

BRINGING  
*hope*  
HOME TO  
HARNETT  
COUNTY



YOUR COMMUNITY.  
YOUR HOSPITAL.  
YOUR CHANCE TO  
*make a difference.*



The Harnett Health story begins with the philanthropic vision of one man, Nathan M. Johnson, Sr. In 1937, Dunn, North Carolina had grown from a small railroad stop into an active, thriving city. Yet within Harnett County, there was only one hospital serving private patients. Mr. Johnson saw the need for a community hospital open to everyone, and made an anonymous donation to make this vision a reality. In 1956, he made another contribution for an expansion project and allowed his gifts to be made public by renaming the hospital in honor of his beloved mother, Betsy Johnson. **Without Nathan Johnson's generosity and concern for the well-being of Harnett County citizens, Betsy Johnson Hospital would only be a dream and not the cornerstone of our community today.**

Over the past 85 years, Harnett Health has added Central Harnett Hospital and grown into a broad network of healthcare providers. As we continue to grow in the 21st century, Harnett Health is committed to expanding access to healthcare in our community, just as Mr. Johnson envisioned. We know we must increase our capacity to ensure that we can provide exceptional care to everyone who walks through our doors.

In March 2021, Harnett Health became part of the Cape Fear Valley Health family. At that time, Cape Fear Valley CEO Mike Nagowski said, "We're devoted to investing in Harnett Health's infrastructure. As more healthcare is provided on an outpatient basis, we're focused on expanding and enhancing services, so both of Harnett's hospitals are better positioned to offer the care the community needs."

***Bringing Hope Home to Harnett County*** is an effort to invest in our health system today, so that we are prepared to care for our communities in the future. Recent investments have included new primary care clinics that have brought more specialists to the area – reducing the need to travel out of town for care.

Our next step will be constructing a 70,000-square-foot medical arts complex on the campus of Central Harnett Hospital with a new Cancer Center offering a full spectrum of cancer care, including radiation oncology services. With this new facility, cancer patients can receive necessary treatments in one place – and close to home.

This is your opportunity to make a difference at our hospital, in our community. Join us as we look forward to the future of healthcare in Harnett County.

Gene Lewis III  
Chair, Harnett Health Foundation  
Trustee, Harnett Health





# We're **COMMITTED** to helping patients stay local for every aspect of their care.

## *the need*

Central Harnett Hospital in Lillington is proud to offer cancer services, including diagnosis and chemotherapy, to patients throughout Harnett County. Annual cancer patient visits at this facility have grown by 40% since 2020 – despite a small space with only nine infusion chairs. **In its current location, Harnett's Cancer Center cannot expand to meet growing patient needs nor improve the quality or breadth of services available.**

While the Harnett Cancer Center delivers cancer diagnosis and chemotherapy, it does not currently have the ability to offer radiation therapy, nor is there another option for radiation treatment available within Harnett County. At least half of cancer patients receive radiation as part of a comprehensive cancer treatment plan, often administered through daily sessions over a course of several weeks. Without a local option, our patients are required to travel many miles to receive radiation therapy. Frequent travel is both difficult and expensive for cancer patients, who are feeling ill and experiencing a great deal of stress regarding their health and finances. Transportation can also be burdensome on patients' families.

## *our vision*

**A new, comprehensive Cancer Center means more patients can stay in Harnett County for every aspect of their treatment, close to their families and support systems.** Through this project, we anticipate expanding our Harnett-based cancer services to include radiation oncology with the latest technologies and adding 17,000 square feet of space to provide greater care for more patients. With a dedicated Radiation Oncologist on staff, a patient's entire care team will now be accessible in one location.

Located on the campus of Central Harnett Hospital, the Harnett Cancer Center will be the cornerstone of a new medical office building spanning three floors and 70,000 square feet. In addition to the Cancer Center, the building will potentially include a retail pharmacy, ExpressCare, and offices for specialists in Orthopedics, Ear Nose and Throat, Neurology, Urology and Cardiology.





## Proposed features of the new Medical Arts Building with the Cancer Center



A **LINEAR ACCELERATOR (LINAC)** will provide radiation therapy that targets and destroys cancer cells while sparing healthy tissue – the most advanced technology for aggressive cancer treatment.

A **CT SCANNER** will identify early signs of cancer, producing 3D images for a more accurate diagnosis.

The **INFUSION BAY** will nearly double the number of infusion chairs to 16 and offer views onto a tranquil courtyard garden, providing chemotherapy to more patients and making their experience more comfortable and soothing.

**PRIVATE PATIENT ROOMS** and **CONSULTATION SPACES** will provide a space for care teams to comfort and consult with patients and their families.

A **VOLUNTEER OFFICE** will provide a designated space for community members who offer their time and resources to enhance patient cancer.

A **RADIATION ONCOLOGIST** will join the Cancer Center team, bringing together all cancer care providers in one location for improved patient care and collaboration.

## *perspective from the front lines*



Madhuri Vithala, MD, came to Harnett Health in 2020 with more than a decade of medical oncology experience, most recently at Duke University Medical Center. She was drawn to serve in this community because she saw the need for comprehensive cancer care at home and the chance to make a real impact.

From her perspective on the frontlines of patient care, Dr. Vithala is excited about what Harnett's new Cancer Center will make possible. "With more space, we will be able to treat more patients."

Dr. Vithala emphasized the importance of bringing radiation services to the community. "Right now, if a patient needs radiation, they have to travel all the way to Fayetteville or to Raleigh. That is really difficult on cancer patients who are already going through chemotherapy and having side effects. For those services to be available locally, I think that is going to be amazing."

"The Harnett Cancer Center has an awesome team and I would recommend them highly. I don't miss the treatments, but I miss the people. They genuinely care about you and getting you through this journey. You're not alone!"

### Betty Bass

Breast cancer survivor and patient of Dr. Vithala who received her chemotherapy treatment at Harnett Cancer Center.



## outcomes

Improved access to care and improved health outcomes are the ultimate goals for any additions to Cape Fear Valley Health.

In North Carolina, demand for cancer treatment is expected to outpace the number of oncologists within the next decade. A comprehensive Cancer Center, fully equipped with state-of-the-art technology, will ensure our community attracts and retains the top-notch physicians we will need in the future.

Local access to radiation therapy will improve health outcomes for our cancer patients. Studies show that longer travel times for radiation can negatively impact clinical outcomes, quality of life and reduce likelihood of finishing necessary treatment.

## how you can help

The Harnett Health Foundation has launched a fundraising campaign to fund a comprehensive Cancer Center and Medical Arts Building on the Central Harnett Hospital Campus. Your donation will directly support the construction and make this vital project a reality for your community. With your help, we can serve more patients locally in Harnett County and enhance the quality of care they receive.

**Please join us!** You can make an impact on healthcare in Harnett County with a tax-deductible gift. Naming opportunities and five-year pledges are available.



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