For millions of people, our hair is inextricably woven into our self-esteem as a vital part of our identity and security and for those suffering hair loss due to medical or natural reasons, it can be devastating.

Through the generous donations and support of special funding events, the Ladies Hospital Aid Society (LHAS) established the Orchid Fund and united with Hair Enhancements of Pittsburgh to provide individuals with hair loss, support and financial assistance towards hair replacement options that restore confidence and enhance a positive image.

Since 2008 LHAS has funded hundreds of wigs and hairpieces for adult cancer patients and over 500 wigs alone for children with hair loss. Through the Orchid Fund, children and young adults receive a free wig each year. “Hair replacement is more than just cutting hair” explains Debbie Mancuso, owner of Hair Enhancements of Pittsburgh. “In many cases you assist in a healing process or help restore someone’s self confidence. The look on their face and the sparkle in their eyes when they leave is priceless.”

Located on the first floor of Hillman Cancer Center, the staff of Hair Enhancements offers private consultations and solutions that are tailored to each individual. Additionally, the salon carries a variety of products and accessories; such as hats, scarves and turbans.

For more information on how the LHAS Orchid Fund and Hair Enhancements may assist you, please call 412.623.3777 (www.hairenhancements.net)

The Volunteer & Community Services Department is happy to introduce the Massage Therapy Program to Hillman Cancer Center! The program kicked off on April 30th with LaVida Massage of Shadyside providing free massages to our patients and caregivers. Andre Wallace is the massage therapist who has studied oncology massage. When Moussia Kohanbash, Owner & Director of Marketing for LaVida Massage was asked why this is important to her and her organization, she stated: “I was so excited when the opportunity came upon LaVida Massage to volunteer and work with UPMC Cancer Center in bringing complimentary chair massages to the patients and families. We at LaVida Massage are happy to share our expertise in therapeutic and relaxation massage. It is such a comfort knowing that we can provide a service of just a couple of minutes of respite to the patients and families”. 
Hillman Supports Pittsburgh Marathon

The Hillman Cancer Center Outpatient Treatment Pharmacy sent five representatives to participate in the Pittsburgh Marathon/Half Marathon on Sunday May 5, 2013. Tamara Hale, the lead technician for the department ran the full marathon. Megan Langer (pharmacist), Seon Jo Park (pharmacist) and Susan Dicello (technician) ran the half marathon. Susan also ran in the Boston Marathon. Linda Coombs walked the half marathon. All of the ladies had run or walked this race before except for Seon Jo. This was her first race. Also participating in this year’s event was Andrea Santella, HBC dietitian. Andrea, another first time runner, finished in 4 hours and 6 minutes.

Happy Birthday Irene...

How many of us have our spring cleaning done? Well Irene Dunbar does; with the exception of her basement! Now that’s an accomplishment given the fact that Miss Irene celebrated her 89th birthday on March 2nd!! Irene has been a loyal employee for 40 years with a perfect attendance record. She has spent the past 4 years at Hillman and prior to that, 35 years at SHY. She is an exemplary employee who practices our core values and provides the highest quality of service daily. She initiates helping others and offers her services by going the extra step. Irene helps patients and their families, along with her own associates and continuously treats each person professionally.

Irene lives in Hazelwood, has one son and 3 grandchildren.

We would like to thank Irene for all her hard work and dedication.

Best Wishes Irene!

Anniversaries (March 2013—May 2013)

Please join in recognizing the following individuals on reaching recent milestones:

5 Years: Lauren Kirk, Admin. Asst. 3rd Floor
Kim Russell, RN, CTRC

20 Years: Lynda Tunon, Clinical Education Specialist

25 Years: Linda Ginestra, RN, Lemieux Center
NEW Professional Practice Council (PPC)

The Hillman Cancer Center recently expanded its Professional Practice Council (PPC) membership with a renewed emphasis on shared governance. Shared governance is a system which is based on the belief that patient care can be improved when practice decisions are made by health care providers working closest with the patient. The Hillman PPC is a non-leadership, nursing based Council created to empower nurses to create changes in the workplace, implement new policies and procedures and review current processes to ensure effectiveness. Council members were selected to represent all aspects of nursing; to include medical imaging, clinical, treatment and research. Leadership invited all to participate at the March 21st kick off meeting at which time all were provided with an orientation to the new model. After hearing of the vision for the Hillman PPC, all nurses committed to moving forward on the Council. Members include Deb Brody, Beatrice Coyne, Georgia Colangelo, Carol Pierce, Kelli Davis, Dee Duliba, Kim Griener, Rebecca Hilty, Suzie Holmes, Angel Kennedy, Connie Kinney Natalie Streeter, Liz Wing and Kate Werwie. Sponsors for the PPC are Lynne O’Connor and Justi Grubbs.

The Council has begun their journey and are meeting monthly. The leadership team is excited about the opportunity of partnering with the Council to help define and advance the practice of nursing at Hillman. Additional Councils currently being planned for are the Quality & Safety Council and the Evidence Based Practice Council.

Congratulations...HOPE Award

Stephanie Kaiser, CRNP, who works with Dr. Dan Petro, received the Cancer Center Hope Award in a ceremony on May 10th at the Hillman Cancer Center. Stephanie was recognized for outstanding patient care after receiving two unsolicited compliments from patients and their families. One patient stated, “Stephanie has been a tremendous help and is always willing to answer my many questions”. Another patient’s spouse stated, “Stephanie has been a gift of fresh air for me and Dan. She is so committed to supporting me and making me feel she is in my corner. She is professional, very approachable and accessible. She makes you feel it will be alright”. Stephanie shared cake with her coworkers and received a certificate acknowledging her award. Congratulations Stephanie!!

Oncology Nutrition

Congratulations to Andrea Santella, RD who recently became a Certified Specialist in Oncology Nutrition (CSO) by passing the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics exam!! In addition, Joyce Diacopolous is recertified along with Shelley Eberle. This now makes all of our CancerCenter dietitians experts in Nutrition Oncology!
Movies & Music for
Patients & Family Members

Please encourage patients and family members who have long treatments or waiting times to visit the Gumberg Family Resource Center and borrow a movie and portable DVD player. There is a variety of movies for all ages from favorite oldies to new releases. Movies can make for a great diversion! Also available are CD players and music CDs.

Thank you,
Gumberg Family Resource Center Staff

Welcome New Hires!!

Margaret Mayer, Admin Assistant
Nicole Espy, Admin Assistant
Ashlee Palmer, Admin Assistant
Jennifer Pavone, RN
Whitney Lerch, PA-C
Moriah Ellis, Financial Counselor
Barbara McGhee, Informatics Nurse
Cachet Coleman, PSC

If you have a story you would like published in the quarterly newsletter, please contact:

Nancy Wingertsahn (412-623-8378)
wingertsahnj@upmc.edu

Amber Sowers (412-623-3478)
sowersa@upmc.edu

Purchase a We Care tote bag to benefit the UPMC Cancer Centers Patient Assistance Fund. Available for $3 at the Hillman Cancer Center gift shop.

It’s a boy….
Jax Medina
Born to Emily Medina, RN
March 19, 2013