

Working Together to Deliver Exceptional Breast Health Care

We greatly appreciate your interest in deepening your partnership with Northwestern Medicine as we strive to enhance the patient experience at NM Kishwaukee and Valley West Hospitals—and, more specifically, as we work to strengthen the breast health care and services that we deliver to patients in DeKalb County. With this proposal, we are pleased to provide you with details about our vision and plans for the new **Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital Comprehensive Breast Health Center**. We anticipate that the total cost of this high-priority project will be approximately \$4.1 million, and **philanthropy will be absolutely integral to our success** in realizing our vision for a truly outstanding Breast Health Center. Therefore, as you review this proposal and learn more about the center's mission, services, and vital role in our community, we hope you will consider lending your support to this meaningful initiative.

Should you choose to make a generous gift to our new Breast Health Center, you will help to create an exceptional, trusted destination for breast health services in DeKalb County. Moreover, you will make a powerful difference in the health and lives of countless women and the people who love them.

Defining Features of Our New Breast Health Center

When we embarked on our journey to establish the new Kishwaukee Hospital Comprehensive Breast Health Center, we were guided by our commitment to elevating the mammography screening rate—currently **60 percent**—in DeKalb County, and to doing everything possible to strengthen awareness, early detection, and the effective treatment of breast cancer. According to the National Cancer Institute, the mammography screening rate in Illinois is **78 percent**—a statistic that further underscores the need for enhanced breast health services in our community. Within our new Breast Health Center, we will consolidate breast screening and imaging services in a freestanding, state-of-the-art center whose hallmarks will be: **(1)** highly individualized clinical care and **(2)** an optimal patient experience. Fundamentally, we are dedicated to creating a Breast Health Center with four defining features.

❖ **Defining Feature #1: A True Team Approach**

The center's multidisciplinary clinical team will feature specialists—including medical oncologists, radiologists, breast surgeons, pathologists, radiation oncologists, nurses, and others—who will **place a premium on teamwork** and will work together to understand each patient's specific illness, needs, and challenges. Together, team members will identify and evaluate the most promising paths and options for each patient.

A Message from Jay Anderson President, Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee and Valley West Hospitals

*"Our new Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital Comprehensive Breast Health Center is the next step in the patient journey, the breast care journey, for many women throughout DeKalb County. The center's care providers and services are attached to—and will reflect the excellence of—Northwestern Medicine's world-class Breast Care Program. **Now, our patients will be able to receive state-of-the-art care, and a full complement of breast health services, close to where they live and work.** I am so grateful for the generosity and vision of thoughtful philanthropists and supporters, who are helping to make this much-needed, truly comprehensive and contemporary Breast Health Center a reality in DeKalb County."*

❖ **Defining Feature #2: A Personalized Treatment Strategy**

Working collaboratively, team members will develop a **treatment strategy that is uniquely tailored to each patient** and is targeted to the patient's specific disease. This approach will provide each patient with the best possible surgical options, as well as the most current—and the most promising— chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, and/or radiation options. Moreover, if a patient qualifies for one or more of Northwestern Medicine's clinical trials, she will be able to learn about those opportunities, and, potentially, she might enroll in a study that has the ability to contribute to the future of breast cancer treatment.

❖ **Defining Feature #3: A Dedicated Nurse Navigator**

The team at Kishwaukee Hospital Comprehensive Breast Health Center will include a **dedicated Nurse Navigator** who will contribute significantly to the patient experience by: **(1)** providing patients with personalized information regarding topics such as diagnosis, treatment options, and potential side effects of treatment; **(2)** helping to connect patients with support groups and community resources; **(3)** coordinating referrals, as needed, to healthcare providers and medical services; **(4)** assisting with scheduling appointments; and **(5)** serving as a trusted source of emotional support throughout a patient's diagnosis and treatment process.

❖ **Defining Feature #4: The Most Advanced Technologies and Services**

A vibrant example of compassionate, leading-edge patient care, our new Breast Health Center will be a true asset to DeKalb County and, more broadly, to the Northwestern Medicine health system as a whole. The center will feature the **latest technologies**, as well as the most **thoughtfully designed equipment and services**. Notable offerings will include:

- **Advanced imaging technologies**, utilized for both screening and diagnostic mammograms
- **An ultrasound machine** with the ability to image the entire breast for screenings
- **Two "3-D-capable" mammography units:** 3-D mammography yields superior results, compared to conventional 2-D imaging, particularly in dense breast tissue that may hide a malignant growth
- **A special biopsy table** that is more comfortable for patients and offers physicians better positioning options
- **Same-day mammogram results** when possible



An Invitation to Partnership

We offer you our heartfelt thanks for your generous nature, for your belief in Northwestern Medicine, and for your interest in helping to ensure that women in DeKalb County have access to the very finest breast health care and services. Aided by caring partners such as you, we will succeed in establishing the new **Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital Comprehensive Breast Health Center** as a beacon of exemplary, holistic, patient-centered care.

Together, we have the opportunity to reach out to a great many women and families who are experiencing the many challenges associated with a journey through breast cancer, and to provide them with **better, brighter, more hope-filled clinical outcomes and futures.**

We look forward to talking with you in greater detail about the information and plans presented in this proposal. In the meantime, if you have questions, or if we may be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact:

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