



Giving Opportunities



Helping Patients in Times of Greatest Need

Lodging is a particular concern for patients and families who travel great distances to receive care at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center, especially those whose treatment protocol requires long-term daily therapy or hospitalization.

These patients and their supportive caregivers must stay near the Cancer Center for lengthy periods of time—often at great personal expense. To help ease this burden for patients and families, the Banner Health Foundation has established a **Patient Housing Assistance Endowment**. Supported by charitable gifts, this permanent fund provides lodging assistance to qualified patients and families who travel to Banner MD Anderson for care, and lack local housing options.

Because of the level of expertise in our Hematology Oncology area, blood and immune cancer patients now represent the second-largest volume of patients at Banner MD Anderson, next to the breast cancer population. For these patients, stem-cell transplantation and clinical trial participation are common, both requiring close proximity to the Cancer Center for periods of two weeks to up to six months. Leukemia patients require immediate, lengthy hospitalization upon diagnosis, requiring family members to quickly find local lodging.

Across all types of cancer, patients receiving daily radiation therapy, those recovering from surgery, and participants in clinical trials, require nearby lodging to accommodate their frequent visits.

GIVE TODAY

You can play a direct role in easing a significant burden for patients and families—providing a home away from home, a bit of comfort and relief, during the fight of their lives. 100% of donations are used for patient support, with eligibility determination and disbursements managed by the Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center Finance Office.

Banner Health Foundation

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Donate online at
[give.bannerhealth.com/
cancer](https://give.bannerhealth.com/cancer)

Or, mail your check to:

Banner Health Foundation
2901 N. Central Ave., Ste. 160
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Please note "Patient Housing Assistance Endowment" on the memo line of your check.

 **Banner MD Anderson
Cancer Center**
Making Cancer History®

Housing for Cancer Patients

At Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center

Helping Cancer Patients & Families in Times of Greatest Need

A cancer diagnosis brings a range of emotions: fear about the physical effects of treatment and one's prognosis, concerns over how to meet personal and professional obligations, and worries about an uncertain future. Adding to the stress: insurance rarely covers the full cost of care, patients may be unable to work after surgery and while receiving treatment, and some must travel great distances for extended hospitalization or frequent medical appointments. These unforeseen practical and financial burdens increase stress and anxiety during an already challenging time.

The cost of lodging is of particular concern for patients and families who travel from outside the Valley to receive care at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center, especially those whose treatment protocol requires multiple days or weeks of daily therapy, or immediate or extended hospitalization. These patients, as well as their supportive caregivers, must stay near the Cancer Center for lengthy periods—often at great personal expense. In some cases, the additional financial burden may be a barrier to receiving necessary care or adhering to medical protocols.

To help ease this burden for patients and families, the Banner Health Foundation has established a **Patient Housing Assistance Endowment Fund**. Supported by charitable gifts, this fund provides lodging assistance to qualified patients and families who must stay near the Cancer Center, but lack local housing options.

Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center: Making Cancer History

Opened in 2011 in the east valley town of Gilbert, Arizona, Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center represents the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's most comprehensive extension of its disease-specific, patient-centered and coordinated treatment protocols outside of Houston.

At Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center (BMDACC), patients experience customized, comprehensive and compassionate care from a team of experts who understand the nuances of each type of cancer. A variety of complementary and integrative therapies and programs are available to support the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual needs of patients on their cancer journey.

BMDACC continues to transform the landscape of oncology care available in Arizona, including expansion from the East Valley flagship location in Gilbert to include facilities in Central Phoenix and the Northwest Valley. The Cancer Center has had more than 1 million patient visits since opening—considerably more than originally forecast. The Gilbert campus doubled in size in 2014 to meet the increasing demand for care.

Keeping Pace with Growth

To keep up with burgeoning patient volume, the Cancer Center continues to build its provider team—currently numbering more than 200, and continuing to grow. Emphasis has been placed on recruiting physicians with specialization to meet the increasing need for medically complex cancer care. As a result of this acuity, the influx of patients at the Cancer Center has grown significantly. The Cancer Center now has **over 250,000 patient visits each year**.

The team of specialists treating blood and immune system cancers in the Hematology Oncology division has quickly attracted patients from across the state and nation. These patients often need lodging near the Cancer Center, as current treatment protocols call for close proximity. As examples:

- Stem cell transplants are most often used for blood and immune system cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma, or multiple myeloma. Autologous stem-cell transplant patients are recommended to stay within a 10-15 minute drive from the Cancer Center for **two to three weeks**, while allogeneic transplant patients are recommended to stay nearby for **six months**. The Stem Cell Transplantation Unit, opened in 2012, has performed **437 transplants**.
- Banner MD Anderson's clinical research program has drawn national attention from patients seeking hope, with approximately **200 clinical trials activated yearly** across a wide range of cancers. Many of these trials require extended hospital stays or staying close by for daily outpatient regimen. For Example: Banner MD Anderson is one of only a handful of research sites across the country participating in Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-Cell immunotherapy trials for patients battling aggressive lymphoma. This trial will enroll **120 study participants**—all of whom will need overnight stays for **three full weeks** in order to participate.
- Newly diagnosed leukemia patients require an immediate **one-month** hospital stay. Banner MD Anderson had **80 newly diagnosed leukemia patients** this past year alone.

While blood and immune cancers have unique treatment protocols requiring proximity, the need is not limited to this area of care. Other oncology patients and caregivers find themselves needing temporary lodging near the hospital in order to support a patient's care plan, including those receiving **radiation therapy**, which can include **daily treatment for 1 to 2 months**, and those requiring extended hospitalization due to cancer surgery or clinical trial participation.

Even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, cancer diagnoses and the need for treatment remains unabated. **\$175,000 has been distributed to qualifying patients and family members since the program's 2020 launch**. One patient who received assistance this past year is Joseph Klein, who was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of cancer known as Metastatic Salivary Duct Carcinoma. Following a successful surgery, he required a months-long regimen of chemotherapy and radiation to prevent the cancer from recurring. "Facing the enormous financial burden of paying for lodging while undergoing the treatments I needed, I was deeply concerned about how I would afford it all," says Joseph.

He applied and was qualified for assistance through the Patient Housing Assistance Fund, which covered his costs for an extended stay at a hotel located adjacent to the Cancer Center. This hotel partner meets strict cleanliness criteria in order to house immunosuppressed cancer patients and provides a deeply discounted rate for Home Away from Home patients and their caregivers. Joseph is now cancer-free and his prognosis improves with each month.

"Words cannot express my appreciation to the amazing team at Banner for curing my cancer and giving me a new lease on life!" says Joseph. "And, thanks to the Patient Housing Assistance Fund, the financial burden of paying for a hotel for the many months I was receiving treatments was lifted, sparing me from what could have been an enormous 'monetary malady.'"

The Opportunity to Make a Direct Impact

We ask you to help us address this barrier to care by making a gift to the Patient Housing Assistance Endowment. You can play a direct role in easing a significant burden for patients and families—providing a home away from home, a bit of comfort and relief, during the fight of their lives. 100% of donations are used for patient support, with eligibility determination and disbursements managed by the Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center Finance Office.

Please contact Linda Lotz, Chief Development Officer, Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center, with questions or to make a contribution, or donate online at give.bannerhealth.com/cancer.