

December 1, 2018

Hillcrest Committee  
P.O. Box 836  
Medford, OR 97501

Dear Committee Members:

Each year, nearly 1,000 people in our region receive a cancer diagnosis. As Asante strives to meet our community's increasing need for comprehensive, compassionate cancer care, we are grateful for the partnership of the Hillcrest Committee.

In April, Asante entered into a partnership with Hematology Oncology Associates, leading local medical oncology providers. As a result, the volume of patients receiving infusions at Asante Rogue Regional medical center has increased from 35 to 90 per day. This partnership brings wonderful opportunity for improving the continuum of care for cancer patients and increasing patient access to clinical trials. It also enables us to touch the lives of more people with cancer and their families, through the Asante Cancer Compassion Fund.

As you know, the Asante Cancer Compassion Fund exists to serve the basic and comfort needs of local cancer patients. Since April, funds provided by the Hillcrest Committee have helped support a variety of activities and causes:

**Travel to treatment** poses a significant challenge to many patients. With your support, we have been able to remove this barrier.

- 35 patients received gift cards for food and gas expenses
- 8 patients were assisted with transportation to and/or from treatment appointments

**Monthly rent and car payments** have been paid, easing the financial burden of patients who were unable to work during their treatment.

- 3 patients were assisted with rent or housing costs

**Cancer-related care items not covered by insurance** were provided. Things like ointment and dressings to ease discomfort after radiation therapy and formula and feeding tube-transition kits for neck and throat cancer patients make a profound difference in patients' lives.

- 48 patients received various cancer-related medical supplies
- 1 patient will be receiving a lift chair

**Support group materials** were distributed to help patients as they enter survivorship, including nutritional cookbooks cook books and books on maintaining a healthy weight.

- 5 patients received educational materials and books

**Music-Thanatology, a palliative care modality** brings harp to the bedside to alleviate fear, discomfort, and suffering through the therapeutic qualities of music. With your support, we were able to approve an increase in the number of hours per week that this service is offered to patients in the oncology unit.

**Therapeutic oncological massage** is offered and is now poised to serve more patients than ever before. In the past, an estimated 200 infusion patients per year have received complimentary hand and foot massage at Asante Rogue Regional. Recently, a plan was created to significantly enhance the oncological massage offerings, more than doubling the number of patients who receive this supportive service, which is proven to reduce anxiety and ease discomfort. Services will be expanded from hand and foot massage to include full body massage, when appropriate. With the planned expansion, massage will be offered to include radiation oncology and medical oncology patients. We expect this plan to be fully operational in 2019 and look forward to updating you on our progress.

From a high-level view, it is clear that Hillcrest Committee's support is enhancing cancer care in our region. However, the direct, personal impact of your support is equally evident and transformational.

On Friday, November 30, we received a letter from the mother of a patient. The patient is a mother of four, newly divorced, and facing cancer and financial need. Her Asante social worker identified her need and arranged for her to receive a heater for her home and a microwave, purchased with Asante Cancer Compassion Funds. The patient's mother wrote:

*To whom it may concern: Forever Grateful*

*We as a family especially myself, her mother, appreciate the help and consideration during these tough times fighting this cancer. Stacey's apartment is so cold she goes to her car to blast the heater and get warm, also to heat up food quickly she drives around the corner to a friend's and uses their microwave, so these items are going to be essential in keeping her healthy during these difficult times. Bless you.*

We are grateful for the Hillcrest Committee's support of the Asante Cancer Compassion Fund. Please know that your generosity is vital to our work - redefining compassionate cancer care for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Gold Stagg', with a long, sweeping line extending upwards and to the right.

Christian Gold Stagg  
Director of Development, Asante Foundation  
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