JENNIE EDMUNDSON FOUNDATION

METHODIST JENNIE EDMUNDSON

24th Annual

Spirit of Courage

Supporting the Spirit of Courage
Cancer Center Charitable Patient Care Fund

Honoring Our 2026 Recipients



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Because of You, Courage is Here

WELCOME TO THE 24TH ANNUAL SPIRIT OF COURAGE GALA!



For 24 years, Spirit of Courage has brought our community together for one powerful purpose: to honor courage, celebrate hope and support local patients facing cancer.

Since this event first began, your generosity has helped the Jennie Edmundson Foundation raise just under $2.5 million for the Spirit of Courage Cancer Center Charitable Patient Care Fund. Even more meaningful, 100 percent of those donations provide assistance to uninsured and underinsured patients who need help covering expenses associated with the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Behind every dollar is a patient, a family, a difficult day made a little easier and a reminder that no one should have to face cancer alone.

Each year, courage is at the heart of this event. And each year, our Spirit of Courage recipients remind us that courage does not look the same for everyone.

Sometimes courage is quiet and steady, lived one day, one treatment or one season at a time. Sometimes it is found in taking the next step, even when the road ahead is uncertain. Sometimes it means choosing trust after fear, holding on to humor through hard days or allowing others to help carry what feels too heavy to carry alone.

In this program, you will read the inspiring stories of **Bob Martens, Jennifer Potmesil, Kathy Racine** and **Abby Robinson**. Each has faced cancer with strength, honesty and resilience. Their journeys are deeply personal, yet together they remind us of something universal: family matters, caregivers matter, trusted medical teams matter and community support matters.

You will also read about the **Methodist Jennie Edmundson Cancer Center** and the dedicated team of physicians, nurses, therapists, caregivers and support staff who provide exceptional care close to home. Their work is deeply personal, highly skilled and rooted in compassion. For patients and families throughout southwest Iowa and beyond, the Cancer Center continues to be a place of healing, hope and support.

This year, we are also proud to recognize **Frontier Savings Bank** as our featured sponsor. Their commitment reflects the very spirit of this event — neighbors helping neighbors, businesses investing in community and generosity reaching patients at a time when they need it most.

Please join me as we honor four courageous individuals, remember those who are no longer with us and celebrate the many people who make this weekend possible. We are grateful to our sponsors, donors, celebrity guests, executive board, committee chairs and volunteers for sharing their time, talents and hearts with the Jennie Edmundson Foundation.

Most of all, on behalf of the patients and families who benefit directly from your generosity, thank you. Your support continues to change lives.



Tara Slevin, Chief Philanthropy Officer, Methodist Jennie Edmundson
President, Jennie Edmundson Foundation

Spirit of Courage

CELEBRATING COURAGE SINCE 2003

2025
Rich Belt
Kelly Dix
Danny Elliff
Gene Walter

2024
Travis Meier
Kathy Runde
Terry Thomas
Stacia Thompson

2023
Rita Epperson
Brent Malskeit
Fran Shorey
Marlene Turner

2021 (2022)
Donna Elliff
Deb Potter
Jake Powers
Kevin Rutland

2020 & 2022
Due to COVID-19, all past recipients were honored in 2020 and 2021, with the 2021 Recipients celebrated at the 2022 event.

2019
Deb Bladt
Dr. Darcey Butts
Bobbi Calderon
Bob Steele

2018
Erin Berkley
José Hernandez
Joan Minikus
Glen Mitchell

2017
Mark Engelke
John McCreedie
Mindy Miller
George Smith

2016
Teresa Benson
Karen Hansen
Jenyi Knudsen-Bergsten*
Amber Williams

2015
Rod Courtier
Richard Daberkow
Lucy Beall Graeme
Melanie Ryan

2014
Kara Dunphy
Dr. Lori Platt
Dolores Silkworth
Marilyn Weber*

2013
Marcia Antworth
Les Green
Randy Grudle
Laura Pattermann

2012
Marcia Keith
Julianne Morton
Julie Nickolisen
Caryl Martinez

2011
Gracie Hays
Edd Leach
Joel Peck*
Horst Rossbund

2010
Callie Earlywine
Karen Krause
John Scherle
Kathy Whitson*

2009
Cliff "Rink" Holly
Brady Jorgensen
Carol Reeder

2008
Pat Andersen
Rick Carlson
Ann Hartman
John Nelson

2007
John Allen
Emma Chance
Jan Lookabill
Tom Schmitt

2006
Gary Fiscus
Hazel Gammon*
Dr. John Okerbloom

2005
Shirley Hurd
Pat Penn
Janet Scherle
Dr. Mary Schermann

2004
Sue Johnson

2003
Verne Welch

**Denotes Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient*

Thank you to each recipient for your strength, story, and inspiration.











You are an inspiration to us all, Spirit of Courage recipients.

Thank you for attending this evening and supporting its remarkable mission!

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2026 Summer Spirit of Courage Events

Spirit of Courage is more than a single evening—it is a summer of meaningful events that bring our community together in support of local cancer patients. From welcoming our recipients and celebrating alongside past honorees, to the Wheels of Courage Car Show, celebrity golf tournament, and our signature gala, each event plays an important role in raising funds and honoring the extraordinary courage of those facing cancer. Together, these celebrations create lasting connections, inspire hope, and ensure compassionate care remains available for patients in our community.

JUNE 23

Recipient Welcome Party - Hosted by Jennie Edmundson Foundation
A heartfelt evening to kick off the celebration, welcoming this year's honorees into the Spirit of Courage family.

JUNE 27

Wheels of Courage Car Show - Held at Quaker Steak & Lube
A high-octane, family-friendly event featuring 175+ classic cars, food, music, and more —all in support of local cancer patients.

JULY 31

Recipient and Celebrity Event - Hosted by Scott and Susan Hartman
An inspiring night where past and present honorees come together with our celebrity guests to share stories, celebrate courage, and build lasting connections.

AUGUST 1

24TH ANNUAL SPIRIT OF COURAGE
A powerful day dedicated to hope, healing, and honoring those who inspire us all.

CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENT - Dodge Riverside Golf Club
Tee off with our celebrity guests to raise critical funds for cancer patients in need.

GALA DINNER, AUCTION & PRESENTATIONS
Benefiting the Spirit of Courage Cancer Center Charitable Patient Care Fund
An unforgettable evening of giving, gratitude, and celebration.



FRONTIER SAVINGS BANK

Stands with Community Through Spirit of Courage



(Right) Tim German, President, Frontier Savings Bank

For Tim German, community banking has always been about more than financial transactions. It is about relationships, trust, knowing your neighbors and being willing to show up when support is needed most.

As President of Frontier Savings Bank, an office of Glenwood State Bank, German sees that commitment lived out every day. Frontier Savings Bank has been a longtime supporter of the Jennie Edmundson Foundation and has served as a sponsor of Spirit of Courage since 2019, helping raise funds that provide direct assistance to local cancer patients and their families.

"Community banking has always been about more than deposits and loans," German says. "It's about knowing your neighbors, understanding what families are facing and stepping forward when there is a need. Spirit of Courage is exactly the kind of local effort Frontier wants to stand behind because the support stays local and helps people right here in our community."

Tara Slevin, Chief Philanthropy Officer at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital and President of the Jennie Edmundson Foundation, says that in the 24 years since Spirit of Courage began, just under $2.5 million has been raised for the Spirit of Courage Cancer Center Charitable Patient Care Fund. Every dollar donated to the fund helps patients and families with needs related to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, including treatments, deductibles, uninsured medications, groceries, rent, utilities, fuel and transportation to care.

"Cancer is overwhelming enough without patients also having to worry about whether they can afford gas to get to treatment, pay for medications, keep food on the table or cover a utility bill," Slevin says.

"Our sponsors understand that sometimes the most meaningful help is also the most practical. They help us step in quickly so patients can focus on healing."

That mission resonates deeply with Frontier Savings Bank. As a community bank, Frontier understands how quickly unexpected circumstances can place pressure on a family. A cancer diagnosis can interrupt work, create medical expenses, add travel costs and make even ordinary household needs harder to manage.

"When someone is facing cancer, the financial stress can come from every direction," German says. "It may be gas to get to treatment, a prescription, groceries, rent or simply trying to keep life as normal as possible for their family. If

> "Spirit of Courage is exactly the kind of local effort Frontier Savings Bank wants to stand behind because the support stays local and helps people right here in our community.











our support helps remove even one of those worries, that matters."

German recognizes that cancer has touched nearly every family, workplace and community in some way. While each person's experience is different, most people understand the fear, uncertainty and disruption that can come with a diagnosis. Spirit of Courage gives local businesses, donors and friends a meaningful way to respond.

The bank's support of Spirit of Courage is not simply a sponsorship decision. It reflects the way German and the Frontier team view their role in the community.

"Tim is one of those people everyone enjoys being around," Slevin says. "He is kind, thoughtful and genuine. He has a way of making people feel welcome, and that spirit carries through in Frontier's partnership with the Foundation. Their support is generous, but it is also personal."

That commitment is rooted in a much larger banking tradition. Glenwood State Bank was founded in 1899 by local businessmen and farmers who wanted to create a safe place to bank while helping their community prosper and grow. More than a century later, that same purpose continues through Glenwood State Bank and Frontier Savings Bank.

The connection to the Jennie Edmundson Foundation has grown over many years. Grant Dean, President of Glenwood State Bank, served on the Jennie Edmundson Foundation Board for 16 years, helping strengthen a relationship grounded in shared commitment to local people and local needs.

> "We continue to support Spirit of Courage because the impact is immediate and personal. You can see it in the stories of the recipients and in the way the Foundation responds to real needs.

For Frontier, support of Spirit of Courage is also a team effort. Members of their team have participated in the Spirit of Courage golf outing and gala, adding another layer of connection to a weekend that brings together recipients, families, physicians, caregivers, celebrity guests, volunteers, sponsors and friends.



Marcy and Tim German have been community supporters for many years. The Germans have even celebrated their wedding anniversary at Spirit of Courage.

Spirit of Courage has always been more than a fundraiser. Each year, the event honors individuals who have faced cancer with strength, resilience and courage.

Their stories remind guests why the fund exists and why local support matters.

"We continue to support Spirit of Courage because the impact is immediate and personal," German says. "You can see it in the stories of the recipients and in the way the Foundation responds to real needs. It is a powerful reminder that when a community comes together, we can help carry people through some of the hardest moments of their lives."

That willingness to help carry others is what has sustained Spirit of Courage for more than two decades. Sponsors like Frontier Savings Bank make it possible for the Foundation to respond quickly with financial support that helps stabilize a family during treatment.

"The Jennie Edmundson Foundation has earned the trust of this community because people know the support is going where it is needed," German says. "Frontier is proud to be part of that work and proud to help bring hope, comfort and assistance to local cancer patients and families."

Through its continued partnership with the Jennie Edmundson Foundation and Spirit of Courage, Frontier Savings Bank is helping ensure that local cancer patients have access not only to excellent medical care, but also to the everyday support that helps them keep going.

And for German and the Frontier team, that is what community is all about — standing beside neighbors in moments of growth and success, but also in moments of fear, uncertainty and need.

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BOB Martens



One appointment at a time.
One treatment at a time.
One season at a time.

For Bob Martens, courage has never been loud.

It sounds more like the steady hum of a combine in the fall, the quiet support of his wife, Cheri, beside him, the voices of family from Florida, and a simple phrase Bob has carried through more than five years of cancer treatment: "Keep your head up and keep going."

Ask him how he has faced diagnosis, surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation, recurrences and all the uncertainty that comes with cancer, and he gives the kind of answer you might expect from a farmer who has spent his life understanding seasons, hard work and uncertainty.

"Day by day," he said. "That's what you do."

Bob's cancer journey began in March 2020, just as the world was beginning to shut down because of COVID-19.

He and Cheri had recently returned home from Florida when Bob passed out after getting out of the shower. His hemoglobin had dropped to a critically low level, and when he fell, he broke both ankles.

Bob had surgery the next day and was discharged to rehab, where he spent nearly three weeks alone due to COVID restrictions. Cheri could not come and sit beside him the way she wanted. So she did what she could.

She brought him chocolate chip cookies. That fall, Bob had colon surgery. He completed treatment and rang the bell for the first time on May 4, 2021. A few months later, scans showed spots on his liver. Once again, Bob trusted his care team and took the next step.

He underwent liver surgery with George Dietrich, M.D., followed by another round of chemotherapy. The next year, he received the good news that his liver had completely healed.

Then, in 2023, scans showed spots on his left lung. Bob began infusions and chemotherapy pills, and in 2024, he

Special Thanks

I want to thank the Jennie Edmundson Foundation and the Spirit of Courage Committee for making me one of the 2026 Spirit of Courage Recipients.

I also want to thank my wife, Cheri, for being with me through it all. We will be married for 60 years this fall.

Also, my son Brent and his family always checking up on us. To my brothers, Jack and Jeff, for taking care of the farming while I haven't been feeling well.

Also, to my sister Rozanne always asking if there is anything we need and also last but not least to my extended family for the last six years.

Additionally, Sakeer Hussain, M.D., for the excellent care I have received, and the nurses Megan, Stacy,both Marys and all the staff at Heartland Oncology & Hematology for making this journey manageable.

received radiation treatment to his left lung with Dr. Huang and the MJE Radiation Oncology team.

Through each diagnosis, treatment plan and round of waiting, Bob kept going.

"I just went along with what the doctor said," he said.

That simple statement says a lot about Bob. He is not someone who looks for attention or dresses up perseverance in fancy words.

He simply shows up - for the appointment, the scan, the treatment and the next decision.

His care team at Heartland Oncology has seen that strength up close. They have watched him endure years of treatment for metastatic colon cancer while bringing a positive outlook to his care team. They have seen him celebrate the wins - a good scan, an encouraging test result, and a moment when disease is under control. In Radiation Oncology, Bob was remembered as kind, determined and easy to work with. Even while receiving treatment, he continued farming.

Farming is part of who Bob is. After serving three years in the Army from 1967 to 1970, Bob came home and began farming. Decades later, the farm remains central to his life. His brothers, Jack and Jeff, do much of the work now, but Bob still helps in the spring and runs the combine in the fall.

Ask him what he enjoys most about farming, and his answer comes easily. "Fall work."

Farming is a life built on patience, endurance and faith in the next season. Bob understands that rhythm. The farm has been one of the places cancer has not been allowed to take everything. It gives him something familiar to return to - something that still feels like Bob.

And through every season, Cheri has been beside him.

Bob and Cheri will celebrate 60 years of marriage this fall. When Bob talks about her support, he does not need many words.

"A lot," he said, his voice catching. "A lot."

He can talk about surgeries, treatment and recurrence with a matter-of-fact calm. But when he talks about Cheri, the weight of the journey becomes more visible. She has been his partner through the fear, the waiting, the appointments,















the recoveries and the unknowns.

For Bob, much of that courage is rooted in family. He lights up when he talks about his son, Brant; daughter-in-law, Te'Ya; and grandchildren, Mavyn and Braxon. Braxon plays football, and Bob and Cheri were grateful to have Brant and Braxon back for Father's Day when Braxon attended a football camp at Iowa State. Bob's sister, Rozanne, also lives in Missouri Valley, where the family often gathers for holidays.

When asked what has helped him keep going through the hardest days, Bob's answer came quickly. "My grandkids."

That may be the heart of Bob's story. He keeps going for the people he loves - for Cheri, Brant and Te'Ya, Mavyn and Braxon, Jack and Jeff, Rozanne, the farm, the next harvest, the next visit, the next football game and the next milestone.

Cancer has been part of Bob's life for more than five years, but it has not become the whole of his life.

He also carries deep gratitude for the people who cared for him, including Sakeer Hussain, M.D., Megan, Stacy and Mary. He describes them simply as "great," but the emotion in his voice says more than the word itself. Bob says he has leaned on Cheri, his grandkids, his faith, and the doctors and nurses who helped him keep going.

Bob's courage is steady. It is found in the way he listened to the doctors and kept moving forward. It is found in the way he rang the bell, then returned to treatment when cancer came back. It is found in the way he continued farming, loving his family, trusting his care team and celebrating the wins along the way.

When asked what he would say to someone newly diagnosed with cancer, or someone whose cancer has returned, Bob did not offer a long speech.

"Just keep your head up and do what the doctors tell you," he said. For Bob Martens, that is courage the kind that gets up again and moves through uncertainty with faith, family, gratitude and quiet strength.

One appointment at a time. One treatment at a time. One season at a time. One day at a time.

"Just keep your head up, and do what the doctors tell you."











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Spirit of Courage

recipients— and every honoree who's taken a stand in the fight against cancer.

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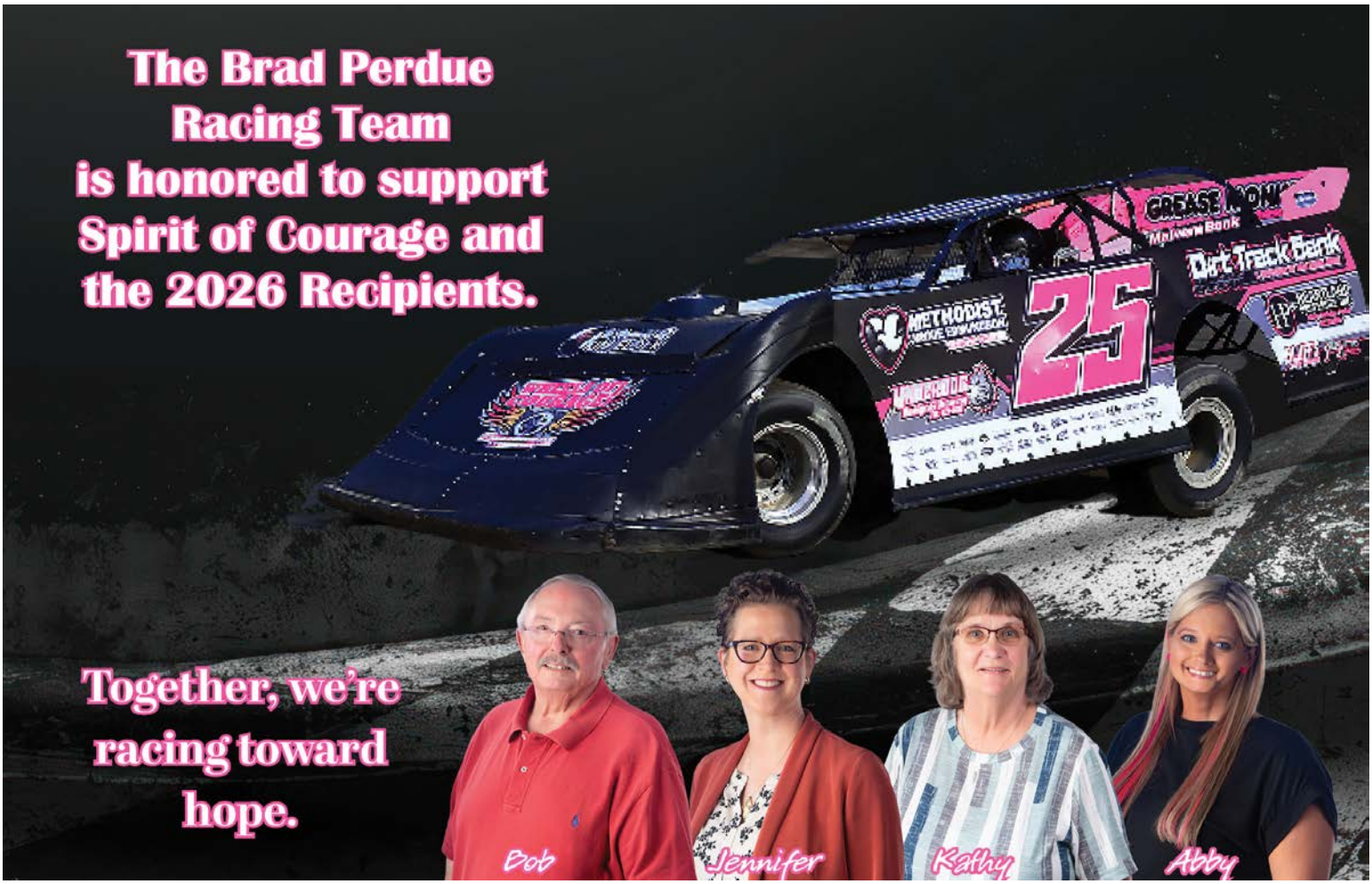



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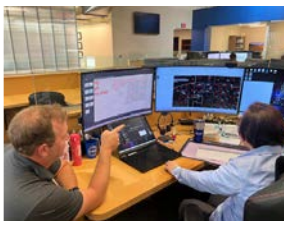





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2026 RECIPIENT

JENNIFER *Potmesil*



THE STEP THAT MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

Jennifer Potmesil's mammogram looked normal. There was no evidence of malignancy. No reason for alarm.

But Jennifer also had extremely dense breast tissue and a family history that placed her at higher risk. Through the Breast Health and Hereditary Cancer Risk Clinic, she was encouraged to take one more step: a screening breast MRI.

She could have told herself the mammogram was enough. Instead, Jennifer followed through.

It changed everything. Her first breast MRI showed a suspicious mass. A biopsy confirmed invasive ductal carcinoma - a breast cancer that, even in hindsight, could not be seen on mammography.

"They can't see what they can't see," she said.

Her message to other women is simple and powerful: listen to the recommendations. Ask questions. Follow through. If additional screening is suggested, do not assume it can wait.

Jennifer knows how easy it would have been to miss. Before her father, Randy, passed away from cancer, he encouraged Jennifer to stay on top of her health and complete the screenings recommended to her. Jennifer made that promise, and she kept it. When the MRI results appeared in her portal, the date was March 28, her dad's birthday.

But Jennifer's story is not only about the moment cancer was found. It is about what it takes to keep going.

Practical by nature, Jennifer met much of her journey with honesty, humor and perspective. She did not try to solve the whole road at once. She focused on the appointment in front of her, the treatment in front ofher and the people who needed her most.

Cancer was already familiar to Jennifer's family. Her husband, Fred, had faced lymphoma before her own diagnosis, and Jennifer had walked beside him as care-giver and steady support. This time, Jennifer had to learn how to receive support.

Special Thanks

To my husband, Fred, thank you for being my rock through every step of this journey. To my mom, Karen, thank you for always being there and for never letting me feel alone. To my boys, Jake and Cody, you were my reason to keep going every single day.

To my sister, Karisa, thank you for helping me see the bigger picture, and making me laugh along the way.

To my care team, thank you for taking such incredible care of me with compassion, skill and kindness. And to my friends, thank you for showing up, checking in, and reminding me just how loved I am.

Fred understood what she needed because he had already been through cancer himself. Their sons, Jake and Cody, had seen their dad go through treatment and come out on the other side. When Jennifer was diagnosed, there was fear, but also reassurance that their family knew how to walk through hard things together.

"I had to be okay," she said.

That determination carried her through surgery in May 2025, four rounds of chemotherapy and radiation. In December, she began Anastrozole as part of her long-term treatment plan.

Through each step, Jennifer learned to focus on what was directly in front of her.

"You've got to do whatever the next step is," she said. "Whatever the next day brings, you've got to figure it out."

Some steps were harder than she expected. Losing her hair was one of them. Jennifer chose to cut and donate her hair before it began falling out, giving herself one small piece of control. Over time, she cared less about what others might think and more about moving forward as herself.

Her mother, Karen, was with her at every chemotherapy treatment. Karen knew the routine, the waiting and the long hours, and she knew how to bring comfort, packing snacks carefully so nothing would bother anyone nearby.

On one treatment day, after steroids left Jennifer feeling unusually energized, kind of like the "Kool-Aid Man," the two went antiquing together.

> "She made me feel like I was going to be okay.

Jennifer bought a cabinet she did not need at the time - a piece that now sits in the hallway of her new home. After Fred completed treatment, he and Jennifer decided it was time to build the forever home they had dreamed about. Cancer had reminded them that life does not wait for perfect timing. During treatment, the house continued taking shape. On difficult days, she could see progress. Something good was still being built.

Tammy Johnson, ARNP, was one of the first people Jennifer met through the Breast Health and Hereditary Cancer Risk Clinic.

Jennifer remembers the way Tammy helped her feel calm. "She made me feel like I was going to be okay," Jennifer













said.

At Nebraska Cancer Specialists and Radiation Oncology, there were familiar faces from Fred's treatment. Jennifer's chemotherapy nurse, Jennifer Jorgensen, had also cared for Fred. Angie Watts, one of the radiation team members, had cared for him as well. That continuity mattered. Jennifer was also struck by how closely everyone worked together, coordinating care so she could focus on healing, her family and the pieces of life that mattered most. Her care team saw her show up with questions, perspective and determination to advocate for herself.

"When you are newly diagnosed, your life does get turned upside down," Jennifer said. "But the team I had was there for every single step. They've been here. They've seen this. They're fighting it every day."

Now, as active treatment gives way to follow-up and surveillance, Jennifer is learning that healing includes finding peace in the unknown and building a new normal with those who helped carry her - Fred, Jake and Cody, her mom Karen, her sister Karisa Johnson, her care team, friends and family.

That is what Jennifer wants others to know: you do not have to figure it all out at once. You show up. You do your best. You listen to the experts around you. You accept help. And then, as Jennifer says, you do the next step.

That next step might be the next test, the next question, the next appointment, the next treatment or the next doctor. Whatever it is, you take it.

Jennifer's courage is steady and deeply human. It is the courage to follow through, to be both strong and scared, to let others carry part of the weight, and to keep showing up for her family, her health and the life she loves.

Through Jennifer's story, we are reminded that early detection matters. That trusted care teams matter. That family matters. And that sometimes courage begins with one simple decision to take the next step.

Because for Jennifer Potmesil, that next step made all the difference.











"When you are newly diagnosed, your life does get turned upside down. But the team I had was there for every single step.

THEY'VE BEEN HERE. THEY'VE SEEN THIS. THEY'RE FIGHTING IT EVERY DAY."

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Capturing Memories & Moments



Harrahs and Horseshoe Casinos Team along with celeb, Kevin Keith, pause teeing off for a team photo.



American National Bank Golf Team, celebrity guest Tohoru Masamune, volunteer Chuck Devereaux and others gather round 2025 SOC Recipient, Gene Walter.



Jenni and Trevor Mayberry, MJE Director of Facility Operations, paused for a photo at the 2025 SOC Gala.



2025 Spirit of Courage recipient Kelly Dix, along with her husband, Nate, and their children, gathered for a family photo.



Brian and Michelle Kaufman, Methodist Health System, Service Executive Radiation Oncology, snapped a quick photo at the gala in 2025.



Marcia Antworth, past recipient, smiles as she registers SOC past and present recipients.



Mike and Melanie Ryan (past recipient) along with Tia and Rod Brandenburg and family enjoyed the procurement party in the MJE East Garden.



Past recipient Mindy Miller and Donna Leech visit during the 2026 welcome reception in the MJE East Garden.



Robert Armbruster, M.D., Stacey Tams, Senior Director of Clinic Operations - Iowa Clinics, and Sumit Mukherjee, M.D., celebrate a successful Fund-A-Need and Live Auction.



Bill Oldenburg, Caitlin Harvey, Samantha Pastorino, JJ and Crash Davis, and Terry Oldenburg, were all smiles at the Friday night gathering last year!



Celebrity Caitlin Harvey, volunteer Jacquie Dierks, and HGM Associates proved matching shirts were encouraged — not required!



Team US Bank, joined by celeb, Ricco Ross, may have had a better score with axe throwing than golf!



(Below): Jerri Larson and Kerry Newman work the runway as they arrive at the gala in 2025!



(Above): It is an annual tradition to photograph our past and present recipients the evening before the gala. Family members of those who have passed represent their loved one in this "family" photo.

2026 RECIPIENT

KATHY *Racine*

HOW SHE KEEPS GOING.



Kathy Racine has a way of meeting life as it comes. "It is what it is," she says.

But when Kathy says those words, they do not sound like giving up. They sound like strength. Like perspective. Like someone who understands that life can change without warning - and that sometimes, the only thing you can do is take a breath, trust the people around you and keep going.

Recently retired, Kathy was looking forward to travel, camping, time with family and, as she puts it, "sitting at home on the porch doing nothing."

Then Randy heard Kathy wheezing from across the room. A visit to Dr. Michael Mahoney led to a chest X-ray, then a CT scan, and then a referral to Dr. Sumit Mukherjee after a mass was found in her lung. Kathy and Randy had a trip to Canada planned, and with appointments and uncertainty beginning to build, the question came up: should they cancel?

Kathy's answer was no.

"I had been waiting and planning on this one," she said. So they went.

That is Kathy. Practical. Determined. Not reckless, but not willing to let fear take everything either. Even with the unknowns waiting at home, she found a way to keep living the life in front of her.

When she returned, the next step was a biopsy. It was supposed to be a relatively simple procedure - a way to get answers and better understand what was happening in her lung.

Randy went to the cafeteria to get breakfast while he waited. He had barely sat down when the call came.

The hospital needed him back upstairs immediately. What followed was the kind of moment no family is prepared for. Early in the procedure, Kathy developed cardiac arrest and ventricular fibrillation. Her care team began working to save her life. She received CPR, defibrillation and clot-busting medication. For 45 minutes, they fought to bring her back. Kathy survived.

But the biopsy did not provide enough tissue for the answers her team still needed.

For Kathy and her family, that meant facing an almost unimaginable question: after nearly losing her life during the first attempt, could she find the courage to go through another procedure?

Many people would have said no. Her care team would have understood. Dr. Mukherjee would have understood. But he also knew Kathy still needed answers.

What stands out most about Kathy is her resilience, Dr. Mukherjee said. "After everything she went through during that first biopsy, many people would have been understandably hesitant to continue. Kathy understood the seriousness of what had happened, but she also understood that we still needed answers. Her willingness to trust us again and keep moving forward says everything about her courage."

Her diagnosis was not straightforward. The tumor in her lung was blocking her airway, and her team needed to understand exactly what they were dealing with. After what Kathy had endured, moving forward required more

than medical planning. It required trust.

"Trust," Kathy said. "That's the hard part."

Kathy listened. She asked questions. And with the support of Randy, her family and her care team, she agreed to keep going.

Randy made sure she knew the decision was hers.

"It's your call, your body," he told her. "Whatever you decide, I'm fine with it."

That support mattered. So did the confidence Kathy had in the people caring for her.

A second biopsy followed, and Kathy continued with close surveillance and routine imaging. Eventually, under the care of Dr. Karin Trujillo, she underwent a procedure that helped provide the diagnosis her team had been seeking. Kathy's tumor was identified as a low-grade spindle cell neoplasm - a rare type of tumor in her lung that can spread.

Dr. Trujillo performed cryoablation and debulking, removing and treating the tumor as much as possible at that time. For a while, Kathy continued to be watched closely.

> "Trust, that's the hard part."

"It bought me a year of time," Kathy said.

Then the tumor showed signs of returning, and in May 2026, Kathy underwent surgery with Dr. Trujillo to remove two sections of the lower lobe of her left lung.

Her journey has included frightening complications, unanswered questions, repeated scans, difficult decisions and the emotional weight of knowing the path forward can change.

And yet, through it all, Kathy has remained Kathy.

Her care team describes her as positive in every circumstance. Friendly. Strong. Funny. Someone who talks about her travels and retirement plans with the same spirit she brings into appointments, and someone who does not let what she has been through define the whole of who she is.
NatalieJean Ahrens, Kathy's oncology nurse navigator,











said Kathy's strength is not found in one single moment. It is simply who she is: strong, funny, steady and amazing.

Her courage is found in the way she faces hard news, then still talks about the next trip. It is found in the way she can joke with her care team, even after all she has endured. It is found in the way she trusted again after fear had every reason to take over.

It is also found in the love surrounding her - in a husband who stood beside her through the most terrifying moments, family milestones that continued to matter, and a care team that never stopped looking for answers.

Kathy knows her story is not over. There are still appointments, healing and unknowns ahead. But she has already shown what courage looks like when the road is uncertain.

"One day at a time," Kathy said. "You meet that day, and this is what you've got to do."

For Kathy, those words are not the end of the story. They are how she keeps going.



Special Thanks

I would like to give special thanks to my husband, Randy, for always being by my side, supporting my decisions and being my rock throughout this journey.

Also, special thank you to Dr. Sumit Mukherjee, NatalieJean Ahrens, and Dr. Karin Trujillo.

Additional thanks to the surgical teams at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital and Methodist Hospital.



We're in this fight together.

American National Bank is proud to sponsor the Spirit of Courage Celebrity Weekend. Together, we can do more to support our community and inspire hope.

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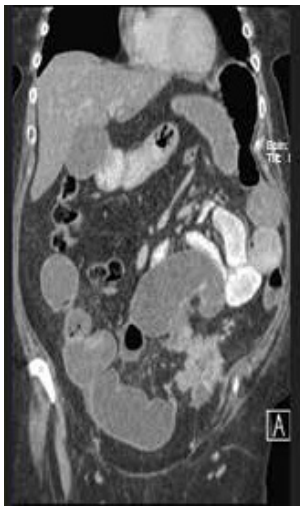

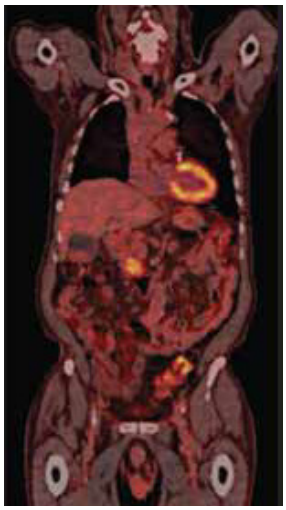

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ABBY *Robinson*

WHEN CANCER PICKED THE WRONG NURSE.



Abby Robinson has a way of making people laugh, even when she is talking about something impossibly hard.

She is honest, quick-witted, full of energy and never far from something pink, sparkly, or both. She is a wife, mother, school nurse, aunt, friend and childhood cancer survivor. Although cancer has touched her life from nearly every angle, Abby is clear: it does not define her.

Abby was just eight years old when she was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma in her jaw. Her treatment included radiation and a year of chemotherapy. Some memories from that time are faded, but one remains vivid: her grandmother, Dorothy, staying by her side during hospital visits when Abby's mom had to return to work.

Abby remembers waking early one morning and panicking when she did not see her grandmother in the room. A nurse quickly reassured her that Dorothy had only stepped out for coffee. To an eight-year-old girl facing cancer, that presence mattered. So did the hours they spent together watching "The Golden Girls".

Abby went on to grow up, become a nurse, marry her husband, Jim, and become mom to Landon and Jax. Nursing had always been part of her heart, even before cancer. Although childhood treatment briefly made her think she had seen enough hospitals for a lifetime, her desire to help people never left.

"As I grew up, I always had that desire to help people and make the situation they're in better," Abby said. Then, in 2025, Abby found herself back on the other side of care.

She knew something was wrong. She was exhausted, short of breath, pale and covered in tiny red spots. During a trip to Worlds of Fun with one of her boys, she felt worse than she had ever felt. As a nurse, she could recognize the signs. As a person, wife and mother, she also wanted to explain them away.

Eventually, Abby went to the emergency room at Methodist. Lab work and a bone marrow biopsy confirmed the diagnosis: acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

In one breath, there was relief. Finally, there was an answer for why she felt so terrible. In the next, there was fear, grief and disbelief.

"I remember just bawling," she said. "Thinking, how am I going to do this again?"

Her first thoughts went to her family - to Jim, Landon and Jax, her job, the life she loved and the people who counted on her. She felt defeated. She felt afraid. She also knew she had a choice.

"You can either fight it or let it beat you," Abby said. "I beat it once, and I'll beat it again."

Through treatment, Abby's goal was not to appear heroic. It was to remain Abby. She wanted her boys to see their mom, not a cancer patient. She wanted to keep showing up and show them that life can have setbacks, but you can still be present.

"I just wanted them to see me as their mom," she said. "I wasn't out of the game."

That determination did not mean the journey was easy. As someone used to being the nurse and caregiver, Abby had to learn how to be cared for. She had to release control, trust the process and allow others to help carry

what she could not carry alone.

Her care team, led by Dr. Stefano Tarantolo and supported by Jennifer Jorgensen and the Nebraska Cancer Specialists team, became an important part of that trust. They helped Abby navigate not only treatment, but the emotional reality of becoming the patient. Jennifer remembers Abby coming into the clinic with a smile, pink accessories and a cheerful "Hello Friend" - still trying to work, still spreading light, still very much Abby.

While in the hospital, Jim brought pajamas, shampoo, a pillow and blankets - many of them pink, of course. At school, her work family rallied around "Team Abby." Friends designed shirts in pink, Abby's favorite color, and orange, the color for leukemia awareness. They wore pink on Wednesdays, sold bracelets, sent messages and reminded Abby that she was loved, valued and needed.

"They were there behind me, no matter what was happening," she said. "It made me feel so loved and so supported."

One of the most tender parts of Abby's story is her niece, Vivian - or "Viv," as Abby calls her. Vivian was diagnosed at age four with DIPG, a terminal brain cancer. She fought for nine months before passing away on April 22, 2025.

Abby does not believe the timing of her own journey is coincidence. She was diagnosed later that year and was officially placed in remission on April 22, 2026 - exactly one year after Vivian passed away.

"It's not a coincidence in my heart," Abby said.

Vivian is part of Abby's story. Her "spicy nugget," as the family called her, remains a source of love and strength.

> I tell my boys that asking for help is a sign of strength.

Today, Abby carries all of it with her - childhood cancer, AML, motherhood, nursing, grief, remission, gratitude and the next steps still ahead. She carries it with humor, honesty and the unmistakable strength of someone who knows courage is not the absence of fear.

Courage, for Abby, is allowing yourself to be angry, sad or scared - and still take the next breath. It is listening to your body. It is accepting help. It is remembering that asking for help is not weakness.

"I tell my boys that asking for help is a sign of strength," she said.













When Abby learned that Jennifer had nominated her for Spirit of Courage, she was surprised, grateful and deeply touched. Jennifer sees countless patients. For her to see Abby as someone who embodied this honor was, in Abby's words, "a blessing."

For those newly diagnosed or walking beside someone they love, Abby's message is simple and powerful: you are not alone. Feel what you need to feel. Take one day at a time. Take a breath.

A saying Abby kept on her wall, even before diagnosis, now feels especially true: "Darling, this is just a chapter. It's not the entire story."

For Abby Robinson, cancer picked the wrong nurse.













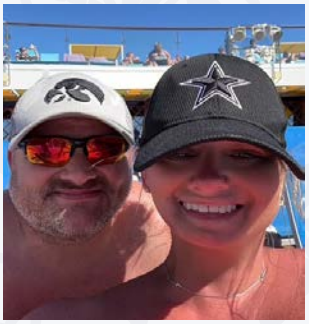

Special Thanks

There are no words that can truly express my gratitude to the people who stood beside me throughout my cancer journey. No one fights cancer alone, and I have been incredibly blessed with a village that carried me through one of the most difficult chapters of my life.

To my mom and dad, thank you for never leaving my side. Through every appointment, every difficult day, every moment of uncertainty, and every victory, your love, strength, prayers, and unwavering support gave me the courage to keep moving forward. Thank you for every ride to treatment, every comforting hug, every sacrifice, and every reminder that I was never alone. I could not have made it through this journey without you, and I will be forever grateful for your unconditional love.

To my husband, Jim, and my boys, Landon and Jax, thank you for being my greatest source of hope and strength. Jim, you were my rock through every challenge, loving me with patience, courage, and unwavering faith. Landon and Jax, your hugs, laughter, and smiles gave me a reason to keep fighting every single day. You are my heart, and I am endlessly grateful for the love we share.

To my family, friends, and my tribe, thank you for every prayer, text, phone call, meal, hug, and encouraging word. Your kindness reminded me that I was never alone. Your love lifted my spirits, strengthened my faith, and carried me through the hardest days. I will forever treasure the compassion and friendship you so generously gave.

To Stefano Tarantolo M.D., Jennifer, and my incredible medical team, thank you for your exceptional care, compassion, and dedication. You treated me with not only medical expertise but also kindness, patience, and genuine concern. Thank you for guiding me through every step of my treatment with hope, reassurance, and unwavering support. Your commitment to your patients changes lives. I will always be grateful to have been in your care.

To my College View family, especially Max and Michele, thank you for your friendship, encouragement, and understanding throughout this journey. Your thoughtful messages, prayers, and unwavering support meant more than you know. I am incredibly fortunate to work alongside such compassionate people, and I will always be grateful for the kindness you showed me during one of the most challenging times of my life.

To everyone who walked beside me, prayed for me, encouraged me, and believed in me when I needed it most—thank you. Your love and support helped carry me through this journey, and I will never forget the difference you made in my life.

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Dr. Sumit Mukherjee, *Pulmonology*

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THE TEAM *Around the Table*

CANCER CARE THAT COMES TOGETHER AROUND THE PATIENT

At Methodist Jennie Edmundson Cancer Center, cancer care is not built around a single appointment, treatment or provider. It is built around the patient.

Each week, that commitment is visible in Cancer Conference, also known as tumor conference, where physicians, nurses, navigators and other care team members review patient cases together. In past years, the conference has included as many as 15 experts at the table, with medical specialists in Harlan also joining virtually.

For patients in Council Bluffs and southwest Iowa, Methodist Jennie Edmundson Cancer Center offers nationally recognized cancer care close to home. Through the Spirit of Courage Cancer Center Charitable Patient Care Fund, the Jennie Edmundson Foundation helps support patients when practical needs threaten to become barriers to that care.

Located on the Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital campus, the Cancer Center is nationally accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, with approval dating back to 1996. That recognition reflects a long-standing commitment to quality, coordination and compassionate care.

The depth of the program is one of its greatest strengths. Patients have access to radiation oncology, medical oncology, surgical oncology, breast health services, hereditary cancer risk assessment, lung and thoracic oncology, head and neck oncology, mammography, clinical trials, cancer rehabilitation, oncology social work, nutrition, lymphedema services, spiritual care, palliative care and survivorship support.

Strong medical oncology partnerships are central to that work. Through the Cancer Center's collaboration with Heartland Oncology & Hematology and Nebraska Cancer Specialists, patients have access to medical oncology and chemotherapy services close to home. Together, these partnerships expand access, strengthen continuity of care and help patients receive timely treatment without unnecessary travel or delays.

Radiation oncology is another cornerstone of the program. Methodist radiation oncologists use advanced technology



Sakeer Hussain, M.D., and Pornchai Jonglertham, M.D., collaborate often to meet the needs of each patient.

EXPERTISE CLOSE TO HOME

Radiation Oncology is one of the cornerstones of cancer care at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Cancer Center, offering advanced treatment close to home.





The Cancer Center's focus also extends beyond treatment to early detection and risk reduction. The Jennie Edmundson Breast Health Center offers comprehensive breast care and mammography, while the Hereditary Cancer Risk Program gives patients and families access to genetic testing and counseling resources.

(Left): Elizabeth Nutty, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, and Denise Dobbs, RN Navigator, Hereditary Risk Program, bring both clinical expertise and a personal understanding of hereditary cancer risks. This helps patients process information that can affect future screening, prevention and family conversations.

to plan and deliver targeted radiation designed to destroy cancer cells, shrink tumors or control disease progression while helping protect healthy surrounding tissue.

For patients in southwest Iowa, that means access to advanced radiation oncology care close to home, supported by the broader expertise and resources of Methodist Health System.

The Cancer Center's focus also extends beyond treatment to early detection and risk reduction. The Jennie Edmundson Breast Health Center offers comprehensive breast care and mammography, while the Hereditary Cancer Risk Program gives patients and families access to genetic testing and counseling resources that can help them understand inherited cancer risk and plan for future screening and prevention. Elizabeth Nutty, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, brings both clinical expertise and personal understanding to that work.

The Lung and Thoracic Oncology program reflects that same proactive approach. Through lung screening, thoracic care and the Incidental Lung Nodule Program, patients receive follow-up when lung nodules are discovered, sometimes unexpectedly, during imaging for another medical concern. That commitment to prevention also reaches into the community through Methodist's, "No Tobacco Challenge" with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands.

Yet the most meaningful care is often found in the smaller moments. It is nurse navigators coordinating appointments so a patient traveling from a rural community can make



Community outreach has long been at the heart of our mission. By providing health screenings, education, and valuable resources, our team is helping build healthier communities—one connection at a time.

Fund-A-Need



Co-chaired by Sumit Mukherjee, M.D. and Andrew Coughlin, M.D., the 2026 Fund-A-Need invites guests to help remove real-life barriers for local cancer patients- from transportation and medication costs to groceries, rent and utilities.

fewer trips. It is care team members walking beside patients as they navigate surgery, chemotherapy, time away from work and the challenges of caring for a family.

It is oncology social workers, nutrition, rehabilitation, spiritual care and survivorship support helping patients find quality of life during and after treatment.

That same understanding -- that cancer care must support the whole person -- is at the heart of this year's Spirit of Courage Fund-A-Need. Sumit Mukherjee, M.D., and Andrew Coughlin, M.D., are helping lead the 2026 effort as co-chairs, bringing physician voices to a cause they see reflected in the lives of patients every day.

For Dr. Mukherjee, the need extends beyond the diagnosis to everything that follows.

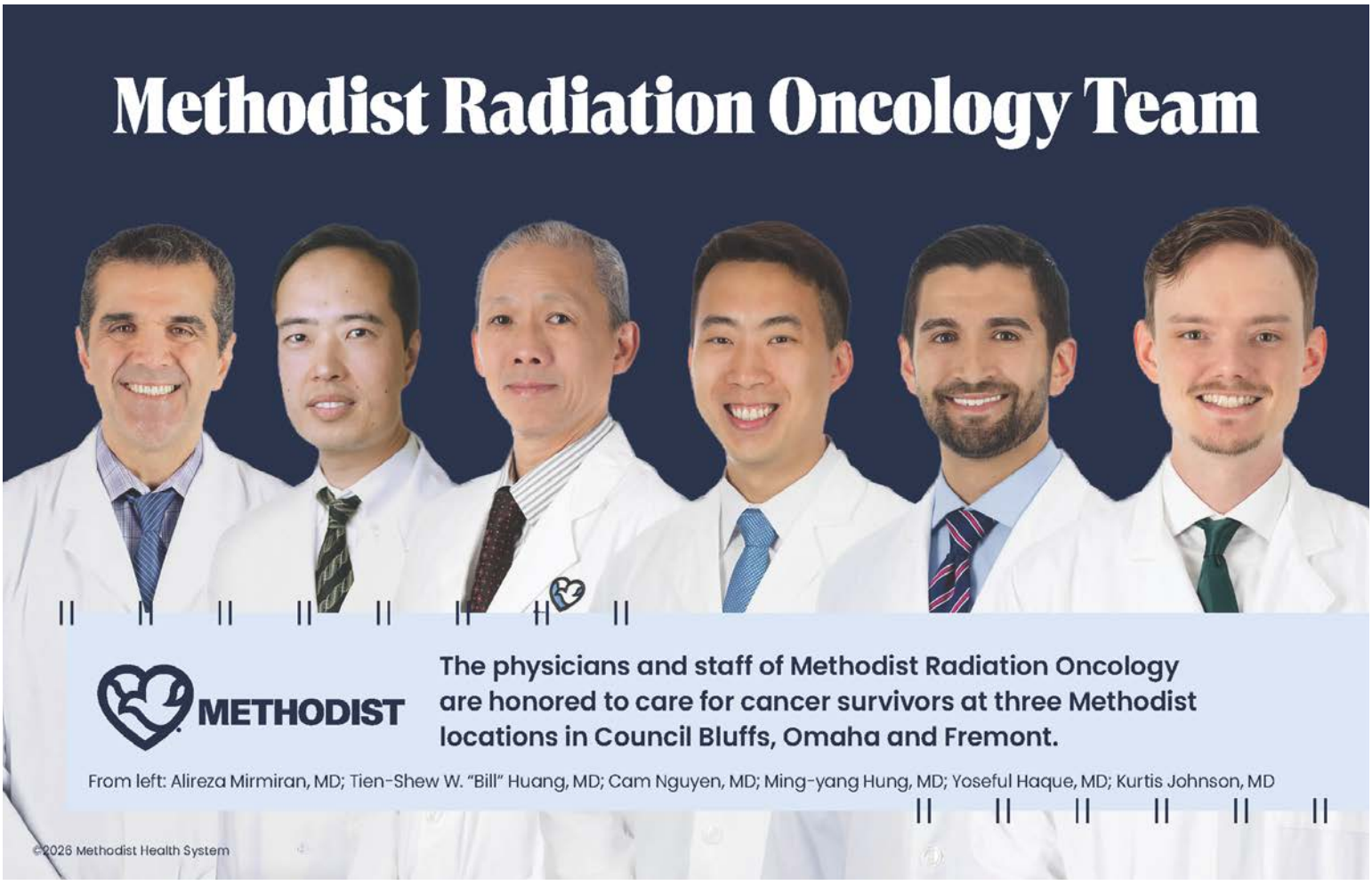
"When patients receive a cancer diagnosis, they are often met with fear and anxiety about the unknown," Dr. Mukherjee said. "But we also see the concerns they carry about providing for their families, affording treatment and medications, keeping up with rent and managing everything in between. Because of Spirit of Courage, we are able to help ease some of those burdens. This allows our patients to focus on healing and stay connected to the care and support they need."

For 24 years, Spirit of Courage has honored people whose cancer journeys reflect strength, resilience and hope. It supports the Spirit of Courage Cancer Center Charitable Patient Care Fund, which helps uninsured and underinsured cancer patients with treatment-related expenses, as well as everyday needs such as groceries, rent, utilities, fuel and transportation to care.

That practical help can be life-changing. It can mean a prescription is filled, a treatment appointment is kept, a tank of gas is covered or a family stays in their home while a loved one continues care.

For Dr. Coughlin, who grew up in Council Bluffs and now cares for patients in the community that helped shape him, that support is deeply personal.

"Each of us is caring for our family, friends and neighbors in the community," Dr. Coughlin said. "Growing up here makes that deeply personal. We often meet patients and families when life has brought unexpected news and everything feels overwhelming. Spirit of Courage helps ease that burden, allowing us to support and augment the patient experience through it all. The personal connection between our patients and the care team is what makes Jennie Edmundson and Methodist special. It perfectly exemplifies The Meaning of Care."



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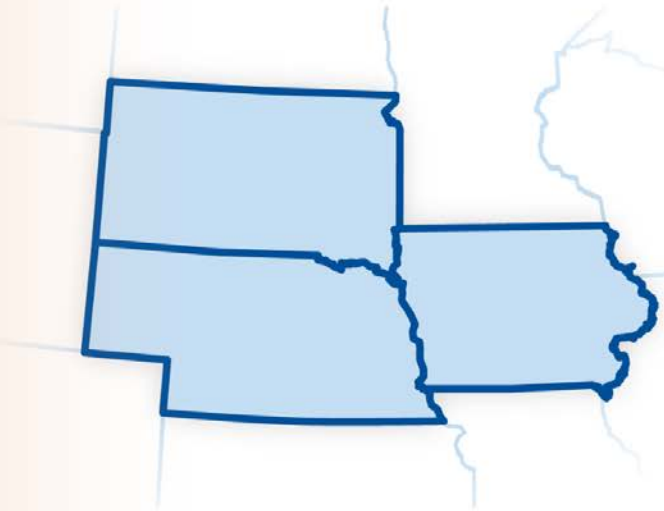

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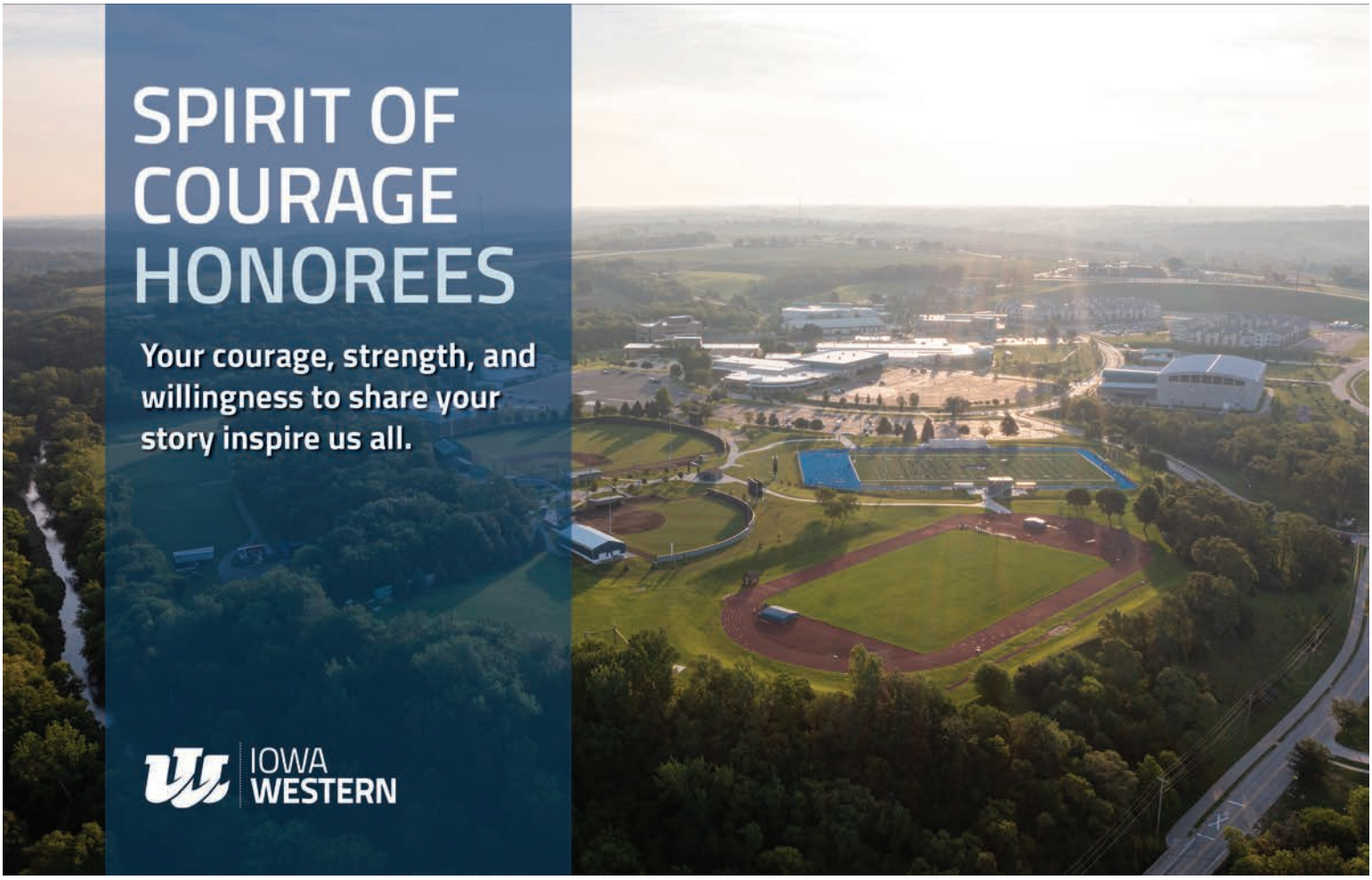

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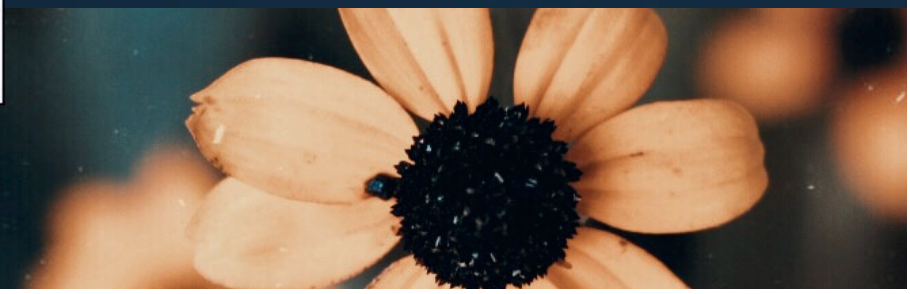

Congratulations, 2026 Recipients!

The Jennie Edmundson Foundation Board of Directors proudly honors all new and past Spirit of Courage recipients, as well as anyone currently facing a cancer diagnosis, for the strength, resilience, and inspiration they bring to our community.

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and those who support you—
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Together, we remain committed to advancing hope, healing, and compassion in the fight against cancer.



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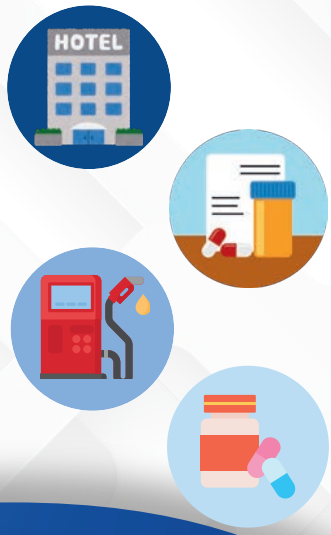

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Bob Martens, 2026 Recipient
Methodist Jennie Edmundson - Anesthesiologists
Methodist Jennie Edmundson - Behavioral Health
Methodist Jennie Edmundson - Employees
Methodist Physicians Clinic - Hospitalists
Northern Natural Gas
Jennifer Potmesil, 2026 Recipient
Kathy Racine, 2026 Recipient
Ridgeline Manufacturing, LLC
Abby Robinson, 2026 Recipient
Slevin Family
Walter Farms

GOLF FOURSOMES

For another consecutive year, all our tournament sold out, thanks to the incredible support of our sponsors and golfers.

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ADDITIONAL GOLF FOURSOMES

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Methodist Physicians Clinic - Surgical Associates is honored to support the Spirit of Courage Weekend and the 2026 Recipients.



Pat Ahrens, MD



Eric Bendorf, MD



Robert Cunningham, MD



Cleo Beckham, PAC

Methodist Physicians Clinic - Surgical Associates
201 Ridge St., Suite 214 | Council Bluffs, IA | 51503
(712) 396-4320

Upcoming Events | Mark Your Calendars!

Pink Out
October 2026
MJE Breast Health Center

Dance TO THE BEAT
February 2027
Cardiovascular Charitable Patient Care

Wheels of Courage
June 26, 2027
Spirit of Courage Cancer Center Charitable Patient Care Fund

Jennie Edmundson Foundation Spirit of Courage
August 7, 2027
Spirit of Courage Cancer Center Charitable Patient Care Fund

JENNIE EDMUNDSON FOUNDATION

933 E. Pierce Street • Council Bluffs, IA
jehfoundation.org • 712-396-6040

Celebrity Guests



FILM/TV/SPORTS & LOCAL CELEBRITIES

Guerin Austin
Jason Bayle
Bickham
Big P
Gregg Binkley
Chris Bober
Todd Brandt
Ric Chandler
Brett Cullen
Rad Daly
Crash Davis
Erich Hover
Larry Jacobson
Kevin Keith
Kirstin Kluver
Sterling Knight
Jon Lieber
Ilona Marino
Carl Marino
Tohoru Masamune
Brian Mastre
Michael McGlone
Billy McGuigan
Mike McKnight
Samantha Pastorino
Emily Roehler
Ricco Ross
Matt Serwe
Caleb Shudak
Gabriel Sullivan
Peggie Sweet
Dave Webber






Executive Committee

The Spirit of Courage executive committee is made up of dedicated volunteers, physicians, board members, community leaders, Foundation staff, and partners whose time, talents, and generosity make this celebration possible.

Thank you for helping bring hope to local cancer patients and their families.

Event Coordinator:
Tara Slevin

Auction & Raffle:
JoAnn Jensen
Lynn Porter
Jill Killion

Celebrity Hosts:
Bill Oldenburg
Clodagh Slevin

Floral Design:
Susan Enewold

Golf Tournament:
Carol Horner
Rachel Reis

Hotel Hospitality:
Leisha Brockman

Marketing:
Jennifer Cody-Wickstrom
Sandy Westphal

Raise the Paddle:
Dr. Andrew Coughlin
Dr. Sumit Mukherjee

Recipient & Celebrity Reception Hosts:
Scott and Susan Hartman

Table Sales:
Sam Fragoso

Videography:
Mike McKay

Wheels of Courage:
Carol Elder
Pat & Sheri Miller
Jeremy Noel

Special Thanks

to the many volunteers who worked together to make this weekend possible!








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Top of the Line Steel Buildings

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Long Haul Trucking, Inc/Material Movers, Inc
Memory Lane Classics
Methodist Physicians Clinic - Southwest Iowa Clinics
Methodist Physicians Clinic - Surgical Associates
Midwest Glass & Glazing, Inc
Papa Rico's Classic Red Sauce
Phil's Comfort Zone, Inc
Prairie Mechanical Corporation
Rhoades Restoration
Rock Hard Motors, Inc
S&L Sanitation Enterprises
Wyman Bodyworx, Inc
US Bank

SILVER SPONSOR

Jaeger Corporation

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Rhoades Restoration
Southwest Iowa Custom
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SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US:
JUNE 26, 2027
QUAKER STEAK & LUBE, COUNCIL BLUFFS

Jennie Edmundson Foundation
Spirit of Courage
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