

During this special season of the year, we often stop and reflect on the many blessings in our lives. Often times our clients describe the support received from Cancer Action as a blessing during one of their most difficult life challenges. *Now, more than ever, your gift is needed to help Cancer Action be a blessing to those whose lives are affected by cancer in our community.*

I would like to share Glenda's story with you:

Walking through the front door, it is clear that family is an important part of Glenda and Joe's life. Pictures of their children – David, Chad and Tisha – hang throughout the living room. Glenda is quick to point out that her family has been her *first and greatest blessing* as she has faced her cancer diagnosis.

In January of this year, Glenda began to see signs that something was wrong. During a minor surgery, the doctor found a cancerous tumor that was the source Glenda's symptoms.

Glenda's family rallied around, finding many ways to take care of her. Joe has taken over the shopping. Daughter Tisha, a high school freshman, is spending more time at home with her mom and less time cheerleading. Their oldest son, David, made sure that his younger brother had a great graduation party, smoking meats and making the food so his mother wouldn't have to worry.

Chad, a senior in high school, has taken on a special assignment, driving his mom to daily radiation appointments, often for weeks at a time. "There were days I was so weak, I didn't think I was going to make it out the door," she said. Chad even postponed a full-time job after graduation so that he could continue devoting time to caring for his mother.

Glenda said that her *second blessing* has been a wonderful job and supportive co-workers. They have helped her find ways to work from home and maintain some of her income. Joe works in construction, so his schedule and income vary with the seasons, making Glenda's income important for their family.

"Cancer Action has been my *third blessing*," Glenda said. Glenda lost 40 pounds in the first months of her treatment, so Cancer Action is providing nutritional supplement drinks to help her maintain good nutrition and regain strength and weight. Glenda said that for some time the nutritional drinks were the only thing that tasted good. "The radiation has damaged my throat, and even speaking hurt for a long time."

Cancer Action is there to help thousands of cancer patients and their families each year so that no one has to face cancer alone.



Glenda with her husband, Joe, and children, Tisha, Chad and David (left to right).



The heart of cancer support in Kansas City

Cancer Action has also provided Glenda with transportation to some of her cancer treatments and appointments. “Transportation has been a life saver,” Glenda said. She is thankful that it has helped relieve some of the pressure on Chad, and provided her with additional support from caring drivers.

“Bill, a volunteer driver, will call me when he arrives and tell me, ‘Your chariot awaits.’ They are all so patient, and wait for me, even when it takes me a few minutes just to get myself up and moving. They are so dependable, and so nice!”

While the family is working together to provide good care for Glenda, Joe shared that he has struggled at times to know how best to take care of Glenda when her treatment is physically challenging. “When you haven’t been through cancer, you just don’t know what is going on.” A cancer diagnosis can be one of the most difficult life challenges a family can face, but thankfully, Cancer Action is there to help thousands of cancer patients and their families each year so that no one has to face cancer alone.

This year, Cancer Action has helped more than 3,400 cancer patients with programs and services that address physical, social, emotional, and financial needs. *During this past year, needs for practical and financial assistance have increased substantially. Many of these services are critical to cancer patients during this difficult fight for their lives.*

Will you join us in making Cancer Action a blessing in the lives of those with cancer?

Your financial gift this holiday season is critical to help provide life-sustaining services to hundreds of cancer patients walking through our doors during the challenging winter months. Your gift will ensure that each person will receive professional and caring support and access to vital services like nutrition, transportation, prescription assistance, or medical equipment that will help reduce distress and improve their quality of life at every step through their cancer journey.

A gift envelope is enclosed to make supporting Cancer Action simple and convenient. You may also donate online at www.canceractionkc.org. If you would like to make a contribution in honor of someone dear to you, we’ll send your honoree a heartfelt acknowledgement on your behalf. Your support is so important now more than ever! Thank you for helping make Cancer Action the heart of cancer support in Kansas City!

We wish you and your family a very blessed and joyful holiday season.

Most Sincerely,

Karla Nichols, *Executive Director*

MISSION STATEMENT

As a caring community of professionals and volunteers, Cancer Action is dedicated to reducing distress and improving the quality of life for those living with, through and beyond cancer; and promoting education, prevention and early detection to reduce the impact of cancer in the greater Kansas City area.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

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10520 Barkley, Suite 100
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