

# When hope expands, healing follows



Sarah Bush Lincoln  
Health Foundation  
**2025 Annual Fund**

There are an estimated **18.6 million people living with cancer** in the United States. By 2035, that number is projected to rise to **22 million**. This year **79,000 new cancer cases will be diagnosed** in Illinois. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cancer is the leading cause of death in midlife. **Nearly 39 percent of men and women** will be diagnosed with cancer sometime in their life.



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## 2025 Annual Fund

In 1989, Sarah Bush Lincoln first opened the doors of the 8,400-square-foot Regional Cancer Center and welcomed people fighting the fight of their lives. As patient volumes rapidly grew, including a 30 percent increase in medical oncology visits in just two years, a new, 21,500 square foot cancer center was built and opened in 2016.

Over the years, thousands of area residents have chosen to fight their cancers close to home within the caring surrounds of the Regional Cancer Center, but once again, we've outgrown our space. In fact, just in the last five years we've doubled the number of total patient visits.

"In 2020, we had roughly 50,000 cancer center visits," said Dr. Abdur Shakir, Medical Oncologist. "This year, we're on track to have more than 100,000 visits that include both medical and radiation oncology. We **have** to expand to meet the growing needs of our patients. We simply don't have a choice."

The Cancer Center was originally built with 17 chemotherapy bays, 8 exam rooms, a PET/CT scanner, state-of-the-art linear accelerator, a patient/family community room and a spacious reception area. Plans are to add 15,000 square feet to that space.

### 2016

17 Infusion Bays  
8 Exam Rooms  
1 Procedure Room

### 2026

34 Infusion Bays  
17 Exam Rooms  
4 Procedure Rooms  
1 Patient Education Room

## Help us expand hope to patients battling cancer.

Join us as we raise funds for this project that will make the future brighter for our families when they're faced with a cancer diagnosis. Every gift—no matter the size—makes a difference.

There are many individual naming opportunities available, starting at \$5,000. Donors making gifts of \$1,000 or more will have their names engraved on a group plaque.

Your gift represents even greater hope for a future, hope for a family and hope for our community.

### 'Expanding Hope' Campaign Committee

Ann Beck, PhD	Paul Koerner
Kyle Banks	Matt Myerscough
Joe Dively	Megan O'Dell
Tom Grunloh	Deacon Patient
John Inyart	Tammy Ronchetti
Tony Sparks	

For more information, contact a committee member or Amy Card, SBL Foundation Director, at 217-258-2511 or [acard@sblhs.org](mailto:acard@sblhs.org).

### Artist's rendition of the Regional Cancer Center Expansion





# Jeff Hutchinson

*"I got lucky."*



Jeff Hutchinson, a lifelong Mattoon local, knows firsthand the impact of having quality cancer care close to home. A husband, father and grandfather, Jeff said, "I got lucky."

What started as a normal morning for Jeff and his wife ended with him in the ER, and that's when they found the ulcer that led to his cancer diagnosis. Jeff described it as a blessing in disguise: *"It saved my life."* He shared that when he first walked into the Sarah Bush Lincoln Regional Cancer Center, the diagnosis quickly became real. *"You see the word cancer and it hits you. But from the moment I walked in, everyone made me feel cared for and prioritized."*

Jeff describes his care experience as one filled with compassion, prioritization and reassurance. *"From the moment I walked in, they made me feel like a priority,"* he said. *"Dr. Jagarlamudi, Dr. Cho and the entire staff treated me with kindness and respect. Suddenly, I had another brother and sister."* After completing a month of radiation treatment, Jeff says he's grateful to have received such high-quality care so close to home. When asked if the upcoming expansion was needed in the community, Jeff didn't hesitate. *"Sadly, yes, it's needed,"* he said. *"It's tough to see how many people are there each day, but also shows how important this care is for our community."*

Expanding the Regional Cancer Center means more people can get the same care and hope that Jeff did—right here at home.



Tammy Ronchetti of Mattoon made a \$700,000 lead gift to the Expanding Hope Campaign, in honor of her husband Bob, who passed away on June 7, 2025.

The number seven held deep meaning for the couple—Bob passed away at age 77, they were married on January 27, 2007, and this \$700,000 gift beautifully reflects that significance.

Tammy's generosity continues a legacy of care and hope, and will make a profound and lasting difference to the SBL Regional Cancer Center for decades to come.



☐ **I would like to contribute to the SBL Regional Cancer Center Expanding Hope Fund**

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$1,000 or more - name on a group plaque in the RCC  
\$5,000 or more - name on an individual plaque in the RCC

☐ I would like to donate to another SBL Program/Service.

- ☐ Children's Dental Program
- ☐ Peace Meal
- ☐ Willow Breeze Hospice House
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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If paying by credit card:

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