

Magnet Moment:

A shining example of caregivers going the extra mile for the best patient experience.



(l to r) Social worker Draga Beckner reunites with patient Marjorie Livengood - a beneficiary of the La Porte Hospital Cancer Fund.

A “Brassy” Partnership

When Marjorie Livengood from Hamlet, Ind., was diagnosed with cancer, she never imagined that she might need to choose between basic living needs and receiving her cancer treatments. At more than \$3 per gallon, the gas costs alone to drive to her treatments

would put her into insurmountable debt. When LRHS staff graciously handed her a \$200 gas card to help, Livengood had no idea how many hands played a part in making her assistance possible.

It turns out healthcare workers, philanthropists, and a local recycling plant have come together for a “brassy” cause to benefit local individuals such as Livengood facing cancer. Livengood said these partners, and others she may never meet, “are my angels.”

It began a couple months ago when Jane LeCourt, RT(R) (T), La Porte Hospital Center for Cancer Therapy section coordinator/radiation therapist, and Christine Brown, RT(R) (T) CMD, radiation dosimetrist, took a good look at a stack of brass moldings sitting on the counter. The moldings are custom-created for patient use in the Center for Cancer Therapy’s radiation program.

LeCourt and Brown thought, “Can we recycle these and donate the money to a good cause?”

Enter the La Porte Hospital Foundation, which researched options for recycling. They found a willing partner in Scrappy Iron & Metal in Rolling Prairie. Co-owner Lori Musgrave said the company realized this community benefit and agreed to waive the 5-cent-a-pound pick-up fee for the heavy brass moldings.

The money generated from the recycled moldings is placed into the La Porte Hospital Foundation’s Cancer Fund to assist local qualifying cancer patients with offsetting the sometimes overwhelming costs that come with a cancer diagnosis. The project came full circle when La Porte Hospital social services worker Draga Beckner, MSW, LCSW, ACSW, OSW-C, identified a patient (Livengood) who needed assistance from the Cancer

Fund. Livengood, a widow who works to support herself, said she was relieved to learn that she would not have to choose between basic living expenses and receiving her radiation therapy.

“When I stand here today and see all the individuals involved, I can’t help but think they are my angels,” Livengood said after meeting Musgrave and being reunited with hospital staff.

For Musgrave, the donation her company is making is exceptionally special; she does so in memory and honor of her son who passed away after an auto accident two and a half years ago. “When we do a pick-up, I remind myself that this is for him, and now that I’ve met Marjorie (Livengood), I know that there is a reason we make the decisions we make in life,” Musgrave said.

Other community partners have assisted the Cancer Fund, including Judee’s, Inc., and those who participate in The La Porte Hospital Foundation’s

Tour de La Porte family walk and bike ride. Others support the fund through memorial contributions, in-kind donations, or planned giving.



(l to r) Jane LeCourt and Christine Brown of the Center for Cancer Therapy suggested that brass moldings used in radiation therapy be recycled, with proceeds going to the La Porte Hospital Foundation Cancer Fund.

For more information about Tour de La Porte, La Porte Hospital Foundation Cancer Fund, and other philanthropic selections of the Foundation, visit www.laportehospital.org, or call (219) 326-2471 or toll free (877) 265-4539.