

## Community Cancer Research Foundation Endowment

Cancer is a devastating diagnosis for greater than one million individuals and their families that are forced to face this disease each year. The Community Cancer Research Foundation, Inc. promotes the detection, diagnosis, treatment, education and prevention efforts of the Community Healthcare System by engaging in the acquisition of knowledge through clinical research. It takes approximately 14 years for an experimental drug to progress from the laboratory to U.S. consumers. The purpose of the cancer research clinical trials offered at Community Hospital is to gather and evaluate new information about new medications and treatment options.



Without clinical research it would not have been possible for a radical mastectomy to be replaced by a lumpectomy. Clinical research has provided curative therapy for young men with testicular cancer and for young men and women with Hodgkin's disease. Without clinical research it would not have been possible for ovarian cancer survival to increase or leukemia to be cured by a bone marrow transplant. Without clinical research it would not have been possible for some cancer outcomes to change from hopeless to hopeful.

In addition to research, the Foundation is committed to meeting the undeniable need to offer support to patients and families living with the disease. The Cancer Resource Centre, a support program of the Cancer Research Foundation, opened its doors in June of 2003 to provide psychosocial care to those facing cancer and their loved ones. Its mission to promote the well being of all people whose lives have been touched by cancer is fulfilled by offering support, education and encouragement. Weekly support groups led by professional counselors offer cancer patients, families, and friends an opportunity to share thoughts and explore remedies to confront treatments, stress and emotions. All services are offered free of charge and various support groups have been developed to meet the needs of afflicted victims. An average of 250 visitors comes to the Centre each month. As of September 2005, over 3,700 visitors have utilized the services of the Centre.

In order to improve the quality of care in Northwest Indiana, continued research and patient/family support is necessary. The Cancer Research Foundation, Inc. is supported by the Community Healthcare System and funded through donations, grants, in-kind gifts and volunteer service. Donations to The Community Cancer Research Foundation, Inc. Endowment Fund offer an opportunity to improve the quality of life for all those suffering from cancer.

Currently, almost one half million dollars is needed annually for our research, support and education efforts. Your gifts to The Community Cancer Research Foundation Endowment Fund will underwrite continued research and will generate hope and support for those struggling with a diagnosis of cancer. Your help will work toward a positive future for these important endeavors.

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