

## Linda Baltzel Cancer Patient Assistance Fund

For many people, a cancer diagnosis can be not only emotionally but financially devastating. Many patients have children, spouses or parents who rely on them and loss of income during treatment combined with unplanned medical expenses can cause excruciating anxiety. The rest of the family also faces tremendous stress—fearing for their own security on top of their worry about their loved one’s health and survival. It can feel like a burden too heavy to bear.

Three decades ago, the family of Linda Baltzell, who died of cancer, generously contributed money to seed a cancer patient assistance fund in her name. They made the gift as a way of expressing their appreciation for the care Linda received and to honor her memory.

The fund, now known as the **Linda Baltzell Cancer Patient Assistance Fund**, has been a godsend for patients through the years, helping to pay for things such as medical needs, prescriptions, utilities, food and other critical expenses when the strain threatened to push families over the edge.

Although Providence offers a generous charity care program, some patients don’t meet the criteria for charity care but are still in need of some limited financial assistance. The Linda Baltzell Cancer Patient Assistance Fund can help fill in this gap as a safety net. The fund is replenished annually through individual donations. As our community continues to face economic challenges, the need has become even greater.

### Patient Stories

Sonya lives in a small home with three other family members. Her nephew Victor arranged for a local aid van to transport Sonya to and from her cancer treatments, but the driver couldn’t load her into the vehicle—the house had no ramp to accommodate Sonya’s wheelchair. While the family got a ramp installed, the fund paid for Sonya to stay a few nights in a hotel so she could get to her appointments.

Pat, whose husband’s disability thrust her into the role of lone earner for the family, was put out of commission by chemo treatments that knocked her off her feet. The family struggled to keep up financially. A grant from the fund paid a month’s rent and utilities, giving the family some breathing room while Pat finished treatment and regained her strength.

There are hundreds more stories like these and every dollar donated can help.



The Providence Regional Cancer Partnership is the result of a first-ever collaboration between four leading medical groups: Providence Regional Medical Center, The Everett Clinic, Western Washington Medical Group and Northwest Washington Radiation Oncology Associates.

The Cancer Partnership offers all aspects of outpatient cancer care under one roof including chemotherapy, radiation oncology, clinical research, integrative medicine and counseling services. It also hosts some of the most sought-after cancer technology never before available in the Puget Sound region.

Learn more at [www.ProvidenceGeneralFoundation.com](http://www.ProvidenceGeneralFoundation.com) and [www.cancerpartnership.org](http://www.cancerpartnership.org)