

NewYork-Presbyterian **Weill Cornell Medical Center**

Semi-Annual Progress Report **Prepared for Todd Brice**

The funds raised to assist the oncology patients at the NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center are continuing to make a difference by providing much needed support that is traditionally not covered by insurance. We submit this report to provide you with a bi-annual update on how impactful your gift is and continues to be for patients receiving oncology care at the Medical Center.

Your gift continues to aid a vulnerable patient population receiving life-saving care. Thank you for your partnership and for helping those in need.

Funds Distributed

As previously reported, transportation was found to be the greatest need for patients being treated at the infusion center. Often, a patient may not feel well enough to take public transportation or, to drive themselves to or from their appointment. A corporate LYFT continues to be utilized for this purpose. Parking vouchers are also being issued to help cover parking garage fees for patients who have their own method of transportation but still need financial assistance.

- **Total amount dispersed** (September 23, 2024 – March 25, 2025): **\$17,084**
- **Total number of rides to the Medical Center:** **231**

Since the fund's inception (late April 2022), a total of **\$59,847** has been utilized to assist our patients.

All of the patients that were given rides through this grant expressed their gratitude to the grant, as it allowed them to be able to access their medical care at NYP. Most patients used all five round trip rides and found this grant incredibly helpful in accessing their care. While the circumstances of each patient's needs varied, all the patients needed assistance in getting to their treatments at a time in which their financial and social supports were limited.

Many of the patients had a need for short-term assistance this fund could provide. Some were waiting for transportation benefits such as Access-A-Ride or, for their benefits through Medicaid to be initiated. Patients without transportation benefits, who had great financial need, appreciated having the burden of expensive transportation to their cancer treatments lifted.

Patient Stories

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We are pleased to provide you with these brief narratives regarding some of the patients who have benefitted greatly from this fund.

Patient RS said to us "We are so lucky to have this transportation grant!"

Patient RS was a 60-year-old man with advanced esophageal cancer. He was someone who did not frequent doctors. He was hospitalized as a result of a medical emergency which brought him to our hospital. While he lived in Westchester, he and his family decided that the best care he could receive was at NYP/WCMC. He had multiple hospitalizations and complications related to his medical care. He lived with his sister who was his staunch supporter and advocate. The patient also had Medicaid. We were told by Logistic care that he could have medical transportation. Without fail though, he would have his transportation arranged and then on the day of treatment the car would not show up at the patient's home. This happened repeatedly, resulting in his having missed treatment a couple of times.

When I learned about the grant, I was able to reach out to Samantha Wilson, who literally through the use of your grant saved the day! She was able to get this patient and sister several Lyft rides to and from oncology. On those occasions when I reached out to Samantha, the sister would express such gratitude. It was so anxiety provoking that our patient who had insurance and was engaged with his doctor and treatment team, would face obstacles with access to care. The grant helped mitigate some of the equity issues this family faced. Sadly, the patient died. On another note, his sister also died about 8 months later. I mention this because I cannot understate the stress she was under and what a relief the grant was for her and her brother. Thank you for this important resource for our patients!

Patient JL has undergone a lot of treatment and a stem cell transplant for her blood cancer. In addition to this, she is a caregiver for her sick husband and she lost her sister to cancer last year:

While patient JL has Medicaid benefits, there have been a couple of times when there was a barrier to her accessing this. The Brice Fund provided her with Lyft rides that allowed her to travel to her important clinic visits. It was clear that this served as an enormous source of relief for her during these challenging times.

Patient OL was faced with the difficult decision to travel to NY from Washington, DC in order to receive a cord blood transplant.

Patient OL faced much financial hardship as she had to find lodging for the months following her hospital discharge. This grant was immensely helpful to her as it alleviated the burden of paying for transportation in addition to other high expenses.

In Gratitude

From September 23rd, 2024 to March 25th, 2025 the Oncology Resource Fund has provided a total of 231 rides to the Meyer Cancer Center at Starr 3 Infusion Center, totaling \$17,084. From the time of the grant's inception, based on the \$65,000 donated, we have awarded \$59,847.

The social work team at the infusion center is immensely grateful for allowing them to assist patients in need through this meaningful grant. This gift is truly making a difference by providing the team with a sense of hope and allowing them to meet patients' needs when often there are limited resources available to do so.

We trust that you, your family, and your friends can see how this special gift in memory of Ana has grown into an invaluable source of support. Because of this fund, there is one less cause for worry for so many of our patients receiving vital treatment.

Thank you on behalf of all the patients whose lives you have touched with your generosity!