

The Cullather Center

IMPACT REPORT



*helping patients and their families
navigate their cancer journey*



Becky Ghezzi, Sandy Cullather, Pat Moss, Jack Cullather and Louise Cullather Liscio at the Cullather Center Open House

The Cullather Center

Over the last year, the Cullather Center celebrated several milestones and accolades. After many years, the Center was updated with a new look using soothing colors and fabrics that have been very well received by patients and their families. An Open House was held on September 24th coinciding with the birthday of Jean Cullather, in whose honor along with her son, Chris, the Center was founded. The joyous occasion also marked the 12th anniversary of the Center.

In November, Jack Cullather and his family were honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals with the Enduring Philanthropic Partner Award, a significant honor given to those who make a long-term philanthropic investment that has a demonstrable impact on an organization.

Most recently, the Center has had to pivot during the pandemic and reimagine how services are delivered to patients and their families as many began to shelter at home. The physical space of the Cullather Center was closed in order to keep the vulnerable patient population we serve safe, but the program itself was now more important than ever. Meditation became highly sought after as many patients and their families were experiencing high levels of anxiety. Virtual sessions could be held in the home and have been so well received that this will continue as an option long after the pandemic subsides. Navigators and our patient advocate are constantly in touch with patients and their families to help with resources and simply be a source of comfort during such uncertainty.

We continue to be grateful to all those who support the Cullather Center and enable us to be a trusted resource to those who are navigating their cancer journey.

1,934 Participants in Supportive Services

Yoga 612	Healing Arts 115	Brain Tumor Navigation 78
Meditation 107	Massage Therapy 415	Acupuncture 153
Music Therapy 301	Legacy Storytellers Music 2 families	Counseling 62
Respite/Home Health 25	Grief/Loss Support 72	Art Legacy 1 family

2019 Total Cost of Supportive Services and Renovation

\$318,464

Patients and families are never charged for services.

These complimentary integrative therapies are designed to promote wellness and healthy living for patients and their families through the cancer care continuum.

Support on our Journey

Having known the Cullather family for years, Bill “Moose” and Pat Ferguson never dreamed they would one day need the services of The Cullather Center. Pat remembers when the Cullathers began thinking about what a program would look like that would support brain tumor patients locally after losing family members, Chris and Jean Cullather.

When Bill was diagnosed with bladder cancer in 2018 after successfully beating prostate cancer in 2014, the family found themselves in the throes of dealing with a deadly disease that would change their lives forever. Jack Cullather suggested they visit the Center as it had recently expanded services to support all Bon Secours cancer patients.

At their initial appointment, the Fergusons focused on the benefits of meditation to lessen the impact of stress in their lives, and they were each given a meditation CD to use every night. Bill also began counseling to help process what he was experiencing. Pat remembers “I was working on the Behavioral Health Unit at St. Mary’s

“ It would have been a much lonelier journey without the support of the Cullather Center. ”
—Pat F.



Bill and Pat Ferguson (center) surrounded by family at Thanksgiving

and sometimes I would go down to the Center to sit in the quiet space with the wonderful aromatherapy and just be peaceful. It was comforting to chat with Chris, the patient advocate, who understood exactly how I felt.”

When Bill passed away in February 2019, tribute gifts were designated to the Cullather Center. Pat shares, “Our family knew all gifts received would benefit other families traveling this road, and would, hopefully, help ease their burden as ours was.”

2019 Funding Sources

Tribute gifts
\$29,885

Donations and Employee Giving
\$50,542

Fundraising Events
\$140,000*

*Proceeds from the Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Highland Games



“ I will be forever grateful for The Cullather Center and the resources they provided during my husband’s illness. We truly enjoyed the holistic approach and services provided, such as massage and meditation, not only for the patient, but for the caregiver as well. The support and care we received helped us navigate through a scary and isolating time. They connected us with others and made us realize we weren’t alone. ”

—Nina A.



A healing legacy through art

When Mike Polucci was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer in March 2018, he became a regular visitor to the Cullather Center for supportive services or just simply to talk. In October 2019, things declined for Mike and he was admitted to hospice. His wife, Jen, and her young daughters Elizabeth and Katherine, ages 9 and 7, were struggling to understand what was happening.

The Cullather Center invited local artist Shelley Crawford to help the girls create an art legacy project. “Artfully Helping” was born as Shelley guided them through art as they processed their grief. They visited her studio where they could release their emotions, communicate without words, feel in or out of control and honor their Dad with special projects.

Whether it was agitating wool while learning to needle felt, creating blankets and rugs out of his favorite shirts or making “feeling” boxes, their time at Shelley’s studio was a safe place to organically process their emotions. The sessions were paused when Mike passed away right before Thanksgiving and they took several weeks to be with family for the holidays. Slowly Jen and the girls came back to the studio to finish their projects. These studio visits became a space of great healing and togetherness. With the girls not wanting art to end, Shelley helped Jen set up a studio in their home so the girls and Jen could continue to find joy and healing through art.



Artist Shelley Crawford with Elizabeth and Katherine Polucci

“ I greatly enjoy being part of the process in the new normal that Jen and her children are creating. Thank you to Cullather for recognizing the value of art and healing and allowing me to be part of the process. ”

— Shelley Crawford, Sunshine Arts and Lessons



To speak to the Cullather Center patient advocate, please call (804) 287-7809 or visit www.cullather.org

To make a gift to the Cullather Center, visit www.bsvaf.org/cancer or mail gifts to: 5008 Monument Avenue, 2nd Floor, Richmond, VA 23230

“ I am so thankful for the Cullather Center and the generosity of the Cullather family. The Cullather Center has made dealing with a cancer diagnosis more manageable. I have been able to take advantage of many of the holistic services offered. The acupuncture, massage, meditation, music therapy and yoga have all helped in easing my physical pain and the mental stress of battling recurrent, metastatic ovarian cancer for over 8 years. The staff is amazing! They will help you navigate through your medical treatment any way they can. There is never a doubt about the genuineness of the care and support that you receive. They are good for my soul! ”

—Sally S.

