

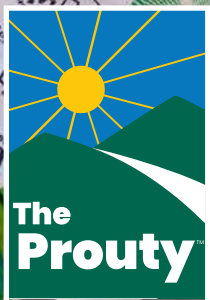
The Prouty

2025

CHRONICLE

Redefining What's
Possible in Brain
Cancer Care

Mental Health Services
Expanded by
Prouty Funds



Benefiting Friends of Dartmouth Cancer Center

**\$10.27
million**
raised in the
44th annual
Prouty!

Dear Prouty Community,

It is my privilege to share a message to our community as the interim director of the Dartmouth Cancer Center at a time of true excitement, momentum, and promise for the future. Thanks to the outstanding leadership of my predecessor, Dr. Steve Leach, and the continued success of The Prouty, Dartmouth Cancer Center is as strong as ever and is a national leader in cancer care and research. We are dedicated to providing comprehensive, compassionate care to all of our patients to help them live longer, healthier lives.

In my 27+ years at Dartmouth, my appreciation has grown for the strong community commitment to our Cancer Center. That is best reflected in the incredible spirit and growth of The Prouty. As a proud participant in the 5K Wooded Walk, it is wonderful to interact with so many patients along the trail, with their families, children, and grandchildren, and to experience their gratitude and appreciation.

I primarily care for patients with lung cancer, which is a difficult cancer to treat, so it's very fulfilling to see these patients out living their full lives and giving back to the Cancer Center each year at The Prouty.

The upcoming year is an exciting one for the Cancer Center. We will welcome a new director imminently, and we have groundbreaking cancer research initiatives (page 6) and clinical trials (page 8) well underway. The Patient Pavilion will soon be completed, adding a new inpatient oncology unit at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, and the Cancer Center's regional locations are also expanding to bring cancer care close to home (page 10).

None of this would be possible without The Prouty. Your generosity fuels our mission. You are ensuring we can provide meaningful patient support services (page 12), and this year, thanks to the record-breaking success of your fundraising, we will allocate \$1 million to expand



Konstantin Dragnev, MD, Interim Director of the Dartmouth Cancer Center, at the 5K Wooded Walk.

mental health services for cancer patients (page 9).

We are so grateful for all you do to improve the lives of Dartmouth Cancer Center patients and for your longstanding commitment to our mission.

Konstantin Dragnev, MD

*Interim Director
Dartmouth Cancer Center
Professor of Medicine
Irene Heinz Given Professor in
Pharmacology*

Dear Prouty,

Serving as the Director of the Dartmouth Cancer Center has been the honor of my professional career. While I have stepped away from the role after 8+ years to

Joanne Conroy, MD, president and CEO of Dartmouth Health, with Maggie Goodlander, United States representative, and Steven Leach, MD, interim dean, Geisel School of Medicine, at The Prouty Yellow Ribbon Ceremony.



serve as interim dean of the Geisel School of Medicine, my heart will forever remain with the Cancer Center and the groundbreaking work that is happening each day to advance research and patient care. This year's Prouty was inspirational on so many fronts, and the manner in which everyone came together to go above and beyond warms my heart beyond words.

So much of what we are able to do to support our patients at the Dartmouth Cancer Center is because of the incredible fundraising that takes place each year and culminates in our community celebration of hope and healing each July.

I am so excited for the future of the Dartmouth Cancer Center, and that excitement is directly tied to all of you and what you do to support our work. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

I look forward to riding with you at next year's Prouty on July 11, 2026!

With deep appreciation,

Steven D. Leach, MD

*Interim Dean of the
Geisel School of Medicine
Professor of Molecular and Systems
Biology, Surgery, and Medicine*

Record-Breaking Results

Record-Breaking Impact

\$10.27 million raised!

By supporting The Prouty, you are fueling cutting-edge research for new treatments and cures. You are helping provide exceptional care and services for patients and families. And you are helping Dartmouth Cancer Center get closer to ending cancer once and for all.

Thank you for bringing hope to cancer patients in our community and around the world.

To learn more about the projects supported by The Prouty, please contact Pat McBride at 603-646-5150 or Patrick.J.McBride@hitchcock.org.

2025 Prouty Fund Allocations

39.3%

Cancer research, clinical trials, and program development

28%

Cancer patient support



12.7%

Clinical education, community outreach, and prevention

20%

Cancer resource improvement and development

YOUR IMPACT IS POWERFUL AND TANGIBLE.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW THIS YEAR'S FUNDING ALLOCATIONS CHANGE LIVES.

RESEARCH

Innovations for brain tumor patients fueled by seed funding

[READ MORE ON PAGE 6](#)

CLINICAL TRIALS

New options to treat aggressive breast cancers

[READ MORE ON PAGE 8](#)

EDUCATION

Fueling cancer researchers at the local level

[READ MORE ON PAGE 20](#)

SUPPORT SERVICES

Whole-person care to complement cancer treatment

[READ MORE ON PAGE 12](#)

HEALING HARVEST

Reducing food stress to improve treatment outcomes

[READ MORE ON PAGE 12](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

Expanded access to patient and care giver services

[READ MORE ON PAGE 9](#)



Jaclynn Rodriguez, Executive Director of Development for Dartmouth Cancer Center, and Pat McBride, Director of Friends of Dartmouth Cancer Center.

Dear Prouty,

Thank you, thank you, thank you! We are pleased today to share a message of gratitude for another incredible—and record-breaking!—year of fundraising and participatory growth at the 44th Prouty.

Together, our Prouty community raised more than \$10.2 million—a significant increase from 2024, when we raised a then-record \$8.2 million—to support ground-breaking cancer research and vital patient services at Dartmouth Cancer Center. More than 4,400 participants Prouty-ed however they could to show patients and families at our Cancer Center that this community is truly neighbors caring for and supporting neighbors. And you can feel that personal touch everywhere you turn at The Prouty.

We want to extend our deep appreciation to our longtime friend and partner, the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, which continues to drive our success and motivates the entire community to support our Cancer

Center with the unprecedented Byrne match. We also want to thank our nearly 200 corporate sponsors for their collective impact on The Prouty—we couldn't do it without you.

This year's Prouty was magical. We welcomed 1,763 new participants to The Prouty this year, and happily returned to the Connecticut River for Prouty Row (page 17) after a two-year hiatus. We launched a new Prouty Community Walk: Southern NH (page 13) in Manchester, and celebrated with patients, families, and caregivers in St. Johnsbury, Vt. (page 13) as well. We hosted a sold-out Prouty Golf tournament (page 13). We saw more participants on our Prouty Walk routes (page 16), as well as our Prouty Ultimate (page 14), Bike, Mountain Bike, and Gravel rides (page 15). And we brought the spirit of The Prouty to our cancer patients in treatment with our Indoor Prouty (page 18).

As reflected in our opening ceremony video, we are especially grateful for the 750+ volunteers who work behind the scenes to ensure our continued success. Lastly, we want to thank The Prouty Team for its year-round commitment to the event's success and our Friends of DCC Board of Directors for their thoughtful guidance and commitment.

Each and every year, The Prouty is a celebration of what is possible when our community comes together. The fantastic weather, hugs, smiles, and even tears are all reminders that **Hope Starts HERE!**

With gratitude,

Jaclynn Rodriguez

Executive Director of Development,
Dartmouth Cancer Center

Pat McBride

Director, Friends of Dartmouth Cancer Center



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The Prouty is the signature event of the Friends of Dartmouth Cancer Center, a group of people dedicated to raising money and awareness for cancer research and patient support services at Dartmouth Cancer Center.

Contact us: info@theprouty.org

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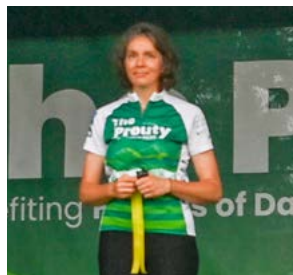
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MAGAZINE

[vitalsmagazine.dartmouth.edu/
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The Prouty Yellow Ribbon Tribute

Our impactful opening ceremony on July 12 united us as a powerful force against cancer. We learned how the funds raised make a difference at Dartmouth Cancer Center, and we enjoyed a special "Today I Prouty" video, along with heartfelt yellow ribbon tributes. Scan the code to read the full stories.



Meghan Arthur

After cycling across Iowa, Meghan Arthur faced a breast cancer diagnosis and found comprehensive, reassuring care at Dartmouth Cancer Center, inspiring her to support the life-saving work of the organization.



t'oyin Asojò

After her 2011 breast cancer diagnosis and successful treatment, t'oyin embraces challenges associated with cancer survivorship. As a cancer researcher and professor at Dartmouth, she walks in The Prouty to support vital cancer research and patient care.



Tom Bird

Thanks to early lung cancer detection prompted by his doctor's insistence, Tom Bird credits Dartmouth with saving his life and continues to advocate for screenings while proudly supporting The Prouty with his family.



Greta Close

After Stu Close's 2012 brain tumor diagnosis and more than a decade of care at Dartmouth Cancer Center, his family continues to honor his years of participation in The Prouty by supporting the event and bringing hope to others facing cancer.



Julian Devlin

After his 2015 colon cancer diagnosis, Julian Devlin found strength in his family and Dartmouth Cancer Center's care, inspiring him and his children to join The Prouty community to spread hope.



Byron Haynes

Motivated by his grandfather's cancer loss, Byron Haynes has dedicated over 40 years to supporting The Prouty through organizing the Dirty Project, a unique gravel ride, and riding to help improve cancer research and patient outcomes.



Rebecca McCown

When her husband Chris was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, Dartmouth Cancer Center provided expert care and family support that helped Rebecca, Chris, and their son, inspiring Rebecca to give back by volunteering in gratitude.



Erika Moen

Shaped by her undergraduate work studying cancer, Erika now leads a research team at Dartmouth Cancer Center working to improve rural cancer care, with vital support from Prouty funds fueling her mission to help patients nationwide.



John Seelen

After being diagnosed with grade 4 glioblastoma, lifelong swimmer John Seelen credits Dartmouth Cancer Center's comprehensive care for enabling him to continue competing and live fully despite his diagnosis.

Redefining What's Possible in Brain Cancer Care

By Lara Stahler

Unsatisfied with simply accepting what's available, Dartmouth Cancer Center (DCC) neurosurgical oncologist Linton T. Evans, MD, MED '10, RES '17 is redefining what is possible in caring for patients with brain tumors.

Treatment options for brain metastases—tumors that spread to the brain from primary cancers like lung or melanoma—have improved dramatically over the past two decades, thanks to advances in surgery, radiation, immunotherapy, and targeted therapy. And now, Evans says, the focus has shifted from merely extending survival to preserving quality of life over potentially many years.

Unfortunately, the standard of care for glioblastoma—the most aggressive form of primary brain cancer—hasn't changed much. “But with newer technologies in the operating room, we're better able to maximize

safe tumor removal while being much more aware of neurocognitive outcomes,” Evans says. “We also have some exciting clinical trials on the horizon.” And Prouty Pilot seed funding has laid the groundwork for these critical advances.

Smarter, safer surgeries

Through unique collaborations, clinicians and researchers routinely connect their expertise to augment technology. “We are constantly asking, ‘How can we make this better?’” Evans says. The answer may be designing new fluorescent molecules, improving imaging probes, or leveraging machine learning to enhance image interpretation—work they hope will make brain tumor surgeries safer and more precise.

One example is the CONVIVO confocal laser microscope system, which lets neurosurgeons see cellular details of brain tissue in real time during surgery. While it is usually used for gliomas, “our team here has a different perspective about its real potential,” Evans says. He and pathologist George Zanazzi, MD, PhD, are preparing to

RADIATION AT THE TIME OF SURGERY

► In 2023, neurosurgical oncologist Linton T. Evans, MD, MED '10, RES '17, treated the first patient at Dartmouth Cancer Center (DCC) with GammaTile, a postage stamp-sized device embedded with radiation seeds that can be placed directly into the brain cavity at the time of tumor surgery. Known as “brachytherapy,” the tile delivers highly localized radiation immediately after tumor removal. The benefit? Sparing healthy tissue and reducing weeks of travel for radiation treatments—especially valuable for patients in rural northern New England. DCC has now treated 15 patients with

GammaTile—more than Evans initially expected. “We also participated in a multi-center clinical trial comparing GammaTile to standard post-operative radiation in patients with brain metastases, and are preparing to join an upcoming trial studying the use of GammaTile for patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma.”

With many more cases under its belt, DCC is now considered a GammaTile Center of Excellence—one of very few in New England. Evans says, “It's exciting to see this become a real option for patients who face major travel burdens.”



Linton T. Evans, MD, left, with Gilbert Stuart, the first patient at Dartmouth Cancer Center (DCC) to receive GammaTile brachytherapy, which eliminates the need for traditional daily radiation treatments. DCC is now considered a GammaTile Center of Excellence.

Neurosurgeon Linton Evans, MD, MED '10, RES '17 (right) blends compassion and cutting-edge technologies to give patients with brain tumors more time and a better quality of life.



Photos by Mark Washburn

publish their results from using the laser microscope in skull-base tumors, where achieving clear margins is especially critical.

Evans is also spearheading a first-in-human clinical trial concept that could extend the reach of laser interstitial thermal therapy (LITT), a minimally invasive method that involves inserting a laser fiber into the tumor and using heat delivery to destroy tumor cells. While effective, LITT has limits: Heat doesn't spread far, and nearby critical brain structures can be damaged. To overcome this, Evans is testing ThermoDox, an encapsulated chemotherapy that only activates at tumor sites when heated.

Evans is as excited about the trial as he is about how it emerged. "I was teaching a class at Thayer [Dartmouth's School of Engineering] with fellow researcher Jack Hoopes, DVM, PhD, who told me he was 'meeting with some folks who have a heat-sensitive chemotherapy and it might be an interesting project.' This drug had been tried in other cancers, but methods for monitoring the heat were lacking. So we met with the inventor of ThermoDox and told him we actually had a great way, that we use routinely, of measuring the amount of heat and monitoring where it was going by using LITT with MRI [magnetic resonance imaging]."

Through the Cancer Center's bench-to-bedside program, Evans and Hoopes secured funding to test how accurately they can predict where heat—and a drug that

has never been used in the brain before—goes. While Hoopes recently passed away, a loss deeply felt among the DCC research community, Evans will continue what they started, with hopes to finish preclinical testing, submit an application to the FDA, and launch the trial within a year. "It's been a very rewarding collaboration," he says, "going from hanging around after a class at Thayer to bringing safer, less toxic, and more effective LITT-based treatment to patients with brain tumors."

In addition to an environment that lends itself to fortuitous meetings, Evans credits Dartmouth's Center for Surgical Innovation and DCC funding for "making all of this possible in a way that isn't at other places," he says.

Evans is also launching a fluorescence-guided surgery clinical trial for patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma. The trial will use a novel Dartmouth-designed fluorescent dye that sharpens the contrast between tumor and healthy brain, helping surgeons remove more cancer while preserving function. As important as the dye itself, Evans notes, is developing the systems to visualize it effectively—a task well-suited to Dartmouth engineers' tremendous expertise.

Envisioning more for patients

As technology improves, Evans appreciates having more nuanced conversations with patients and the expanding ability to tailor treatment plans to individual needs and preferences. "With the technology we have, we can treat patients the right way for them," he says.

He envisions a future where improved technology and surgical precision, smarter drug delivery, and minimally invasive techniques give patients more time and better quality of life.

Diagnosing Brain Cancer in Real Time

Patients often endure surgery and a weeks-long wait for brain cancer diagnosis. But that timeline could change significantly, thanks to a new diagnostic method developed by Dartmouth Cancer Center researchers with support from The Prouty.





In a rural community, access to clinical trials can be particularly challenging. The Prouty's support ensures that our patients have the best possible opportunities for cutting-edge treatment.

Linda Vahdat, MD, MBA
Deputy Director
Dartmouth Cancer Center

Linda Vahdat, MD, MBA (left) with Jeannine Romeo (right), the first person to begin treatment in her phase II copper depletion clinical trial to treat triple-negative breast cancer.

Clinical Trial Offers New Hope for Patient with Aggressive Breast Cancer

By Ashley Festa

The cancer treatment Jeannine Romeo received at Dartmouth Cancer Center (DCC) saved her life more than 18 years ago. Now fighting breast cancer a second time, she's part of a new clinical trial at DCC that gives her hope for a second victory.

Romeo's first battle with breast cancer followed a familiar path. Her mammogram revealed a cancerous tumor, and her treatment was fairly standard—surgery to remove

the lump, then radiation and five years of the hormone therapy drug tamoxifen.

She was cancer-free for nearly two decades before a tender spot on the same breast prompted concern from her doctor. Romeo's recent mammogram had shown no sign of cancer, so her doctor did an ultrasound. The test revealed she had triple-negative breast cancer: a difficult-to-detect, aggressive, and invasive type of cancer with limited treatment options and a poor outlook.

Again, Romeo followed a standard course of treatment: a partial mastectomy, chemotherapy, and radiation. But when her doctor found a cancerous lump on her neck, oncologists at DCC knew she needed a different plan of action.

"I felt like things would be OK, but they weren't," Romeo says. "I didn't have many options."

Although the circumstances were daunting, the timing was

fortuitous—Linda Vahdat, MD, section chief of medical oncology at DCC, was starting phase II of a copper depletion clinical trial to treat triple-negative breast cancer. Enrolled in December 2024, Romeo was the first person to begin the treatment: an anti-copper drug compound called tetrathiomolybdate (TM). By reducing Romeo's copper levels, Vahdat hopes to remove the resources these cancer cells need to grow and spread.

"Dr. Vahdat is wonderful, confident, and compassionate. She's part of a tremendous team," says Romeo, who lives in Keene, New Hampshire, and travels about two hours round-trip to visit Vahdat in Lebanon, N.H. "I was hesitant about the trial, but I trust them. Their care is fantastic."

She has regular lab work to ensure she is getting the right dosage, or "recipe," as she calls it, which sometimes needs adjustments. "I am a little science experiment," Romeo says. "Hopefully it will help me and then help others."

DID YOU KNOW?

171

clinical studies are open at Dartmouth Cancer Center between St. Johnsbury, Vt, and Keene and Lebanon, N.H.

Mental Health Services to Get \$1 Million Boost from Prouty Funds

Sivan Rotenberg, PhD, clinical psychologist at Dartmouth Cancer Center, shines a light on need for holistic cancer care

By Ashley Festa

Although cancer treatment aims to improve patients' physical health, these grueling regimens can sometimes lead to debilitating mental health challenges. Dartmouth Cancer Center (DCC) offers mental health care to help patients navigate these difficulties, but the demand for these services often exceeds provider availability. Now, with \$1 million in Prouty funding, the Cancer Center can hire more providers, expand services, and create more equitable access to this vital care.

Learn how DCC is addressing the mental health care needs of patients in the following conversation with Sivan Rotenberg, PhD, clinical psychologist at DCC and assistant professor of psychiatry at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth:

Are mental health problems a common experience among cancer patients?

About 20% of patients experience a looming fear of recurrence that impairs their ability to function and to get into a routine that's not related to cancer. During treatment, the medical team is constantly checking on you. When you shift to maintenance treatment or surveillance [with less frequent medical visits]—that rapid separation from the medical system can create anxiety. Patients can feel alone and scared, which prevents them from living well.

How do the mental health services at Dartmouth Cancer Center help patients?

Our evidence-based psychotherapy services target the psychological processes impacting people's lives, helping them live rich lives and accept the way things are now, even if they don't do things the way they used to do pre-treatment. We help patients build skills to navigate their illness, get through treatment, and live well. Some patients benefit from psychiatric medication. We also have neurocognitive testing; when we know the brain is vulnerable, tumors in the brain for example, we'll get a

baseline neurocognitive test and follow patients over time to see how they're doing.

How do cancer treatments contribute to mental health challenges?

If we use breast cancer as an example, a common treatment is endocrine therapy [hormone suppression therapy]. Our hormones play a huge role in regulating mental health, and inhibitors can raise anxiety and depression. For example, when one of my patients started a hormone inhibitor, her anxiety got much, much worse. She couldn't work anymore and struggled to leave her home. Working with me and connecting to the psychiatry team and getting medication to "turn down" the anxiety helped her get back to living again.

Why is there a need for more services?

Right now, these services are available only at Dartmouth Cancer Center's Lebanon, N.H., location. And for some of our services, there's an incredibly long waiting list. We are able to serve only 5% of eligible patients. Our goal with the \$1 million from The Prouty is to get our services to all six Dartmouth Cancer Center sites and increase our impact by helping 15% to 20% of eligible patients.

What will \$1 million from The Prouty make possible?

We will be able to hire more providers and a mental health navigator. We can reconceptualize how we deliver care as well as deliver services that don't exist right now, like screening patients on endocrine therapy who are at high risk of developing mental health issues because of the treatment. The funding will also give us the opportunity to develop group programs, so we can deliver interventions to more people at a time, which will help with access.



Photo by Mark Washburn

Expanding Dartmouth Cancer Center's Impact

By Eva Botkin-Kowacki

What Dartmouth Cancer Center does best is combine small-town compassion and community with world-class care. The impact of that approach is poised to expand significantly with key investments already underway.

Reaching Across Northern New England

Cancer treatment can be one of the toughest challenges of someone's life, and accessing the best treatment can sometimes add difficulty to an already trying time—particularly in rural northern New England. Some patients in our region must travel hours for care, and with treatment typically requiring frequent visits, simply getting there becomes a significant burden. That's why Dartmouth Cancer Center has been expanding its footprint across the region, bringing high-caliber cancer care closer to home.

In **southern New Hampshire**, hundreds of patients now have convenient access to comprehensive cancer treatment and services at a new radiation oncology

facility at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinics Manchester campus, which opened in July. This significant expansion brings chemotherapy and radiation therapy to patients locally, extending southward the same high-level multi-specialty care available in Lebanon, N.H. Previously, patients often had to travel long distances for radiation therapy. Now, they can see their oncologists, get test results from the in-house lab, and receive their primary treatments in one convenient location.

Cancer care in **southwestern Vermont** is also expanding, with the construction of a new Dartmouth Cancer Center facility at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center (SVMC) in Bennington, Vt., a member of Dartmouth Health. SVMC broke ground in July for the new facility, which will be named the Hoyt-Hunter Center for Oncology Care. The state-of-the-art facility will double the number of infusion and exam rooms and enhance integration with Dartmouth Cancer Center. The Hoyt-Hunter Center is part of Vision 2020, SVMC's capital campaign that has raised nearly \$29 million for major renovation projects at the hospital.

For patients in the **North Country of New Hampshire and the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont**, the Cancer Center's St. Johnsbury, Vt., location can save hours of driving. There, care is coordinated with local doctors and Cancer Center colleagues in Lebanon, N.H., and patients have access to radiation treatments, chemotherapy, clinical trials, holistic care, support groups, and educational programs, made possible by The Prouty. Now, in partnership with Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital (NVRH) and with philanthropic support, Dartmouth Cancer Center is building a pathology lab at the St. Johnsbury facility to make it easier for patients to get necessary lab work done as part of chemotherapy treatments and clinical trials. Funds raised through the Prouty Community Walk: St. Johnsbury are making it possible to better serve the northernmost communities in New England.

The Patient Pavilion at Dartmouth Health's Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon, N.H., will soon contain new and expanded facilities dedicated to cancer care.



A Reimagined Hub for Cancer Care

If Manchester, N.H., Bennington, Vt., St. Johnsbury, Vt., and other Dartmouth Cancer Center sites are the spokes

of the Dartmouth Cancer Center wheel, then Lebanon, N.H. is the hub, offering patients and clinicians alike a home base for cutting-edge research and clinical care. And the hub is undergoing changes, too.

The new Patient Pavilion at Dartmouth Health's Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon will soon contain new and expanded facilities dedicated to cancer care, as construction is underway to complete floors left intentionally unfinished when the Pavilion opened in 2023. The second floor will be designed to support inpatient treatment of complex cancers that require multifaceted care regimes. A new, dedicated infusion space will be part of the inpatient facility, as well as ICU-convertible rooms equipped with advanced, real-time monitoring capabilities. These rooms can transform into positive airflow environments to provide patients receiving innovative immunotherapies or stem cell or bone marrow transplants with a sterile, high-tech recovery hub.

This build-out will also support pioneering cell therapy research that builds on more than 25 years of Cancer Center-led discoveries. New facilities will fuel initiatives that marry foundational and translational research, clinical trials, and patient care to flip the script on how cancer is treated.

The existing 3K infusion space and clinic outpatient area, and the 2K radiation oncology space at the Norris Cotton Cancer Care Pavilion within DHMC, are also being redesigned to increase clinical space while fostering a healing atmosphere that reflects the Cancer Center's award-winning medical care. As those spaces are reimaged and expanded, a renovated comprehensive pediatric infusion suite and pediatric oncology treatment space will also be intentionally built to include spaces for play and privacy for families, in consideration of the many facets of providing cancer care to children. The plans also include an enhanced, dedicated space to



A rendering of the new Dartmouth Cancer Center facility at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center (SVMC) in Bennington, Vt.

support the unique needs of patients enrolled in clinical trials and provide them maximum comfort—allowing the Cancer Center to add more trials to its portfolio, meaning better care for patients.

One of the **greatest champions of clinical trials at the Cancer Center has been Konstantin Dragnev**, MD, professor of medicine and the Irene Heinz Given Professor in Pharmacology at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and Dartmouth Health. Dr. Dragnev has stepped into the role of interim Cancer Center director after Steven D. Leach, MD, the Preston T. and Virginia R. Kelsey Distinguished Chair in Cancer at Dartmouth, became Geisel's interim dean on September 15.

Dr. Dragnev is not only a beloved oncologist. Previously serving as associate director for clinical research and co-director of the Cancer Signaling, Genomes and Networks Research Program at the Cancer Center, and as the principal investigator for Dartmouth's NCI Lead Academic Participating Site (LAPS) clinical trials grant since its inception, Dr. Dragnev has been instrumental in ensuring that patients have access to the most cutting-edge treatments.



Remembering Jack Hoopes, DVM, PhD

Jack, professor of surgery and radiation oncology at Geisel School of Medicine, adjunct professor of engineering at Thayer School of Engineering, beloved Dartmouth Cancer Center (DCC) member, and devoted Prouty Ultimate rider, passed away on Sunday, August 10, 2025.

Jack was a giant here at DCC and will always be remembered for his effervescent personality, irrepressible spirit, and passionate support for anything to do with research, teaching, and mentoring.

As a way of honoring Jack's legacy, the **P. Jack Hoopes Prouty Pilot Award** will be awarded annually to the applicant whose interests most align with Jack's longstanding contributions in radiation biology, image-guided surgery, and/or teaching and education. In this manner, Jack will join Audrey Prouty as someone whose spirit and legacy will be forever memorialized at DCC.

Whole Again

How Complementary Care Supports Patients and Families

When Rita Tingle was diagnosed with cancer, she and her husband Bill suddenly entered a world they never expected. The medical care was excellent, but what truly steadied them was Dartmouth Cancer Center's Complementary Care Program, funded by Prouty donors and offered free of charge to patients.

"The program's been wonderful in bringing the world back into our lives," Rita says. "You're so isolated when you're going through treatment and seeing doctors and not feeling very well. When you suddenly have a class to participate in, you're alive again."

The program offers a rich menu of options designed to heal body, mind, and spirit. Gentle yoga, tai chi, Qigong, guided meditation, stretching, and massage help to rebuild strength and ease tension. Art workshops, therapeutic music, and writing groups spark joy and creativity. Nutrition and cooking classes support healthy living at home. Counseling provides emotional grounding, while support groups offer a safe place where "everybody can come forward, speak, and be seen," Rita says.

Yoga and exercise left Rita the most relaxed and reenergized. "It's really good to get people like me



Photos by Kata Sasvari

Rita Tingle (right) receives a chair massage from Dartmouth Cancer Center massage therapist Lisa Putnam.

moving, particularly when you're very housebound [from treatment],” she says.

As her caretaker, Bill adds that the social elements of the program were a major boon, too. “They’re good not just for body-building and the mind, but also relationship-building as well.”

The program offers a mix of online classes and in-person sessions. That combination, Rita and Bill say, eased their travel burden during Rita’s recovery, while still fostering sharing experiences with others in the program.

“The Complementary Care Program has been a lifeline for me and my family,” Bill says. “It’s more than just treatment; it’s care and support.”

Volunteers Keep Healing Harvest Growing

When the Healing Harvest food pantry opened at Dartmouth Cancer Center in 2022, it served about 150 patients every two weeks. Today, that number has mushroomed to nearly 2,000 cancer patients and their families, thanks to dollars raised through The Prouty.

Dedicated volunteers make this growth possible. They handle everything from processing online food orders to packing bags with fresh produce. Each week, volunteers also assemble “Meal Kits of the Week” with ingredients and recipes.

Many volunteers say their own cancer experience helps them understand what patients need. As survivor-volunteer Barb Lens puts it, “Many of us who volunteer know first-hand how important good nutrition is to cancer survivorship and how difficult it can be to get groceries, to cook, and sometimes to afford food while going through cancer treatment. Healing Harvest is an important part of a successful treatment plan.” According to physicians, reducing food stress hastens and improves recovery outcomes.

*Healing Harvest
Nourishing Cancer Patients
And Their Families*

Community Walks

This year, The Prouty hosted two Community Walks, expanding the reach and power of The Prouty further across New England.

- **The 3rd Annual Prouty Community Walk in St. Johnsbury,** scheduled for May 17, had to be canceled due to high risk of intense thunderstorms in the area. Despite that, the dedicated community in St. Johnsbury, Vt., and surrounding towns raised \$134,000 for Dartmouth Cancer Center, St. Johnsbury.
- The Prouty ventured south on June 8 for the **1st Annual Prouty Community Walk: Southern NH.** This new endeavor brought together nearly 200 participants and raised \$130,000 for Dartmouth Cancer Centers in Manchester and Nashua, N.H.

Photos by Bruce Denis.



Prouty Golf

July 14, 2025

On an unseasonably chilly and misty day in June, 144 golfers brought the warmth and light to Eastman Golf Links at Prouty Golf! Before hitting the fairways, they gathered by the clubhouse for a meaningful opening ceremony, then hopped into their carts and cruised to their starting holes. After playing 18 holes, players headed back to the clubhouse for a post-tournament cocktail reception. Prouty Golf raised over \$200,000 this year as they putted their way toward a world without cancer.

Photos by Bruce Denis.



Prouty Ultimate

July 11-12, 2025

Prouty Ultimates broke records this year—together **raising over \$2 million** for life-saving research and important patient and family support services at Dartmouth Cancer Center. Nearly 120 dedicated riders accepted the Ultimate challenge to do more to bring hope to cancer patients and their families. On day 1, riders gathered on the Dartmouth Green before heading into Vermont, riding 75 or 100 miles on some of the most scenic roads in the Upper Valley, before pedaling back into New Hampshire and crossing through the Prouty Arch at the Dartmouth Outing Club (DOC). Shade outside and AC within, the DOC created the perfect post-ride atmosphere for lunch, a beer, and a little R&R. Ultimates returned on Day 2 to join the main event—many riding a second century, while others chose different distances and event types.

Photos by Courtney Cania and Dan Kardos.





Prouty Bike

July 12, 2025

Nearly 2,000 cyclists converged in Hanover, N.H., for the 44th Annual Prouty on a hot, humid Saturday in July. They kicked off their day with an inspiring opening ceremony, before clipping in and hitting the roads, hills, and trails of the Upper Valley. Whether on road, mountain, or gravel bikes, these dedicated cyclists pedaled hard and collectively raised \$4.2 million in support of Dartmouth Cancer Center. Riders returned through the Prouty arch, tied their yellow ribbons to the new Prouty HOPE sign, and enjoyed food, treats, and camaraderie at the post-Prouty celebration.

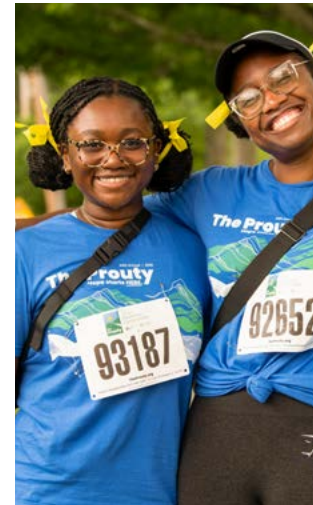
Photos by Bruce Denis, Dan Grossman, Kata Sasvari, Rob Strong, Herb Swanson, and Mark Washburn.

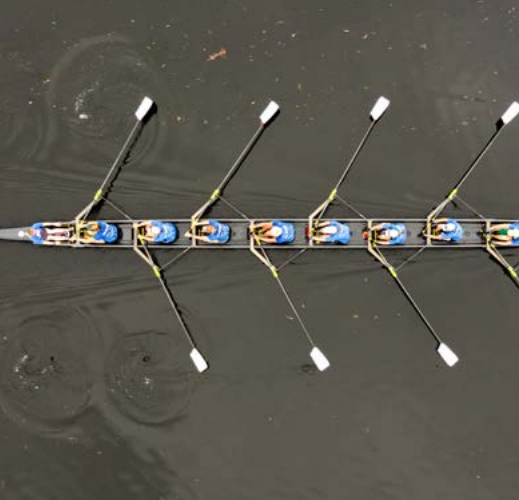
Prouty Walk

July 12, 2025

Prouty Walkers broke records this year, raising \$1,372,916, with over 1,350 participants coming out to walk and bring hope to cancer survivors and their families at Dartmouth Cancer Center. Many walkers sought shade among the trees along the ever-popular 5K Wooded Walk, while others took to the sidewalks of beautiful Hanover, N.H., on one of the three residential walks. With well-supported aid stations and family fun along the way, walkers took strides to raise funds and awareness for Dartmouth Cancer Center. They completed their journeys and crossed the finish line to cheers and cowbells, before heading into the post-Prouty celebration—complete with fun, food, and face paint!

Photos by Bruce Denis, Dan Grossman, Kata Sasvari.





Prouty Row

July 12, 2025

Over 250 rowers took to the Connecticut River to row The Prouty after a two-year hiatus, and raised \$1,034,356 in support of Dartmouth Cancer Center. Rowers unloaded their sculls and oars bright and early at Kendal Riverfront Park, before gathering at The Prouty arch for a powerful opening ceremony. In singles, doubles, quads, or eights, rowers completed their Prouty journey: rowing 5, 10, or 15 miles before returning to the docks. Rowers ended their day with lunch by the river, or headed up the road to join the full post-Prouty party at Richmond Middle School.

Photos by Rob Strong.



HEART OF THE PROUTY: KEITH FORD

So many people contribute to making The Prouty a success. Each year, we honor one of those people for their dedication with the Heart of The Prouty Award.

The Heart of The Prouty is so named because it goes to someone who gives their heart and soul to this community, and this year's recipient definitely fits that description.

His dedication to this community goes far beyond the 100 miles he rides on Prouty day. He is a year-round partner and friend to The Prouty, always willing to lend a hand—or a hammer—to help make this event a success.

He is talented, reliable, and puts his whole heart into everything he does, and The Prouty is better as a result.

Indoor Prouty



Cancer Center nurses and volunteers bring The Prouty to Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center on Friday and Saturday. The Indoor Prouty is held in the infusion space on Friday and moves to the inpatient wing on Saturday to ensure as many people as possible can experience the event. Both days feature Prouty-themed giveaways, music, food, and treats, bringing the spirit of The Prouty to those receiving treatment and care.



Prouty Volunteers

Simply put, The Prouty could not happen without the support and dedication of over 750 volunteers donating their time, energy, and spirit. From the most fun jobs (cheering participants through the finish line, wrangling dogs at the pup tent, or painting the faces of delighted Prouty kiddos), to the sweatiest jobs (sweeping roadways, assembling bike racks and tents, or parking cars in the hot, hot sun), our volunteers do it all! **Thank you, Prouty Volunteers—Hope Starts HERE!**

Photos by Courtney Cania, Bruce Denis, Dan Grossman, Kata Sasvari, Rob Strong, Herb Swanson, and Mark Washburn.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

ANDY BISHOP

Hanover High School math teacher Andy Bishop has supported The Prouty for many years—but this year, it became personal. In December 2024, Andy was diagnosed with stage IV gastric cancer. Of his diagnosis he says, “I felt healthy, fit, and it totally blew me away that I could have such an advanced stage of hard-to-treat cancer!”

The diagnosis spurred Andy to action—this year he participated in The Prouty as a mega-volunteer. He lent a hand to multiple facets of the event, including supporting Prouty mountain biking, distributing yellow ribbons, and so much more. In addition to volunteering his time, Andy participated in The Dirty Project (the DP) on June 14, sharing, “I also rode the DP in June, an 85-mile gravel course highlighting the beautiful and unparalleled riding we have in the Upper Valley.”

When asked what The Prouty means to him, Andy said, “To me, The Prouty means hope and community! I chose to volunteer at The Prouty not only because I am battling Stage IV gastric cancer myself, but more importantly to be part of a stellar and generous community bonding together under a common purpose of finding cancer cures.”



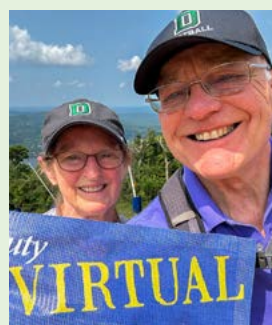
Pictured with Andy is Prouty participant Amula Patel, who shared, “It meant the world to me that he allowed me to write his name on the yellow ribbon. He was so inspirational and despite his difficult journey he had the brightest smile, which touched my heart. I’ll be praying for him.”

Prouty Virtuals

Some members of The **Bensonwood Beam Team** Prouty-ed their own way!

Jeff Gehrung rollerbladed the Keene, N.H. rail trail, going nonstop, end-to-end six times for a total of 13.4 miles, averaging about eight miles per hour. **Sam Edson**

planned the first annual Beam Team Prouty Run, a 14-mile route that started and finished at two of the Bensonwood facilities, complete with a SAG hosted by a Bensonwood employee.



Long-time Proutyers **Judy & Tom Csatari** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and The Prouty simultaneously, in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec. They hiked and took in the beautiful views at Mont-Tremblant Ski Area.

Read more Virtual stories



POWERED by Prouty Community

Prouty Funding Keeps Dartmouth's Cancer Workforce Pipeline Thriving

By Jeremy Martin

When federal funding for POWERED—the Program for Oncology Workforce Education and Research Experience at Dartmouth—ended this year, the future for young cancer researchers hung in the balance. But in true Prouty spirit, the community refused to let the program fade. Thanks to \$170,575 in Prouty funding, POWERED is thriving and set to support 14 students in 2026.

POWERED opens doors for undergraduates interested in cancer research to build the experience they need for future careers. Over two years, undergraduates interested in pursuing MD or PhD degrees work at the Dartmouth Cancer Center (DCC) for one to two nine-week summers of mentored, full-time research experiences, then continue in laboratories at their home institutions 10 hours per week for four 16-week semesters.

This sustained engagement produces real scientific outcomes, with all participants presenting posters at the annual NH-INBRE (IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) conference and sharing their work at Dartmouth Cancer Center's summer open house. Since 2017, 64 students have participated in POWERED and its predecessor, the Dartmouth Opportunities in Oncology Research (DOOR) program—the first NCI-funded research experience for undergraduates at DCC. Of the 46 who have graduated thus far, 80% pursued careers in STEM, biomedical, and cancer-related fields. Alumni have become published researchers, earned bylines in top journals, and advanced to train or work at leading institutions.

While some POWERED participants are Dartmouth undergraduates, many hail from small colleges across the country. “The impact on students from smaller colleges is transformative,” says program director Steve Fiering, PhD, professor of microbiology and immunology at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. “We try to help them feel like they do belong in a serious biomedical research institute, that they belong here with [other] really bright and well-trained people.”

POWERED also forges lasting bonds. When Olúwatóyìn Ajíbólá Aṣojò, PhD, associate director for inclusive excellence at Dartmouth Cancer Center and professor



Advaita “Ady” Chaudhari D ’24 participated in POWERED 2022-2024 and is now working as a research lab technician at Mass General Brigham while applying for medical school. Ady earned authorship on a number of journal publications while at Dartmouth and in POWERED.

of biochemistry and cell biology at Geisel School of Medicine, requested a letter of support from one alum for a grant renewal, the entire 2023 cohort responded—evidence of the enduring community POWERED creates.

The program's success has rendered it an effective recruitment and retention tool for Dartmouth itself. Six POWERED graduates have chosen to continue their education or careers at the institution, including current medical students and research associates who discovered their calling through the program. This return on investment strengthens Dartmouth's research enterprise while building loyalty among emerging scientific leaders.

With volatile federal funding, programs like POWERED increasingly rely on alternative support. Even in stable years, federal grants cover only \$1,000 toward housing that costs \$2,800 per student. Prouty funding has long filled these gaps, ensuring financial barriers don't exclude promising scientists from pursuing life-saving research careers.

With support from The Prouty, POWERED students receive a \$16.50 hourly stipend and practical support for housing, transportation, and meals—removing financial barriers that might otherwise prevent talented young scientists from accessing training. Thanks to Prouty donors, POWERED continues to advance bold cancer research and nurture the next generation of rising scientific researchers to lead the fight against cancer for years to come.

TOP OVERALL FUNDRAISERS & PROUTY AWARDS

1 Daniela Capsis \$206,750	2 Steven Leach \$179,452	3 Jane McLaughlin \$133,921	4 Peter Mertz \$110,781	5 Klaus Lubbe \$80,900	TOP YOUTH Eli Brown \$7,092
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PROUTY PRESTIGE AWARDS

Team fundraising based on the size of the team

XXL (200+ team members):
Upper Valley Rowing & Friends

\$616,396

XL (100–199 team members):
Dartmouth Without Borders

\$754,973

L (50–99 team members):
The Dirty Project

\$85,355.02

M (20–49 team members):
Team Hoss

\$230,920

S (5–19 team members):
Bio X Cell Prouty Animals

\$144,006

TEAM AWARD WINNERS

Top Fundraising Team:
Dartmouth Without Borders

\$754,973

Team with the Most Members:
Upper Valley Rowing & Friends

210 members

Team with the Most New Members:
GLO-Chi Delta-Team Sunshine

64 members

Dartmouth/Prouty Cup sponsored by Barb and Jay Rosenfield:

Team Hope

\$14,339

GLO (GREEK LIFE ORGANIZATIONS) COMPETITION

13 teams raised \$29,498

Rory Laughna, D ’77
Fundraising Award:

Kappa Delta Epsilon

\$11,713.50

Dartmouth Class of ’77

Participation Award:

GLO-Chi Delta-Team Sunshine

64 participants

Based on dollars raised by July 9, 2025, at 5:00 pm.

Health Leaders Circle

A special thank you to donors who joined our 2025 Health Leaders Circle with a gift of \$5,000 or more to support the most pressing needs at Dartmouth Health and/or Geisel School of Medicine, and supported Dartmouth Cancer Center. Their leadership annual investment demonstrates a commitment to the vitality of our academic medical center and directly benefits the lives of our patients. **Thank you.**

Anonymous (7)	Teresa G. Lyons
Mary Allen and Thomas Tomai	Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Mackay
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Lisa M. Baldez and John M. Carey	Jane Kitchel McLaughlin
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Drs. Klaus and Patricia Lubbe	

*Deceased

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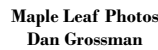


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Kixx-FM
Kool 93.9
Q106-FM
The Point
WFRD- Radio-99 Rock
106.7 The River
WCNL Country-AM 1010/FM 94.7
WGXL-FM
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Big Wheel:

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Downs Rachlin Martin
Energy Efficient Investments
EverGreen Capital Partners

Four Seasons Sotheby's
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HHP, Inc.
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Bruce Bouchard, *Prouty operations director*
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Heidi Allen Goodrich, *creative services & development manager*
Dominic Lord, *events manager*
Christopher McCown, *Prouty logistics manager*
Emily Manning, *communications & database manager*
Lane Celone, *advancement and operations specialist*
Nell Casey, *Prouty intern*

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Erin Shreve, *director of development*
Tracy Goldfine, *associate director of development*
Christine Howeler, *associate director of development*
Laura Howard, *assistant director of development*

Prouty Executive Committee Volunteers

Mary Allen	Keith Ford
Keely Ayres	Deb Nolen
Tim Eliassen	

Golf Committee

Eileen Donnelly, <i>co-chair</i>	Patrick Maxfield
Deb Nolen, <i>co-chair</i>	Ned Redpath
Duane Field	James Wilson
Lee Ann Kerr	

Indoor Prouty Committee

Cheryl Boghosian	Vicki Scheidt
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Mountain Bike Committee

Anna Schaal	Jerry Halstead
Brian Barthelmes	Julie Hamblin
Doug Moore	Krysta Kostrubiak
Janet Wakana Moore	Jack Lee
Hal Bourne	

Rowing Committee

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Karen Sluzenski, <i>co-chair</i>	Eszter Pattantyus
Rowan Carroll	Ala Piotrowski
Nancy Carter	Dan Ruml
Erika Dade	Peggy Sadler
Paul Gross	Cindy Merchant

St. Johnsbury Community Walk Committee

Karen Berube	Kristal Renaudette
Samantha Bickerton	Shiva Sathyanarayana
Carissa Morton	Joel Smith

Southern NH Community Walk Committee

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Heather Allin	Christi Ann Hayes
George Chait	Jacqueline O'Conner
Lori Deleo	Rebecca Weiss
Christine Freitas	Amanda Ziobron

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Tim Eliassen	Andy Olanoff
Keith Ford	Jan Proctor
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Helen Benham	Catherine Murphy
Rachel Benoit	Brian Pogue
Carrie Brown	Carin Reynolds
Dave Colter	Madhumala Sadanandappa
Tia Delampan	Shivaprasad Sathyanarayana
Farah Doyle	Vicki Scheidt
Kirsten Elin	Karen Sluzenski
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Jeff Roosenvelt
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Lea Todd
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UVMBA



Interested in getting involved?
Contact Pat McBride
at 603-646-5150 or
Patrick.J.McBride@hitchcock.org.





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Dartmouth College

On the cover: Betsy Eccles, Dr. Mary Chamberlin, and Jane McLaughlin embrace after crossing the Ultimate finish line. Photo by Dan Kardos.

SAVE THE DATE!

45th Annual Prouty

July 11, 2026

Friends Fighting Cancer: Create Your Own Fundraiser!



Start an athletic event

Every August, high school field hockey players all over New Hampshire come together for Playing for a Purpose.



Plan a dinner party

Every October, Alpine Club NH hosts a spaghetti dinner for breast cancer awareness month.



Host a specialty event for your business

Pink in the Parking Lot is hosted by Fit Body Boot Camp every year in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



Sell an item

Set up a lemonade stand, host a bake sale or any idea of your choosing! Sell items you've made and donate the proceeds.



Generate camaraderie with a school activity

Create camaraderie across campus while raising important funds during events like Dress Down Day.



Turn your special day into a fundraiser

Turn your birthday, anniversary, or other special day into a Friends Fighting Cancer fundraiser to mark the occasion.



**Be a Friend.
Make a Difference.
Fight Cancer.**

Learn more: **FriendsFightingCancer.org**

All Friends Fighting Cancer fundraisers receive our comprehensive toolkit including:

- A poster template you can customize for your fundraiser
- Friends of Dartmouth Cancer Center banners
- Offline fundraising forms
- Online fundraising page
- Friends of Dartmouth Cancer Center brochures
- Donation boxes
- Fundraising How-To's

Feel free to reach out to our friendly staff with questions or advice!
Contact Dominic Lord at Dominic.Lord@Hitchcock.org or 603-646-5905.