Ten Million Dollars Donated for New Cancer Center

The John Theurer Cancer Center at Hackensack University Medical Center

Through a generous donation of $10 million dollars, Helena Theurer has put her faith and trust in the vision and commitment of Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC) to build one of the top cancer centers in the country. This facility will be 155,000-square-feet with a 960 car garage adjacent to it. Mrs. Theurer’s gift, given in memory of her husband, John Theurer, will help realize HUMC’s mission to provide extraordinary care in a freestanding cancer center.

“I speak for our entire medical community when I say we are grateful for what Mrs. Theurer is doing for our patients and the future of cancer care and treatments,” said John P. Ferguson, president and chief executive officer at HUMC. “In honor of this outstanding gift, we are pleased to announce the center will be named the John Theurer Cancer Center.”

“We are proud today as we continue the next chapter in the evolution of Hackensack University Medical Center,” said J. Fletcher Creamer, Jr., chairman of the medical center’s Board of Governors. “Our commitment to our patients is to build one of the top cancer centers in the country.”

“This new facility will benefit patients in countless ways, and we are grateful for Mrs. Theurer’s support,” said Joseph Simunovich, chairman of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees. “It is an extraordinary gesture that benefits all of the community who relies upon us to provide quality healthcare.”

“Helena Theurer is providing patients with hope when they are facing the biggest challenge of their lives – cancer,” said author Mary Higgins Clark, national chairperson for the Campaign for the John Theurer Cancer Center at HUMC and member of the HUMC Board of Governors.

The Cancer Center at HUMC is currently known as New Jersey’s largest and most comprehensive center, as well as one of the 10 largest centers in the United States, dedicated to the diagnosis, treatment, management, research, screenings, and preventive care of patients with all types of cancer. Its reputation has steadily risen in stature due to the medical expertise, state-of-the-art technological advances, compassionate care, research, hard work and commitment displayed each day.

“The John Theurer Cancer Center will serve as a safe haven for our patients and their loved ones as well as a source of information, strength, and comfort as they navigate their cancer,” said Andrew L. Pecora, M.D., chairman and executive administrative director of The Cancer Center. “We will be able to centralize all our divisions and the physicians, nurses, and other cancer specialists who are now housed among various buildings on campus.”

Hard work and commitment equaled success for the Theurers. After serving in the United States Navy during WWII, John Theurer returned home to the family business, Theurer Wagon Works, established by his grandfather in 1888. In time, Mr. Theurer had taken a business with six workers and built it into an enterprise with more than 2,000

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employees — replacing wagons with truck bodies, then adding truck trailers, shipping containers and container chassis. “He was a consummate salesman,” Mrs. Theurer said. “Not only was he persuasive, he was not easily dissuaded. John always connected with people. He always followed up with people, whether they bought trailers or not, and became their friends.”

Determination saw the company through another expansion. Theurer Wagon Works eventually became Theurer, Inc. and had a good run for 101 years. “In addition to John, his two sisters, his two nephews and myself all worked for many years in the family business,” said Mrs. Theurer. “After the business closed, John and I continued to manage our real estate holdings. John had to stay busy. We moved to the Florida Keys where he designed and built floating motel suites. He was the nucleus of the business – a remarkable man.”

The journey from Theurer Wagon Works to the John Theurer Cancer Center at Hackensack University Medical Center is remarkable, as well.

“So many people are touched by cancer. My mother died of cancer. John’s grandfather had died of cancer, plus numerous friends, but that wasn’t John’s medical problem,” Mrs. Theurer said. “The majority of family problems had been vascular. That was John’s weakness as well. He was not given a long life by today’s standards, but he crowded a full and exuberant life in the time he was allotted.”

“I am proud to be a part of the Foundation’s efforts to build a Cancer Center here in our community. It will be a comprehensive center that will help so many,” said Mrs. Theurer.
Proving that providing extraordinary care is their mission, the physicians at The Cancer Center at Hackensack University Medical Center generously presented the medical center with $1 million toward the construction of its new $100 million cancer center.

Pictured, from left, are Stanley Waintraub, M.D., co-chief of the Division of Breast Oncology; Robert C. Garrett, executive vice president and chief operating officer, HUMC; Andrew Jennis, M.D., co-chief of the Division of Gastroenterology; Andrew L. Pecora, M.D., chairman and executive administrative director of The Cancer Center; Joseph Simunovich, chairman of the Hackensack University Medical Center Foundation (HUMCF) Board of Trustees; Stuart L. Goldberg, M.D., chief of the Division of Leukemia; Aisha Massod, M.D.; Robert L. Torre, executive vice president, HUMCF; and Scott Rowley, M.D., chief of the Division of Bone Marrow Transplant.

“It is our dream to have a center that serves as a safe haven for our patients and their families as well as a source of information, strength, and comfort as they navigate their cancer,” said Dr. Pecora. “With this new facility, our medical team will be able to bring patient care to a new, extraordinary level.”
Frederick T. Muller, one of the most devoted board members at Hackensack University Medical Center, retired president of Hackensack Mutual Savings and Loan Association, and chairman of the board of Polifly Savings and Loan Association, passed away on December 21, 2007.

He served Hackensack University Medical Center in myriad ways for more than 32 years, most importantly as a member and past chairman of the medical center’s board of governors and the Foundation board of trustees. He also served as chairman of the nominating committee, which selected new members to the boards, and as a member of 13 other committees for both boards.

“You could always depend on him to attend committee meetings and to participate in decision making matters. He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him at the medical center,” said Robert L. Torre, executive vice president of the medical center’s Foundation.

Mr. Muller is survived by his wife, Vivienne, who is known as Peg, and by a daughter, Elizabeth Lonsdale.

To honor the Mullers’ many years of service and good deeds, the lobby in the Donna A. Sanzari Women’s Hospital is named the Frederick and Vivienne Muller Reception Plaza.

A Gift in Your Will
To Hackensack University Medical Center

Since 1888, Hackensack University Medical Center doctors and nurses have saved thousands of lives and enhanced the quality of life of countless others.

The world-class healthcare they provide is made possible, in part, by the generosity of people like you who decide to include the medical center in their wills and estate planning.

We are grateful to so many who have supported the medical center through the years. Because of your generous support and commitment to HUMC, we are now one of the premier healthcare providers in the nation.

A bequest to HUMC will help us maintain our excellence in patient care, and your heirs will benefit because you are removing assets from your taxable estate. For assistance in making a bequest to Hackensack University Medical Center, please contact our manager of planned giving, Betty Kraus, at 201-996-3702 or bkraus@humed.com.
THE NATION’S FIRST OFFICIAL MAGNET HOSPITAL

Hackensack University Medical Center – with its unique and rich history as a Magnet Hospital – leads the nation in advancing nursing excellence and piloting innovative ways to enhance patient care. As America’s first official Magnet Hospital in 1993 and the only hospital to receive the most re-designations by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, we are a model for all others to follow.
The Joseph M. Sanzari Children’s Hospital Dedicates its Pediatric Epilepsy Monitoring Unit in Honor of Helen A. and Vincent J. Cassel

Helen A. and Vincent J. Cassel have lived in Bergen County for more than 57 years. Longtime supporters of Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC), the Cassels, members of the HUMC Foundation Legacy Society and the Legacy Society Chairman’s Circle, were recently delighted to be recognized for their dedication to HUMC with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Joseph M. Sanzari Children’s Hospital at HUMC has dedicated its Pediatric Epilepsy Monitoring Unit in honor of the Cassels.

From the 1950s through the 21st century, the Cassels’ lives have been touched by the medical center. The couple, married 61 years, share influential memories. Mr. Cassel is particularly grateful to the foresight of a cardiologist at the medical center who enabled him to avoid heart surgery by initiating lifestyle and medication changes. As a result, the Cassels have been able to travel, play golf, and spend time with their family and close friends. Mrs. Cassel remembers her years at the medical center when she volunteered as a Grey Lady with the Red Cross; she received her five-year pin for this service. She was part of an integral support team whose activities included rolling bandages and fundraising.

“The care and treatment Helen and I have received at HUMC has kept us healthy and enjoying the good life,” Mr. Cassel said. “This recognition is lovely, and we are proud to have been chosen for this special honor.”

River Edge residents Vincent J. and Helen A. Cassel, members of the HUMC Foundation Legacy Society and the Legacy Society Chairman’s Circle, pose in front of the Pediatric Epilepsy Monitoring Unit bearing their names at The Joseph M. Sanzari Children’s Hospital at HUMC.

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[Image of brochure cover]
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In honor of Dr. Mario Verna
In memory of Sylvester Besch
and Joseph & Minna Besch
In memory of Sanford Lowenstein
In memory of Dr. Mario Verna

The Board of Trustees of the Hackensack University Medical Center Foundation is pleased to welcome the following 2008 inductees into The Legacy Society:

Lenore F. & James A. Dunn
Samuel & Sandra Hekemian
Pauline L. Paglia

Hackensack University Medical Center Foundation
Robert L. Torre • Executive Vice President
360 Essex Street, Suite 301, Hackensack, NJ 07601
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Extraordinary care begins with the gifts we receive from people like you. Whether you direct your donation toward The Cancer Center or another program at Hackensack University Medical Center, your support will help our physicians and nurses provide the very best in compassionate, innovative care.