

Breslers' Generosity to Lake Forest Hospital Oncology Program Honors Loved Ones



Last fall, the Breslers visited the plaque that honors Mr. Bresler's parents, Jeannie and Stanley Bresler. From left to right: Andrew Bresler, Sharon Bresler, Dr. Michael Bauer and Dr. Dean Tsarwhas.

Andrew and Sharon Bresler experience every peak and valley with open hearts and a desire to give of themselves. Recently, they made a significant gift to support oncology programs at Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital in memory of Mr. Bresler's parents.

Their philanthropy establishes the Bresler Family Cancer Center Waiting Area and helps ensure that oncology programs and services continue to thrive and improve the health and well-being of patients and families experiencing a journey through cancer.

"Our family has been touched by different cancers — prostate, pancreatic and breast cancer," Mr. Bresler said. "We wanted to honor my parents' memory with a gift that will make a positive impact on the community, and that will help others benefit from the kind of care and support that we have been fortunate to receive at Lake Forest Hospital."

Mrs. Bresler underwent surgery five years ago at Lake Forest Hospital with Alok Pant, MD, '13 GME, health system clinician in Feinberg's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

"The care I received from Dr. Pant and the nursing staff was wonderful," remarked Mrs. Bresler. "Their skill and the compassion they showed our family truly helped with my whole treatment and recovery process."

Thanks to generous support from the Breslers and others, Lake Forest Hospital's cancer program continues to expand its outreach and services. In the past year, the program experienced a 25 percent growth in patients served through the leadership of Dean Tsarwhas, MD, director of Cancer Services for Northwestern Medicine's North Region and a health system clinician in Feinberg's Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology.

The cancer program's supportive services are important facets of each patient's care. Designed to address not only physical symptoms of cancer, but also the emotional and psychological aspects of illness and treatment, these services range from complementary therapies, such as massage, to psychosocial support and nutrition counseling. The program's "Look Good... Feel Better" initiative helps patients manage some of the difficult side effects of cancer treatment.

"Going through cancer as the patient or with a loved one is a scary, stressful experience. Our family understands that first hand, and we are happy to help others who are going through these challenges," added Mr. Bresler.

The Breslers recently met with Dr. Tsarwhas and Michael Bauer, MD, medical director of Lake Forest Hospital, while visiting the Cancer Center to view the plaque that pays tribute to Mr. Bresler's parents.

"It was a chance for us to bring together, and to honor, all the people and memories and inspirations that mean so much to our family — everything that motivated us to make this gift," Mr. Bresler said. "It's our pleasure to make a donation that will help this great hospital to keep doing what it does best: Caring, in a truly special way, for everyone who comes through its doors."

Daytons' Gift to Gastroenterology and Cancer Research Inspired by Loss and Gratitude



John and Janice Dayton

John and Janice Dayton have a deep sense of gratitude and a desire to honor loved ones and care providers alike. With these intentions, they made a generous estate commitment to Northwestern Memorial Hospital that will support research in gastrointestinal disorders and cancer — two illnesses that have profoundly affected their family.

"I lost both my mother and my father to cancer relatively early in my life, and then I lost my brother to cancer, as well, in 2004," Mr. Dayton shared. "Those losses motivated me to do something in the area of cancer research. I wanted to make a difference for other people and families affected by cancer. With this gift, Janice and I hope we can make that difference."

A lifelong Chicago area resident, Mr. Dayton earned both his undergraduate and MBA degrees at Northwestern University. Through the years, his appreciation of and loyalty to Northwestern has expanded to include Northwestern Medicine — and, specifically, Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

"I was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis in my early to mid-20s," Mr. Dayton recalled. Ulcerative colitis is an irritable bowel disease that causes long-lasting inflammation and ulcers in the digestive tract. The condition can be quite debilitating and may lead to a host of serious complications.

Mr. Dayton continued, "I received ongoing care and treatment at Northwestern Memorial and was fortunate to have Dr. Howard Schachter as my doctor. He took such great care of me. I was able to turn to him about any and every issue."

A specialist in gastroenterology and associate professor emeritus of Medicine at Feinberg, Dr. Schachter helped Mr. Dayton manage his ulcerative colitis for years. He also referred Mr. Dayton to Steven Stryker, MD, clinical professor of Surgery at Feinberg, who performed the surgery that Mr. Dayton credits with transforming his health and quality of life 27 years ago.

"From the moment I met him, Dr. Stryker was extremely nice and made me feel very comfortable. Both he and Dr. Schachter have helped me through many challenges," said Mr. Dayton. "Janice and I realized that we wanted to do something to truly thank them, something that could help other people with GI conditions."

By making this gift through their estate, the Daytons are creating a legacy that will touch many lives for years to come. "We just want to show how much we appreciate everything," said Mr. Dayton. "That's really what this gift is all about."