



Every Patient, Every Moment

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

NORTHSIDE
HOSPITAL
CANCER INSTITUTE

2025

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

At Northside Hospital Cancer Institute (NHCI), our mission has always been clear: to deliver the highest quality cancer care with compassion, innovation and integrity. This year, we continued to build on that foundation by expanding access to advanced treatments, strengthening partnerships and ensuring every patient receives the personalized care they deserve.

Growth has been both strategic and meaningful. We expanded programs, opened new clinics, and enhanced our research and clinical trial offerings, bringing the latest advancements closer to the communities we serve. With four new clinics within the High-Risk

Program, patients can receive free breast cancer risk assessments, enhanced cancer screenings, genetic testing and guidance on lifestyle modifications, offering early detection. Our expanded Lung Nodule Clinic network now provides access to diagnostic services and innovative, minimally invasive robotic bronchoscopy for hard-to-reach lung nodules across Atlanta, Canton, Cumming and

Lawrenceville. Northside Hospital is proud that its reach now extends across over 60 cancer center locations. Every investment we make is guided by a simple goal: to ensure that patients and families can access world-class cancer care close to home.

Quality remains our hallmark. Our teams achieved national recognition for excellence across multiple cancer specialties, reflecting our commitment to evidence-based practice, safety and outstanding outcomes. From surgical innovation to multidisciplinary collaboration, we continue to set the standard for comprehensive cancer care in our region and beyond. For the 17th consecutive year, Northside Hospital's Blood and Marrow Transplant (BMT) Program has exceeded predicted one-year survival outcomes for U.S. transplant centers – and is the only program to achieve this historic milestone. We also successfully completed reaccreditation with the Commission on Cancer as an Integrated Network Cancer Program.

At the heart of everything we

do is our focus **on the patient experience**. Each day, our physicians, nurses and staff strive to deliver care that honors the whole person – body, mind and spirit. We listen to our patients, we learn from them, and we continually evolve to meet their needs with compassion and respect. Our teams are with every patient for every moment – supporting their care partners and families through education, creating connections and celebrating survivorship. Each year we provide many opportunities to celebrate and support our patients and their families including the Patient & Care Partner Education Conference, Metastatic Breast Cancer Retreat, Cancer Survivor Celebration and the BMT Survivor Celebration.

As we look to the future, we remain deeply committed to advancing cancer care through excellence, collaboration and innovation. Together – with our patients, families and community partners – we are not only treating cancer, but we are also transforming lives.



Guilherme Cantuaria, MD, PhD
Chair, Cancer Committee



Drew Snyder, MHA, FACHE
Administrator, Cancer Committee

Patti Owen

A Legacy of Growth and Excellence at Northside Hospital Cancer Institute

After 37 years of dedicated leadership, Patti Owen, MN, RN, retired this September. Her legacy at Northside Hospital has been a driving force behind the remarkable establishment and transformation of the Northside Hospital Cancer Institute (NHCI). Patti was a visionary leader who consistently anticipated the next strategic step and understood how to bring all the elements together to achieve it. Under her leadership, NHCI achieved multiple national accreditations and research programs that reflect a deep commitment to quality, safety and cutting-edge care. These include participation in the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program and the NCI Community Oncology Research Program; Commission on Cancer accreditation; the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers; National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer; and Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy. Each of these endorsements recognizes Northside Hospital's adherence to rigorous standards and its ability to deliver coordinated, evidence-based cancer care.

Patti also oversaw extraordinary clinical growth. NHCI grew from a single hospital cancer center to one of the largest community cancer programs in the U.S., demonstrating expanded access, stronger referral

relationships, and a sustained focus on patient-centered programs. That growth was matched by programmatic innovation including the successful start of its bone marrow transplant (BMT) program, which is the only BMT center in the U.S. to exceed predicted survival outcomes for 17 years running and Georgia's first Gamma Knife radiosurgery program.

Beyond numbers and accreditations, Patti's work built the institutional infrastructure – multidisciplinary teams, clinical trials participation, and quality systems – necessary to sustain long-term excellence. Her leadership not only raised the standard of care at Northside Hospital but also ensured that more patients receive timely, highly specialized treatment in the communities where they live. None of this would have been possible without the extensive network Patti created through relationship-building and collaboration.

Patti Owen's tenure at Northside Hospital Cancer Institute is defined by measurable growth, national recognition, and programmatic firsts that together have reshaped cancer care across the region. All our patients, their families and the entire Northside Hospital Cancer Institute community, including our staff and leadership, have benefited greatly from Patti's exceptional contributions and dedication.



Access and Growth

Expanding Access to Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Through the High-Risk Program

Northside Hospital Cancer Institute has expanded its High-Risk Program with the opening of new clinics across its health system, now serving four locations.

Launched in 2022 at Northside Hospital Atlanta, the High-Risk Program provides specialized care for individuals at increased risk of developing cancer, with an initial focus on breast cancer.

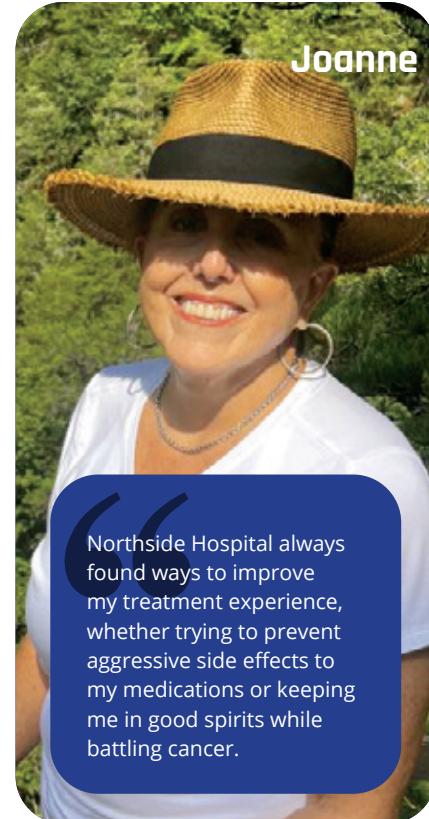
Patients may qualify for the program based on family history,

genetic mutations, or abnormal screening or biopsy results. Each clinic offers a multidisciplinary approach, bringing together genetic counselors, dietitians and other specialists. Patients receive individualized care plans that may include enhanced cancer screenings, genetic testing, lifestyle modifications and ongoing surveillance.

Our goal is to extend survival, improve quality of life and reduce anxiety for high-risk individuals through proper surveillance, early detection and timely intervention.

As the program continues to grow, Northside Hospital remains committed to advancing cancer prevention and early detection, ensuring that more patients across Georgia have access to the care and support they need.

HIGH RISK CLINICS



Northside Hospital always found ways to improve my treatment experience, whether trying to prevent aggressive side effects to my medications or keeping me in good spirits while battling cancer.

Expanding Access to Early Lung Cancer Detection

Northside Hospital Cancer Institute continues to expand access to leading-edge lung cancer care with the opening of a new Lung Nodule Clinic on the Northside Hospital Atlanta campus – the fourth in a growing network dedicated to the early detection and treatment of lung disease.

The Lung Nodule Clinics bring together advanced technology, coordinated care and expert collaboration to ensure patients receive timely, accurate diagnoses and personalized treatment.

» Northside's Lung Nodule Clinics are now located in Atlanta, Canton, Cumming and Lawrenceville.

- » The clinics evaluate patients with suspicious lung nodules, found incidentally or through Northside Hospital's Lung Cancer Screening Program.
- » Each site offers robotic bronchoscopy for minimally invasive biopsy of small, hard-to-reach lung nodules, allowing for faster, safer and more accurate diagnoses.
- » A multidisciplinary team, including pulmonologists, radiologists, thoracic surgeons, medical oncologists and radiation oncologists, collaborates on individualized treatment plans. Nurse navigators support patients through every step of care.

The addition of a lung nodule clinic provides another critical pathway for patients to receive rapid, specialized evaluation when lung cancer is suspected. Timeliness of care is essential, especially when facing a diagnosis as serious as lung cancer.

Through its expanding Lung Nodule Clinic network, Northside Hospital is strengthening its commitment to early diagnosis, coordinated treatment and compassionate care to help patients achieve the best possible outcomes close to home.



My doctors have given me lifesaving care but I'm deeply aware that luck plays a huge part too. Not everyone is as lucky as I've been. Each day that I can move my body and enjoy my wife, two grown children and two grandkids is a good day.

Northside Hospital Expands Support for MDS Patients

Northside Hospital Cancer Institute's Hematologic Malignancy Program now offers dedicated support for patients with myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS).

MDS is a complex group of bone marrow disorders that can lead to low blood counts, chronic symptoms and, in some cases, progression to acute leukemia. Treatment and monitoring require a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach.

The expansion includes access to a blood cancer coordinator, who guides patients from diagnosis

through treatment with one-on-one support, education and assistance navigating the Northside Hospital system.

Patients also benefit from Northside Hospital Cancer Institute's robust team of specialists and access to novel therapies and clinical trials.

The journey of a patient with MDS can span multiple specialties and require significant supportive measures to offer the best outcome. Our program ensures patients get the comprehensive diagnostic testing and collaborative care they need — plus support to navigate the system and transition between the different specialties through every step of their treatment journey.





Quality

Northside BMT Exceeds Survival Expectations, 17 Years Running

Northside Hospital Cancer Institute's Blood and Marrow Transplant (BMT) Program

has again ranked among the best in the United States for bone marrow transplant survival outcomes.

For the 17th consecutive year (2009-2025), Northside Hospital's program exceeded predicted one-year survival outcomes for U.S. transplant centers, according to the 2024 Transplant Center Survival Report by the Centers for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR).

Northside Hospital Cancer Institute's BMT Program is the only U.S. transplant program to achieve this historic milestone.

Each year, CIBMTR analyzes survival data for U.S. transplant centers performing allogeneic transplants, providing an overall risk-adjusted analysis indicating whether one-year survival is as expected, above expected or below expected for each specific transplant center compared to an average transplant center.

- » Patients at Northside Hospital had an **78.9% one-year survival rate**, placing the program in the top 95th percentile for risk-adjusted survival outcomes.
- » Northside Hospital operates the largest allogeneic BMT center in Georgia and one of the largest in the Southeast.
- » It's also the only center in Georgia to achieve outcomes statistically superior to predicted rates, and one of just 8 U.S. centers (less than 10% of all centers) to earn this designation in the latest reporting cycle.

Northside Hospital Cancer Institute Earns Top National Rating for Lung Cancer Surgery Outcomes

Northside Hospital Cancer Institute has received a "Better than Expected" rating — the highest possible quality designation — from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) for excellence in patient care and outcomes following lung cancer surgery.

This national recognition places NHCI among the top thoracic surgery programs in the United States and Canada, reflecting superior performance in key measures such as surgical mortality, postoperative complications and overall patient outcomes.

The STS rating, previously known as the "three-star" designation, is based on data from the General Thoracic Surgery Database (GTSD) — the largest thoracic surgical

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Northside Hospital BMT and CAR T-Cell Survivor Reunion

Taking Steps to Provide the Best Quality for Our Patients

Quality Accreditations, Certifications & Designations



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database in North America. The GTSD includes outcomes from more than 1,000 physicians and over 616,000 procedures, benchmarking programs across the U.S. and Canada. Only a small percentage of participants achieve the top-tier "Better than Expected" distinction.

Northside Hospital's achievement underscores its reputation as a regional leader in cancer care and highlights the success of its multidisciplinary thoracic surgery program, dedicated to delivering the highest standards of safety, quality and patient-centered care.



Process Improvement Care Coordination Pilot for Patients Diagnosed With Breast Cancer

In 2022, the Northside Hospital Breast Program participated in the national Patient Reported Observations on Medical Procedure Timeliness for Breast Patients (PROMPT) study. Findings revealed opportunities for improvement and prompted a closer examination of local processes influencing timeliness of care.

In 2023, Northside Hospital launched a quality improvement effort focused on expanding breast MRI capacity in response to growing surgical feedback. While MRI access improved, a broader review conducted in 2024 identified additional factors contributing to delays. These included variability in communicating abnormal imaging and pathology results, inconsistent processes for scheduling follow-up imaging, and delays in arranging surgical consultations.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AIM

The initiative sought to identify contributors to delays in breast cancer care and implement a targeted intervention to reduce time from biopsy to first treatment, with a goal of shortening overall timelines.

PILOT ELIGIBILITY

The pilot focused on primary care and OB/GYN physicians referring to three Atlanta imaging centers, and breast cancer cases with positive biopsies originating from these locations.

The initiative sought to identify contributors to delays in breast cancer care and implement a targeted intervention... with a goal of shortening overall timelines.

CARE COORDINATION INTERVENTION

To address communication and scheduling gaps, Northside Hospital introduced a coordinated, patient-centered intervention:

1. Direct communication of biopsy results: Radiologists began informing patients of positive biopsy findings directly.
2. Immediate referral to Breast Care Coordination: Radiologists sent patient information to the Breast Care Coordinator at the time of results.
3. Active coordination of next steps: The Breast Care Coordinator contacted patients promptly to arrange ordered follow-up imaging—such as MRI—scheduled surgical consultations, and initiated referrals to the breast navigation team.

IMPACT ON TIMELINESS

The pilot achieved meaningful reductions across several phases of care.

- » Biopsy to first office visit: 30%
- » First office visit to MRI completion: 59%
- » MRI completion to start of treatment: 44%
- » Biopsy to start of treatment: 21%

PATIENT AND PROGRAM BENEFITS

The coordinated-care approach yielded benefits beyond improved metrics. Patients reported highly positive experiences, and the program strengthened patient retention within Northside Hospital. The pilot also highlighted additional opportunities for improvement, including process inconsistencies with external referring practices, communication gaps, logistical barriers and insurance-related delays.

Collaboration increased across radiology, surgery, navigation, and care coordination teams, aligning efforts around a shared goal of enhancing patient care.

NEXT STEPS

Building on the success of the pilot, Northside Hospital plans to:

- » Add a comprehensive breast “check box” to Women’s Imaging orders to streamline referrals and communication.
- » Expand the pilot to Northside Forsyth and Alpharetta by engaging breast surgeons and referring PCP/GYN practices, training breast care nurses and radiologists, and defining a standardized implementation timeline.
- » Continue managing patients through the coordinated model at Northside Atlanta.
- » Continue monitoring outcomes to ensure sustained improvement.

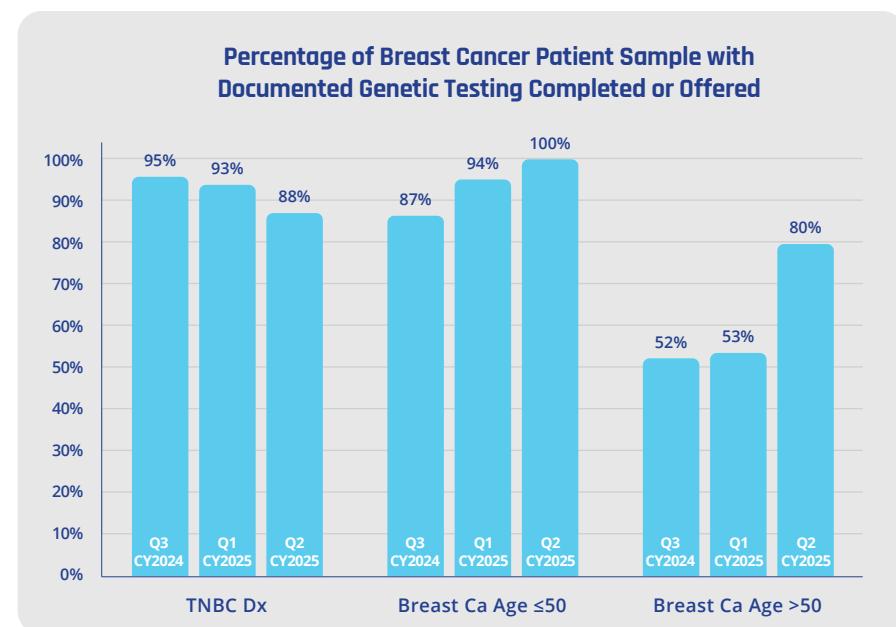
Genetics Access Project for Patients Diagnosed With Breast Cancer

National guidelines recommend that all newly diagnosed breast cancer patients receive genetic testing for BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations. These results not only help patients understand their risk for a second breast cancer, but may also guide treatment choices. For example, patients who test positive for BRCA1 or BRCA2 may be eligible for PARP inhibitor therapy, depending on disease characteristics. Genetic findings can also provide important risk information for family members.

Multiple national organizations recommend testing for BRCA1, BRCA2, PALB2 and other genes when personal or family history suggests hereditary risk. However, national data show gaps in testing: only 26% of female breast cancer patients and 50% of male patients receive germline testing. Increasing access and ensuring more providers are knowledgeable in cancer genetics are essential steps toward offering testing to all eligible newly diagnosed patients.

AIM

This quality improvement project aims to increase the number of newly diagnosed breast cancer patients across the Northside Hospital Cancer Network who are offered genetic testing and/or counseling by December 2025. The National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers recommends a 20% rate of improvement. At Northside Hospital, baseline performance



was already strong in two of the three targeted groups (patients with triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) and patients diagnosed at age 50 or younger) leaving limited room for measurable improvement. The third group, patients diagnosed at age 50 or older, had significantly lower rates of documented genetic testing discussions, revealing a clear opportunity for progress.

RESULTS

Data was collected for three groups of newly diagnosed breast cancer patients:

- » TNBC at any age
- » Invasive breast cancer at age ≤50 years
- » Invasive breast cancer at age >50 years

For each time point, baseline (Q3 2024), Q1 2025, and Q2 2025, 20 cases were randomly selected. Compliance was defined as documentation of prior genetic testing or documentation that testing was offered.

KEY FINDINGS:

- » TNBC: Slight decline from baseline, though performance remained high (95% baseline compliance).
- » ≤50 years: Compliance improved by 13% from baseline to Q2 2025.
- » >50 years: Compliance improved by 28% over the same period.

Interventions included presentations at monthly quality meetings, education for medical oncology teams on guideline-based hereditary risk assessment and documentation standards, and updates to the electronic medical record to support consistent documentation.





Patient Experience

Finding Strength in Support: Building Brotherhood Through Shared Experience

Facing a cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming, but for many men connection and community have become powerful sources of strength.

This year, a group of prostate cancer survivors connected, starting their own support team that has become a lifeline for men at different stages of treatment and recovery. The group meets regularly to share experiences, compare treatment options, discuss side effects and, most



importantly, offer understanding and encouragement.

Members describe the group as a space where honesty and vulnerability are welcomed. Conversations often cover topics that men might otherwise avoid – the realities of surgery, radiation, recovery, and the emotional toll of a cancer diagnosis. By normalizing these discussions, the group helps reduce stigma and isolation. They

also discuss how cancer affects their relationships with others – spouses, partners, family and close friends.

The peer-to-peer support also extends beyond meetings. Participants stay in touch to check on each other's progress, provide reassurance during moments of uncertainty, and celebrate milestones together. When a member faces recurrence or new treatment decisions, others step in with practical advice and hope born from firsthand experience.

Many group members now serve as advocates and mentors, volunteering with NHCI's

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Northside by the Numbers - 2025



5
Additional
Radiation
Oncology
Locations



>60
Cancer Care
Locations

TOP 10
Accruing Sites NCORP



>21K
Psych-Oncology
Patient Encounters



>22K Annual Patient Encounters
by Oncology Dietitians



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Patient and Care Partner Advisory Council and participating in hospital events such as educational conferences and community outings for survivors. Their shared goal is to improve patient experience, expand outreach, and ensure that every individual feels supported through their journey.

The impact is clear: men who might once have faced cancer in silence now find strength through connection. The camaraderie not only eases the emotional burden but also empowers participants to speak openly about prostate health, screening, and survivorship.

Together, these patients are building more than friendships, they are creating a culture of openness, support and resilience that reminds others: no one has to face cancer alone.





Community Outreach Program

Delivering Excellence in Every Moment

The Northside Hospital Cancer Institute (NHCI) Community Outreach and Engagement Program extends our mission into the broader community, fostering relationships with patients, residents and healthcare professionals. Through education, prevention and screening services, and widespread communication, the program promotes health and well-being for patients, staff and community members. Activities occur both on our Northside Hospital campuses and throughout the surrounding area.

Key Program Highlights

» Staff and Community Education:

NHCI serves as a trusted resource for cancer education and awareness, providing presentations in schools, churches, community



Boxes arrive at MORE THAN PINK for setup

organizations and at family-friendly health events. In 2025, the program coordinated 90 speaking engagements to provide education throughout our communities.

» **Partnership Development:** The program fosters collaborative relationships with organizations

whose mission and goals align with those of the NHCI to address health disparities and improve the community's health status, such as the American Cancer Society, Georgia Ovarian Cancer Alliance and the American Lung Association. NHCI currently holds 290 partnerships.



Northside donated 1,300 gift bags for MORE THAN PINK walkers

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NHCI display area at MORE THAN PINK

» **Community Screenings:** NHCI coordinates regular skin and prostate cancer screenings around the community and executed 1,048 screenings in 2025. Free interpretation services and eligibility-based screenings ensure accessibility for all participants. The program also heavily promotes breast and lung cancer screenings, available by appointment at our imaging centers. The mobile ScreenAtlanta mammography van provides breast cancer screening access to underserved populations.

» **Targeted Health Initiatives:**

The program leads vaping education efforts, providing guidance and resources to schools, faith-based organizations, colleges and community partners to reduce risk and improve public health. This year, 89 presentations were given at 40 high schools, 39 middle schools, five colleges and at five community events. These presentations reached over 8,600 students, teachers, parents and community members.

» **Sponsorships and Special Events:**

Events: NHCI participates in high-profile community and professional events, including the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, PanCan PurpleStride and Blood Cancer United Light

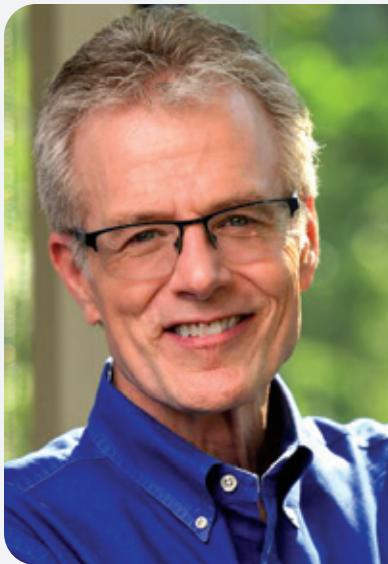
the Night, raising awareness and visibility of the Institute.

One such event is the Susan G. Komen MORE THAN PINK walk held each fall. As the top local sponsor, Northside Hospital commits fully to all aspects of the event – from fundraising and team building, to providing gift bags and being on site at the walk from 5:00 am to 11:00 am. In total, this one event required 306 hours of staff and volunteer time to successfully execute.

Through these efforts, the Community Outreach Program ensures NHCI's impact extends beyond the hospital walls, improving access to care, promoting cancer awareness, and strengthening community health across the region.



Over 6,000 attendees at Susan G. Komen MORE THAN PINK walk



AI

Fighting cancer is a team sport. I'm thankful for the entire team at Northside Hospital Cancer Institute — from the welcoming faces at the front desks to the unsung heroes behind the scenes and the dedicated medical professionals who cared deeply and stood with me throughout my treatment.

They're extraordinary human beings, and we can't remind them of that often enough.



Every Patient, Every Moment Northside Is There

Our teams stand beside every patient at every moment, supporting care partners and families through education, fostering meaningful connections, and honoring survivorship. Each year, we offer numerous opportunities to celebrate and support our community.

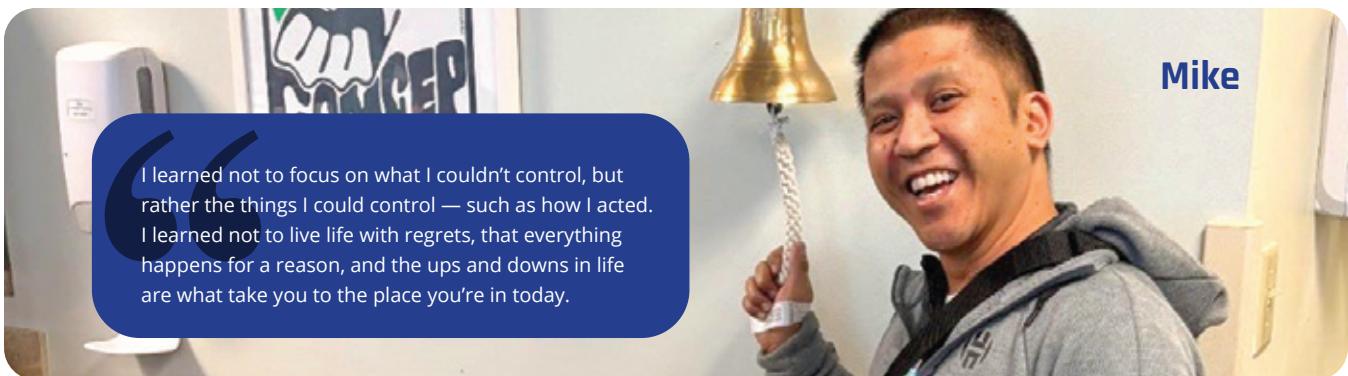


"I felt extremely supported and was so happy to see familiar faces from the volunteers, survivors and Northside staff."

Patient & Care Partner Education Conference

The Northside Hospital Cancer Institute hosted its fourth annual Patient and Care Partner Education Conference. The event offered opportunities for socializing and meeting other patients and care partners to share stories and information. Twenty-eight community organizations and advocacy groups (including Northside behavioral health, genetics, navigation, nutrition, rehabilitation, and research) were there to share information and resources with all patients, survivors and care partners. Educational presentations covered complementary and alternative medicine, mental health and support, bone and heart health.

"Thank you for a very informative conference! I've been attending since it started and every year it gets better. Please keep up the good work!"



I learned not to focus on what I couldn't control, but rather the things I could control — such as how I acted. I learned not to live life with regrets, that everything happens for a reason, and the ups and downs in life are what take you to the place you're in today.

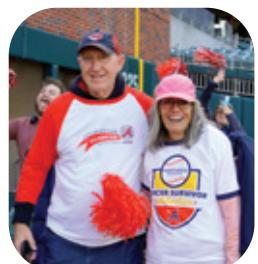
Metastatic Breast Cancer Retreat

The annual Metastatic Breast Cancer retreat is an offering of rest and rejuvenation for our patients living with stage 4 breast cancer and the care partner of their choice - a spouse, relative or close friend. Over the years, the feedback we have received is that a lot of down time to relax and the chance to connect with others who are having similar experiences over facilitated group meetings and shared meals is what is most appreciated.



Survivor Retreat

The Northside Hospital Cancer Institute's annual Survivor Retreat is a free, three-day weekend retreat for adults who have been diagnosed with and/or treated for cancer at a Northside Hospital facility. The retreat is a time to connect with others on a similar journey and discover similar challenges and struggles, along with embracing coping skills and celebrating the present.



Survivor Celebration

The Northside Hospital Foundation hosts an annual celebration and community event as we honor Northside Hospital Cancer Survivors.





As we look ahead to 2026, our focus remains clear and unwavering. We will continue expanding access so patients can receive timely, high-quality cancer care across our entire network. We will strengthen systemness, ensuring every site delivers a consistent, coordinated experience grounded in shared standards and collaborative practice. And we will advance innovation that directly improves patient outcomes—leveraging new technologies, research and care models that make a measurable difference.

NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL CANCER INSTITUTE

BuiltToBeatCancer.com

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