

The Chester County Hospital

Facing cancer can be frightening. Not only do patients wrestle with significant life questions, they struggle with decisions about where to seek care. Affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania's Abramson Cancer Center, The Chester County Hospital's Cancer Program offers personalized, patient-focused care in a setting close to home.

"Our cancer care services include medical oncology, surgery and radiation oncology," says Jean Caulfield, senior vice president of professional services at The Chester County Hospital. "From cancer coordinators to a dedicated medical staff, we are committed to helping patients and their families successfully navigate the continuum of care."

According to statistics, 864 newly diagnosed cancer patients were seen at the Hospital in 2007 – 499 of these were women, with breast cancer the diagnosis for almost half of them.

"Celebrating life and successful recoveries."

"Because of the incidence of breast cancer in this region, we saw an opportunity to centralize services for women," Caulfield says. The Hospital has established a Women's Specialty Center at its Fern Hill Campus. Here services such as gynecology, urogynecology, breast care services and radiology are consolidated into one location that was designed by women, for women. "A team of women physicians and clinicians have been instrumental in developing this specialized and seamless approach."

Cancer care involves more than just treating the disease. It consists of prevention, early detection, diagnosis and surgical management.

Research is another important component in the fight against cancer. The Hospital is affiliated with the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, which provides access to high-priority cancer treatment trials funded by the National Cancer Institute. Accredited by the Commission on Cancer, The Chester County Hospital also works with pharmaceutical companies on research

studies and is engaged in clinical trials in breast, gastrointestinal, kidney, lung, lymphoma, myeloma, ovarian and prostate cancers.

"Outreach and prevention education are other vital components of the care we provide," Caulfield says. Community-wide screenings are offered for breast, oral, colorectal, prostate and skin cancers. All of this is supplemented with support services such as wellness and survivorship programs, physical rehabilitation, and home, palliative and hospice care.

More than 2,000 Chester County residents participated in cancer-centered programs at the Hospital in 2008.

One such program designed for women with cancer is art therapy, in which survivors are encouraged to use various media to express their emotions. A recent exhibit at the Chester County Art Association in West Chester showcased the artists' works. "Our participants have become such a support for each other," said Sharon DeNault, certified art therapist, art therapy facilitator and a 28-year survivor. "In this group we focus on the positive."

To recognize the success of care and treatment, the Hospital holds its Cancer Survivor's Day every year. As part of the evening, the Russell R. Tyson Award of Hope is presented to an individual who gives of his or her time and energy to help cancer survivors.

It is a way to celebrate life and successful recoveries.

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Pictured: (left to right) Physician leadership of The Cancer Program of The Chester County Hospital includes Pamela P. Scott, M.D.; Dennis A. Berman, M.D.; and William P. Levin, M.D.
Photography by: Scott Rowan

