

Building Hope:

Advancing Cancer Care for Our Community



NANCY HOWELL AGEE
CEO EMERITUS

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“An investment in the Carilion Taubman Cancer Center is an investment in the health and future of women in our region.”

MESSAGE FROM NANCY HOWELL AGEE: HONORING OUR LEGACY, INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Dear Friends,

For more than a century, Carilion Clinic has led the region in meeting the health needs of our communities, paying particular to improving women's health. Women like Debbie Shaw, whose story appears below, deserve excellence and compassion when navigating one of life's most frightening diagnoses. From pioneering early mammography programs to advancing gynecologic oncology care, our commitment has remained steadfast, ensuring that women have access to the highest quality care, close to home.

The Carilion Taubman Cancer Center offers a vision for the future of women's cancer care, where expertise, technology and compassion come together in one seamless experience. Cancer is a journey no woman should have to navigate alone. That's why the Carilion Taubman Cancer Center will deliver a multidisciplinary approach, offering advanced diagnostics, innovative treatments and comprehensive support, all under one roof. And we're taking it even further with dedicated patient care services like massage therapy and a full-service salon where women can receive wig consultations or hair styling as they deal with the impacts of hair loss from radiation. This model expands access to new resources and comfort care while building on the impacts of the Carilion Clinic Breast Diagnostic Center's impact on thousands of women each year.

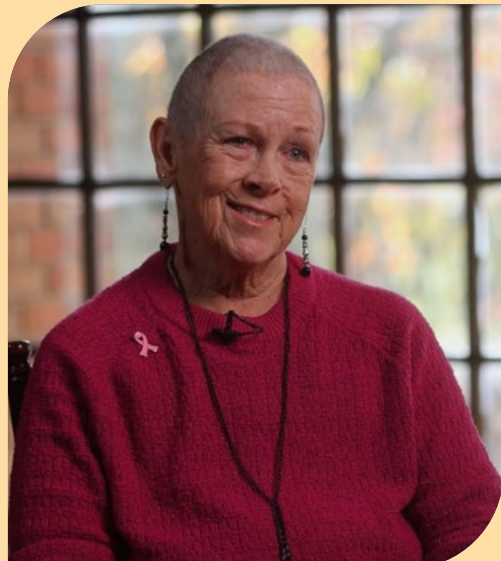
An investment in the Carilion Taubman Cancer Center is an investment in the health and future of women in our region. By supporting this initiative, we ensure that all women — our mothers, daughters, sisters and friends — have access to coordinated, personalized care that meets their unique needs.

We invite you to join us in making this vision a reality. Together, we can build on Carilion's legacy of compassionate, leading-edge women's healthcare and shape a future where no woman fights alone.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Nancy

CEO Emeritus
Carilion Clinic



Watch Debbie's story

FROM DIAGNOSIS TO RECOVERY: FINDING HOPE AND HEALING THROUGH BREAST CANCER TREATMENT

From the shocking diagnosis of triple-negative breast cancer to navigating the challenges of treatment, Debbie Shaw's journey embodies courage, trust and hope. Like many breast cancer survivors, Shaw acknowledges the hardships of her diagnosis but found her experience shaped by the exceptional care of the dedicated Carilion Clinic staff.

Her story reflects how expert medical care, coupled with human connection, transforms the patient experience from clinical to truly compassionate, which is a hallmark of the Carilion promise. The new Carilion Taubman Cancer Center will uphold this commitment, providing high-quality care and support for women like Debbie throughout their cancer journeys.

Watch the video to learn how breast cancer didn't stop Debbie from embracing the things she loves and how Carilion's patient-centered care supported her on the road to recovery.

BREAKING BARRIERS IN CANCER CARE: KAY YOW CANCER FUND'S SUPPORT FOR CARILION CLINIC



Left to right: Kim Blair, Sr. Director for Principal Gifts, Susan Sine, HR Consultant, Beth Bankston, Senior Director, CVI Medicine, Don Halliwill, Executive Vice President for Administration, Jennifer Sullivan, Senior Director of Programming, Kay Yow Foundation, Dr. Bill Fintel, Medical Director, Hematology-Oncology, Donna Shelor, RN Nurse Navigator, Oncology, Kristin Price, RN PACU, Julie Wright, Nursing Unit Director/Manager, Oncology, Lindsay Collins, Vice President for Hospital Administration, Mike Abbott, Senior Vice President, Carilion Medical Center President

At Carilion we remain steadfast in our goal to redefine cancer care through innovation, collaboration and community support. A generous \$25,000 donation from the Kay Yow Cancer Fund will help transform cancer care for our region. The gift was presented at the Virginia Tech women's Play4Kay basketball game, an annual event dedicated to raising awareness and support for those affected by breast cancer.

Funds will directly support efforts to break barriers in cancer care, ensuring that patients in our community receive the highest

standard of treatment without having to travel far from home. Partnerships like this reflect our shared goal of advancing cancer research, expanding access to leading-edge treatments and providing compassionate, patient-centered care.

As we recognized World Cancer Day this month, we honor survivors, those currently facing cancer and their loved ones. Through continuous advancements and unwavering dedication, we strive for a future where fewer lives are impacted by this disease.

MEET THE TEAM:

We are truly grateful to those helping us shine a light on the incredible work being done at Carilion. This month, we're highlighting three providers who champion women's cancer care. Thank you for all that you do.

– Steve Arner, President and CEO



Modupe O. (Seyi) White
D.N.P., CO-DIRECTOR,
CARILION BREAST CANCER
SURVIVOR CLINIC



Crytsal Evans
R.N., CLINICAL NAVIGATOR



Catherine Hagan
B.A., R.N., M.S.N., C.B.C.N.,
BREAST NURSE SPECIALIST



Roxanne Davenport
M.D., SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

NAVIGATING A CANCER DIAGNOSIS: THE ROLE OF NURSE NAVIGATORS

On February 4, 2025, Carilion Clinic joined in the recognition of World Cancer Day to raise awareness and inspire action in the fight against cancer. The day serves to recognize not only patients and survivors, but also the dedicated professionals who support them, such as our oncology nurse navigators.

A cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming, leaving patients unsure of what comes next. Carilion oncology nurse navigators help guide patients through their journey, answering questions and connecting them with valuable resources, from financial aid to psychological support.

In her Here @ Home interview, Oncology Nurse Navigator Melinda Ellis emphasizes the importance of accessing available



Melinda Ellis
BSN, RN, OCN ONCOLOGY
NAVIGATION TEAM LEAD

Watch the full interview here

resources, including dietitians, insurance coordinators and transportation assistance programs. She encourages patients to ask their care teams for support options to ease the process. In the first few days after diagnosis, nurse navigators reach out to the patients, guiding them through next steps and providing relief during a very difficult time. Ultimately, their goal is to allay fear and illuminate the path forward.

Her advice for those newly diagnosed: "It is very overwhelming, and that's okay. The key is to take it one step at a time."

As we advance cancer care with projects like the Carilion Taubman Cancer Center, our commitment remains focused on providing compassionate, patient-centered support.