

NEW ULM MEDICAL CENTER

# Cancer Center Expansion & Renovation

*spreading  
our wings*



NEW ULM  
MEDICAL  
CENTER

Allina Hospitals & Clinics

# A special department, a special people



"People from all over the region see the Cancer Center at New Ulm Medical Center as a destination, because of its reputation, its close proximity for people and because of the people in the department – both the staff and other patients."

– Barb Fenske, patient and campaign chair

It was twelve years ago that I received the news. Cancer. It's been a journey I had hoped never to travel; yet here I am, continuing to give it my all. Much of this journey has involved the Oncology Department at New Ulm Medical Center. What a wonderful place to be when you are going through the trials of cancer treatment. The staff is caring, knowledgeable, and even fun. The patients I have had the opportunity to interact with have become friends whom I would probably never have gotten to know. We are a big family – patients and their families, the doctors, and the nurses. Just come and visit some day and you will see this is not a sad place. It is a very vital, fun place. There are many people who see this unit as a destination, which helps the entire community. Rather than going to Mankato, the Twin Cities, or Rochester, they are choosing to come to the New Ulm Medical Center for treatment. That really speaks well of us.

However, we are outgrowing the current space located near the Emergency Department. There just isn't enough room for the treatment chairs that are necessary for all the patients. That's where we need your help. We plan to move the department to the lower level of the clinic, where the fitness center once was, so that we have all the space needed to provide the same wonderful care. The new Cancer Center will be a beautiful space for patients and their families to congregate, for the patients to receive the treatments that help them beat this disease, and for the staff to have the room to do their jobs.

We need your help. By supporting this project, you will be making sure that these services will be available in the future. I'm sure that all of us have been touched by cancer in some way and now we can all help those who are fighting to beat it. Please consider a gift to the Cancer Center Campaign. Your gift will be greatly appreciated by our current and future patients who depend on this department for life-saving treatment. Thank you!

– Barb Fenske

There's a bit of magic happening behind closed doors in the Cancer Center at New Ulm Medical Center. Miracles happen every day – but it may not be the kind of miracles you think. These miracles are in the smiles, the good cheer, the laughter and the hope shared between staff and patients in the department. In many healthcare settings, staff and patients become close. But in the Cancer Center at NUMC, the sheer amount of time that many patients spend there day after day, month after month, receiving treatment – sometimes for hours on end – fosters a kind of closeness that can't be fabricated or duplicated.

It may be due to this special atmosphere that the volume of the department has grown by leaps and bounds, necessitating the need for a new home. With the growth seen in the department over the last few years, it has become common to treat up to nine patients at one time in a space meant for four or five.

Although space is a big issue, there are other influencing factors in the Cancer Center project, too. The project has been a couple years in the making and all the pieces are now coming together: NUMC's expanded partnership with oncologist Dr. Ettore Piroso; the planned integration with Virginia Piper Cancer Institute; and the opportunity for re-purposing space in the building that has recently opened up.

The time is right, the opportunity is here and you can help make this new Cancer Center a reality!



"As the oncologist in the Cancer Center at New Ulm Medical Center, I am thrilled about the benefits this new department will bring for our patients. The increased space will provide the opportunity for more resources and education, better efficiency and an improved overall experience. This is such an important project. There are so many whose lives are touched by cancer."

– Dr. Ettore Piroso

# A family outgrows its home



## The new Cancer Center will

- ♦ Provide patient-centered/ family-focused care.
- ♦ Deliver cancer care in an open setting promoting a sense of community.
- ♦ Maintain a welcoming, friendly, upbeat and respectful environment for patients, families and staff.
- ♦ Create an environment with access to outside views and natural light to promote healing and recovery.
- ♦ Provide a homelike setting with responsive and timely access to resources and services.
- ♦ Optimize flexibility and adaptability in the physical environment.
- ♦ Apply sustainable principles in the design.



For patients of the Cancer Center at New Ulm Medical Center, the department is a little like home. Those receiving treatment may spend hours each week in a chair in the area which they have come to feel is like a big “living room.” They chat with the other patients, the volunteers, the staff and the loved ones of other patients who have come to keep them company through the long treatments.

In fact, the interaction between patients is so important that those involved in the design sessions with the architects of the new project insisted that the layout of the new place be much like the old – a big, open area where everyone can sit together and chat and laugh.

“It’s so important to have that big room so we can talk and laugh and have fun together. It’s a big part of the coping process,” said Barb Fenske, a patient and the campaign chairperson for the Cancer Center Capital Campaign Committee. Fenske marveled at the lasting friendships that have sprung up between patients.

Curt Tauer, an infusion patient who has come to the department once a month for the last nine years, shares the sentiment of the department being like “family.”

“I have always been treated well by the nurses here. I’ve always had good experiences,” Tauer said.

“The patients tell me this is a special place,” said Amber Coil, RN. “Everyone treats each other like old friends, and the nurses are friendly and caring.”

The planned relocation, renovation and expansion of the department will provide this growing “family” the space, resources and efficiencies it needs to add to the already exceptional care patients are receiving there.



“The Cancer Center at New Ulm Medical Center is a special place for its many chemo and infusion patients. Our patients come from miles away to receive their treatment here because of the atmosphere of hope and friendship that we are known for. The new department will take the excellent care that patients are already receiving and put it into a peaceful, healing environment to match.”

– Joalle Holmberg, PA-C





# Join us

To create an expanded cancer center with additional services and a larger space, it will take a partnership of the medical center, our patients and our community. Our goal is to raise \$400,000 towards the \$875,000 building expansion project, and an additional \$100,000 to fund a garden of hope and future needs of the cancer center and its patients, for a total philanthropic goal of \$500,000. With your support, we'll achieve this goal, but more importantly, we'll achieve a cancer and infusion center that welcomes patients in a warm and spacious atmosphere and provides additional support and services we don't have today.

Thank you for considering a donation to the Cancer Center Expansion and Renovation Project which will enable New Ulm Medical Center, a not-for-profit organization, to continue to provide exceptional care to cancer and infusion patients in New Ulm and the surrounding communities.



"We are so fortunate in this region to be surrounded by a generous community that understands the importance of their community healthcare facility. We also know that this project will touch the hearts of many who want to ensure future patients also have an exceptional experience."

– Carisa Buegler  
NUMC Foundation Director



# Thank you

for your support of the  
New Ulm Medical Center  
Cancer Center

*Beautiful and graceful, varied  
and enchanting, small but approachable,  
butterflies lead you to the sunny side of life...  
everyone deserves a little sunshine.*

*– Jeffrey Glassberg*



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