

JOSLIN HAGGART YEISER  
**UNSUNG HERO** *Awards*

**Angela Wilhoit** nominated by Mary Page Dalrymple and Andrew Allan

Angela is the daughter and caregiver I hope to be. Angela's commitment to her mother Patricia, during her cancer journey was truly inspiring. Angela knew that her mom would not come in for treatment unless she picked her up, so every Friday morning, she would bring her in for her appointment. They would traipse into the Cancer Center, the “dynamic duo”, with their card games and their jokes. Every Friday, Angela would sit by her mom and be her rock, her joy, her advocate, and her partner in crime.

One Friday, when I was taking care of Patricia, I walked into their bay to chat and let them know we were waiting on labs, just to find the “dynamic duo” literally sneaking around the corner. “We’re making a run for it!” they exclaimed. Laughing, they told me that they were going to the cafeteria to get some food and they would be back... eventually...and they did return... eventually... ;)

Typically the area around whatever bay Patricia was assigned to was filled with joy and sarcastic wisecracks, but this was no easy journey and some days the cancer, the chemo, and the exhaustion would catch up with Patricia. Angela was there on those days too, supporting and advocating for her mom, asking the hard questions, pressing for answers or for further work ups when something seemed amiss.

Patricia’s cancer journey did not end the way we all wish it could have, but witnessing the bond that Angela and Patricia shared and the true joy that they exhibited when they were together, is a reminder to us all to take stock of those things that matter, to remember to be there for those that we love. I hope that I am able to love and support the people in my life as beautifully as Angela loved and supported her mom.

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**Jeff Krumpelman** nominated by Stacey Dotson and Shelby Krumpelman

Measuring the experiences that make someone a hero is different for everyone. For some, a hero could be a favorite basketball player, a fireman, a doctor, a soldier, etc. For the Krumpelman kids, we've been blessed to be raised in a household with two of our truest heroes - Debbie and Jeff Krumpelman or, to us, Mom and Dad. Both of whom sacrificed a great deal for the benefit of others. Debbie fought for more time with her family and friends, despite the pain and fear; Jeff fought for Debbie.

Our mom's six year battle with colorectal cancer was life changing all the way down to the simplest, everyday responsibilities. Everyday seemed a little different from the last. As a family, we adapted to the ever evolving routine and made room for caregiving to be at the forefront of priority in our household.

It wasn't long after Debbie's initial diagnoses that Jeff was digging through his contacts to find any person that had a connection to the best doctors in the country. He read news articles, studied up on the changing methods for cancer treatment, and organized meetings with key leaders in the field. He always let Debbie take the lead with her care and determine which treatment was best, but made sure that her journey was always filled with hope: hope of a cure, hope for more time, and hope with a safe place to land.

Six years of bi-weekly chemo treatments intermingled with hospital stays for dehydration, twisted bowels, surgeries, or fluid build-up in the lungs made hope hard come by every now and then. On July 3, 2019, Debbie found peace in her decision to stop treatment. This decision was not an easy one to share nor hear, but Jeff held her hand tightly and simply told her how proud he was of her, as if on repeat. In the four remaining months of her life, it was more than apparent that Debbie was Jeff's hero and Jeff was Debbie's. Jeff gave Debbie a hand-written note every night before bed to walk her down memory lane, express his feelings, or simply offer a reminder of how important she is to him. He made sure to hold her hand all night long over the mound of pillows she put between them, likely out of fear of him waking up to her still body.

As the months turned into weeks and weeks turned into days, it was harder for Debbie to be present but she always made sure to open her eyes for Jeff. On their final anniversary, the family was up at 2:00 am giving her more medicine for the pain when Jeff mentioned it was their special day. If you've ever met Debbie, you know her smile was radiant; she lit up that morning like a Christmas tree. Debbie passed away a few days later peacefully in her home with Jeff again holding her hand, encouraging her that the pain would be over soon.

Six hundred words could be both too little and too much to describe this man, and the lengths he went to fight to give Debbie, the love of his life, as much of a beautiful experience he could with the measured time they had left. He sacrificed for her and she sacrificed for him. Although, if you ask them, I'm sure that neither would say it was a sacrifice. So, if you had to ask us why our Jeff deserves the Unsung Hero Award, it is because Jeff loves Debbie selflessly, fearlessly, and fully.

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**Eric Lorta** nominated by Dr. Ed Crane

Eric's dad, Ray, has been receiving intermittent treatment for his lymphoma since 2014. Eric is an incredibly supportive son who accompanies his dad to all his visits. He provides excellent emotional support. Despite the several relapses of his dad's cancer, Eric is uplifting and positive. He is smiling and optimistic. He enjoys joking with his dad and his dad's treatment team to provide a good mood. The staff in clinic are always happy to see Eric as he brightens their day. He asks excellent questions regarding his dad's care. He puts forth considerable effort to ensure that his dad's medications are organized and that his father understands the medications he is taking. Eric is also a wonderful father to his two kids. He works full time for the Northwest school district. His father's cancer is in remission, and Eric's tremendous support has played a big role in that success. Thank you Eric for being such a wonderful and compassionate person!

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**Michelle Murphy** nominated by Indu Adhikari

*“Compassion is of little value if it just remains an idea. It must motivate how we respond to others and be reflected in all our thoughts and actions” - Dalai Lama*

One morning in April of 2015, I noticed a new nurse with long hair and fine make up. She introduced herself to me as Michelle. I introduced myself with my heavy accent. I was working night shift and she was starting her orientation. I was giving a report to Michelle and her preceptor. I do not know whether she understood me or not due to my heavy accent. These days she understands me very well. She completed her orientation and we started working together. Working with her is so nice and easy. We came to know each other's families. In December last year she pulled me aside and shared her good news that she was pregnant. I was so happy, and I could see happiness in her face too. She was enrolled in a BSN program, expecting another baby, and had a decent job. Life was all good. In February 2019, she shared bad news that her husband was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. I was shocked. How can be God be so cruel? How can an Almighty God shatter her happiness in a minute? So many questions rumbled in my mind. I cannot imagine how hard it would be for a woman who is pregnant, full time job holder and student with a 9 year old child be able to take care of a sick husband. In that tough situation, I never saw Michelle losing her mind. I saw her more dedicated and compassionate to her job and her responsibility. I have never seen her lose hope. She took care of her husband and family while continuing to work in a very professional way. In that tough situation anyone can lose their mind but Michelle took her responsibilities in a heroic way. She took care of her husband very well and respected his will. She tried all possible things to make him happy. She walked extra miles, to make him comfortable and took care of him. She is a kind, compassionate, loving and caring person. She always treats her patients with a wholistic approach (body, mind and soul). She is an unsung hero with a big heart who cares more about others than herself. In November 2019, I was in Japan. Early one morning, I saw news that her husband got his wings to meet Angel. I was speechless, shattered, and shocked. With courage I sent her a text. She replied with a nice note. She won my heart. She taught me many lessons; do not lose hope. Go by the plans that God has set up for you. Do good to everyone and do not expect anything in return. Life is short, live it fully. Enjoy your life, live learn and laugh. Do not worry about the things that you do not have power over. Do not stress out about the things that you cannot control. So be nice, positive and pray to Lord. At the end you will embrace happiness. *“Be Kind Whenever Possible. It is always Possible” -Dalai Lama*

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**John Rossi** nominated by Haley Holmes

John's wife Bonnie is currently undergoing treatment for lymphoma that has spread to her lower legs. Although Bonnie is able to walk, she requires a lot of care including dressing changes to her lower legs and frequent blood transfusions. Bonnie is usually seen in our office once or twice a week (Cancer Care) but that does not include her frequent trips to wound care. John takes Bonnie to all of her appointments (including 6 or 7 hour-long chemotherapy appointments and 3-4 hour-long blood transfusion appointments). He manages her care and takes care of making all her appointments. Bonnie and John are both very pleasant to be around. He is kind and cares for his wife unconditionally and does so without making Bonnie feel like an inconvenience. More of our patients need a "John Rossi" in their lives.

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**Paula Zeek** nominated by Jeanna Kinney

Paula is the daughter of a patient that is seen at the McCullough Hyde Infusion Center. Our patient, Jackie, has dementia with behavioral disturbances and Paula cares for her mother unconditionally. She accompanies Jackie to every doctor and infusion appointment. Paula puts Jackie's needs before hers, cares deeply, and even when she's on the edge of breaking down still manages to hold it together for her mother's sake. I know sometimes Ms. Jackie can be challenging but Paula continues to be passionately by her side.

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**Jack Berninger** nominated by Stacy Holdeman

For the majority of his wife's treatments, Jack always sat quietly to the side reading (yet another) book. He never seemed to be an outspoken person, but I could tell that he played a starring role in supporting Elaine at home. I never saw Elaine without Jack; he was constantly by her side-- a testament to their friendship and commitment to each other. Not only is he a caring husband, but he also entertained his many grandchildren during school breaks by organizing "science camps" for them-- even while Elaine was undergoing treatment. I know that it must have comforted Elaine to know that her grandchildren were continuing to make happy memories, even during a difficult time. Quiet folks like Jack often fly under the radar, but he deserves to be recognized for the strength that he displayed during his wife's battle. I can only hope that every patient of mine has a spouse like him. Thank you, Jack, for all that you have done to take care of Elaine and for keeping her smiling until the end.

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**Connie and Dave Laug** nominated by Kent Wellington

Connie and Dave Laug were constant caregivers for Karen Wellington before she passed away in 2007. Connie was in the hospice with me when the phone rang from the Enquirer and we decided to give one vacation away in lieu of flowers at Karen's funeral. 13 years later, Connie and Dave Laug (a cancer survivor, still battling) have been instrumental in planning vacations and spa days for recipients of the Karen Wellington Foundation for LIVING with breast cancer. Dave (an artist) leads an annual art auction to raise money for vacations and fun for women and families LIVING with cancer. Their 23 year commitment to families living with cancer has been amazing.

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JOSLIN HAGGART YEISER  
**UNSUNG HERO** *Awards*

**Annabelle Arejola** nominated by Stacey Reese

Annabelle is a social worker at the TriHealth Cancer Institute. She works tirelessly for our patients. She always goes above and beyond to make sure they and their families have what they need. She bridges the gap to ensure the best outcome possible. Everything from transportation, food, rent, utilities, and more, Annabelle makes sure our patients have what they need. She does not hesitate to work long hours. She arranges those early morning uber health rides and stays late making sure her patients emotional well-being is intact. Annabelle never stops throughout her day. Her patients love her and her team couldn't live without her.

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J O S L I N H A G G A R T Y E I S E R  
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**Dr. Eric Dunki-Jacobs** nominated by Dr. Ed Crane

Dr. Dunki-Jacobs is an outstanding surgical oncologist who has done tremendous work to further advance cancer care in Cincinnati through his leadership within the TriHealth Cancer Institute. Through his guidance, Good Samaritan Hospital was awarded Disease Specific Certification for Pancreatic Cancer through the Joint Commission; only the third program in the country to achieve this. He has been co-director of the cancer committee during which the cancer program has achieved some of the highest ratings in the country during the evaluations by The Commission on Cancer. He is a role model for how patients should be treated and how a leader should carry himself. A TriHealth administrator stated, " Dr. Dunki-Jacobs is never egocentric and encourages everyone around him to reflect, measure and improve. He has incredible passion for patient care and is one of the most compassionate physicians." Outside of work, he is a wonderful father to four young boys. Thank you, Dr. Dunki-Jacobs, for everything you do for your patients and for elevating the quality of cancer care in Cincinnati! You are a wonderful and intelligent team player, and I am honored to work with you!

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JOSLIN HAGGART YEISER

# UNSUNG HERO *Awards*

**Dr. Rod Flynn** nominated by Kevin Reynolds

After being cancer-free for 12 years, I was blindsided by the diagnosis of kidney cancer again. Last time, it cost me both kidneys. This time, it was found growing on my pancreas. Radiation and chemotherapy are ineffective against kidney cancer, so my options were surgery, if it could be excised, or immunotherapy, which would ruin my transplant and send me back to dialysis. Needless to say, I was nervous meeting Dr. Flynn, the surgical oncologist recommended to me. However, within minutes of meeting him (and hearing his apology for being late as he was back after vacation and a new puppy had the house in turmoil), he told me that yes, absolutely, he could cut out the tumors, and proceeded to draw pictures on the white board showing me where on my pancreas they were and how he'd perform the surgery. He assured me that, even losing 60% or so of my pancreas, I would be fine. He was confident without being arrogant, answered all my questions and concerns, and took away a great deal of the fear and trepidation I had.

On the day of my surgery, he calmed the fears of my parents and friends who came to be with me. Unfortunately, my heart rhythm went wonky on the first cut, causing them to stop the procedure very early on. When Dr. Flynn, along with the anesthesiologist and nurse, when to the waiting room to inform my parents, he noticed immediately the fear in my mother's face. This was many hours too soon for them to be finished so her immediate thoughts were that something bad had happened to me. Dr. Flynn apparently bee-lined right to my mom, dropped to one knee, took her hand, and explained what had happened and that I was perfectly fine. I know he could have sent his wonderful nurse-practitioner Rachel to inform my folks, but he didn't and that meant a great deal to me and my mom.

The surgery finally took place three weeks later with no problems and a relatively easy recovery. When I did have some issues with drainage the night I was released, he was on the phone with me and the ER staff, making sure all was well and calming my fears.

As we all know, cancer sucks. I now know cancer for the second time doesn't make it suck any less. But having a surgeon with the skill and humanity of Dr. Flynn certainly provides comfort and confidence when all you're mostly feeling is fear and anger.

In truth, I'm not sure how unsung Dr. Flynn is. I've only heard great things about him from other doctors and patients, but I don't think caregivers get enough acclaim sometimes, so I appreciate this chance to recognize Dr. Flynn for his talent and humanity.

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**UNsung HERO** *Awards*

**Dr. Noel Free** nominated by Suzanne Partridge, MD

I cannot think of anyone who would meet "unsung hero" more than Dr. Noel Free. The reason I say this is he cares for me-so I can take care of cancer patients to the best of my mental ability. I, Suzanne Partridge, am a medical oncologist with OHC and Dr. Free has enriched my life in ways that have helped me be a better physician. Dr. Free is a psychiatrist-and in this case he is a Doctors doctor. It is becoming more discussed that physician self-care has become a health crisis in itself and physician suicide is a silent but major problem. Physicians are burnt out in many ways; patient loads, insurance company frustrations, health care system politics and many barriers that make this job emotionally draining, exhausting and often unfulfilling. In 2011 I was worried I was going to be unhappy for the rest of my life. I was a young physician just joining a practice trying to find my place. I was quickly hit with many stressors. Balancing home and work life, finding enjoyment in my work, trying to navigate a broken health care system, trying to live with the business of health care and the difficult emotional situations one faces in caring for cancer patients. I knew I never wanted to be a physician who did not feel anything-I still wanted to feel human and connected to people. I felt that if I was in a sad state how could I be a light for my patients? Thus, someone told me about Dr. Free. I started seeing him to discuss how depressed I was and how to cope with losing patients, dealing with unhappy patients, feeling paranoid in a health care system that didn't make me feel safe at all, and not knowing who I could trust. I never turned to drugs or alcohol, I just needed coping skills. Just having Dr. Free to sit and listen to me and help me through my intense symptoms of moral injury probably saved my life. He gave me various options to help me restore faith, cope with sadness and feel more assured of myself. Dealing with sick patients that often pass away under my care can be quite draining but he has helped me to feel good about my career. I started noticing I was not as sad as I was and I was able to share coping skills that he gave me with my cancer patients.

Over the past few years, I feel better as a physician because I now can give others the strength to try to cope. I help my patients cope by ideas he has given me. I have referenced books that he gave me. In a sense, he helped me as a physician to remain human and not a physician robot. This is a silent problem in health care. We are often discouraged to seek help; in fact we are seen as weak if we need help. I am proud I took a healthier route to seek self-care and hope others will feel brave. It is scary potentially for my career to admit to this, but I want the community to know that the health care workers need help to stay strong too. I want Cincinnati to know that Dr. Free has been a godsend to me and I appreciate him every single day! I hope by sharing my vulnerable story that it leads others to seek help if needed. By helping me he helped me save others-thus a hidden gem!

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**Dr. Peter Fried** nominated by Terry Scott, Sr.

When I was diagnosed with prostate cancer, I was scared to the point that I was not going to do treatment. To hear that you have cancer frightens you, but thanks to my wife, Dr. Peter Fried and my urologist, I am now a two year survivor.

This is how it all started. I had a PSA level which wasn't normal and was referred to a urologist. While I was having my biopsy done by Dr. Pliskin, Dr. Fried walked by the waiting room and my wife saw him (They both work for OHC). She immediately stopped him and told him about me – and that's when the MAGIC happened. Dr. Fried said he would speak with Dr. Pliskin and they would work together to develop the best care plan for me. That sort of care and teamwork is what makes 'magic' for the patient.

From that first time I met Dr. Fried, he was great. I thought I would have to go through chemotherapy and surgery but Dr. Fried reassured me that they caught it in time. He told me that everything would be alright and said that I would only need radiation. I was scheduled to have Cyberknife and felt so much better. I was no longer scared and was willing to do treatment. Dr. Fried is very good at what he does and I would recommend him to anyone. He is an *Unsung Hero* because, thanks to him, I'm alive to welcome my newest grandbaby.

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**Lisa Grate** nominated by Stacy Holdeman

I have known Lisa for about three years now, and I have yet to come across another provider as selfless as her. She constantly goes above and beyond the call of duty, helping our patients as well as other providers, with whatever she can. She strives to make personal connections with patients and invests herself emotionally in their care. Lisa truly treats her patients as if they were her own family, and they remember her for it. Aside from her caring personality and unfailing generosity, she is wickedly smart and resourceful. I feel very lucky to have worked beside her and she certainly deserves to be recognized for her hard work and dedication.

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**Stephanie Green, CNP** nominated by Richard Curry, MD

Stephanie Green has been working as a nurse practitioner for brain cancer patients at TriHealth since 2016. I have to start off by saying how lucky we all are that she decided to join our team. From the beginning it became clear that her compassion and genuine care for others is an inherent quality. You can just sense that Stephanie enjoys working for her patients, and in the world of cancer, caring is the center of everything.

I am always humbled by her selfless behavior at work. She is the first to volunteer her help no matter the issue. She puts others needs before her own, and our patients recognize her efforts. Stephanie gives her number to patients, and that provides the support necessary to those dealing with cancer. The patients and families are always relieved by her assistance. I know that our patients live better because of her.

There are stars in this world who you just know are special, and Stephanie is one of them. Her skills and abilities cannot be taught or learned. We all are so fortunate that she is on our team, and our patients' lives are better because of her. I cannot think of any healthcare provider more deserving of an unsung hero award than Stephanie Green.

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**Dr. Ajit Gubbi** nominated by Joanne Abramsohn, Sarah Hughes and Alicia Weber

-To be diagnosed with cancer, especially one tough to beat is so devastating! Dr. Gubbi not only went above and beyond to treat the cancer, he made me feel as important as a family member!! He won't stop finding ways to help me and won't stop giving me all I need through this. He doesn't give up. He cares about my life! - Joanne Abramsohn

Dr Gubbi is my oncologist. He has been there every step of the way. He put my husband and I at ease from the very beginning and has always been upfront and honest about diagnosis, treatment and results. He is a very hard-working doctor. The hospital staff loves him as well and told us many times, " He is so awesome!" - Sarah Hughes

Summer 2019 was supposed to be filled with relaxing days and fun times with my family at the pool, Kings Island, summer church camp and vacation. At least that's what we had planned. Instead, I ended up in the ER on June 30th with abdominal pain. Thinking it would be a quick fix of pain medication or possibly appendicitis, it ultimately turned into a frightful diagnosis of ovarian cancer and that's how I met Dr. Ajit Gubbi. Hearing the word cancer brings a lot of unknown fears, especially as a wife to my husband of 26 years and mom of three teenagers. Will I live through this? Has it spread? What kind of surgery and treatment will I need? How did I grow this tumor? The list goes on. I will never forget the first time I met Dr. Gubbi. His professional, calming and peaceful nature really made an impression on us. He took the time to answer all of our questions, and my husband asks a lot of questions, believe me. Dr. Gubbi never seemed to rush our conversation. His bedside manner was incredible! I'm quite sure he had other patients to attend to at the hospital, yet I felt like he was always there just for us and to answer our endless questions. He made sure that there would be a full staff on board the day of my surgery (July 3rd) since it was a holiday week. I had never felt more comfortable about an upcoming surgery than the hysterectomy that he performed. Though it was a 4 hour long surgery, he was mindful to keep my anxious family updated throughout. He checked on me the following day and discussed what my pain and procedures would look like in the days and months ahead based on the pathology reports. After the 6 week recovery it was time to start the chemo treatments and the port placement. He explained everything including the reasons for doing/not doing chemotherapy. Every step of the way he was there for us and continues to answer our myriad of questions as I continue to walk this cancer journey. Though I did not know him before my diagnosis, I feel like he is more than just my oncologist. He's become a friend that I trust with my life! He saved my life and continues to show care and gives me his best professionally. He is my *Unsung Hero*. - Alicia Weber

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**Mary Heinichen** nominated by Michelle Ruscher

Mary is a Financial Advocate, Navigator, and Counselor for Trihealth. Mary is dedicated to meeting with and helping oncology patients understand their out of pocket costs, secure copay programs, and get foundational support and free drug therapy when applicable. Mary's office hours are often extended due to the sheer volume of patients she tirelessly supports. There are many after hour exchanges with Mary as she navigates the various systems and programs to heroically support her patients! Mary is Trihealth's Unsung Hero!

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**Abigail Hilton** nominated by Kristina Marcum

It is my pleasure to nominate Abigail for the Unsung Hero Award. She is full of energy, and always willing to lend a hand. She is kind and compassionate with her patients and puts them at ease with her positive attitude. Thanks Abby, for all that you do!

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**Marilyn Kugler, RN** nominated by Vinita Takiar, MD

I could probably come up with 600 adjectives to describe Marilyn. This is just not enough space. She is the primary and veteran nurse navigator for our head and neck cancer patients, and we see some of the most advanced and complex cases in the region. Her role in smoothing their treatment course, from meeting them at their first appointments, making sure they know what is happening and where to be at what time, holding their hand or getting them a tissue, rearranging their appointments so they don't have to sit in traffic, celebrating their successes and getting them through their complex and multidisciplinary head and neck care cannot be understated. She is the lifeblood that runs through our head and neck multidisciplinary care team. She understands the dynamics of surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, speech, swallowing, transport, and financial toxicity. She researches important questions to improve patient care. She makes care packets for our patients and goes over their calendars. She will always go the extra miles for our patients. We are so much stronger for having her with us, and our patients absolutely adore her.

Courageous, patient, motivated, motivational, caring, clear, confident, collaborative, willing to learn, willing to take on the challenge, willing to do whatever it takes. Nurse navigators do a lot of behind the scenes work, and do not get the credit they deserve. For all of these reasons, and so many more, I (on behalf of the UC Head and Neck Cancer Team) would like to nominate Marilyn for this Unsung Hero award.

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**Beth Limke** nominated by Chantal Reyna

Beth serves as a medical secretary at the Barrett Cancer Center. She is the face to all of our patients. She is the last one they see after their visit and the first one to answer their calls. She has on numerous times calmed patients, provided guidance and continues to find ways to make things better for all around her. She stays late, works on weekends and genuinely cares for all those whom she meets. I would not be able to care for patients as well as I do without her outstanding efforts.

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**Diane Neltner** nominated by Shayna Hamilton

During the Christmas season of 2019, Diane worked with a patient and family to provide a nice Christmas. She was able to work her magic to get their rent paid and collaborated with staff to purchase Christmas gifts. All knew that the patient did not have a lot of time due to the seriousness of the cancer, but Diane wanted to make sure in this situation, that this Christmas was a memorable one. Unfortunately, the patient did pass away before Christmas. Diane was able to help get the funeral paid for and still provide gifts and rent for the family so they did not struggle during such a sad time. I could type forever, examples of Diane's gifts that she gives to her patients. She is a great asset to us and the patients and families.

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**Michele Redden-Borowski, MD** nominated by Karen Burke, RN

I have worked both directly and indirectly with Dr. Redden-Borowski for the past 20 years. Over the course of that time, I have seen her function as a direct care provider as well as a figurehead in the oncology department. She has been responsible for treating numerous cancer patients as well as handling administrative tasks for a private practice, hospice, and more recently, St. Elizabeth outpatient oncology. She has taken thousands of hours of call and rounding, sometimes even offering to work on her days off or extra time in the morning or evening, to help cover overwhelmed or ill partners. While quietly in the background, she is a wife who cooks dinner (almost) every night, a very active mother to a special needs son, as well as two other children and a wonderful and thoughtful grandmother to 3 grandchildren. Her advocacy for her patients as they travel their cancer journey has been a joy to witness. Recently, she had a 2-3 week trip to Italy planned for March 2020. With the pending Coronavirus issues that presented, she cancelled her trip 24 hours before departure. Not only did she cancel her trip to ensure the safety of herself and her family, she had the interest of our cancer patients in mind. Her selflessness shown through once again as she came back to work after just a few days off in order to avail herself to her patients. In her limited free time, she can be found volunteering or donating to Redwood for the benefit of special needs individuals of Northern Kentucky. She is truly an Unsung Hero

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**Patty Rose** nominated by Stacy Holdeman

I have had the sincere pleasure of working with Patty for the past three years or so, and I can confidently say that she is the world's BEST clinical research coordinator! Patty is not only thorough and intelligent but caring and nurturing with our patients. Patty sticks by the sides of our patients throughout the entire journey, often becoming the "point person" whenever questions arise. She is excellent at her job, and even more importantly she puts 100% of her heart into the care of our patients. We don't always see the hard work she does behind the scenes, but her dedication is so greatly appreciated, and she deserves to be recognized for that. Thank you, Patty, for all you do for our team and for our patients!

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**Lisa Shelton** nominated by Terri Kirkpatrick and Grace Smith

I would like to take this time to nominate Lisa Shelton for the Unsung Hero Award. Lisa is our breast cancer navigator. We have had numerous patients come into our clinic that have needed a little more TLC than our other patients. LISA DELIVERS! Lisa takes the time to check in on all her patients during their time in the infusion room just to "touch base" and to make sure they have everything they need to make their journey a bit more bearable. The particular instance that stands out in my mind is one which our patient was VERY young and VERY overwhelmed with all that had been handed to her. Lisa went out of her way to sit with this patient during her entire treatment and explain things to her, she colored one of our coloring pages with her and just "chatted" with her to occupy the patient's mind. By the time the treatment was completed the patient was totally at ease. This was all thanks to Lisa's caring and giving unselfishly of her time. On another visit, Lisa waited until this same patient was finished with her visit and helped the patient pick a BEAUTIFUL wig from our collection. Watching Lisa interact with the patients warms the heart. She does this NOT because it is her job, she does this because she wants each patient to know that she cares and that they are not alone in this journey! – Terri Kirkpatrick

I met Lisa on my first day of work at the Karen Wellington Foundation and have collaborated with her many times over the past few months. She is incredibly loving, compassionate, and caring for her patients at Christ Hospital. Lisa is definitely an Unsung Hero as a Nurse Navigator - walking with women through dark and scary times. Lisa is always nominating her patients to The Karen Wellington Foundation and wants so much for her patients to experience joy and hope on their breast cancer journey. – Grace Smith

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JOSLIN HAGGART YEISER  
**UNsung HERO** *Awards*

**Rosalind Ivins** nominated by Alayna Buescher

When I saw the title, “Unsung Hero Awards,” I immediately thought of Rosalind. Day in and day out, Roz is an absolute force for good. She does whatever is necessary to ensure that our patients get their treatments approved -- which is no easy feat. She is on the phone continuously working with insurance companies to provide our patients with the best care. She frequently goes above and beyond to seek out financial aid options for patients, taking phone calls outside of her work hours, etc.

Outside of her incredibly efficient and steadfast work ethic, Roz is someone who radiates positivity and would do anything for anyone in need. She also just happens to be extremely intelligent and quick-witted. She is insightful, inspiring and has the biggest heart. Christ Hospital is truly lucky to have an employee who is so dedicated to her work, her patients, and those around her.

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JOSLIN HAGGART YEISER  
**UNSUNG HERO** *Awards*

**Tamara Smith** nominated by Julia Chambers

Tamara is a Financial Navigator at OHC. She gives 100% to every patient, treating them like a family member. As our Financial Navigator, she fights to help them with every penny they owe. She pulls in every resource she can to get them the help they need. Tamara helps outside of the office also. She recently made scrapbooks for 2 of our patients that went on the Honor Flight using her own resources.

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JOSLIN HAGGART YEISER  
**UNSUNG HERO** *Awards*

**Judy Wilson** nominated by Shayna Hamilton

We had a very sick patient that decided on hospice. Judy worked to get the patient to our Hospice unit. The patient's husband was very anxious and rightfully upset. The husband wanted to transport his wife in his own vehicle, so Judy wrapped the patient up in several blankets to keep her warm while transporting her out in the cold to the car. Judy mentioned that what should have been a beautiful walk was full of construction noise, barriers, scaffolding, and people going about their business. It broke her heart knowing that this lady, which the team had become so close to, was making her final exit in a construction zone with no one really knowing. Judy rode over to the hospice unit with the husband and patient to comfort each as they entered. This is nothing new for Judy and is just one example of the compassionate, loving care she gives every single day.

Judy remarked that the patient and husband probably did not notice all the noise of construction but Judy did -- and it just did not feel right. This is another example of the care that the associates here give. They are true to St. Elizabeth's mission of "Providing comprehensive and compassionate care" even to the final exit.

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J O S L I N H A G G A R T Y E I S E R  
**UNSUNG HERO** *Awards*

**Emily Schaefer** nominated by Suzanne Partridge, MD

This is a nomination in a posthumous manner. Emily really should have been awarded this years ago and silly me realized this too late. She deserved to be physically present for this and for that I have high regret. I also think her spirit knows she got this though. I want the community to get a glimpse of what it was like knowing Emily. I met Emily about 8 years ago. She was a young 40 year old woman with a malignant pleural effusion-and it turned out to be ovarian cancer. Any time I'm faced having to meet someone young with a serious cancer diagnosis it's always challenging. I know what I have to say is going to be devastating to the patient and the family. What struck me about Emily from the beginning-had to be her bravery. Emily wanted to know what to expect and wanted it delivered honestly and directly. She amazed me at her ability to handle her diagnosis. She truly took it on with the most maturity that is possible. She also had a talent of making it somehow fun. I'll never forget when she showed me her painted scalp when she lost her hair her first time around-it was an Ohio state football helmet! I mean-real silver paint-the details were amazing. I knew her spirit was just so wonderful-she truly was able to at least try to show that cancer was not going to get in the way of having fun in life. I knew Emily had so many friends and such a support team-she had a "team Emily" team at the ovarian cancer walk and you bet it was a very decorative experience. She would tell me of adventures such as a polar plunge one year when she jumped into some freezing water for some cause I believe-or maybe just for fun-more or less it made me laugh. Emily truly had to be on and off therapy for most of her life since her original diagnosis after an original 1.5 years of remission. She knew eventually the disease would take her. She lived with that-but yet still carried on in her job and never forgetting to smile or laugh.

I never expect everyone to be happy about their situation or disease-in fact I expect the opposite. That is why I found her so incredible. She did have her low times but could still find joy. I often thought her soul was one of those special ones sent to us to learn. I think one of her purposes was to show me this. I had often wished how I could show others how she thought and handled her disease. She often accepted things better than people twice her age. I sure wish I had recognized her sooner-but she made me feel like she was immortal-and I often forgot she was sick. This is why she was so special and it was a gift to care for her. Sadly Emily had developed a terminal complication of her disease in February-one that I prayed would not happen to her and when it did -she had to face some very difficult decisions about her care as her disease became more difficult to control. Once again she proved highly able to make a good decision and show she was at peace. In the end-she was telling me it was going to be ok. I was the one trying not to cry when we had our last hug. Thank you, Emily -I love and miss you!

JOSLIN HAGGART YEISER  
**UNSUNG HERO** *Awards*

**Columbus Cook** nominated by Soma Sengupta

Columbus is a decorated veteran of foreign war, having served in Operation Desert Storm. In 2018 he was diagnosed with a glioblastoma brain cancer. His wife states that “His diagnosis sparked an epiphany about how he wanted to spend his remaining time. Deployments and designs were no longer on the agenda. His attention turned to interpreting how he now saw the world. Using copper coils and cords from the very device that was extending his life, Columbus started to assemble lush mixed media works that detailed his evolution.” Columbus is an “Unsung Hero” because he has become a phenomenal artist and continues to do what he loves, despite his diagnosis.

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JOSLIN HAGGART YEISER  
**UNSUNG HERO** *Awards*

**Tracy Kinney** nominated by Mary Cadek

Tracy is an amazing lady. She brings pet therapy dogs to the Christ Hospital Cancer Center to help our patients relax while they receive chemotherapy. She and her dogs are a joy to see coming for patients and staff, especially me. Tracy is also a cancer survivor, and she is able to talk to patients from a "been there, done that" standpoint that is very helpful. She has many dogs and cares for all of them incredibly well.

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**UNSUNG HERO** *Awards*

**Barry Stuft** nominated by Jenifer Buttram

Barry is a survivor. He has now beaten four primary cancers over the last 12 years. Throughout his treatments and multiple diagnoses he has maintained a positive attitude and stayed true to his faith. After he completed treatment for his first cancer Barry began volunteering in the chemotherapy suite, spreading his love and positivity to other patients undergoing treatments. He has continued volunteering at the cancer center and other local hospitals. Barry's smile and kind words provide comfort and reassurance to those in need. He is an amazing man that so selflessly provides light to other people who are going through a time of darkness.

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JOSLIN HAGGART YEISER  
**UNSUNG HERO** *Awards*

**Elaine Berninger** nominated by Stacy Holdeman

I will never forget the first day that I met Elaine-- she was intelligent, sharp, and motivated to do whatever she could to prolong her time with her dear family. If she were ever discouraged, I never knew about it because she was always so pleasant with a smile on her face and fight in her heart. Elaine took great interest in working with many members of our team and always thanked us for our time-- a small gesture that goes a long way in healthcare. Her unfailing appreciation for life and for nature have made a lasting impression on me. I hope that her family can find comfort in knowing that she will never be forgotten by me or our team.

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**UNSUNG HERO** *Awards*

**Rachael Logsdon** nominated by Sally Bruce

On March 22, 2020 I sent out an email to my Cancer Resource Center volunteers to make medical facial masks. Rachael took the challenge and set off running. She organized her quilters to make masks; contacted people to donate fabric and elastic, let the rest of us know where to drop off the masks and sent us a pattern from St. Elizabeth to make 4-ply masks that would hold a filter. She created and posted a video on YouTube showing how to make these new masks. She even worked with Mary Lynn at the St Elizabeth Foundation to accept donations for supplies. Rachael sews while her husband, Eric cuts fabric. She creates kits and puts the word out on Facebook for crafters to pick up the kits at her house. She sent out a call for volunteers who crochet to make ear protectors for the facial masks and numerous crafters responded.

Rachael is a breast cancer survivor currently recovering from major heart surgery that was performed at the Mayo Clinic in January. This facial mask project is really helping with her recovery as it is keeping her busy while keeping her mind off her physical issues.

Rachael has been a Cancer Resource Center volunteer for over a year, working from home manning the CRC phone and scheduling wig fittings for St. Elizabeth patients. I wish her strong desire to make a difference was a disease everyone could catch.

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JOSLIN HAGGART YEISER  
**UNSUNG HERO** *Awards*

**James Petro** nominated by Kristina Marcum

I am honored to nominate James Petro, Patty DeMarco and Ashley DeMarco for the Unsung Hero Award. They have selflessly supported Judy through her journey. They accompany her to each chemotherapy treatment which can run 4 hours or more and sometimes over the lunch hour. They genuinely take care of each other and are true examples of a dedicated family.

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JOSLIN HAGGART YEISER  
**UNSUNG HERO** *Awards*

**Ashley DeMarco** nominated by Kristina Marcum

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JOSLIN HAGGART YEISER  
**UNSUNG HERO** *Awards*

**Patty DeMarco** nominated by Kristina Marcum

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