

December 4, 2019

Anne Barry, President
Hillcrest Committee
PO Box 836
Medford, OR 97501-0060

Dear Anne and Members of the Committee:

Every year, more than 2,000 people in our region learn that they have cancer. Last month alone, Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center in Medford provided more than 1,800 patients with infusion services and cared for nearly 900 patients with radiation oncology. The need for integrated, local cancer care continues to grow. Asante is poised to meet this need with the planned construction of a new, Regional Cancer Center in Medford and expansion of the Spears Cancer Center in Grants Pass. Community support has been essential to every significant advance in medical care for our region and this remains true today. The Hillcrest Committee's partnership has been instrumental as Asante endeavors to redefine compassionate cancer care.

Since 2017, the Hillcrest Committee has generously supported local cancer patients, through the Asante Cancer Compassion Fund. Thank you for the opportunity to present a mid-year update on the outcomes of your support. This letter provides a snapshot of the lives you have touched with your most recent grant. By the numbers, and in the words of patients and staff, we hope to show the profound impact you have on the lives of local people facing this illness.

Music-Thanatology is a palliative care modality which uses harp music to care for patients in a clinical setting. Asante is fortunate to have two of only 100 trained music thanatologists in the U.S. on our care team. Their service to oncology inpatients is funded, in part, by support from the Hillcrest Committee.

The music-thanatologists apply the music prescriptively, observing patients' vital signs such as respiration, body language and heart rate, tailoring the music to the specific situation in the moment. The music vigils provided through this funding bring warmth and connection, which can help alleviate pain, stress, anxiety and agitation. Additionally, it supports patients to sleep, rest, process emotions and breathe more gently and easily. Loved ones also benefit from the music with similar results, sometimes sleeping, crying or communing more deeply with patients. Staff members also often comment on what a positive impact the music has for them as they go about their frequently stressful work. Expressions of profound gratitude are received often from patients, loved ones and staff.

"Thank you, you're an angel. That soothed my heart."

- Patient

"Just hearing the music in the hallway helps me stop, take a breath and remember what is important."

- Administrator on the oncology unit

