

Reducing Barriers to Access of Psychosocial Support

Collaborating Partners: St. Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS) and the Cancer Support Community of Greater Ann Arbor (CSC)

Project description and outcomes:

SJMHS and CSC have worked together closely since the concept of bringing a cancer support center to the region was envisioned. Since CSC opened in 2007, SJMHS has referred thousands of patients for services at CSC. For the past several years the CSC and SJMHS have expanded this partnership, whereby CSC formally became a part of the psychosocial support programming offered to the patients and families treated at SJMHS sites. As such, a comprehensive psychosocial program is currently offered in Canton, Chelsea, Brighton, and Ann Arbor. This includes support groups, exercise classes, mindfulness meditation, educational workshops and a full time oncology therapist.

As a result of this partnership, patients and family members in rural communities have access to the same high-quality cancer support services that are available in more urban areas. Since the development of this partnership, the CSC provides supportive services for over 500 individuals receiving treatment at the St. Joe's facility each year. Additionally, this collaboration allows the regional St. Joseph Mercy Cancer Centers to amplify the support services available to their patients under the guidance of the Commission on Cancer.

The overarching goal of this partnership is to leverage organizations strengths and expertise to improve quality of life for all people impacted by cancer. This partnership exemplifies the impact of the collaborative effort to allow organizations to focus on their areas of expertise.

Learn More:

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