



THE IMPACT OF PHILANTHROPY ON CANCER SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

2025 REPORT

Leadership Message

Dear Supporters,

As we look ahead, the future of cancer care at Bon Secours is filled with purpose, innovation and deepened collaboration. Our commitment goes beyond treating disease — we are shaping a more comprehensive, patient-centered model of care that anticipates the needs of those we serve.

A key part of that future lies in expanding access to clinical trials and advancing innovation. By bringing cutting-edge therapies and research opportunities closer to our communities, we are not only improving outcomes but also ensuring our patients have access to the latest advancements without having to travel far from home.

Equally important is our growing partnership in behavioral health and psychiatry. We recognize that cancer care is not solely physical, it carries emotional and psychological challenges that require just as much attention. Strengthening our integration with behavioral health services allows us to care for the whole person, supporting patients and their families through every stage of the journey.

Together, these efforts reflect a bold vision for the future — one where innovation, compassion and collaboration come together to redefine what cancer care can and should be.

With gratitude,

William J. Irvin, Jr.

William J. Irvin, Jr., MD
Medical Director and Director of Clinical Research
Bon Secours Cancer Institute



Ann S. Carpin

Ann S. Carpin
President
Bon Secours Richmond Foundation



Bon Secours Cancer Institute Vision Statement

To be the leading cancer program in Central Virginia for compassionate and patient-centered care, offering cutting-edge treatments and a comprehensive approach from screening to survivorship. Our Mission is to transform the patient, family and caregiver experience through faith, dignity, hope, holistic care and healing.

Bon Secours Oncology Program Accreditations



Clinical Trials by the Numbers

Clinical trials are the foundation of progress in cancer care. Every breakthrough — from new treatments to improved screening tools and more effective ways to manage side effects — begins with clinical research and the courageous patients who choose to participate. These individuals are the true heroes of oncology, helping pave the way for better outcomes for generations to come.

Because most cancer patients in the United States receive care in community hospital settings, access to clinical trials close to home is essential. Life-saving therapies should not be limited to those who can travel to large academic medical centers. Patients deserve the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge research within their own communities, surrounded by the support systems that matter most.

At Bon Secours, we are committed to expanding our clinical trial offerings so that more patients can benefit from the latest advances in cancer treatment. Our efforts extend beyond studying new therapies — we are equally focused on improving symptom management, enhancing quality of life and elevating the overall experience for patients and their families.

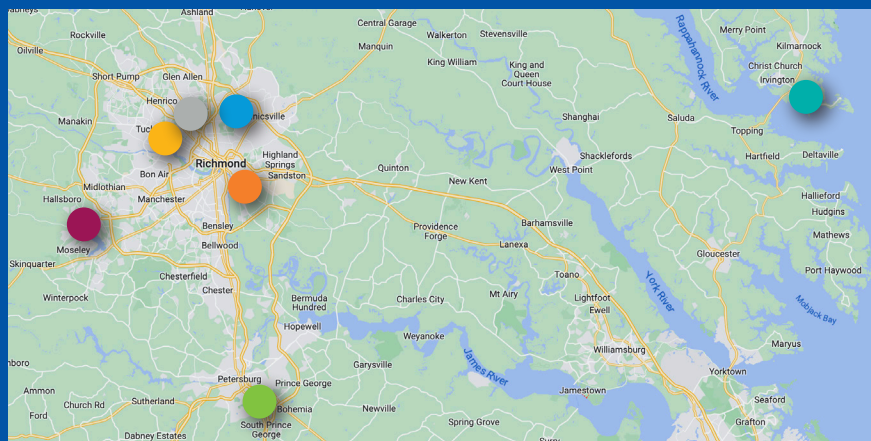
Through clinical research and innovation, we are not only treating cancer, we are helping define the future of cancer care in the communities we are privileged to serve.

— Dr. William Irvin



Access to Care

- **St. Mary's Hospital**
Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Adult and Pediatric Outpatient Infusion Center (OPIC)
- **Memorial Regional Medical Center**
Medical Oncology and Hanover OPIC
- **St. Francis Medical Center**
Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and OPIC
- **Southside Medical Center**
Radiation Oncology, Medical Oncology and OPIC
- **Richmond Community Hospital**
Medical Oncology and OPIC
- **Rappahannock General Hospital**
Medical Oncology and OPIC
- **Reynolds Crossing**
Radiation Oncology



Notable Trials of Interest

In 2026, Bon Secours Cancer Institute is actively participating in groundbreaking clinical trials aimed at improving outcomes for patients with challenging cancer diagnoses. Highlights from this year include:

MK-2870-012: A study for patients with high-risk triple-negative breast cancer who received therapy prior to surgery but did not achieve a full response. This randomized study compares the combination of the novel Trop 2 targeting antibody drug conjugate Sacituzumab Tirumotecan with Pembrolizumab to the physician's choice standard of care therapy. This trial's objectives are to increase the time a patient remains disease free and overall reduce the risk of cancer returning in high-risk patients.

CLEE011O12001 (WIDER): A Phase 3b study that combines ribociclib and standard adjuvant endocrine therapy for patients with HR+ HER2- early breast cancer. After a successful Phase 3 trial that showed a significant disease-free survival benefit with this treatment combination, this trial will further evaluate the combination with wider eligibility criteria with a focus on enrolling minority patients that were previously underrepresented. The WIDER clinical trial provides expanded access to targeted, life-saving treatment for patients with early-stage breast cancer.

NRG-GU013: A Phase III study for patients with high-risk prostate cancer. This clinical trial is testing if radiation delivered in 5 treatments over 2 weeks at a high dose can prevent cancer from returning as well as the current standard of care duration of treatment of 20-45 radiation treatments over 4-9 weeks. The "High Five" clinical trial has the potential to demonstrate that patients can have the same successful outcome with less radiation exposure in a shorter treatment timeframe.

Impact Story

Cullather Center by the Numbers

Life Fully Lived: Caring for Patients and the Families Who Love Them

On Thanksgiving 2024, Pat O'Donnell was doing what he loved most, playing pickleball. At 78, he was active and in great shape. But that day, his wife Betty and son Brian noticed something wasn't right — he kept dropping the ball, and his face showed signs like Bell's palsy.



From left, Brian (son), Betty (wife), Pat and Scott (son).

They went immediately to Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital, where a scan revealed a deeply embedded, aggressive brain tumor. Neurosurgeon Dr. Katrina Murphy performed surgery, but due to the tumor's location, Pat lost his ability to walk. "My dad is the most positive, physically active person," Brian shared. "We knew this would be tough."

After learning his diagnosis, Pat made a courageous decision. Knowing treatment would not change the outcome, he chose — together with his family — to focus on quality of life and time together.

Early on, Betty discovered the Cullather Center while waiting during surgery. "From the moment we walked in, I felt the love," she said.

The team quickly became part of their journey, supporting not only Pat, but the family caring for him. They ensured Betty felt supported in her role as caregiver, offering

guidance, reassurance, services and a steady presence throughout. Nurse navigator Brandi Downing provided constant support, while music therapist Stephanie Suber brought comfort and peace through monthly visits, filling their space with songs they loved.

On the day Pat passed, Stephanie came one final time to sing. Though he was not awake, the family believes her presence brought him peace. She later played at his funeral — a reflection of the deep bond they shared.

Pat's journey was met with dignity, compassion and love — reminders that even in life's hardest moments, meaningful connection endures.

The Cullather Quality of Life Center: Whole-Person Care, Every Step of the Way for Patient and Caregiver

The Cullather Center, part of the Bon Secours Cancer Institute, was founded in 2007 in honor of Jack Cullather's son, Chris, and wife, Jean, who both died from brain tumors. The center provides compassionate, comprehensive support to cancer patients and their families, focusing on quality of life throughout the cancer journey. Through navigation, counseling, integrative therapies and supportive care, the Cullather Center meets patients where they are, creating a strong foundation that enhances programs like music therapy.



Scan the QR code to learn more about the Cullather Center



Oncology Nurse Navigator

Brandi Downing, BSN-RN

As a brain tumor nurse navigator, I guide patients through every step of their cancer journey, offering

education, coordination, and compassionate support. I help patients understand their diagnosis, treatment plan, and care team while serving as a consistent point of contact during an often-overwhelming time.

I simplify complex medical information, manage appointments and address barriers such as transportation, housing and financial concerns. For those traveling from out of town, I coordinate

accommodations such as the Reinhart Guest House to ease the burden of treatment.

Oncology has always been my passion, with a special dedication to brain tumor patients. In collaboration with our multidisciplinary team, I helped develop a brain tumor education book to fill a critical gap in patient resources, improving understanding and experience.

At the center of my work is ensuring every patient feels supported, informed and never alone, while advocating for care that is compassionate, coordinated and personalized.

Massage

188

Music Therapy
(generally more than one visit per patient)

28

Meditation

134

Sexual Health Counseling
(10 visits per patient)

21

Chaplain Support
(Spiritual Counseling and Existential Distress)

544

(As of August 2025)

Acupuncture

219

Patient Encounters
2025

1,397

2024

1,234

Primary Brain Tumors
2025

86

2024

88

Cancer Resources

Expanding Access Through Partnership: Cullather Center & CancerLINC

The Cullather Center is proud to partner with CancerLINC to better support patients facing the many challenges that accompany a cancer diagnosis.

Twice each month, CancerLINC hosts an information table in the lobby of the Bon Secours Cancer Institute at St. Francis — an intentional, high-visibility location where patients receiving oncology, radiation, palliative care, infusion and lab services can easily connect with support. This presence ensures patients have access to resources and do not have to navigate the non-medical challenges of cancer alone.



Chris Heithoff (left), Patient Advocate & Coordinator, Cullather Center and Patricia Green, Client Services Manager, CancerLinc

CancerLINC connects patients and their families to free legal, financial and community resources, helping address critical needs such as medical debt,

insurance denials, employment concerns and housing insecurity.

In collaboration, the Cullather Center also maintains a regular on-site presence, engaging patients and staff alongside CancerLINC. Together, they are removing barriers to care for and support the whole person — not just the diagnosis.



Scan the QR code to learn more about CancerLinc

Harmony in Healing: Music Therapy for Patients Beyond the Hospital

Music has the power to comfort and connect — and for those facing cancer, it can be truly transformative. Through a vital partnership with the Cullather Center for Quality of Life, board-certified music therapist Stephanie Suber brings this specialized care directly to patients in the environments where they feel most supported.

By meeting Bon Secours cancer patients in their homes, infusion centers, and rehabilitation

facilities, Stephanie provides a clinical, evidence-based service that goes far beyond simply “playing music.” Her work helps patients manage pain, reduce anxiety and reconnect with their sense of identity during treatment.

One of the most profound aspects of her practice is legacy songwriting. Stephanie collaborates with patients, especially those facing advanced diagnoses — to create original songs that tell their stories and

leave lasting messages for their families. These compositions often become irreplaceable treasures, offering comfort and deep personal remembrance for loved ones.

At the Cullather Center, music therapy is a vital part of whole-person cancer care. Through Stephanie’s dedication, patients are reminded that even in their most difficult moments, their voices — and their stories — matter.



Stephanie Suber, MT-BC, Board Certified Music Therapist, Central Virginia Music Therapy

Amy’s Story: Restoring Confidence Through the Palliative Wig Shop



Amy left the Palliative Care Wig Shop that day with a smile on her face.



Amy had always lit up a room — even while battling small-cell lung cancer. But one day at the Bon Secours Palliative Care Center, she arrived in tears.

“I look so ugly,” she shared after losing her hair during chemotherapy. The emotional toll had been so great, she had even covered the mirrors in her home.

Nurse Abby de Santis saw an opportunity to help and selected a wig she hoped would suit Amy. At her next visit, Amy tried it on.

When she looked in the mirror, her face lit up. “It looks just like her hair,” her mother said through tears.

That moment of restored confidence sparked a donor-funded idea that is now transforming care for patients across Bon Secours.

The Bon Secours Wig Shop was created through the generosity of donors to provide patients with custom-styled wigs at no cost during a deeply vulnerable time.

Why I Give



When Jim Baber lost his high school best friend, Chris Cullather, to glioblastoma, it left a lasting impact — one that continues to shape how he gives today.

Chris was more than a friend; he was part of Jim's story. Through his support of the Cullather Brain Tumor Quality of Life Center, Jim helps ensure Chris's legacy continues to bring comfort and care to others facing the same devastating diagnosis.

"Any time it involves children and cancer, I'm all in," Jim shares. "It's hard enough for families to face a diagnosis like this. If I can help make even a small part of that journey easier, that's what matters." Over the years, Jim's commitment has grown. What began as an annual gift has evolved into a recurring monthly investment — steady, reliable support that the program can count on. "I wanted to do something more consistent," he says. "It may not be millions, but it adds up — and it makes a difference."

Jim is especially encouraged by the Center's continued growth and impact. "Expanding this program to support all Bon Secours cancer patients is so important," he says. "I'm proud of how the Center continues to care for families who need it most."

The Foundation team regularly shares stories about the Center's impact, and those stories continue to make my giving feel very personal and real.

For Jim, giving is deeply personal. It's about honoring Chris, supporting families and ensuring no one faces this journey alone. Together with his wife, Jim is proud to support a program that brings comfort, dignity and hope to families facing a devastating diagnosis.

— Jim and Mary Beth Baber, advocates and donors

To make a gift in support of patients and families navigating their cancer journey, please visit our website at givebsmh.org/cause/richmond-va-cancer/ or mail gifts to:

Bon Secours Richmond Health Care Foundation
920 Libbie Ave., Suite 100, Richmond, VA 23226 | 804-287-7700

