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DEBBIE'S STORY
IN HER
OWN WORDS.

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Debbie Powell and Ovarian Cancer

PERSEVERANCE AND GIFTS ALONG THE WAY

Only about 20% of ovarian cancers are found at an early stage, according to the American Cancer Society.

Keep in tune with your body's signals and talk to your healthcare provider when something doesn't seem right, or symptoms occur frequently.

Debbie Powell, Court Administrator for the 27th Judicial Circuit, is a confident and courageous woman. Her faith is strong and for most of her 60 years, she has enjoyed excellent health. That changed when she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2023. Now that she has completed chemotherapy through local cancer care services at Bates County Memorial Hospital, she has a clear vision of what this experience gave her.

"I want to be positive," Debbie said. "The only time I do get emotional is in the goodness of what has come from this. Not the sadness, not the stress or scariness, but the goodness."

Ovarian cancer can be sneaky. Debbie had no clear signals something was wrong until January 2023, but the gastrointestinal symptoms she had made her think something was wrong with her gall bladder. In October, the diagnosis of ovarian cancer was a shock.

"I have been on a journey since then," Debbie said. "It has involved chemotherapy, surgery, more chemotherapy, perseverance through those things, but a whole lot of gifts along the way, and blessings."

What were some of those gifts?

"It brings you such clarity over what does matter and what doesn't matter. Things and stuff do not matter."

Debbie's oncology team at Sarah Cannon Cancer Center helped her coordinate a care plan close to home to aid her comfort and convenience during her treatment plan, and that led her to Bates County Memorial Hospital (BCMh), where she was under the care of oncologist Jaswinder Singh, in collaboration with her gynecological specialists at Sarah Cannon.

Debbie was thrilled to learn she could also complete her chemotherapy at BCMh.

"I did think I would be going to this big infusion center," Debbie said. "You get in your mind that it's going to be high tech, just really great, when really...what's great is right here."

Private rooms for infusions and being surrounded by people who were invested in her success was another gift, to Debbie. Her support circle included her husband, Brad, family, close friends, her church family and work family, and her

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Making Room for More Cancer Care Close to Home

INFUSION CENTER TO OPEN IN JUNE



Team members dedicated many hours to this project including (from left) Rob Clover, Director of Plant Operations, Greg Weaver, CEO, Ann Donnohue, RN, Outpatient Specialty Clinics Manager and Jennifer Klinksick, RN, CNO.

Outpatient Specialty Clinics of Bates County Memorial Hospital will open an Infusion Center in June, located inside of the hospital one level down from the emergency department. The renovated space will be dedicated to cancer treatments, immunotherapy and other infusion treatments, and will have private and semi-private rooms for treating up to 10 patients at a time. The Oncology and Hematology infusion clinic at BCMH currently serves over 160 patients ranging from Bates and surrounding communities, including Henry, St. Clair, Cass and Vernon counties with an average of about 300 infusions per month.

All are invited to an Open House for our new Infusion Center on July 21, 2:00 - 4:00 pm at Bates County Memorial Hospital - Emergency Department Entrance.

BCMh NEWS



In May, we welcomed **Kristina Anderson** as our new Human Resources Director. Kristina is passionate about employee engagement, recruitment and retention.

Welcome, Kristina!

Thanks to Our Donors

This spring, donors generously gave to our Infusion Center Renovation project.

- **Bates County Community Health Foundation** – \$10,000 for patient recliners. Their donation is recognized by a brass bell for patients to mark the end of their cancer treatments.
- **Montrose School District** – \$1,065 from their 2024 Pink Night Fundraiser for medical trays
- **BCMh Auxiliary** – \$21,871 for blanket warmers and furniture

Later this year, a donor wall installed in the Center will recognize charitable gifts from these and future donors for this important resource for our community.



The Bates County Community Health Foundation is seeking teams and sponsors for the **20th Annual 2-Person/27-Hole Golf Tournament.**

The fundraiser takes place on Sunday, June 23, 2024 at the Butler Country Club. This year, BCCHF has kindly elected to donate proceeds from the Golf Tournament to benefit the Infusion Center Renovation project.

To learn more or to sign up, visit www.bcmhospital.com/foundation/bcchf-fundraising-projects/ or call Shawn McVey, 816-914-0901.

Debbie Powell and Ovarian Cancer *continued from page 1*

oncology nurses who were sensitive to her comfort and needs during chemotherapy. For Debbie, fighting cancer became a group effort, and she never felt alone.

"You can see it on their faces and hear it in their voices. The win isn't just for you, it's for everyone. I feel like today, sitting here, I got a win."

From diagnosis in October 2023 to completion of chemotherapy on March 18, 2024, Debbie is well on her way to recovery.

She feels the process was, for her, doable.

She said, "I want that to be how other people feel. I want them to know—don't give up, it will be okay, and you can do it. And very likely, you can do it right here where you can establish a broad circle of friends, and it's going to be better for you."



BCMh Outpatient Specialty Clinics

Scheduling: 660-200-7006

Audiology

Cardiology

Endocrinology

ENT (Ear Nose, Throat)

Gastroenterology

General Surgery

Nephrology

Oncology/Hematology

Ophthalmology

Orthopedics

Pain Management

Podiatry

Pulmonary

Urology

Vestibular Evaluations

AUXILIARY HIGHLIGHTS



Volunteer of the Year 2023: Bob Thomas

A volunteer since 2016, we appreciate everything Bob does for our hospital.



Happy Retirement, Pat Friederich!

Pat retired April 1, 2024 after 30 years of service. Thank you, Pat, for everything.

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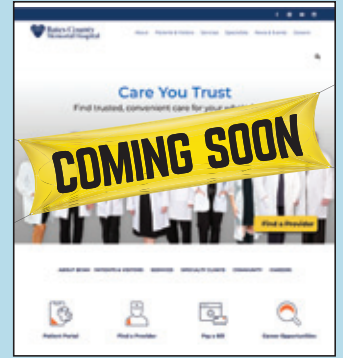
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VitalSigns

Free Sports Physicals

Our Family Care Clinic providers are donating their time to give Bates County students a free sports physical!

Our rural health clinics in Adrian, Butler and Rich Hill will take turns offering full-day sports physical clinics during the week of June 17-21. Students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for the visit. Visit www.bcmhospital.com/news/ for more details and to see the full schedule.

Schedule
wellness or sick visits
for your whole family.



Call Family Care Clinics:
660-200-3627

