



Oncology Bridge Fund

Providing Help and Hope in a Time of Need

The Oncology Bridge Fund, established by the Summit Health Foundation, provides financial assistance for cancer patients in need who live in Franklin County and neighboring communities.

Cancer patients face so much more than just their diagnosis. Patients often deal with:

- Loss of a job or insurance.
- Difficulty paying high cost co-pays and medications.
- Missed paychecks due to sickness.
- Reduced job hours for caregiver spouses.

A cancer diagnosis can turn a person's world upside down. An additional diagnosis of COVID for patients like Sarah, adds another layer of complexity and worry.

Though her journey has not been easy, Sarah says team of doctors, nurses, and staff at WellSpan's Cancer Center in Chambersburg, in addition to financial assistance from the **Oncology Bridge Fund**, has carried her through every step of the way.

“ The Oncology Bridge Fund is just an incredible program. We have received grocery gift cards to purchase nutritious food, so I can maintain a healthy diet – which is just so important for beating cancer. We’ve also received assistance with our monthly electric bills. It has relieved a great deal of stress and I am so grateful.

– Sarah, a grateful patient



A self-exam in 2020 led to Sarah's eventual diagnosis of breast cancer. She began 12 weeks of chemotherapy, but her treatment came to a halt when she contracted COVID-19.

“I was hospitalized for three days to receive intensive antibiotics and an infusion of antibodies,” recalls Sarah. “It was a tough time.”

After several weeks off to recover from COVID, Sarah resumed and completed her chemotherapy.

Sarah's challenges over the past year have encompassed more than just her health.

Because of her compromised immunity, Sarah could not continue working throughout her treatment. After six months on leave, she lost her job. She and her husband were soon living on a single income and faced with mounting bills and expenses. That's when Sarah's social worker informed her about the **Oncology Bridge Fund**.

Research shows a patient's ability to heal is significantly affected by the stability of their environment.

Gifts to the **Oncology Bridge Fund** make a direct and immediate impact on patients, like Sarah, who are struggling with basic needs as they undergo cancer treatments.

- A \$50 donation provides gift cards to help patients and their families with grocery bills.
- A gift of \$75 provides financial assistance for monthly utility bills to ensure a safe, stable environment for our patients.
- A contribution of \$100 provides 25 bus rides or four \$25 gas cards to help patients get to and from their doctor appointments.

Every penny of every gift is directed locally to help cancer patients and their families in Franklin County and neighboring counties, allowing them to focus on their health and treatments.

For more information about the **Summit Health Foundation** and other vital community programs, please contact:

785 5th Ave., Suite 1, Chambersburg, PA 17201
(717) 267-7794 | jsimonson6@wellspan.org

WellSpan.org



The impact in 2022

This special source of funding is supported entirely through the generosity of our donors. Funding offers vital assistance for WellSpan's most vulnerable patients with support for basic needs, such as food security, shelter and utilities, transportation, and medication assistance. For patients, this fund can be a lifeline for them and their family.

The Oncology Bridge Fund provided



\$31,785

of support to help

58 patients

in our community relieve their financial burdens so they could focus on fighting cancer.


**Summit Health
Foundation**

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