

DECEMBER 2024

# Building Hope:

## Advancing Cancer Care for Our Community



NANCY HOWELL AGEE  
CEO-EMERITUS

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**Your belief in us and your generosity have brought us to where we are today.**  
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### A MESSAGE FROM NANCY HOWELL AGEE: REFLECTIONS ON OUR JOURNEY

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Our region has reached a defining moment. Our long-held vision to elevate cancer care at home is finally taking shape. With last month's groundbreaking of the Carilion Taubman Cancer Center, we have taken another step toward creating a place of healing and hope, fulfilling a promise to families of southwestern Virginia to keep world-class care close to home.

As we take these next steps, I want to thank you for your support. Your belief in us and your generosity have brought us to where we are today.

With every donation, every story shared, and every ounce of belief in our mission, you help us transform the future of cancer care here. With more than \$76 million raised to date, we have made significant progress toward our \$100 million goal. Your contributions help us bring the latest technology, the best minds and a compassionate approach to those who need it most.

This newsletter kicks off a series designed to connect you even more closely to our shared journey. Each month, we'll share updates on the center's development, introduce you to patients who inspire us, and offer insights into the latest cancer research and education happening right here.

I look forward to sharing each step of this incredible journey with you and to seeing the remarkable impact we will make together.

With deep appreciation,  
Nancy Howell Agee  
CEO-emeritus

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## CAMPAIGN SNAPSHOT

On October 30, our community gathered to celebrate the official groundbreaking of the 257,000-square-foot comprehensive cancer care facility, the first of its kind in southwestern Virginia.

Philanthropists Nick and Jenny Taubman, James Hartley, and Janet Frantz joined Carilion Clinic leaders and local cancer survivors, lifting golden shovels to break ground on a facility that promises hope and a brighter future for cancer care. One of those survivors was nine-year-old Orion Moses, who was diagnosed with leukemia when he was five years old.

Following three and a half years of chemotherapy and multiple hospitalizations, he is now living without cancer. In a heartfelt moment during the ceremony, Moses expressed his gratitude for the kindness and care he received from Carilion.

"I'm glad they get this new building. I know it will help other patients fight and win," said Moses.

Stay tuned for the many exciting milestones to come.

## ADVANCES IN CANCER CARE

### REVOLUTIONIZING LUNG CANCER DETECTION: THE PROMISE OF ROBOTIC-ASSISTED BRONCHOSCOPY

This year alone, about 234,580 new cases of lung cancer have been detected in the United States. More than 125,000 lung cancer fatalities have occurred. In the fight against lung cancer, early and accurate detection is paramount. Carilion Clinic surgeons are now testing a promising new diagnostic procedure with the use of robot-assisted bronchoscopy, offering a new frontier in cancer diagnostics.

More than 70% of all lung cancer nodules are found in the outer one-third of the lung. These areas are often hard to reach, making biopsies more challenging. Healthcare professionals haven't had a first-choice technology to conquer this challenge — until now.

Robotic-assisted bronchoscopy (RAB) uses the combination of a CT scan and robotic sensing technology to provide high-definition imaging that gives a clearer view of lung structures, allowing for precise navigation and targeting of lung nodules.



By Stephen W. Lovern, DNP, RN, NEA-BC (VP, Department of Surgery, Carilion Clinic)

Advanced imaging and navigation tools help surgeons pinpoint the exact location of a spot in the lung. RAB helps extend the reach of the bronchoscope used in the procedure, allowing it to access deeper areas of the lung to collect tissue samples for testing.

This game-changing technology increases the accuracy of early lung cancer diagnosis, enabling a faster response and expanded treatment options for patients. Of the 38 clinical trial procedures conducted at Carilion, 25 detected lung cancer — a 66% detection rate.

With the promise of this effective new technology, researchers hope that one day this procedure will become a single-anesthesia event, composed of RAB, diagnosis while in room, and a thoracic procedure using the da Vinci surgical system — a robotic surgical system that uses a minimally invasive approach.

Hope is here in our community.



### GRATEFUL PATIENT VOICES

Mike Goforth is no stranger to injury. As Virginia Tech's associate athletics director for sports medicine, Goforth is more familiar with the nuances of healthcare and treatment than most. But in 2023, he began having frequent headaches and vision problems. A CT scan revealed the devastating news that the cause of Goforth's symptoms was a cancerous brain tumor, which required quick and complicated interventions.

"I've been around some great teams and great leaders in my career but never experienced such a high-functioning team as I did in the Carilion system," says Goforth, who has shared he felt complete confidence and comfort in the hands of the Carilion during his cancer journey, particularly appreciating the convenience of staying local and being able to spend time with his family during treatment.

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