When Helene Rabinowitch lost her daughter, Jamie Rabinowitch Davis, to melanoma 12 years ago, she, her husband Barry, and her daughter Renee, decided they wanted to give something back to the physicians and staff at Winship Cancer Institute who had taken care of her family during a difficult time. “I couldn’t forget that the people at Winship supported us when we needed them most,” she said. The family established The JRD Foundation for Melanoma Research in their daughter’s name, and Rabinowitch decided to become a volunteer in the clinic. “I volunteer here because this is where I belong,” she said, reflecting on the friendships she has formed over the years. “If you’re willing to give your time, you will find it is very rewarding.”

Rabinowitch is one of over 800 volunteers serving the Winship community each year. “Our volunteers are Winship’s ambassadors, and we are very thankful to have such wonderful individuals as part of our team,” said DaVida Lee-Williams, Director of Guest & Volunteer Services. “They are committed to ensuring that all who walk through our doors are welcomed and supported.” Like Rabinowitch, many devote their time at one of Winship’s metro Atlanta locations, bringing the hospitality cart to families in the waiting room, giving out information at the concierge desk, or visiting with patients in the Ambulatory Infusion Center. Others participate in fundraising events, including the annual Winship Win the Fight.
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE VFW SUPPORTS MULTIPLE MYELOMA RESEARCH

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of Georgia has a long history of supporting cancer research in the state, and they have dedicated much of their annual fundraising proceeds to Winship Cancer Institute. Donations have supported research for specific forms of cancer, including breast cancer and lymphoma, as well as the Winship Partner in Research Fund. This year the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW donated $11,700 to multiple myeloma research, one of their largest gifts to date.

Kim Lewis, past president of the Georgia Chapter, selected the allocation for the gift. A longtime member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW, Lewis has been an advocate for Winship in her leadership roles, and recently was able to tour the Clifton Road campus and learn more about Winship’s research priorities. Like many of the chapter’s past contributions, this year’s gift was inspired by a fellow member’s battle with cancer. “Winship’s doctors, nurses, and staff helped one of our own when she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma,” Lewis said. “We all wanted to thank them for treating this young woman and helping her continue to survive.”

“The Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW’s support of Winship spans well more than two decades,” said Winship Executive Director Walter J. Curran, Jr. “Their steadfast dedication to those who serve our country, as well as the cause of cancer research, is deeply appreciated and applauded.”

GIFT HONORS PATIENTS IN PHASE I CLINICAL TRIALS

The Phase I Clinical Trials Unit at Winship Cancer Institute opened in 2009, and since then Winship has built a cutting-edge drug development program. Clinical trials are research studies that test how well new medical approaches work, and Phase I trials represent the first time these treatments are tested in humans. Phase I clinical trials depend on the collaborative efforts of researchers and clinicians, as well as the commitment of patients.

Barry Elson, a member of the Winship Advisory Board, is an 11-year cancer survivor, and he knows firsthand the value of the Phase I program. “It is important that Winship is doing Phase I trials because we are all directly or indirectly related to these patients,” he said. Elson also understands how indispensable patients are to the success of Phase I clinical trials. “They are the trailblazers who undergo the treatments that no one else has undertaken in its entirety,” he said.

In honor of Winship’s Phase I patients, Elson has made a generous gift to fund care packages to make their visits more comfortable. Each patient will receive a welcome kit that includes a water bottle, blanket, and neck pillow, as well as a tote bag to help organize supplies and paper work for their appointments.

Elson feels his gift is a modest gesture compared to the courage of Phase I patients. “They are advancing medical science for all of us,” he said. “Therefore, we have an obligation to make their path on this journey as comfortable as possible.”

WINSHIP’S DR. DAVID LAWSON PRESENTED PLAQUES OF APPRECIATION AT THE GEORGIA WATERMELON ASSOCIATION’S ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN JANUARY. PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: RICH CHASTAIN, 2013 & 2014 VFW PRESIDENT; KENNETH TODD, CATEGORY MANAGER OF PRODUCE AT FOOD LION; MARK TRAPP, SOURCING REPRESENTATIVE AT C.H. ROBINSON.

WATERMELONS ARE ALLIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST MELANOMA

Watermelons may not be the first thing that comes to mind when thinking about skin cancer, but thanks to the creative fundraising of Rich Chastain, President of the Georgia Watermelon Association (GWA), the popular fruit has become an ally to Winship in the fight against melanoma.

Each year, the GWA organizes a professional auction where regional produce buyers submit orders for the upcoming watermelon season. At the 2014 auction, Chastain donated one truck-load of watermelons to raise funds for melanoma research. Food Lion, a grocery chain and Delhaize America company, purchased the load of watermelons for twice the normal market price. C.H. Robinson, a global transportation and logistics company, also contributed to the effort by donating the cost of freight to deliver the watermelons to a Food Lion store. Rich Chastain’s leadership and vision, combined with the generosity of the corporations involved, resulted in a gift of more than $20,000 to the Winship Melanoma & Skin Cancer Fund, which supports research into improved ways to prevent, detect, and treat this complex disease.

“It has been an exceptional team effort by Mr. Chastain and the Georgia Watermelon Association to make a difference in the fight against melanoma,” said Winship Medical Oncologist David H. Lawson. “And how wonderful that one of our favorite, healthy fruits serves as the foundation for this donation!”

As many of you know, Fadlo Khuri, MD, deputy director of Winship Cancer Institute and chair of the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology, will be leaving us in August to begin a new role as the president of the American University of Beirut. In his 13 years at Emory, Fadlo has been an extraordinary leader and a driving force in recruiting some of our best and brightest clinicians and researchers. At a Winship Town Hall meeting in April, Fadlo reflected on his career at Winship and our vision for the future.

The meeting focused on our current priorities, including the 2015 strategic planning process, and provided progress reports on the ongoing initiatives that support our research, clinical, and education endeavors. Your generosity and support are an integral part of Winship’s expansion of our goals.

Walter J. Curran, Jr., MD Director’s Update
Winship Volunteers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A passion for educating and counseling new patients is part of what drove Billy Levine to join the Winship Advisory Board in 2012. When he received his diagnosis of multiple myeloma three-and-a-half years ago, he said, “It really helped to talk to other patients like myself who had been down this path before.” By talking with other patients and working with his treatment team, Levine learned that his illness could be successfully managed. “When I counsel new patients now, I always begin by saying, ‘I’m so sorry you have to go through this, but you’re going to be OK.”’

As the current chair of the Advisory Board, Levine serves as a community ambassador for Winship. “You have the opportunity to be a zealous advocate for Winship,” he said, speaking of himself and his 60 fellow board members. Levine has no doubt that Winship provides the very best care possible. His own illness has been in complete remission for several years, and he is now able to treat his cancer as a chronic condition, all of which he credits to his Emory doctors. “When I counsel new patients now, I always begin by saying, ‘I’m so sorry you have to go through this, but you’re going to be OK.”’

Like many prospective volunteers, Marietta Petters knew she wanted to do something to give back to Winship, but she did not immediately know what that something was. Petters lost her husband to multiple myeloma in 1997, eight years after his diagnosis. She credits the quality of care he received at Winship and his ability to undergo treatment at home in Atlanta with extending his life beyond expectations. Her son was diagnosed with leukemia in 2000, and Petters attributes his successful treatment and remission to the doctors and staff at Winship. “I am so grateful for his life and the care he received,” Petters said. “I just wanted to give back. It was the least I could do.”

Petters, along with fellow volunteer Kathy Bowman, worked with staff members at Winship to form the Friends of Winship, a volunteer auxiliary dedicated to advocacy and fundraising. Through Friends, volunteers host and attend events designed to educate the broader community about Winship’s programs and research; raise funds for specific areas of need; and provide support for patients. “After the initial cancer diagnosis, you don’t know how to proceed,” Petters said. “I have so much compassion for people going through that experience, and I’ve learned that education helps.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Memorial Gifts Establish the Robert L. “Bobby” Rearden, Jr. Spirit of Winship Award

WINSHIP CANCER INSTITUTE IS HONORED to create the Robert L. “Bobby” Rearden, Jr. Spirit of Winship Award in memory of Bobby Rearden, a founding member of the Winship Advisory Board. Rearden embodied Winship’s core values, and he was loved and respected by his many friends in the community. The award will honor two individuals each year who exemplify Winship’s culture of caring for the whole patient—body, mind, and spirit—during and after his or her cancer journey.

Rearden succumbed to complications during treatment for a recurrence of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in January, an illness he successfully defeated 11 years ago. After receiving his original diagnosis in 2004, Rearden became an unwavering champion for Winship. In addition to being a founding member of the Advisory Board, he was the Honorary Chair of the volunteer auxiliary, Friends of Winship. He served as Patient Advocate on the External Advisory Board when Winship submitted its application to become the only National Cancer Institute designated cancer center in Georgia.

Rearden was a fixture in the halls of Winship, known and beloved by physicians, nurses, and staff alike. He and his wife, Dell, began each holiday season in December by personally delivering cakes and cookies to the Winship team and small gifts to patients. He brightened the lives of many cancer patients and their families, always bringing words of encouragement, hope, and friendship on his visits to floor 6E in Emory University Hospital.

The Robert L. “Bobby” Rearden, Jr. Spirit of Winship Award will honor one faculty or staff member and one volunteer annually. Just as he did during his life, Bobby Rearden’s legacy will enhance Winship’s values of compassion, caring, courage, hope, imagination, translation, and discovery.

Gifts to the Bobby Rearden Spirit of Winship Award fund can be directed to Office of Gift Records, Emory University, 1762 Clifton Road, Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30322.

Winship Volunteers CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Billy Levine wants prospective volunteers to know that Winship’s programs are open to all, and anyone can find the right opportunity. “No level of volunteering is too small,” he said. “You don’t have to be the chair of the board or a 5K team captain. You can find your own little way of giving back.”

Ready to make a difference? Below is more information on how you can join Winship in the fight against cancer:

- For information on creating a team for the October 3, 2015 Winship Win the Fight 5K and/or to become an event corporate sponsor, contact: Pam McAdams, pam.mcadams@emory.edu, 404-727-6175
- For information on volunteering for the Winship 5K, contact: DaVida Lee-Williams, DaVida.Lee-Williams@emory.edu, 404-778-2405
- For information on planning a community event to benefit Winship, contact: Pam McAdams, pam.mcadams@emory.edu, 404-727-6175
- For more information on joining Friends of Winship, contact: Amanda Benedict, amanda.benedict@emory.edu, 404-712-9632
- For more information on becoming a clinic-based Winship Volunteer, please go to: https://winshipcancer.emory.edu/support-winship/volunteer/
Brenda Nease Establishes Breast Cancer Research Fund with $1 Million Gift to Winship

BRENDA NEASE HAS BEEN A FAMILIAR FACE at Winship over the past 10 years, fulfilling roles as a volunteer, philanthropist, and friend to many. She returned to the Winship Advisory Board this year for her third term, and she is an active member of Friends of Winship. Nease is perhaps most often recognized around Winship as the woman playing the piano in the lobby on Thursday afternoons, the music she provides for patients and their caregivers illustrating the depth of her passion for improving the lives of those battling cancer.

Last year, Nease expanded her longtime commitment to Winship with a pledge of $1 million to establish the Brenda Nease Breast Cancer Research Fund within the Glenn Family Breast Center at Winship Cancer Institute. The fund will support projects that touch all areas of breast cancer research, including prevention, early detection, clinical trials, and improving the efficacy of existing treatments. “The ultimate hope for this fund is to find a cure for breast cancer,” Nease said. “That’s truly what it’s for.”

“With one in eight women in the United States facing a breast cancer diagnosis, breast cancer research funding could not be more critical,” said Winship Executive Director Walter J. Curran, Jr. “I am deeply appreciative of Brenda’s support. To invest in research is to share our impatience with what we don’t yet know and our vision of the promise of what lies ahead. Brenda’s optimism and encouragement inspires. Though research can be slow in real time, in the big picture there has been extraordinary progress, thanks in part to philanthropists like Brenda.”

Nease was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1999, and after seeking a second opinion from an oncologist at Winship, she knew where she wanted to be treated. “So many positive things go on at Winship,” she said. “I received wonderful care, had wonderful doctors, and I am grateful that I can continue to be involved with Winship today.” Following her successful treatment and remission, Nease joined the Winship Advisory Board, where she learned more about the scope of the research taking place at Emory. She became a strong advocate for Winship in the community, and, with gifts from friends and her own family, she established the Brenda Nease Fund to support special projects at Winship. “My life changed in a second with the diagnosis of breast cancer,” Nease said. “I feel fortunate to have survived, and I wanted to make sure others had the same opportunity I did.”

Through the Brenda Nease Fund, Nease has supported a diverse range of projects over the years, each contributing to her goal of creating a more positive environment for patients. The fund provided a baby grand piano for the Winship lobby, allowing Nease and her fellow volunteers to fill the waiting area with music. The fund also commissioned a new painting for Winship’s second-floor waiting room as part of the Healing Arts Program, which recognizes the value of art to promoting hope and healing in patients. In 2012, gifts from the fund helped establish an annual melanoma symposium at Winship in honor of Dr. David H. Lawson, Nease’s oncologist during her treatment. Nease and her husband, Mac Nease, also made a gift to renovate the Emory University Hospital 6E family waiting room in memory of his sister, Marsha Jane Nease, an Emory alumna who passed away from cancer in 1988.

“Brenda’s compassion and special attention to the patient and family journey at Winship has touched all of us,” said Curran.

Nease’s decision to establish the Brenda Nease Breast Cancer Research Fund is rooted in the same desire to help others as her earlier gifts and volunteer service. She said that she is thankful to be able to make such a meaningful gift, and she hopes that the new research fund will further aid patients by making significant gains toward earlier diagnosis, better treatment, and finding a cure. Nease admits that since her own battle with breast cancer, she does not take a single day or hour for granted, and she has spent many of those precious hours helping to enhance the lives of cancer patients and their families. “This fund is not about me,” she said, the true purpose of her philanthropy never far from her mind. “It’s about the people who will benefit. It’s about the desire to help others in the same situation I was in after my diagnosis. If I can improve any part of this experience for patients, that is my calling.”

In recognition of her many gifts of time, talent and philanthropy, Brenda has been named the Honorary Chair of the 2016 Winship Gala.

Walter J. Curran, Jr. with Brenda Nease.

WHEN YOU DONATE TO WINSHIP, you are contributing to the future of cancer care. Organizing a fundraising event can be a fun, gratifying way to make a difference.

By joining together with friends, family, co-workers, or neighbors in your community, it’s simply amazing how much you can accomplish in the fight against cancer. Here are a few fundraising ideas to help benefit the important work at Winship:

- BAKE SALE
- GOLF TOURNAMENT
- WALK/RUN
- FASHION SHOW
- CAR WASH
- SILENT AUCTION
- PANCAKE BREAKFAST
- BOWL-A-THON
- COMEDY or THEATER PERFORMANCE
- DINE OUT AT A LOCAL RESTAURANT
- ART or CRAFT SALE

We are happy to offer our team’s experience and guidance to help make your event a success.

If you, your group, business, or school would like to organize an event to support Winship Cancer Institute, contact Pam McAdams, associate director of development, at 404-727-6175 or pam.mcadams@emory.edu.

GEORGIA’S ONLY NCI-DESIGNATED CANCER CENTER

Winship earned cancer center designation by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 2009. What this means to Georgians is improved access to clinical trials and resources available only at designated cancer centers. This designation requires effective collaboration among interdisciplinary teams throughout Emory and other organizations in the Southeast and the United States. These efforts reinforce our commitment to our community and those whom we are privileged to serve.

OUR CONNECTION TO EMMORY

Winship Cancer Institute is part of Emory’s Woodruff Health Sciences Center, Emory Healthcare, and Emory University. Winship is comprised of 355 investigators with faculty appointments within Emory University School of Medicine, Rollins School of Public Health, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Emory/Georgia Tech Department of Biomedical Engineering, and Emory College. Winship physicians provide care at Emory University Hospital, Emory University Hospital Midtown, Emory Saint Joseph’s Hospital, Emory Johns Creek Hospital, Grady Memorial Hospital, the Atlanta VA Medical Center, and Aflac Cancer Center at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta.

5 YEARS RUNNING!

October 3, 2015

Sign up today!

To register, visit winship5k.emory.edu
Billy Levine Leads Winship Advisory Board

IN SEPTEMBER, BILLY LEVINE assumed the role of chair of the Winship Cancer Institute Advisory Board. Levine has served on the board since 2012, and he is excited by the past accomplishments and future potential for the group of more than 50 volunteers. “Everyone on the board is tied in with Winship and dedicated to its success—as a patient, family member, or as an advocate for the research and work being done there,” he said. Levine’s goal as board chair is to capitalize on the individual strengths of each volunteer to ensure that every single board member finds his or her place. He has outlined three primary areas to which board members can devote their time and talents: Community Advocacy, Patient Support and Advocacy, and Development. By highlighting three distinct areas of need, Levine believes every member of the board will have the opportunity to help advance Winship’s strategic goals and secure its place as the primary center for cancer treatment in the region.

John H. Kauffman Auditorium Dedication

ON DECEMBER 8, 2014, THE WINSHIP COMMUNITY came together to honor and remember friend and philanthropist John Kauffman with the dedication of the John H. Kauffman Auditorium at Winship Cancer Institute. As a community leader and a cancer survivor, Kauffman was a tireless advocate for Winship and for cancer patients across the region.

Throughout his career as President of Kauffman Tire, a family-owned business for three generations, Kauffman was a lifelong supporter of many civic, church, and non-profit organizations both in Georgia and his home state of Ohio. Kauffman, who had previously received treatment for prostate cancer, first became involved with Winship in 2006. He wanted to make a difference for fellow cancer patients, and he was a firm believer that the people of Atlanta should not have to travel outside the state to receive cancer treatment at an NCI-designated cancer center.

Kauffman served as the inaugural chair of the Winship Advisory Board, working to advance Winship’s mission throughout the community. While on the board, Kauffman forged a partnership between Winship and the Senior Men’s Golf Association at Dunwoody Country Club, of which he was a member, and established Winship as the beneficiary of the club’s annual golf tournament fundraiser. Since then, the Senior Men’s Golf Association has contributed nearly half a million dollars to prostate cancer research at Winship, and in 2014 they renamed the tournament The John H. Kauffman Prostate Cancer Fundraiser.

Kauffman was able to defeat prostate cancer, but unfortunately he succumbed to pancreatic cancer in November 2013. His family continues to carry out Kauffman’s legacy at Winship through their board service and leadership.

The many attendees at the auditorium dedication represented the different communities that Kauffman brought together to support Winship. Colleagues from Kauffman Tire, teammates from the Dunwoody Country Club’s Senior Men’s Golf Association, and fellow Advisory Board members all came to remember their friend. In his remarks, Dr. Walter J. Curran, Jr., Executive Director of Winship, discussed Kauffman’s tremendous contributions to cancer research and treatment at Emory. John’s son Mark Kauffman, CEO of Kauffman Tire, spoke on behalf of his family, and he highlighted his father’s commitment to ensuring that Winship remains one of the best cancer institutes in the country.

The John H. Kauffman Auditorium is located on the fifth floor of the Winship Cancer Institute. Gifts in memory of John Kauffman can be directed to the Kauffman Family Fund for Pancreatic Cancer Research, Office of Gift Records, Emory University, 1762 Clifton Road, Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30322.

Two of Kauffman’s children, Wendy Money and Mark Kauffman, continue their father’s legacy through their service on Winship’s Advisory Board.

John Kauffman’s wife, Brenda (5th from left), was joined at the dedication by members of the Dunwoody Country Club’s Senior Men’s Golf Association and their wives.

John H. Kauffman
This is my legacy.

“WINSHIP IS A SPECIAL PLACE because of the special people there. When I came to Winship for treatment in 2006, the doctors and nurses took such good care of me. They gave me a new life. There is still so much to be learned about this disease, and I hope my estate gift for research will help in some small way.”

Edye Bradford
Clayton, Georgia

Have you planned your legacy?
emory.edu/giftplanning 404.727.8875

Winship Cancer Institute Advisory Board

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