



# The Foundation Keeping WCA's Health Care Strong



Supporting WCA Hospital

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Dear Friend of WCA Foundation,

Welcome to our inaugural e-newsletter. It is designed to help you know what our Foundation does and how we support WCA Hospital. The patient assistance fund story below demonstrates how a donor can turn compassion for helping others into reality. You will even find a few health pointers in it.



The Donation Days story tells about a fund raising campaign WCA Foundation uses to benefit WCA Hospital. I hope you will find the stories of interest as we give you an insider's view of our philanthropic efforts that strengthen the hospital and our region.

Please poke around the site, click the information bars on the left and find out more about the little foundation that has grown to become a cornerstone of support for your outstanding local hospital.

It is important we all link together to assure our community continues to have a healthy, strong and award-winning regional hospital for generations to come. Give me a call at 716-664-8600 to talk. Together we can make a difference.

My best,

Join Our Email List

Forward to a Friend

Donate Now!

Credit Card

Check

About the Foundation

WCA Foundation is chartered as a supporting independent foundation that supports the health care initiatives of WCA Hospital. Individuals and organizations interested in supporting the activities of WCA Foundation with a donation may send it to WCA Foundation, P.O. Box 840, Jamestown, NY 14702-0840.

General donations may be made or gifts can be designated for a specific fund or purpose such as cancer care, pediatrics, the emergency department or Robotic Surgery.

All donations are gratefully received and acknowledged as tax-deductible gifts.

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Brigetta Overcash  
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## PAYING FORWARD: Anonymous Donor creates WCA Cancer Treatment Center Patient Assistance Fund

Cancer. The BIG C.

Call it what you want, but it will still come knocking at the door of unsuspecting patients. Luckily, although that doesn't change what such a diagnosis means, local treatment is not only available, it is excellent.

For Isabelle, who calls herself "WCA Hospital's poster child for early detection,"

the news was shocking but manageable. She has means to get to and from her surgeries and follow-up treatment at WCA Cancer Treatment Center. But for some patients, that isn't the case.

A magnanimous donor gave \$5,000 to create the WCA Cancer Treatment Center Patient Assistance Fund at the WCA Foundation in 2013. It will help those who need that little extra assistance to receive their treatment at the Center. Speaking about the anonymously created fund, Dr. Theresa Pagliuca describes the difference such assistance can make.



Judith Thomas, Manager of Radiation Therapy, performs a procedure on patient, Rebecca Suber, at the WCA Cancer Treatment Center.



Dr. Theresa Pagliuca, Oncologist

"Sometimes the issue is to help with gasoline," explains Dr. Pagliuca. "For some people filling up the gas tank is a stretch. When they have to make all the trips it become prohibitive. Co-pays can be reimbursed from your taxes, but transportation is not."

"Other times the cost of non-prescription drugs - over-the-counter needs - are sometimes prohibitive to a patient. Having or not having them can make all the difference in the patient's quality of life," Dr. Pagliuca said.

"I'm so proud of my staff," Dr. Pagliuca continued. "We had a young mom undergoing treatments and my staff collected donations and went out and bought Christmas for her and her little children. We see the needs and we want to take care of them so our patients can get well. The extra stresses aren't good."

### Why a fund?

Creating this assistance fund at the WCA Foundation had a dual purpose. The named fund will perpetually support the patients of WCA Hospital and this community. The Foundation

keeps the donations to the fund in carefully monitored investments which returns interest to the fund. That interest is then used for grants for the purpose of the fund. In this case, the WCA Cancer Treatment Center Patient Assistance Fund which began with a \$5,000 donation will be able to give grants of approximately \$500 a year when it begins making grants. In the meantime, the community benefactor who created this fund is attempting to personally meet the needs of patients when they present themselves. Community supporters can donate to all WCA Foundation's funds at any time or designate their gift for immediate use.

### **Early detection**

As an oncologist, Dr. Pagliuca can attest to the importance of early detection. "It's not just talk, it's absolutely possible to survive cancer," says Dr. Pagliuca. "It makes a big difference. It almost sounds trite, but early detection does save lives. When caught early, we have more options. Please get your colonoscopies - everyone. Please, please, please. And, ladies, do your mammogram, but don't forget your GYN screening. It only takes a minute but it does save lives."

[Read more....](#)

## **Donation Days Success**

A community donating to support WCA Hospital is as old as the hospital itself. In the early years food and household commodities were donated. As times changed, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been donated to WCA Foundation Donation Days giving campaign.

"This fundraising effort is what has helped the Foundation develop a wider base of donors," Cristie Herbst, chair of the organization's board of directors, said. "It is an increasingly larger part of our annual growth."



WCA Foundation board member Pete Stark, Executive Director Brigetta Overcash, and Cristie Herbst, chair of the board of directors are shown in the lobby of WCA Hospital where an eight foot banner displays information about the Foundation. A half million dollars of grants are given to WCA Hospital by the Foundation annually.

A \$12,692,000 endowment, managed by the Foundation's Board of Directors, is the result of this community's support. The interest from these funds is used to support WCA Hospital in a variety of grants annually. This year \$424,415 of grants have been given to WCA Hospital.

"The largest total grants from our 29 funds this year benefited the daVinci Robotic Surgery equipment being purchased by WCA Hospital," said Dr. Brian Meagher, vice chair of the Foundation and WCA Hospital Radiologist. "Again this year the Foundation heavily supported employee training and education. We also participated in upgrading the CT Scan waiting room with new furniture as part of the Hospital's current renovation project."

"Working in that area of the Hospital, I see first hand the terrific impact the Foundation's grants have on patient care and satisfaction," continued Dr. Meagher. "It is really satisfying to be part of the process to make these grants reality."

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