

JANUARY 2025

# Building Hope:

## Advancing Cancer Care for Our Community



NANCY HOWELL AGEE  
CEO EMERITUS

“  
Your belief in us  
and your generosity  
have brought us to  
where we are today.  
”

### A MESSAGE FROM NANCY HOWELL AGEE: A NEW YEAR OF PROMISE AND PROGRESS

Dear Friends,

With the start of 2025, we enter a defining era for regional cancer care. This year, the Carilion Taubman Cancer Center moves from vision to reality to deliver a new beacon of hope for those impacted by cancer. I, along with our CEO Steve Arner and the entire Carilion Clinic team, thank you for your unwavering support. We have surpassed \$80 million on the road toward our \$100 million goal and the opening of a facility that will redefine cancer care in our region.

The year 2025 also marks another significant milestone for Carilion as we celebrate our 125th anniversary and more than a century of healthcare leadership. Our promise from the beginning has been to improve the health of our community, embrace innovation and research, break healthcare barriers and educate care teams of the future, building upon our successes to achieve meaningful outcomes. This promise remains unwavering, and it grows stronger with the vision, and soon-to-be reality, of the Carilion Taubman Cancer Center.

True transformation comes from the support of our people, our programs and the innovation we're building from the ground up. This innovation includes our integrated nurse navigation, which has already reduced diagnosis-to-treatment times by weeks, precision medicine tailored to individual patients, expanded access to clinical trials for groundbreaking therapies and oncology training programs that will shape the next generation of cancer care providers.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your support ensures that families in our region find hope, healing and world-class care here at home when facing their most challenging moments.

With heartfelt gratitude,

*Nancy*

CEO Emeritus  
Carilion Clinic

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[HEAR MORE OF LARRY'S STORY](#)

### A STORY OF RESILIENCE AND COMPASSION: WATCH THIS PATIENT'S JOURNEY THROUGH CANCER TREATMENT

From the shocking diagnosis of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) to enduring a rigorous 30-day chemotherapy regimen, Larry Houchins' journey embodies resilience, trust and hope. Houchins credits his physicians at Carilion and Blue Ridge Cancer Center for their expert medical care, while also highlighting the profound relationships he formed with the nurses, aides and staff who supported him every step of the way. His story, like so many others, simply reflects how human connection can transform the patient journey from clinical to truly compassionate—a hallmark of the Carilion Clinic promise.

Houchins, among the many survivors, current patients and care givers, looks to the future, and recognizes the significance of the new Carilion Taubman Cancer Center, which he describes as a “game-changer.” Watch the full video to hear his inspiring words, and witness the impact of Carilion's dedication to compassionate, patient-centered cancer care.



## CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS: A VISION BECOMING REALITY

With the ground breaking ceremony this past fall, construction is set to begin on the Carilion Taubman Cancer Center. The facility's design prioritizes patient comfort and well-being, blending modern architecture with functional spaces to enhance the healing experience. We will begin seeing the first signs of progress soon as we make final site preparations before moving into the active construction phase.

Beginning in early spring, we'll close the existing parking lot, and install protective fencing to ensure safety during construction. Over the following weeks, the site will transform as we remove lighting fixtures and prepare for mass excavation. Main floor

construction will commence this fall as we continue toward the Center's planned completion in summer 2027.

With these latest steps, we cement our vision for making cancer care more accessible for our community and creating a patient-centered, holistic healing environment for those fighting this disease and their families.

Soon, you'll be able to watch our progress in real time. A live-stream link and more construction milestones will appear in future newsletters to keep you connected with us during these upcoming exciting months.

## THE PROMISE OF INNOVATION: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CANCER CARE

Cancer care evolves rapidly, unlocking new possibilities every day. Groundbreaking treatment options and life-changing patient outcomes transform how we diagnose, treat and manage cancer. The Carilion Taubman Cancer Center embodies a future where innovation and compassion intersect to transform cancer care and better serve our community.

The progress in cancer treatment over the years has been remarkable. Advances in precision medicine now allow for highly targeted therapies that minimize side effects and improve outcomes. By analyzing the genetic and molecular profiles of each patient, we can develop personalized treatment plans that were once unimaginable. This patient-centered approach defines the new standard of care, tailoring treatments to meet both medical and emotional needs of each individual.

Through partnerships, including Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Virginia Tech and the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, we will provide groundbreaking research that



By Dr. William A. Fintel  
Medical Director  
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results in such advances as ultrasound technology to enhance chemotherapy effectiveness. More importantly, these collaborations promise to eliminate the need for the patients we serve to travel beyond our region to benefit from this research and ongoing advances in care.

Access to leading-edge clinical trials provides hope for those facing complex cancers. Each study represents an opportunity to receive the latest treatments without leaving the support of family and friends. Our commitment to delivering personalized and advanced care will help patients navigate their cancer journeys with confidence and dignity.

The Carilion Taubman Cancer Center will serve as a hub for innovation, not just for patient care, but also for attracting top-tier researchers and clinicians to Southwest Virginia. As we expand our research capabilities and clinical programs, we will foster an environment where medical advancements thrive, ultimately improving cancer outcomes for generations to come.