

JUNE 2025

# Building Hope:

Advancing Cancer Care for Our Community



NANCY HOWELL AGEE  
CEO EMERITUS

## MESSAGE FROM NANCY HOWELL AGEE: EXPANDING PEDIATRIC CANCER CARE, CLOSE TO HOME

Dear Friends,

When cancer touches the life of a child, it changes everything – not just for the child, but for their entire family. Playdates are replaced with appointments. Classrooms give way to treatment rooms. And the easy joy of childhood is met with a kind of courage that's hard to describe and impossible to forget. At Carilion Clinic, we carry these children in our hearts every day.

Pediatric cancer is rare, but it is relentless. Though survival rates have improved significantly, the journey is never easy – and the need for specialized, compassionate care close to home has never been greater.

This is one of many reasons we are so deeply committed to the creation of the **Carilion Taubman Cancer Center**. As construction continues, so does our commitment to expanding pediatric oncology services, so families across our region can find hope without leaving home.

Pediatric cancer reminds us that life can be uncertain, but also remarkably resilient. It's this spirit that inspires us to keep building – not just a center, but a future defined by possibility. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we've already made significant progress towards our goal. Every gift brings us closer to a future where children not only survive cancer – they thrive beyond it.

With heartfelt gratitude,

CEO Emeritus  
Carilion Clinic

*\*National Library of Medicine, Cancer Progress and Priorities: Childhood Cancer*

“  
The Carilion Taubman Cancer Center is planting the seeds for a healthier future, and we can't wait to see it flourish.”

”

Construction has begun at the site of the new Carilion Taubman Cancer Center, and you can [VIEW THE LIVE STREAM](#) progress!

## LOCAL HEROES: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA HOW THE WOOLWINE FAMILY TURNED THEIR JOURNEY INTO ACTION



[WATCH CHARLOTTE'S STORY HERE](#)

Kelly and Jess Woolwine experienced two life-changing events – their son Fox was born, and their three-year-old daughter Charlotte was diagnosed with a rare stage 4 pediatric liver cancer. Charlotte beat her cancer – and with her parents, went on to start the Life Ring Foundation, dedicated to fighting pediatric cancer in Southwest Virginia.

Kelly and Jess explain their mission this way: “The Life Ring Foundation is rooted first and foremost in a true love for

southwest Virginia, particularly the Roanoke Valley. We want to give back to the place that helped shape us into who we are today. We believe there is no wiser investment than to the health and well-being of the next generation. Stronger, healthier and happier citizens will help us make sure that our Valley is a place we will be proud of for generations to come.”

Charlotte sums it up even better: “Helping other kids makes me feel really good.”

## PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT: VIOLET M. BOROWICZ, M.D., F.A.A.P.

For Dr. Violet Borowicz, MD, pediatric oncology is a calling shaped by experience, compassion and deep relationships with the families she serves.

Dr. Borowicz, a Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Physician at Carilion Children's, first felt drawn to this path as a medical student at Drexel University College of Medicine during a rotation with a physician who modeled the kind of care she aspired to provide. That inspiration deepened during her residency at A.I. duPont Hospital for Children, where a meaningful connection with a young patient confirmed she had found her true calling.

With over a decade of experience, Dr. Borowicz cares for children facing a wide range of cancers, including those that affect the bones, muscles, kidneys, liver and reproductive system. As Associate Program Director for the VTC Pediatric Residency Program, she's building the team that will care for tomorrow's patients by training pediatric specialists who will keep high-quality care right here in the community.



Violet M. Borowicz,  
M.D., F.A.A.P.

PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY  
ONCOLOGY AND PALLIATIVE  
MEDICINE PHYSICIAN,  
CARILION CHILDREN'S  
ASSOCIATE PROGRAM  
DIRECTOR, VTC PEDIATRIC  
RESIDENCY PROGRAM

For Dr. Borowicz, building genuine connections with families is at the heart of her work. “I know I am not the physician that many want to have to see, but I am humbled and honored to be part of these families' journeys and that these families have put their trust in me to take care of their precious and cherished child.”

Thanks to Carilion's participation in the Children's Oncology Group, Dr. Borowicz and her team offer patients access to groundbreaking clinical trials and treatments. Most recently, the team introduced a 28-day home infusion therapy for certain leukemia patients, allowing children to receive treatment at home rather than in the hospital.

Reflecting on her role, Dr. Borowicz shares: “We also want our patients to maintain as much of their normal life as possible—to attend school, to see friends, to sleep in their own bed with their own stuff. We want them to stay on track and normalize what they are going through, which helps when they are surrounded by home, family and friends.”

## SAVE THE DATE: FREEDOM FEST JULY 3RD!

Free music, food trucks, fun, and fireworks!

Carilion Clinic is proud to present Freedom Festival 2025—the City of Roanoke's official fireworks show and free family event! The festival kicks off at 4:00 p.m. River's Edge North. Fireworks will begin at 9:30. This celebration offers a unique opportunity to elevate our shared mission and unite the community around a new kind of freedom: freedom from cancer, with care delivered close to home.

Please join us!

# SAVE THE DATE

## July 3, 2025

Join Carilion and the City of Roanoke for the **Freedom Festival**

River's Edge North | Roanoke, VA  
4:00 p.m. Freedom Festival  
9:15 p.m. Special Announcement  
9:30 p.m. Fireworks

*A special Carilion employee area with swag will be available during the event.*

## Shape the Future of Cancer Care, Close to Home

Celebrate the vision, generosity and community that are shaping the future of cancer care in our region.

Join us July 3rd as we take our campaign public, honoring the generosity and momentum driving this once-in-a-generation investment in our region's health. With thousands from across the Carilion footprint in attendance, this celebration offers a unique opportunity to elevate our shared mission and unite the community around a new definition of freedom for our region: freedom from cancer by bringing care closer to home.

Together we are creating the new Carilion Taubman Cancer Center, a place of healing, hope and innovation.

Be part of the movement. Use the QR code below to donate now.

