



Thank you

for providing **hope**
when it's needed **most**.

2026 Cancer Care Impact Report

Donor support allows ECU Health to transform Cancer Care across eastern North Carolina and beyond. From cutting-edge technology at the Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Tower at the ECU Health Medical Center to comprehensive services across a network of eight community hospitals, **your donations have made a significant impact** on the ability to enhance the patient experience and improve outcomes in our community. **Together, we are making a difference in the lives of cancer patients and their families.**

Providing H.O.P.E. to Cancer Patients

Founded by a passionate group of nurses, **Santa's H.O.P.E.** (Helping Oncology Patients Everywhere) was created to bring joy, dignity and comfort to cancer patients receiving care at ECU Health Cancer Care at the Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Tower during the holiday season. This heartfelt initiative **offers patients a unique and meaningful way to experience the magic of the holidays** without the added stress, expense or health risks often associated with crowded public spaces.

Santa's H.O.P.E. provides a free, in-facility shopping experience that prioritizes patient safety and well-being. Both hospitalized patients and those receiving outpatient treatment are invited to select gifts for their loved ones in a warm, welcoming environment. Every gift is thoughtfully chosen and **funded entirely through donations**, removing financial burden while preserving the joy of giving.

Over the past two years, Santa's H.O.P.E. has made an impact for nearly **800 patients**, offering moments of comfort, connection and holiday cheer during one of the most challenging times of their lives. Through generosity and compassion, Santa's H.O.P.E. ensures that no patient has to miss the spirit of the season while undergoing cancer treatment.



"Thank you to all of the donors who gave to Santa's H.O.P.E. philanthropically or by giving items generously. This gave our cancer patients a safe place to come and "shop" for their loved ones without having the worry of financial burdens. We are truly grateful for your support."

Christine Smith

Santa's H.O.P.E. Coordinator
Manager of Patient Care Services, Cancer Center Medical Oncology



ecuhealthfoundation.org/cancer

Funding Cancer Clinical Trials

Clinical trials are an essential part of cancer care, giving patients access to therapies an average of three to five years before FDA approval. Conducting clinical trials requires a strong infrastructure of research nurses, clinical research associates and data managers. Unlike pharmaceutical-sponsored trials, many of these studies do not come with dedicated funding to support this work.

Donor support, particularly through the Barnhill Professorship, is essential to sustaining our research program, enabling us to recruit and retain expert research staff and continue bringing promising new treatments to patients in our region.



Connected by Community. United in Impact.

Philanthropic support is critical to providing life-saving services such as **free cancer screening clinics**. Donor dollars also make a number of vital programs possible for cancer patients during their time at ECU Health and beyond. Together, we continue to provide hope and comfort to patients throughout their journey.

28

Cancer screening clinics held for breast, lung and prostate cancer in 2025

223

Patients screened through free cancer screening clinics in 2025

17

Patients required additional diagnostic testing from abnormalities found in screening in 2025



Patient Resources

This donor-funded program **provides financial assistance** for food, electricity, prescriptions, transportation and childcare to help patients manage the everyday costs of treatment, ensuring they can focus on healing.



Patient Navigation

ECU Health's system-wide navigation program, with donor support, is led by nurses and social workers who guide patients through the complexities of cancer care, **help remove barriers** to treatment and connect families with critical resources.



Oncology Outreach

Through **donor-funded early detection and prevention programs**, as well as educational initiatives, ECU Health brings awareness and screening opportunities to communities for breast, lung, prostate and colon cancers.



Survivorship and Support

Retreats, nutrition and exercise programs, massage therapy and other support groups help survivors and families navigate life during and after cancer treatment. These programs are **free to patients thanks to donor support**.



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