



# June E. Nylen CANCER CENTER



## Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)



**Krista McCullough,**  
*Executive Director*

### Proud to Provide Comprehensive and Compassionate Cancer Services to Siouxland

As the Executive Director of the June E. Nylen Cancer Center, I am proud of the continued commitment that our management team, providers, and staff demonstrate to improve the care we provide and to expand our services to ensure we are offering the most advanced cancer diagnosis and treatment options for this region.

This Annual Report highlights many of the accomplishments and updates of our Cancer Center over this past fiscal year and the previous few years. The results of our work show in the numbers of Siouxland patients from around the region that we provide cancer and hematology care for and in our strong patient satisfaction survey results.

This Annual Report also emphasizes the needs of our organization as we look to the future of cancer care.

Thank you for trusting the June E. Nylen Cancer Center to care for you and your loved ones. We are proud to offer hope and healing close to home for the Siouxland region.

*Krista McCullough*



### Sign Up to Receive Our Monthly Newsletter & Stay Informed!

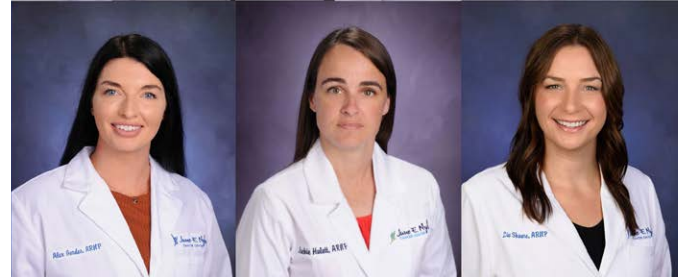
We would love for you to subscribe to our monthly electronic newsletter to stay informed about our most current news and events. Go to [www.NylenCancerCenter.com](http://www.NylenCancerCenter.com), and under the About Us tab, go to News & Events and sign up with your email address. Thank you for your continued support!



# HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2023

## Recruitment of Providers

Over the last year we welcomed Dr. Lisa Chaiken, *Radiation Oncologist*; Alex Gerdes, *Medical Oncology Nurse Practitioner*; and Liv Skaare, *Medical Oncology Nurse Practitioner* to the June E. Nylan Cancer Center. They join Dr. Donald Wender, *Medical Oncologist and Medical Director*; Dr. Nibash Budhathoki, *Medical Oncologist*; Dr. Chandana Javvaji, *Medical Oncologist*; and Jackie Hulett, *Medical Oncology Nurse Practitioner*.



Based on the volume of patients, we know we need to hire one additional Radiation Oncologist and two more Medical Oncologists. Recruiting continues to be our organization's greatest challenge due to the limited numbers of oncologists available across the nation and recruiting to a rural service area.

We know we offer a competitive package, so are staying diligent to find the right candidates to join our Cancer Center. In the meantime, we utilize a handful of long-term locum (or traveling) oncologists who work on-site for longer time periods.



## New High-Performance PET Scanner

Our new state-of-the-art PET scanner became operational this past February and is critical in the diagnosis and staging of cancer by showing the highest possible resolution for each organ and early detection of even small lesions. In addition to the enhanced image quality, this new scanner has increased speed meaning less radiation, as well as improved patient comfort. This was a \$2.6 million project and \$1 million of it was funded by generous donations.

With this scanner, we are able to do some very specific PET imaging with different types of radioactive agents. For example, the Prostate-

Specific Membrane Antigen (PSMA) scan better identifies prostate cancer. The patient is injected with fluorodeoxyglucose F18 (FDG) or Gallium 68 (Ga68) which will attach to PSMA, a protein found on the surface of most prostate cancer cells. There is also Detectnet™ a radioactive diagnostic agent used with PET imaging specifically for somatostatin receptor positive neuroendocrine tumors. This scan can also be referred to as Cu-64 Dotatate Scan. Both of these scans help create a clearer, more detailed diagnostic image to detect, stage, and restage which leads to a more informed diagnosis and treatment plan.



## New Analyzer In Comprehensive On-Site Lab

Laboratory testing is an important component of the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of cancers and blood disorders. Having our on-site lab ensures quick turnarounds for many tests that help our physicians evaluate and determine treatment as quickly as possible. This past January a generous donor funded a new lab analyzer that allows for expanded testing on-site and improved efficiencies.

## Nationally Recognized Medical Oncology Program

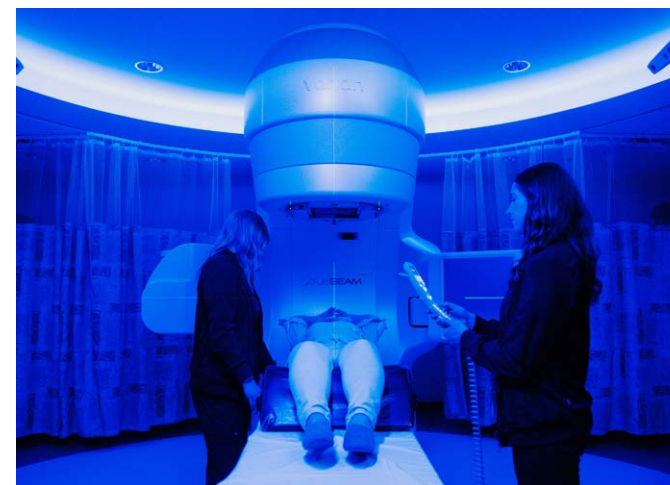


We were recognized by the QOPI® Certification Program, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Association for Clinical Oncology and an affiliate of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), in July 2022 as successfully completing a three-year certification program. QOPI Certification is awarded to oncology practices that have made an extraordinary commitment to going above and beyond and continuously tracking and analyzing data to evaluate and improve processes leading to the highest-quality cancer care possible for patients.



## State-of-the-Art Radiation Treatment Machines

Our two TrueBeam™ linear accelerators that became operational in May 2020 are the most advanced treatment machines on the market and allow for precise tumor targeting and fewer side effects. We are extremely grateful to many donors who believe our community deserves to have the best technology for cancer treatment close to home and helped support a multimillion-dollar capital campaign to fund one of these machines.





# HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2023

## Additional Benefits to Patients Because of Our State-of-the-Art Radiation Treatment Equipment

We use AlignRT®, the premier radiation therapy guidance system, for Surface Guided Radiation Therapy (SGRT) with our two state-of-the-art TrueBeam™ linear accelerator treatment machines. This system, from Vision RT, tracks your body surface in real-time, detects any motion as you hold your breath with submillimeter accuracy, and pin points your radiation treatment to the specific cancer area, dramatically lessening unwanted radiation exposure to any healthy tissue and reducing the risk of side effects. While used head-to-toe and for all radiation treatment, a valuable example of the benefit of AlignRT to ensure optimal patient positioning and radiation accuracy is protecting your heart while you're treated for left-breast cancer.

Another benefit of the AlignRT guidance system being used during radiation therapy is that it can eliminate the need for tattoos and skin marks for many patients because the technology projects a random series of patterns on your skin, acting like thousands of virtual tattoos. AlignRT has been shown in several studies to be at least as accurate as either marks or tattoos for positioning patients before treatment therapy. Many patients are happy and relieved to not have a permanent reminder of their diagnosis and treatment. Not all radiation treatment centers can offer tattoo/mark-free radiation.



An example of the automated contouring software by RADformation that the JENCC Dosimetry Department started to use this past year as part of their radiation treatment planning.



## Now Using Nebraska Medicine's Radiology Services

The radiology imaging, including CT and PET scans performed at the June E. Nylen Cancer Center (JENCC), are analyzed and interpreted by Nebraska Medicine's Radiologists as of August 1. This service was previously outsourced to another remote third-party radiology company. Patients continue to receive quality care from our on-site staff and do not see any difference in their user side. Systems were built between the two medical organizations to ensure a safe and effective work process for quick and accurate imaging interpretation services. JENCC patients do receive a separate bill from Nebraska Medicine's Radiology Services Department for doing the diagnostic reading of their scans.

## Dosimetry Incorporates Automated Contouring into Treatment Planning

Our Medical Dosimetrists work directly with our Radiation Oncologists to design and implement treatment plans for patients who need radiation therapy. Dosimetrists use the patient's PET/CT scan to determine how the radiation will be delivered. The goal is to avoid all normal body structures within the treatment area while assuring the tumor receives as high of a dose as possible. To make this possible they must delineate cancerous tissue from normal structures on diagnostic scan. Traditionally the normal body structures have been drawn by hand, a very tedious and time-consuming process.

This past year, our Dosimetry team implemented the use of state-of-the-art automated contouring with AI-driven software that generates streamlined, accurate, and deep learning contours for up to 200 structures within the body. This software works seamlessly with our radiation therapy planning system, enabling more efficient planning due to decreasing the time spent in the contouring process. The autogenerated contouring is then validated by our Dosimetry team as they finalize the patient's radiation treatment plan.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2023

# FOR THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR IT,

*Life Has a Different Flavor*

## Expanded our Patient Navigation Team

Offered free of charge, the Patient Navigation Program focuses on coordinating patient care and connecting patients with the support resources they need. Due to the growing demand for more patients needing increased support services over the last few years, we have added more positions to this team. Positions include two nurses who serve as patient advocates, a social worker, a dietitian, a financial navigator, a CNA, and three new patient intake coordinators. None of the services provided by this team are reimbursable, but we have seen they are vital to the overall patient experience.

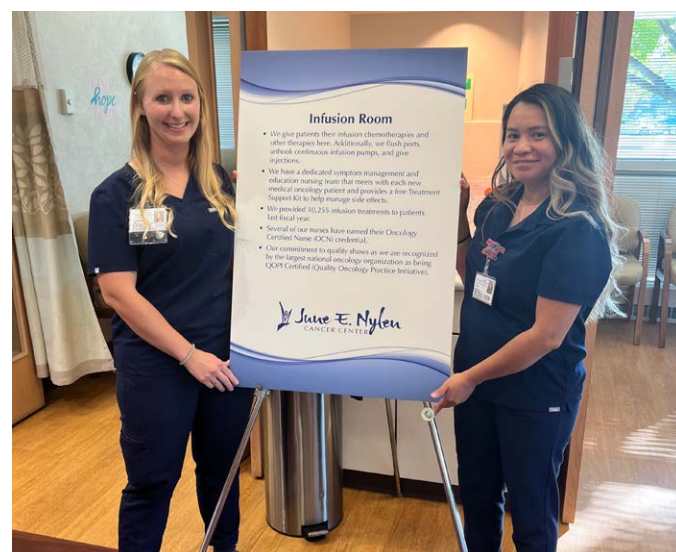


## High Patient Satisfaction & High Employee Satisfaction

We say in our principles that guide our organization that we don't just treat cancer, we treat people and believe it's purposeful and a privilege. Through coordinated teamwork, we personalize the care of patients and treat each other with dignity to ensure the best experience possible. This service shows through our consistently higher-than-average patient satisfaction scores and higher-than-average employee satisfaction scores. That said, we have committees that continually focus on these areas for both patient and employee culture, develop action plans as issues are identified, and frequently reassess the plans.

## Opportunity to See Our Advancements During August's Open House

Thanks to everyone who joined us on August 17 as we hosted the Siouxland Chamber Rush Hour Connect and a Donor Open House. We were excited to showcase all the advancements we have made over the last few years. We offered tours and staff shared information about many key areas within our Cancer Center.



"For those who fight for it, life has a different flavor the sheltered will never know." Jeremy McClure says that is not his original quote, but that of Theodore Roosevelt, and those words ring true to him as a survivor of squamous cell carcinoma of the tongue.

Jeremy, now age 47, recalls feeling a lump in his neck for a couple of months and feeling like he had a bit of a sore throat as it hurt to swallow. But he rationalized it as just a head cold or a swollen lymph node. Then about 6 months later, he started bleeding from his throat, and he had to go to the Emergency Department because he could not stop the bleeding. Dr. Sarah Powell from Ear, Nose & Throat Consultants was brought in to consult with Jeremy and she ordered scans that confirmed a mass. A biopsy was conducted. The University of Nebraska Medical Center confirmed that it was Squamous Cell Carcinoma. That was December of 2020.

"It was unnerving to learn I had cancer," said Jeremy. "We lost family from it and my father was fighting at the same time. The hardest part was calling my kids to tell them the diagnosis. But Dr. Powell was reassuring and let me know that it was very treatable and had a high survival rate. The staff at the June E. Nylene Cancer Center were also very supportive and positive. This reassured me and provided some comfort."

Jeremy frequently says he had a "mild case" of cancer as the probability of survival was high. This "mild case" of cancer required him to have 35 radiation treatments to his neck to target the cancer at the base of his tongue. He also had chemotherapy once a week.

Jeremy goes on to say, "I was assured that my treatments would be difficult, and they kept their promise. By the second week, I was experiencing difficulty in swallowing and increased mucositis (inflamed sore mouth) from the radiation. My treatment also affected how food tasted. Everything I put in my mouth tasted like cleaning products.

By the third week, I was unable to talk or eat. I lost 20 pounds in a week and 30 altogether. Due to this, I had

a feeding tube placed into my stomach through my abdominal wall."

Jeremy, a Sioux City police officer, ended up needing to take a month off work due to the fatigue and side effects of treatment. His last treatment was on March 15, 2021.

"Having cancer was one of the hardest things I have ever been through both physically and mentally," says Jeremy.



*We are thankful to Jeremy McClure for sharing his story at the June E. Nylene Cancer Center's Rock the Cure event on April 15, 2023. This benefit concert raised funds for our Patient Assistance Program.*

"I had to allow myself to be sick and let other people take care of me. What helped me get through my treatments was knowing that I had a high probability of survival. And while I was getting treatments, I met quite a few people who did not have such great odds. This developed a greater appreciation for life and to not take health for granted."

Today it has been 2 years since Jeremy's treatment and there is no evidence of the disease. He has regular monitoring appointments. He says having cancer has affected him. "I have a nice feeding tube scar and can't grow a beard anymore. Hardly a day goes by that I do not think about the experience. Some foods remind me of the chemo and I can no longer eat them."

Jeremy notes that just because this was his experience, it does not mean it will be that way for all patients. There are different

treatments for different cancers, and it affects people differently. The experience can impact patients differently. But he stresses the cancer patient and survivor community is very supportive and hopeful.

For patients just starting treatments Jeremy recommends, "Trust the process. Humble yourself to being ill but do not be meek. Fight as hard as you can and be optimistic."

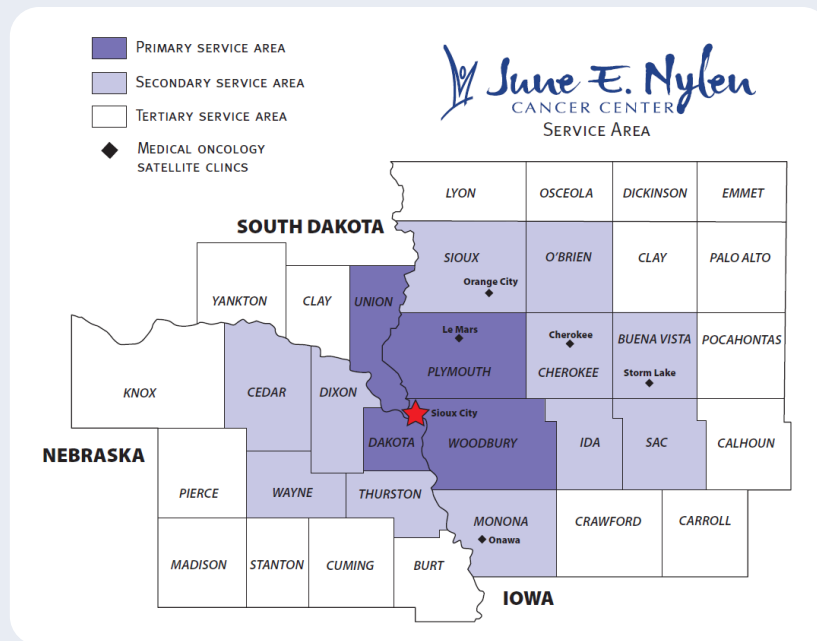
To the providers and staff at the June E. Nylene Cancer Center, Jeremy says, "Your support and care mean so much to patients and their families. The newest medicines, the best treatments, and the latest machines don't mean anything without dedicated, knowledgeable people who live their purpose. Thank you for all you do, every one of you."



# SOME OF OUR NUMBERS FROM FISCAL YEAR 2023

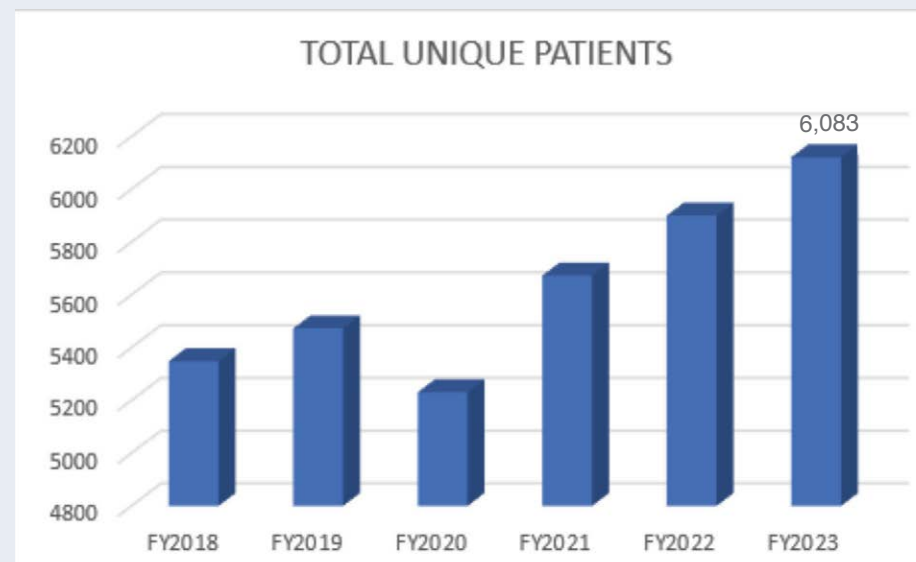
## TOP TREATMENTS AT JENCC IN FISCAL YEAR 2023:

1. Breast cancer
2. Prostrate cancer
3. Lung cancer
4. Anemia
5. Colon cancer
6. Thrombocytopenia, (*deficiency of platelets in the blood*)
7. White Blood Cell Count abnormalities
8. Leukemia
9. Monoclonal Gammopathies (*abnormal proteins found in the blood*)
10. Lymphoma



## 5 YEAR TREND Total Patient Volume

Cancer treatment has advanced and in many cases, are now combination treatments. Many patients receive both radiation therapy and infusion treatment or infusion and oral treatments. Our total patient count is unique patients per fiscal year who receive many different services while here. This is the benefit of the June E. Nylen Cancer Center – patients from the 15-county rural service area can come to us and have numerous cancer care services done at one location.



<b>1,527 New Patients</b>	<b>39,426 Total Patient Visits</b>	<b>14,150 Blood Draws with 343,000 Various Lab Tests Ran</b>
<b>2,080 CT Scans</b> A slight increase over the previous fiscal year.	<b>1,364 PET Scans</b> A 10% increase over the previous fiscal year.	<b>7,797 Radiation Therapy Treatments</b> The number of our treatments per year is actually trending less due to the investment in our state-of-the-art linear accelerators. We can utilize hypofractionated radiotherapy on most patients, meaning the treatment is delivered in a smaller number with larger doses of radiation.
<b>10,255 Infusion Room Treatments</b> This area has been seeing a steady increase in volume since 2019, except for this most recent fiscal year. That decrease in our infusion services is directly proportional to one less medical oncologist and the growth and innovations of oral chemotherapy and immunotherapy, which is reflected in the increased volume in our medically integrated dispensary.	<b>1,664 Oral Chemotherapy &amp; Oncology Medication Prescriptions Filled</b> The medically integrated dispensary (MID) has seen a 242% growth over the past 5 years due to the growth and innovations of oral chemotherapy and immunotherapy for treatments.	<b>Nearly 500 Free Roundtrip Rides to Radiation Treatment Patients Living Outside Sioux City</b>
<b>\$296,503 Provided in Charity Care</b> With an additional nearly \$40,000 in donations given for patient assistance to help with daily living expenses like rent/mortgage, utilities, gas, and groceries to free up funds to direct towards their treatment costs.	<b>Helped Secure \$2,565,954 in Free Oral Oncology Medications for Our Patients</b> January 2022 - June 2023	<b>Helped Secure \$1,871,587 in Free Infusion Therapy for Our Patients</b> January 2022 - June 2023
<b>Provided Countless Wigs, Turbans, and Hats to Patients at No Charge</b>	<b>114 Genetic Counseling Sessions Offered On-Site</b> With \$9,075 in financial assistance funded by donations to aid in the out-of-pocket fee required for the counseling session. Genetic testing helps you understand your risk for cancer, help make medical decisions, and take steps to lower cancer risk or detect cancer early.	<b>Patients Have Access to National Cancer Institute and Pharmaceutical Company Clinical Trials</b>
<b>Our Business Office Took/Made 81,000+ Calls to Schedule Appointments and Handle Medical Information</b>	<b>Our Billing Department Processed an Average of 107 Claims Per Day and Billed \$123,432,606 in Patient Claims</b>	<b>\$455,556 Raised in Generous Donations</b> We are extremely grateful for all who support our organization, mission, and the patients we care for.
<b>Community Tumor Board Conferences &amp; Internal Case Management Meetings</b> Our providers and staff meet weekly to coordinate communication and care for patients between our practice and other medical providers. We estimate that more than 600 patients were discussed through this collaborative process last fiscal year, ensuring a successful method for optimizing cancer care plans, confirming continuity of care, and ultimately increasing the quality of care.		

# IMPACT OF PHILANTHROPY

## IS IMMEASURABLE

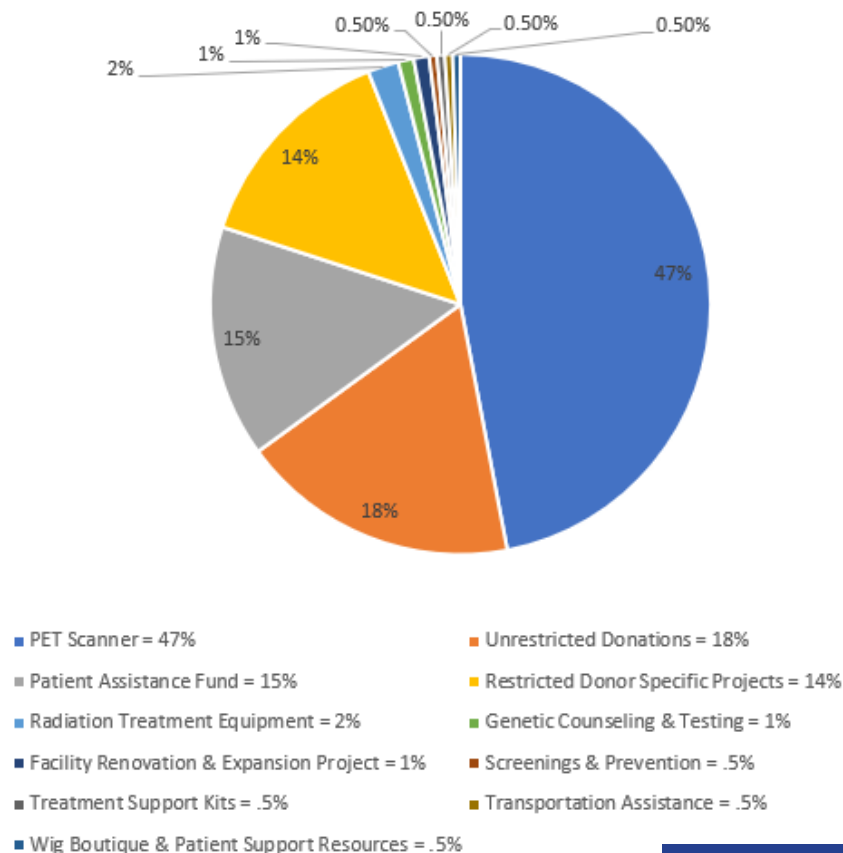
Donations provide life-changing – even life-saving – services and resources for our patients. Contributions accelerate expansions in patient care and support services for physical, emotional, and financial needs. Gifts help in upgrading to state-of-the-art technology and help drive hope and healing in all that we do for our patients. We rely on generous, compassionate people to support our mission – and every year, so many of you do just that. Thank you for your continued support that shares in our commitment to provide the highest quality, compassionate cancer care through prevention, treatment, and research.

When you give, you can determine if your gift goes to a designated “restricted” fund like Patient Assistance, Treatment Support Kits, Equipment/Technology, etc., or if you prefer an unrestricted donation that allows us to use for our greatest need or priorities that arise.

As you can see in the pie chart, we have wonderful support for our top need which last year was funding the new state-of-the-art PET scanner, as well as for many ongoing programs and services. Additionally, here are just two recent impacts that were made possible this past fiscal year thanks to generous unrestricted donations:

- We were able to add new screens on movable arms to several of our infusion chairs and now patients have access to TV, games, and relaxing still images while receiving their treatment. This was a wonderful way to improve patient experience.
- Also with unrestricted donations we were able to subscribe to AssistPoint and cover any integration costs with our electronic health record system and other patient care platforms we use. AssistPoint is a software platform that helps our Financial Navigator, Patient Navigation Team, and Billing Department to proactively identify and manage financial assistance and access other support services for eligible patients. While this program helps improve efficiency for our staff, the goal is ultimately to reduce the financial toxicity burden of our patients.

\$455,556 in Total Donations July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



**\$455,556 In Generous Donations**

# Planning for the Future of Cancer Care In Siouxland

The June E. Nylén Cancer Center (JENCC) building, originally constructed in 1995, has been retrofitted over the years to meet the needs of growing services and the evolving world of cancer treatments including expanding psychological and social services. We have been squeezing as many services and updated cancer equipment as possible into the building without any substantial investment in reconfiguration. The layout of the current building creates great challenges and has limited our ability to overcome and offer patients a holistic and supportive care environment. We do not have the capacity within our current facility for growing patient volumes and new treatment options. It is becoming critical to add more square footage and thoughtfully plan, design, and update the building configuration for its current uses and future strategic positioning.

The demand for cancer treatment is expected to grow by 40% over the next six years per the National Institutes of Health. Iowa Cancer Registry also estimates an increase in cancer diagnoses annually in the coming years. If we do nothing different, we will not be able to accommodate more patient volumes which means delays for some patients at some points of care.

According to the National Cancer Institute over the next decade, the number of people who have lived 5 or more years after their cancer diagnosis is projected to increase approximately

30%. As the number of cancer survivors continues to grow due to improved screening and prevention efforts and improved treatment options, we will be at a competitive disadvantage if we do not expand and strengthen our patient support and survivorship services.

The JENCC Leadership team does not want to stay stagnant. We want to make sure Siouxland patients continue to have the best options for cancer diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship care. We cannot allow our building space and current design to be a barrier to this commitment.

We have a strategic plan for a facility expansion and renovation project consisting of different phases:

- Renovation and expansion to our chemotherapy infusion prep area and medically integrated dispensary, two “behind-the-scenes” areas of our Cancer Center that critically support what our medical team needs to care for the thousands of patients we treat each year. Our Board of Directors recently approved this \$1.5 million project and construction will start after the first of the year.
- Future renovation and expansion plans would include the addition of 19,000 square feet of usable space to two floors of our Cancer Center allowing for additional exam rooms, new care team

work pods, the expansion of additional infusion treatment space for more patients, “quick care” areas at the front of the clinic, as well as dedicated space for all our patient support services and a new survivorship program and needed dedicated physician and staff respite space.

The renovations in future phases would improve workspace efficiencies, decrease patient delays, improve patient flow and experience, allow more patients to be cared for each day than currently, allow expanded programs and services – both clinical and support, add health care jobs to the clinic, improve physician and staff morale, and add revenue to our organization.

The renovating and expanding of the infusion mixing area and medically integrated dispensary is our current greatest need. We’d like to pay for this construction project with as many donations as possible, allowing us to continue to plan and position our organization financially for the future larger-scale add-on to the facility.

We look forward to continuing to keep you informed about the future of the June E. Nylén Cancer Center and our changes and expansions ensuring Siouxland patients have the best, most advanced options for cancer diagnosis and treatment. Thank you for your continued support of our organization’s mission and priorities.

## FROM OUR PATIENTS:

“June Nylen Cancer Center saved my life.”

.....

Treating cancer is not an easy job, but the staff listened, understood my concerns, and helped make this time period as easy as they could. Highly recommend.”

.....

“I was treated with kindness and respect by the entire staff. We are very lucky to have this establishment in Siouxland. Thank you.”

.....

“My doctor was outstanding, he not only explained the results of my recent pet scan he showed me the side by side pictures of my previous scan and explained in detail any progress made. He gave me hope!”

.....

“The support staff, Doctors and nurses are very caring and they never made me feel like I was being rushed through my appointments. They saved my life and for that I’m very grateful.”

.....

“The Doctors and Nursing staff at June Nylen are absolutely marvelous, and extremely confident and caring. I do highly recommend this Cancer Center to anyone needing care. Thank You so much to all the Angels working there!!”

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“The Entire staff at June Nylen are extremely professional and very caring. They have top-notch equipment and well-trained people operating, and as always very caring!! Can’t say enough good things about them!”