says Dr. Muss. “In fact, we led the faculty fundraising drive at the University of Vermont/Fletcher Allen Health Care when I worked there. We believe it’s extremely important – really, a duty – of the faculty and staff at any medical or academic institution to financially support the organization that funds their work.”

“Hy and I know that because of our investment in UNC Lineberger today, we’re helping researchers make new discoveries about a disease that affects one in four Americans. We’re helping clinicians provide the latest, most effective cancer treatments available to patients. And we’re helping many people heal, both physically and emotionally, so they can get back to living their lives. Our part is small, but when our gift is combined with the gifts of others, we’re making a huge impact.”
Memorial Tributes

For Dr. Muss, it’s personal

Dr. Muss has practiced medicine for 40 years, and by choosing to specialize in oncology, he knowingly took on a burden that is specific to his vocation. “There is still no ‘cure’ for many cancers,” explains Dr. Muss. “There are various medicines and different courses of treatment, and many times they work, and patients get well. But there is so much we don’t know about this group of diseases. Sometimes, no matter how hard we try, no matter how many options we pursue, some patients die. For me, that’s a personal disappointment, because I want to save them all.”

“Hy doesn’t define people by their illness,” says Loretta of her husband. “He sees them as important individuals who have placed great trust in him. Our memorial gifts to LCCC pay tribute to their lives.”

Dr. Muss and his wife Loretta have found a unique way to express their sympathies and to honor a patient’s life after his/her passing; they make a memorial gift to UNC Lineberger in the patient’s name. “Then I send a handwritten note to the patient’s family, explaining that I valued their loved one and that I appreciate the faith they placed in me to care for them,” says Dr. Muss. “It’s a simple gesture, but it’s incredibly meaningful to the patient’s family. I know that, because I hear back from approximately half of these families, thanking me for acknowledging their loss and for the life that meant so much to them.”

Memorial and honor gifts are a thoughtful way to show you care and help UNC Lineberger make lifesaving progress in the fight against cancer. If you have lost a loved one and wish to request contributions to UNC Lineberger, you may include specific wording in the obituary notice, such as, “The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, CB #7295 UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7295.”

Benjy Seagle: Keeping the memories alive

Benjy Seagle is a Tar Heel, through and through. “I’m truly a blue-blood,” he says with a smile, “As in ‘Carolina blue’.” The Hickory, N.C., native came to UNC as an undergraduate student in 1957 on a partial athletic scholarship, where he ran track and specialized in short distance sprints. “I was very fortunate to be fast,” he explains. After earning his Bachelor of Science in industrial relations from
UNC in 1961, Benjy went on to get his law degree from the University of South Carolina and became a lobbyist, as well as a corporate attorney for Aetna for his entire career. He is retired in Charlotte, N.C., with Ann, his wife of 47 years. “But UNC has always held a special place in my heart,” Benjy says. “I have great memories of my time at Carolina.” He still frequently travels to Chapel Hill for various sporting events.

Benjy spends much of his time on the golf course, walking the 18-holes on many days, but for years he was an avid runner, competing in long-distance races all over the country. “I have been outdoors my entire life,” Benjy says. “And I have no doubt that the constant sun exposure played a big part in my having multiple skin cancers and subsequent skin surgeries. However, I’ve become much more vigilant about sun protection. I’m glad to be healthy and active.”

“I feel like I’m honoring them, and at the same time, I’m contributing to one of the best cancer centers in the country. Plus, UNC Lineberger is affiliated with the university I love.”

Unfortunately, many of Benjy’s closest friends haven’t been so lucky. “When you get to be my age, many of your friends experience serious illnesses,” he explains. “In fact, I’ve lost several friends to cancer. So for the last 25 years, I’ve chosen to honor the special people in my life who’ve passed away by making a memorial gift in their name to UNC Lineberger. I feel like I’m honoring them, and at the same time, I’m contributing to one of the best cancer centers in the country. Plus, UNC Lineberger is affiliated with the university I love.”

The value of philanthropy was instilled in Benjy at an early age. As a child, he was a member of the Boy Scouts, where he learned about teamwork and the importance of helping others without expecting anything in return. Even now, he tries to do at least one good deed each day and finds great joy in helping his neighbors. He says he’s proud to be a part of a cancer center that has a similar commitment to helping others.

“I’m confident that UNC Lineberger will be the organization to discover why certain people get cancer and how those cancers can be cured,” says Benjy. “Through my giving, I’m trying to do my bit to help them get there.”
Memorial Tributes Made In Memory of...

We are grateful to the many families who, having lost a loved one listed below, suggested that family and friends honor the deceased by making contributions to support cancer research and care at UNC Lineberger.

Susan Jane Adelsperger
William H. Allen III
Ellen Branch Barksdale
Mattie Pearce Bean
Linda Naughton Bird
Robert G. "Bob" Black Jr.
Diane Boettcher
Carol Borchert
Wade V. Bradshaw
Patrick Keith Carlyle
Beverly Ann Carpenter
Jacqueline L. Caudill
Brent L. Cohen
Frank G. Colonna
Robert Henry "Bob" Daubert
Philip Bartholomew DeSimone
Sanford Doxey Jr.
Mark G. Elmore
Tabitha Fuchs
Joy Cottone Anandi Gordon
Jan Gray
Barry Hartford Green
Peter G. Haase
Frank D. Hayes Jr.
Jules Heisler
Robert E. Home
Raymond R. Hutchins Jr.
David A. Johnson
Betty Gunter Jordan
Beverly K. Manning
Roland Massey
Mark Anthony McDonald
Robert McHardy
Merysabel Montero
Mary Ann Morris
Ralph Trent Newberry
Jean L. Oldham
Michael Stephen O’Malley
Clarice Merritt Page
Paige Carter Patty
W. Trent Ragland Jr.
William "Bill" Goodyear Rand
James “Buck” Roland Riggs Jr.
Douglas MacArthur Russell
James Boyce Russell
Elizabeth “Betty” Gene Beyke Saunders
Dennis “Denny” Schoonmaker
Ted B. Seagroves Jr.
Sumner Allan Tanson
Charles Murray Tate Sr.
Ellen “Michele” Teer
Roy Thomas "Tommy" Thomton
Karen Tinker
Angela Deaton "Angie" Townsend
Robert "Bruce" Trantham
Ronald Urbanski
William "Bill" Wayne Vaught
Marc Weiss
Joyce M. Wells
Rose Blackmon Willis
James E. “Jimmy” Wimberley
Danielle Winslow
Madelyn L. Witt
A few years ago, the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center Board of Visitors took on an ambitious challenge: to encourage every member to consider making a deferred gift to benefit our cancer center. Since that challenge began, 44 members have participated, giving over $17 million to ensure the future of our organization. Through the following giving profiles, it’s clear that families chose a wide variety of giving vehicles, with more than half of the gifts in the form of a bequest. Here, in their own words, are the reasons they chose to make a planned gift.

“UNC Lineberger has a national reputation and is becoming more recognized around the world. If you’ve ever been touched by cancer, you know these are the people who are going to someday find answers to cancer problems.”
– Earl and Margie Johnson, giving vehicle: bequest (unrestricted)

“Bennett and I are committed to cancer research because it has personally affected our family. Our 11-year-old granddaughter, Claire, is undergoing treatment for leukemia. I think one day we’re going to find the answer; scientists are getting closer and closer. We made our gift unrestricted because we believe the leadership at Lineberger knows the best use for the money.”
– Raye and Bennett Sapp, giving vehicle: bequest

“We chose to give a percentage of our estate because hopefully, as our estate grows over time, so will the cancer center’s share. As our investment portfolio increases over the years, Lineberger will stand to benefit even more. In our minds, few investments are as solid as an investment in cancer research.”
– Don and Brenda Hiscott, giving vehicle: bequest

“UNC Lineberger’s mission is one of the most important on campus. It’s personal, and we are very happy to support it. We have been made aware of how crucial the research and discoveries made at UNC Lineberger are for advancing the field, finding therapies and cures. To us, giving is the Carolina way of living.”
– Bill and Dana Starling, giving vehicle: charitable remainder trust

Donors
Lineberger Board of Visitors lead the way through planned giving
“We are passionate about what UNC Lineberger is doing for the state of North Carolina. For us, the best way to win the battle against cancer is to step up and join in the fight through our financial support.”
– Jimbo and Lorraine Harrell, giving vehicle: bequest

“What puts UNC Lineberger in a league of its own is their bold approach to finding cures. Add to the equation talent, determination and optimism, and you have a formula for success that I, for one, want to get behind.”
– Susan Wainwright Hudson, giving vehicle: life insurance

“Cancer research is so vital to all our lives. Because of the strides being made, my late daughter Neil had a wonderful, productive year of remission from breast cancer. Neil felt that each new breakthrough would lead to another, and that eventually, a silver bullet would be found to wipe out this dreadful disease. Her strength and enthusiasm led our family to want to support breast cancer research.”
– Carolyn Maddux, giving vehicle: bequest

“UNC Lineberger is synonymous with the word ‘excellence.’ I’m impressed with every aspect of the cancer center: their commitment to research, their passion for high-quality medicine, and their overriding purpose – to help patients fight cancer. Investing in UNC Lineberger is a wise move.”
– Doug Anderson, giving vehicle: life insurance

“My father died of cancer, and our daughter-in-law was treated for renal cancer in 2012. Clay and I actually began supporting UNC Lineberger when our best friend was dying of ovarian cancer a few years ago. We want to help UNC Lineberger researchers find the causes and cures for cancer so others don’t have to suffer.”
– Clay and Helen Brumbaugh, giving vehicle: bequest

“Cancer has personally touched my family and friends; I am convinced that the treatments and the compassionate care my late husband Alan received at UNC prolonged his life. I want UNC Lineberger to determine how my gift is to be used since they know best where the funds can do the most good. I am confident there will be cures, so why not support a great research center that is unraveling cancer’s mysteries?”
– Joyce Bell, giving vehicle: bequest (unrestricted) and a naming gift
The Berryhill Society

In 2003, the Medical Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. created the Berryhill Society to recognize those individuals who have provided for the School of Medicine through a planned gift from their estates. This recognition society is named for the late W. Reece Berryhill, longtime dean and leader at the School of Medicine. At UNC Lineberger, planned gifts can leave a legacy in your name or honor someone important to you. We honor and recognize the following supporters who have generously included UNC Lineberger in their estate plans. We extend a special welcome to our newest members, whose names are italicized.

Anonymous (6)
Mr. Douglas Anderson
Mrs. Boyce L. Ansley
Mr. and Mrs. Zack Bacon
Mrs. Joyce D. Bell
Ms. Brenda Benson
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Bivens
Mr. and Mrs. M.S. “Brick” Brown III
Mr. and Mrs. Clay Brumbaugh
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bynum
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Capps
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Chewning
Mr. Paul L. Chused
Mr. and Mrs. Benton F. Clifton
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Mr. P. Kim Copses
Mrs. Gilda J. Cree
Mr. Arthur S. DeBerry
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Mrs. Dorothy B. Hubbard
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Ms. Lisa P. Jackson
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Mr. Harrell H. “Nick” Weaver
Mr. and Mrs. John Cross Williams, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Winston, Sr.
Mr. John Drew Woerner
Ms. Edwina Woodbury and Mr. Dennis McGill

*deceased
Honor Roll List of Donors

Each dollar given to UNC Lineberger is meaningful, and we are deeply thankful for the 6,455 donors who contributed $8,110,990 to our cancer center in the past year. Private support enables us to significantly increase the pace of discovery and pioneer new approaches to care, bringing us closer to our ultimate goal of making all types of cancer curable. Your generous contributions are making a difference every day in laboratories, clinics, hospital rooms and communities throughout our state.

Thank you for sharing our commitment to fighting cancer.

The lists in this honor roll record the names of those Lineberger Leadership Partners who have led with gifts and pledges of $1,000 or more to UNC Lineberger this fiscal year (July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015). For a complete donor listing, please visit www.unclineberger.org/honorroll.

We have noted those generous supporters who have contributed as Lineberger Leadership Partners for at least 10 years. We are especially grateful for their loyalty to UNC Lineberger and dedication to helping end cancer.

**Director’s Circle**

$1,000,000–$1,999,999
- Mr. and Mrs. Ronald B. McNeil 18 yr

$500,000–$999,999
- Tom and Nancy Chewning
- Mr. Thomas W. Hudson Jr., in honor of his wife Mary J. Hudson 18 yr

$100,000–$499,999
- Be Loud! Sophie Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Capps
- Mr. Ronald C. Elliott and Mr. Mark P. Tamagni
- John William Pope Foundation
- Mr. Zeb V. McMillan Jr.
- Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company
- Mrs. Jo Allison Clary Smith 16 yr
- Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Williams
- The V Foundation for Cancer Research 17 yr

$50,000–$99,999
- CJB Foundation
- Estate of Mr. Lovick P. Corn
- Dr. Mary Ann Morris*
- She ROCKS, Inc.
- Triad Golfers Against Cancer 10 yr
- Vs. Cancer Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Roy A. Williams

**Director’s Club**

$10,000–$24,999
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- Mr. and Mrs. Neill A. Currie II 10 yr
- Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Curtis, Curtis Media Group 13 yr
- Davenport & Company Of Virginia
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- Ms. Holly C. Fryar*, The Holly Project
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$5,000-$9,999

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- Ms. Josephine W. Nixon
- O. L. Pathy Family Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Tom E. Pilkington, Dual Comfort Heating & Air Conditioning
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- Mr. and Mrs. John M. Silverstein 18 yr
- Dr. James D. Sink
- Mr. J. Troy Smith Jr.
- Dr. J. Keith Smith and Dr. Lisa L. Jones
- Ms. Dale A. Strickland 27 yr
- The Market Express, Inc.
- United Beverages of North Carolina
- Mr. and Mrs. Henry Weyheaueser
- Mr. and Mrs. Sydnor M. White Jr. 28 yr
- Mrs. Betty M. Woerner
- Dr. Jenniffer M. Hunter-Yates and Mr. Philip G. Yates
- Zeta Tau Alpha Foundation 22 yr

**Lineberger Advocates**

$2,000-$4,999

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- Mr. and Mrs. James M. Adair
- Alexion Pharmaceuticals
- American Endowment Foundation Matching Gifts
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- Mr. Daniel M. Armstrong III
- Mrs. Mary P. Amey 15 yr
- R.H. Barringer Distributing Co.
- Ms. Anne M. Begun 10 yr
- Mrs. Joyce D. Bell
- Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Blackman Jr. 11 yr
- Mr. and Mrs. Douglas W. Booth 27 yr
- Mr. and Mrs. George W. Boylan
- Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. C. Ray Brinn
- Mr. and Mrs. Clay A. Brumbaugh
- Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Bryant Sr. 28 yr

- Dr. Jennifer M. Hunter-Yates
- Mrs. Betty M. Woerner
- Mr. and Mrs. Sydnor M. White Jr. 28 yr
- Mr. and Mrs. Henry Weyerhaeuser
- United Beverages of North Carolina
- The Market Express, Inc.
- Ms. Dale A. Strickland 27 yr
- Dr. J. Keith Smith and Dr. Lisa L. Jones
- Ms. Jacqueline C. Beecher
- Bank of America
- Mr. and Mrs. Zack H. Bacon Jr. 19 yr
- Mr. and Mrs. Douglas E. Anderson 23 yr
- $5,000-$9,999
- Lineberger Leaders

- Mr. and Mrs. John W. Burress III 21 yr
- Burroughs Wellcome Fund 12 yr
- CAPTRUST, CAPCommunity Foundation
- Cedar Ridge High School
- Chapel Hill Fire Fighters Association
- Mr. and Mrs. Stewart M. Chisam 11 yr
- Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Clark 27 yr
- Mr. and Mrs. John D. Clark
- Cofra Holding AG Matching Gifts
- Ms. Christine H. Copley

- Dr. Jo Anne L. Earp 16 yr
- Elizabeth Dalton Averett Foundation
- Mr. Ernest Ellison II
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Eubanks Jr. 13 yr
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IN THE LAST YEAR, UNC LINEBERGER’S COMPREHENSIVE CANCER SUPPORT PROGRAM INVESTED MORE THAN $250,000 TO HELP PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES OVERCOME BARRIERS TO RECEIVING CANCER CARE.

THROUGH OUR GET REAL AND HEEL PROGRAM, CANCER PATIENTS IMPROVED THEIR OVERALL HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH CONSISTENT PHYSICAL EXERCISE.

OUR LAY NAVIGATION PROGRAM PROVIDES CANCER PATIENTS, FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS ACCESS TO QUALITY MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE THROUGH ALL PHASES OF THEIR CANCER JOURNEY.
For many patients, cancer is a disease than can be financially devastating, and no one knows this better than Cindy Rogers, Patient Assistance Coordinator for UNC Lineberger’s Comprehensive Cancer Support Program. Cindy is responsible for overseeing the Patient Assistance Program, which is designed to provide direct financial assistance to patients whose cancer care is threatened by their financial situation. “For people who already struggle to make ends meet, cancer can be the straw that breaks the camel’s back,” explains Cindy. “This fund makes it possible for many of them to survive.”

Patients and their families are frequently referred to the program through CCSP by case workers, clinicians, staff members or social workers, and there are eligibility requirements to participate. “A potential recipient must be a cancer patient actively receiving treatment at the N.C. Cancer Hospital, and they must demonstrate significant financial need,” says Cindy. “Once we know those criteria are met, we meet with the patient, discuss what’s most financially challenging for them, and then determine how much assistance we can provide. We also help patients apply for assistance from other charitable organizations while they’re going through treatment.”

This patient assistance is made possible through monetary gifts to several UNC Lineberger funds, and there are three main areas the program supports:

- Transportation: Active medical patients may receive financial assistance in getting to and from Chapel Hill during treatment, including gas cards to pay for fuel.
- Lodging: Patients who travel from out of town to receive treatment may receive help in securing overnight accommodations for a small fee (usually between $5 - $10 per night).
- Personal household expenses: Patients experiencing financial difficulty may receive assistance in paying personal expenses such as rent, utilities, mortgage or car loan payments, insurance fees or taxes.

“I hope donors understand the profound impact of their gifts to this program,” explains Cindy. “Even if a patient receives a relatively small amount of assistance, it provides hope, they feel heard, and they know someone cares about their circumstances. You are making a difference in peoples’ lives, more than you will ever know.”
THE RECIPIENTS

Recipient: Taneka Cumbo  Roanoke Rapids, N.C. (Halifax County)

Taneka Cumbo was diagnosed on October 30, 2014 with Stage 2B breast cancer. After a lumpectomy, she went through 16 weeks of chemotherapy, followed by six weeks of radiation. The 35 year old single mother of three boys (ages 17, 5 and 2) was a CNA in a nursing home, but the nausea, vomiting and fatigue associated with her treatments made her unable to work. With no income, Taneka worried about more than just her cancer; she wondered if she would lose her home.

“I’m fortunate that my grandmother was able to help care for my children while I was being treated at UNC Lineberger,” says Taneka. “But I had no one to help me financially. Cindy and I talked about my struggles, and through the Patient Assistance Program, my rent and utilities were paid. I received gas cards for my trips from Roanoke Rapids to Chapel Hill, as well as local lodging while I was an outpatient at UNC. Cindy also referred me to additional charitable organizations in the community to help support me through my cancer treatment.”

“To the donors who help make this fund possible, I’d like to say thank you. Cancer is a draining experience – mentally, physically and financially. Your gifts have enabled me to concentrate on getting well and moving on with my life. In fact, I start nursing school at Halifax Community College this fall. I’m getting back to work. I’m getting back to being a mom. And I’m looking forward to what the future holds.”

Recipient: George Collier  White Oak, N.C. (Bladen County)

George Collier came to UNC Lineberger in February of this year, and after having a tumor in his throat removed, he was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia, a slow-growing blood and bone marrow cancer. So once a month, he travels nearly four hours one-way to Chapel Hill to receive a three-day cycle of chemotherapy treatments. George says cancer has compounded what was already a very difficult time in his life.

“Three years ago, I had a great career in the manufacturing industry,” explains George. “I was making a nice salary, and life was good. But then I went through a divorce, and shortly afterwards, I lost the job I’d had for 17 years. I’m 53, and a tough economy made it hard to find full-time work. Last summer, I was hired as a warehouse manager through a temporary employment agency, but when I became so sick and couldn’t work, they had to let me go. Since that time, I’ve been living with friends and trying to stay afloat.

It’s hard to ask people for help when you’re a proud person who has always worked hard and taken care of yourself. But that’s exactly the situation I was in when Cindy spoke with me about the Patient Assistance Program. It was such a relief to have the cost of my travel to UNC paid for, to receive gas cards and to be able to stay at the SECU Family House when I’m in town for my chemotherapy treatments. I can’t say thank you enough to the donors who give to this fund. Your generosity has helped restore my dignity and made a difficult situation more bearable.”
Recipient: Charles Sanders  Laurel Hill, N.C. (Scotland County)

“You have throat cancer.” Those weren’t the words Charles Sanders expected to hear in February 2015. He and his fiancée Laura also didn’t anticipate the added expenses associated with traveling two hours from their home in Laurel Hill, NC to UNC Lineberger for chemotherapy and radiation treatments. The cost of gas, lodging, meals, medication co-pays – it was simply overwhelming.

“Cancer took over our lives,” says Laura. “Charles couldn’t work, and neither could I because I was caring for him. We began having trouble making our car payment and car insurance. There were days when we didn’t eat so we could purchase his medicine. Thankfully, Cindy Rogers approached us, asking what she could do to help.”

Through the Patient Assistance Program, Charles and Laura’s immediate financial needs were met. Their car expenses were paid, and they received gas cards, lodging and meal vouchers for their trips to Chapel Hill. The Comprehensive Cancer Support Program even helped Charles prepare an advanced directive and a health care power of attorney.

“Charles has received the best health care possible at UNC Lineberger,” says Laura. “But we’ve also experienced kindness and compassion. Thanks to the donors who understand the needs of cancer patients, a burden was lifted off our shoulders. Words can’t express our appreciation.”

THE DONORS

Donor: Steve and Jan Capps  Wrightsville Beach, N.C. (New Hanover County)

Steve Capps remembers his late father, Allen, as a quiet man, devoted to his family, with a quick wit and a willingness to help others. A native North Carolinian, Allen fought in the Korean War and then built a career in the construction industry. In 2005, he was diagnosed with lung cancer. Steve says that’s when his family started making frequent trips to UNC Lineberger for his father’s treatment.

“My parents were fortunate. They had good health insurance, didn’t live far from Chapel Hill, and were retired, which allowed them to focus on my dad’s cancer treatment,” says Steve. “But that isn’t the case for everyone. We encountered folks in waiting rooms and in casual conversation who struggled to make their periodic visits to Chapel Hill or to cover the extra expenses that come along with having a family member with cancer.”

Not long after Allen’s death, Steve and his wife Jan established the Allen and Julia Capps Endowed Fund for Patient and Family Support. “My dad loved UNC Lineberger and appreciated the excellent patient-centered care he received here,” says Steve. “I know he’d be happy to see this gift help lighten the financial load for others patients in some small way.” Steve and Jan have been so impressed with the way their gift has benefitted patients through UNC Lineberger’s stewardship that they’ve chosen to establish a second fund for the same purpose – the Stephen Allen Capps and Jan Rowe Capps Endowed Fund for Cancer Patient and Family Support.
Donor: Stan Greenspon and Maureen O’Keefe  Charlotte, N.C. (Mecklenburg County)

Stan Greenspon and Maureen O’Keefe have a history of helping others in need, and they have a special place in their hearts for children. As long-time UNC Lineberger supporters, they established The Stan Greenspon and Maureen O’Keefe Lineberger Pediatric Special Needs Fund, which is used to assist families with expenses that arise when a child needs cancer treatment.

Many pediatric patients travel great distances to receive the specialized care offered at UNC Lineberger, and it’s not uncommon for a family’s household income to decline because parents must take time off work to accompany their child to medical appointments. Increased expenses and a loss of income make an already stressful situation even more difficult for these families.

“While money for research and hospitals is very important, we can’t forget about the basic support these families may need,” Maureen explains. “There is enough to worry about when you have a sick child without worrying about how to pay for gas and utilities. We’re happy to invest in UNC Lineberger, a place we know will use the money well.”

Donor: Drew and Tammy Woerner  Dunn, N.C. (Harnett County)

According to Drew Woerner, his father Otto was a philanthropist in every sense of the word. As a Burke County resident, he offered financial support to numerous local organizations, often anonymously. “My dad wanted to make one last major gift, and he was impressed with the quality of care so many of his family members and friends had experienced at UNC,” Drew explains. So he and his wife established The Betty and Otto Woerner Endowment Fund.”

Drew’s family has been affected by cancer in many ways over the years. His mother, Wynne died of breast cancer in 2001, and his sister died of brain cancer in 2011. Drew himself had bladder cancer and was later diagnosed with a rare form of head and neck cancer. He was treated at UNC Lineberger and is now cancer-free. Drew’s son Tom was also treated and surgically cured of epilepsy at UNC. Currently, Drew’s wife Tammy is being treated for breast cancer at UNC Lineberger.

“Dad believed in the Comprehensive Cancer Support Program and their mission of helping families deal with all aspects of cancer, especially the financial strain it places on people,” says Drew. “Cancer is among the leading causes of personal bankruptcy in the U.S. Dad knew that, so he created a Fund that provides monetary aid to patients who are struggling with expenses related to cancer. Tammy and I want to honor him by continuing to add our own gifts to the fund, as well as to encourage other people to give to this worthy cause.”
In January 2015, UNC Lineberger’s Comprehensive Cancer Support Program (CCSP) announced the creation of a statewide cancer survivorship network called the N.C. Cancer Survivorship Provider Action Network (NC-CSPAN). Thanks to a new $461,750 grant from The Duke Endowment, NC-CSPAN will substantially improve access to survivorship care for cancer survivors, as well as their family members, friends and caregivers.

Statistics show that there are approximately 14.5 million cancer survivors nationwide, with nearly 350,000 of them living in North Carolina. And while it’s a positive thing that there are growing numbers of individuals surviving long-term and disease-free after a cancer diagnosis, many survivors have emotional and physical needs that are currently not being met.

“Many survivors say they felt as if they had lots of support during their cancer treatment, but once it ended, it was hard to make a transition to a new way of life,” explains Donald Rosenstein, MD, CCSP director, UNC Lineberger member and founder of the new network. “The reason for our focus on survivorship care is that many patients in rural North Carolina have very limited access to post-cancer treatment programs that address follow-up care, exercise, nutrition and psychological coping.”

In general, the U.S. medical care system primarily focuses on curing the cancer but does less to address how to manage the after-effects of the disease. Patients are often left wondering how frequently they need to be seen after treatment ends and what follow-up tests need to be performed. The cancer may be gone, but patients are often troubled by persistent symptoms and side effects of treatment like pain, fatigue or depression. Finally, cancer survivors may neglect other aspects of their health because they concentrate on monitoring themselves for cancer reoccurrence. The fact is, many adult cancer survivors are at risk for other health issues like cardiovascular disease, stroke or diabetes complications.

CCSP’s response to the challenge of the growing needs of North Carolina cancer survivors was innovative. This summer, a portion of their grant enabled 13 health care providers from all over the state to come to Chapel Hill for a two-day training to learn how to run a Cancer Transitions® group intervention. Attendees learned how to educate cancer survivors on nutrition, exercise, stress management and health maintenance. Two more groups of survivorship providers will be trained in January and June of 2016.

“As the only public comprehensive cancer center in North Carolina, UNC Lineberger has an obligation to address the needs of underserved cancer survivors,” says Dr. Rosenstein. “This grant will allow us to train a variety of health care professionals and educators, carefully selected with geographic consideration, to help meet those needs.”
UNC Lineberger hosted its first UNC Cancer Survivor’s Day, with nearly 100 survivors in attendance.

Our Blue Ribbon Partners raised more than $315,000 in support of UNC Lineberger through numerous community events and fundraisers.

Thanks to a $461,750 grant from the Duke Endowment, we created a statewide cancer survivorship network to help cancer survivors and their caregivers manage the after-effects of the disease.
Coach Hatchell inspires: “You don’t have the choice that you have cancer, but you have the choice in how you deal with it.”

Inspiring words from UNC women’s basketball coach and cancer survivor Sylvia Hatchell, who spoke at the 10th annual Fast Break Against Cancer in October 2014. Hosted annually by UNC men’s basketball coach Roy Williams, the live auction breakfast event raised $213,000 for cancer research and treatment at UNC Lineberger. Almost a year since her leukemia diagnosis in October 2013, Hatchell shared her thoughts during the event about her diagnosis, treatment and recovery, sharing photos from throughout her journey.

“I mean, I look back and I’m just like, ‘Wow,’ you know,” Hatchell said. “When I look at that and think that I would have to go through that, I would say there’s just no way. You don’t realize how strong you can be until strong is all you have.”

Hatchell graciously thanked UNC Lineberger and her entire care team, which included among many people, Drs. Peter Voorhees, Thomas Shea, Claudio Battaglini and Physician’s Assistant John Stader. An avid athlete prior to her diagnosis, Hatchell continued to exercise throughout her treatment with Battaglini, an associate professor of exercise and sport science, and cites physical activity as a significant factor in her recovery.

During her remarks, Hatchell also unveiled an office chair that was passed down to her from Dean Smith, announcing that she will auction off the Carolina blue chair with proceeds benefiting UNC Lineberger.

Roy Williams also gave remarks, introducing Coach Hatchell to the Smith Center floor packed with over 400 attendees.

“When you are family and you’re friends with someone that’s close who is fighting this. And when you are friends and colleagues with Sylvia Hatchell, and fighting with her and what’s she gone through with her family, it’s got to make you want to do even more.”

Williams urged the crowd to come together and do “every little thing we can do” to support cancer research. Over the past decade, he has raised more than $1.79 million for cancer research, treatment and prevention programs.

Following the close of the silent auction, Coach Williams and Woody Durham kicked off the live auction. Auction items included an opportunity to watch a home men’s basketball game from the team bench, a sleepover in the Smith Center, a Carolina Basketball History package featuring a UNC Basketball Hall of Fame tour led by Woody Durham and more.

A special thanks to presenting sponsor Atlantic Packaging and to all of our generous sponsors.
More than 300 UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center supporters gathered at the Carolina Inn on January 24, 2015, for the 28th Annual Lineberger Club Lunch and Basketball Game. The event recognizes Lineberger Leadership Partners for their leadership commitment to supporting the cancer center’s research, patient care, education and prevention programs.

Brunch keynote speaker Lowry Caudill, PhD, shared the story of his battle with prostate cancer, which began in 2009. Caudill, who serves as chair of the UNC Board of Trustees and of the University’s Innovation Circle, said he had the ability to go anywhere in the country for his care, but after thoroughly researching his options, he concluded that the best possible treatment was available at UNC Lineberger. Caudill has been cancer-free for five years and credits his successful outcome to skilled and compassionate physicians and UNC Lineberger’s team approach to cancer care.

Caudill also spoke of his mother, Jacqueline Lowry Caudill, who was diagnosed with a soft tissue sarcoma in 2011 at the age of 85. Speaking of her UNC Lineberger care team, he said, “You gave my mom to us for three more years, and what a gift that was. As someone who has personally benefited from the work being done here, I am very proud of the strides we are making in cancer research and its impact on the people of North Carolina.”

Guests enjoyed a hearty lunch, a silent auction and a visit from Ramses before cheering on the UNC Men’s basketball team to a win against Florida State University. UNC Lineberger is grateful to Lee-Moore Capital Company, Dual Comfort Heating and Air Conditioning and Hardee’s for making the 28th annual event possible.
New Member Profile: Vs. Cancer Foundation

Although Vs. Cancer Foundation officially launched in 2012, it was envisioned by CEO and founder Chase Jones years before, when he was a cancer patient at UNC Lineberger. Diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer his freshman year of college, Chase was a member of the UNC Diamond Heels and rallied his baseball teammates to raise money to support pediatric cancer research by shaving their heads.

Seeing the success of this head-shaving event and following his passion for eradicating childhood cancers, Chase started his own non-profit organization and provided a platform for athletic teams to fundraise in support of pediatric cancer research and supportive care services in their own communities. After only three years in operation, Chase and the Vs. Cancer Foundation have built a national reputation as cancer fundraisers and have hosted events as far away as California.

Thankfully, Chase continues to keep the people and research at UNC Lineberger close to his heart. Since the inception of Vs. Cancer three years ago, the Foundation has generously granted the cancer center almost $95,000 for advancing pediatric cancer research and supporting the needs of patients during treatment.

Our Community Against Cancer

Members of the Blue Ribbon Partners giving society are volunteers and organizations throughout the community who host annual fundraising events to benefit the cancer center. To qualify as a Blue Ribbon Partner, members host events benefiting the cancer center for at least three years, raising $25,000 or more during this period.

Bobby F. Garrett Cancer Benefit Concert
Bookmark My Words
Boy Scout Troop 845
Chapel Hill Breast Cancer Research Foundation
Cocktails for Cancer
Coldwell Banker: Howard Perry and Walston
Corona Cares
John R. Isner
Pedal for Peds
RLGALS Swing for the Cure
Tanger Outlets
Tar Heel 10 Miler/Endurance Magazine
Triad Golfers Against Cancer
UNC Carolina Baseball
Vs. Cancer Foundation*
ZTA Foundation

*New member
Now in its fifth year, Corona Cares continues to be an essential fundraising partner for the Comprehensive Cancer Support Program. This year the North Carolina Wholesalers and Corona’s parent company, Constellation Brands, raised $153,000 through paper decal and beer sales across the state during the month of August. This brings the five year total to more than $650,000 raised for patients and supportive care at the N.C. Cancer Hospital!

March Madness struck UNC Lineberger with the third annual Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Big Three Challenge. This unique contest paired the total number of three-point shots made by the Duke, N.C. State and UNC men’s and women’s basketball team during the regular season with the total number of texts received by fans. UNC Women’s Assistant Coach Ivory Latta and radio personality Mike Maniscalco represented the Tar Heels in a final shoot-out challenge, raising a total of $8,750 for research at UNC Lineberger.

When Rocky Mount native Holly Fryar was diagnosed with a recurrence of liver cancer during her sophomore year at UNC, her brother Ian spearheaded “Holly Strong” in honor of his big sister’s courage. Rocky Mount businesses, schools and organizations rallied behind “Holly Strong” and raised more than $25,000 to name an infusion station in her honor at the N.C. Cancer Hospital. Here, Holly and her family are joined by UNC Lineberger faculty and staff in the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Clinic during the dedication. Holly lost her brave battle against cancer on July 21, 2015.

Adding a silent auction to their very popular Breakfast For Dinner annual UNC Lineberger fundraiser, the team at Ye Olde Waffle Shoppe once again kindly donated their wages, tips, time and talents to the cancer center on the evening of October 9. Customers especially enjoyed the special décor, pink outfits and special menu featuring Ye Olde Waffle Shoppe favorites, including M&M pancakes. Together, this amazing staff raised $4,000 for the Comprehensive Cancer Support Program.
On October 18, 2014, the Tar Heels celebrated a victory over the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets and served to raise awareness of UNC Lineberger. That message was clear to fans in the stands and those watching on at home, thanks to the giant UNC Lineberger spirit ribbon painted on the field. In addition to the giant logo, the yard lines were painted pink, and pink and Carolina blue pom-poms were distributed to students. Each quarter the Jumbotron featured a short message in support of the cancer center from a UNC coach or athletic personality – what a great day to be a Tar Heel!

Our friends at the Chapel Hill Fire Department arranged for the national Pink Heals tour to visit the N.C. Cancer Hospital in September. Patients and visitors were invited to sign the fire truck in honor or memory of a loved one who has been touched by cancer. In October, the pink firetrucks came back to Chapel Hill for the Cancer Awareness football game against the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. Stationed at the Kenan Stadium gates, firefighters from the Chapel Hill Fire Department “filled the boots” with donations in support of supportive care services at the cancer center.

Attracting more than 6,400 runners at the April 2015 run, the Tar Heel 10 Miler continues to be a popular way for donors to show their support of the cancer center while spreading awareness of our mission. Personal fundraising efforts combined with a generous donation from race organizer Endurance Magazine raised almost $15,000 for critical cancer research at UNC Lineberger.
Girl Scout cookies are even sweeter when they support UNC Lineberger! The Brownies in Girl Scout Troop #1667 donated $1,000 of their hard-earned cookie money in support of pediatric cancer research at UNC Lineberger. One member of this Chapel Hill based troop is the daughter of UNC Lineberger faculty member Ben Majors.

The fifth annual Pedal for Peds shifted gears this year by adding a stationary bike option to the popular cycling event. Hosted at the UNC Cary Wellness Center, participants enjoyed a sunny day of cycling, food trucks and a silent auction. Together, they raised over $26,000 to support the UNC Lineberger Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Fellowship Program.

Stylists at Mina’s Studio in Chapel Hill are happy to pucker for our patients. During the month of October, Mina’s customers could purchase Kiss Cards and win prizes for the “Best Pucker.” All proceeds were donated to support the Comprehensive Cancer Support Program at UNC Lineberger.

Once again the Leesville High School baseball team hit it out of the park with their annual cancer awareness fundraising game benefiting the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Clinic. This year the coaches and players raised almost $5,000 through t-shirt sales, a BBQ and an auction.

Interested in planning a fundraising event? Contact the UNC Lineberger special events team at 919-966-5905.
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