

Building Hope:

Advancing Cancer Care for Our Community



NANCY HOWELL AGEE
CEO EMERITUS

“
Together, we’ve
shown what is
possible.”

LETTER FROM NANCY:

Dear Friends,

At Carilion Clinic, the strength of our community continues to drive meaningful progress in cancer care. Together, as neighbors, friends and families, we've proven what's possible when we unite around a shared purpose: providing exceptional, compassionate care to those facing a cancer diagnosis. Thanks to the support of businesses and individuals from across the region—from lemonade stands to major fund-raising events—we've raised more than \$98 million for the Reaching Far, Caring Close campaign. This tremendous support is transforming how and where we treat cancer, bringing world-class care closer to home.

This effort is so powerful because nearly everyone has a connection to a cancer diagnosis. In this issue, we share Ron Orndorff's story—a powerful journey through prostate cancer that highlights the importance of personalized, local care. His perseverance is a reminder of the impact your support has on real people, every day.

As we look ahead, one thing is clear: progress happens when we invest in one another. Thanks to you, we are building a future where access to advanced cancer care is never limited by distance.

With heartfelt gratitude,



STEVE ARNER
PRESIDENT & CEO

LETTER FROM STEVE:

Carilion's work to transform cancer care is strengthened every day by the people who walk this path with us. Among them is Mark Pace, a dedicated member of our campaign cabinet, whose leadership is driven by both professional passion and a deeply personal connection to our mission.

Mark's dedication speaks to a simple but powerful truth: advancing care isn't the work of one organization alone. It takes a full circle of care that includes leaders, employees, families and providers—working together to ensure patients receive the support they need.

As we conclude Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, one of Mark's team members, Ron Orndorff, shares his own survivor story. He was able to receive treatment after work and close to home—a powerful example of why this campaign matters. Accessible care means more evenings with family, more support from colleagues and more opportunities to live fully while healing.

With leaders like Mark, and with the generosity of supporters across our region, we are shaping a future in which every patient has access to lifesaving treatment right here at home. That's the promise this campaign is delivering.

[SHARE THE CAMPAIGN](#) with your friends and family!

LIVING PROOF: RON ORNDORFF'S STORY



[WATCH TO LEARN MORE](#)

September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, a time to shine a light on the real stories behind the statistics. For Ron Orndorff, that story began the day he was diagnosed. Over several months, he underwent 44 treatment sessions, made possible by recent advancements and access to local cancer care.

Thanks to community support, Ron never had to choose between his health and his job. Five days a week, he finished work, received treatment and returned home to his family.

Ron's journey is one of quiet strength and resilience, and it's a clear example of why your support matters. Community investment in the Carilion Taubman Cancer Center helps ensure that patients like Ron receive world-class care close to home.

Together, we're creating better outcomes so that healing and hope are always within reach.

PHYSICIAN SPOTLIGHT: DR. ERIC T. MULKEY

Having cancer care close to home is especially important for Eric Mulkey, DO, who was born and raised in Southwest Virginia. After completing his medical education at the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Mulkey trained at Garnet Health Medical Center and LSU Health Shreveport before returning to provide advanced colorectal cancer care to the area he calls home.

"As the incidence of colon and rectal cancer continues to increase, being able to provide the full range of care, from prevention (such as colonoscopies) to the latest treatments, in Southwest Virginia remains a priority for me," he explains. "Having access to advanced cancer care close to home can make a stressful time a little less overwhelming because a patient's support system is nearby."

Dr. Mulkey notes that, at some point in their life, nearly everyone is touched by cancer either personally or through a loved one. That perspective shapes how he balances the technical skill required for complex surgical care with the compassion and reassurance that patients and families need.

"Being open and honest, taking the time to explain each part of the process, provides comfort and confidence to a patient when



ERIC T. MULKEY, DO
COLORECTAL CANCER CARE
CARILION CLINIC

they are going through this challenging time in their life," he says.

Dr. Mulkey's interest in colorectal surgery began during general surgery training, where he saw how the specialty pairs advanced technology with improvements in quality of life.

At Carilion Clinic, collaboration is central to his practice. Through tumor board meetings, Dr. Mulkey works alongside medical oncologists, gastroenterologists, radiation oncologists, radiologists, pathologists and support staff to shape the best treatment plans for patients.

Looking ahead, he is eager for the Carilion Taubman Cancer Center to open. The facility will bring diagnostics, treatments and supportive services together in one place.

"I am excited to be part of the Carilion Taubman Cancer Center team that will continue to provide the latest colorectal cancer care for patients our region," he says.

Through his dedication and expertise, Dr. Mulkey is helping ensure that world-class cancer care is available close to home so patients can face the future with confidence, hope and the support of their community.



Save the date for the Smashing Cancer
with Carilion pickleball tournament on
November 8, 2025.
More information to come soon!

SURVIVORS SHARE THEIR STORIES



Rick Forney and Tom Edwards know firsthand the importance of early detection. Both are prostate cancer survivors who now use their experiences to encourage other men to get tested and find support.

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men, with one in eight facing a diagnosis in their lifetime.

Dr. William Fintel reminds us that these statistics highlight the importance of regular screenings, since prostate cancer is typically treatable if detected early enough.

By raising awareness and sharing their journeys, Rick and Tom remind us that no one has to face cancer alone.

[READ THE NEWS STORY](#)