

Bardstown

Common Good for the Commonwealth

Flaget Cancer Center: Going Above and Beyond

Mrs. Robin Robbins was looking for pain relief when she came to Flaget Memorial's emergency room. Her belly had been hurting for days and she felt terrible. What she did not know at the time was that she had lung cancer and she needed treatment immediately.

"Of course it's scary at first," said Mrs. Robbins, "but the Flaget Cancer Center team has been there for me every step of the way. I appreciate this place so much."

One of the reasons she appreciates the Flaget Cancer Center is because the team, led by medical oncologist Dr. Monte Martin, has made sure she gets what she needs. This includes both top-notch cancer care and dental care.

The connection between cancer treatment and dental health might not seem obvious at first, but Dr. Martin knew that Mrs. Robbins' dental needs posed obstacles to her cancer treatment. Her teeth were breaking and oral infection had set in. Before chemotherapy could begin, she needed to have her teeth removed and the infection treated. Unfortunately, Mrs. Robbins did not have dental insurance. On a limited income, she was not sure what to do.

Health Initiatives, was able to remove her teeth and perform oral surgery free of charge. Mrs. Robbins' cancer treatment could now begin.

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT THEM. WHEN YOU COME HERE YOU'LL GET THE BEST CARE NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE," said Mrs. Robbins.

Her gratitude for the Flaget Cancer Center team only grew when the team decided to go one step further. Knowing that Mrs. Robbins had no teeth and no way of affording dentures, the Flaget Cancer Center partnered with the Flaget Memorial Foundation and secured funding for a set of dentures.

"We knew Robin was in need of assistance and we wanted to do everything we could to help her. I will never forget her reaction when I called to tell her we were setting her up with a dentist to get her dentures," noted oncology nurse Lena Campbell.

"It's great to be able to smile again," Mrs. Robbins said.

Not only is she smiling but she made the Flaget Cancer Center staff smile, too, when she made each of them scarves to express her gratitude

"Their hugs and support mean so much to me," explained Mrs. Robbins. "I am not sure where I would be without the Flaget Cancer Center. They care about you here and I am not giving up!"

That is when the Flaget Cancer Center team worked with the nearby Nelson County Community Clinic (NCCC). The NCCC, which was made possible with grant funding from Catholic



TO BRING
wellness, healing
& **HOPE**
to all

Sue Downs
President

Shane Fitzgerald
Mission Leader

Flaget Memorial Hospital

4305 New Shepherdsville Road
Bardstown, KY 40004

502.350.5000

KentuckyOneHealth.org/HealthyCommunities



KentuckyOne Health®
Flaget Memorial Hospital