

Winter 2022

Dear Friend,

Thank you for supporting Baylor Scott & White McClinton Cancer Center in Waco. Because of generous donors like you, cancer patients like Amber have life-saving stories to share. I am pleased to share her story and highlights with you.

In the midst of this global pandemic, philanthropy has never meant more for our patients and community. Your gifts allow us to continue to serve and provide uninterrupted cancer care throughout these unprecedented times.

We remain focused on providing the safe, quality care you have come to expect from us. Thank you for supporting us through your generous donations. We commit to continue to earn your trust.

We are deeply appreciative of your partnership and generous support. It means the world to us.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Ksionda, MBA  
Director of Philanthropy, Waco  
Baylor Scott & White Central Texas Foundation

To stay updated on areas of need and stories,  
please visit [CTXFoundation.BSWHealth.com](https://www.CTXFoundation.BSWHealth.com).

(Over please)

## Amber is Cancer Free



***“Cancer can be scary. The uncertainty of a new diagnosis and everything it entails can consume you with fear if you’re not careful. Have faith. Living a life afraid is not living. Take each day as it comes and don’t worry about what you can’t control.”***

***–Amber, Cancer Survivor***

At the age of 29, Amber, a registered nurse at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Hillcrest, received a diagnosis that changed her life. Over the course of several months, she gradually experienced shortness of breath, chest pains and numbness in her left arm, advancing to the point she was unable to grip a pen. After a few visits with her primary care provider and specialists they gained insight, but nothing compared to the news she was about to receive.

In July of 2019, Amber went to the emergency department – where she fainted. While in the ER, abnormalities and an X-ray of her left arm showed hollow bone. Amber was diagnosed with a plasmacytoma in her left arm and multiple myeloma in her bone marrow, a very rare cancer that is normally found in men 65 and older. Amber’s doctor told her that she was his youngest patient with this cancer. She started her medical leave in March 2020 and in May received a bone marrow transplant. Overcoming several side effects, including being unable to speak, move or do much of anything, Amber successfully returned to work after ringing the bell in August 2020.

Amber shared, “fighting cancer will make me a better nurse, because I see it now from both sides.”

# Your Generosity At Work

## 2021 Highlights: Baylor Scott & White McClinton Cancer Center

**9,980** total chemo infusions  
**3,174** total medical infusions  
**10,863** medical oncology visits



**8,047** radiation treatments  
**3,049** radiation visits  
**464** new radiation consults

**2,174** total plastic and reconstructive visits  
**304** plastic and reconstructive surgeries



Each nurse navigator in the program sees an average of 10 patients per day in-office.



- ★ Maintains the Commission on Cancer® Accreditation, which is a 3-year accreditation.
- ★ Achieved the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers.

- ▶ Two staff members achieved advanced certifications in Oncology care.
- ▶ The social work and navigation teams completed the *Serious Illness Care Program* training, which enhances meaningful communication with patients who are hospitalized with a serious illness.



## Opportunities to Enhance Cancer Care

### Linear Accelerator



A linear accelerator delivers radiation therapy with pinpoint accuracy to target and treat tumors, while sparing surrounding healthy tissue. Adding a second linear accelerator

will help bring local comprehensive cancer care to even more patients in the area.

#### Key features

- ▶ Tailored treatments specific to each patient
- ▶ More options for treating complex cases, including lung, breast, liver, abdomen, head, and neck cancers
- ▶ Precision measured in increments of less than a millimeter with accuracy checks every ten milliseconds
- ▶ Short treatment times to reduce patient discomfort and minimize the impact on patients' daily lives

### Nurse Navigators

Nurse Navigators help eliminate barriers to care and provide guidance, education, and emotional support throughout the challenging cancer journey. Establishing a Nurse Navigator Endowment Fund will allow patients continued care and support by a Nurse Navigator.



To learn more about these opportunities, visit our website [CTXFoundation.BSWHealth.com](https://www.CTXFoundation.BSWHealth.com) or contact Jeremy Ksionda, Director of Philanthropy, at 254.202.9553.