



Cook for Cancer

Contact

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<http://www.corvallisclinicfoundation.org/cook-for-cancer>

Description

This initiative goes beyond screening for food insecurity. Cook for Cancer, a program of The Corvallis Clinic Foundation, supports health care providers with ways to connect patients with access to healthy food. Cook for Cancer serves as a food distribution program by providing free meals for oncology patients undergoing treatment and their families. The goal of Cook for Cancer is to address food insecurity by providing healthy, easy to prepare meals for patients during time of uncertainty. Meals are prepared at the local Dream Dinners by community volunteers, and delivered to patients at their convenience. Any patient undergoing treatment for cancer can access this program.

Along with the medical, financial and emotional stressors of a life altering diagnosis, food preparation is often an added stressor on patients, families and caregivers. All cancer patients should have equal access to the healthy food needed to nourish and heal their bodies. Cook for Cancer eases this burden and allows patients to focus on their health and well-being.

Timeframe

Cook for Cancer was established in 2010 as a meal program offered only to breast cancer patients undergoing treatment. Moving forward, Cook for Cancer is looking toward program expansion for more comprehensive survivor support to support the Corvallis 2040 Vision. Cook for Cancer is looking for community partners to support program expansion in order to address food insecurity among all cancer patients. The initiative will be met when the program reaches all cancer patients.

Funding

Cook for Cancer is funded by private donations and grants provided to The Corvallis Clinic Foundation and the partnership with the Dream Dinners Foundation.

Equity and Accessibility

Historically, under-served populations, particularly patients of color, those from low socio-economic strata and those residing in rural communities, have significantly worse outcomes from cancer. The mission of the Foundation, achieved through Cook for Cancer, includes the delivery of care to at-risk populations. This Initiative provides free meal distribution for any patient undergoing cancer treatment living in Benton County regardless of their race, ethnicity, age or socio-economic status. In order to eliminate potential barriers to services, patients personalize their menu and meals are delivered at the patients' convenience.

Approvals

N/A

Date Accepted: 08/23/2019

Community Action Plan (CAP) Objectives

ES1: Well-being and Basic Needs

LT6: Access to Healthy Lifestyle

Partners

The Dream Dinners Foundation funds 50% of meal costs. Samaritan Health Services provides financial support and refers patients to the program via nurse navigators, social workers and other health care professionals. Willamette Valley Cancer Institute also refers patients to the program. Volunteers donate their time and expertise in menu selection, planning and meal preparation. Cook for Cancer seeks further community collaboration for successful program expansion.