



“Doctor, do I just need to die of cancer?”

April 2023

In all my years at the Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic, I don't think I've ever heard such a heartbreaking question.

Martha* is only in her late 30s, but is at a high risk for uterine cancer. When we sent Martha for an MRI, a suspicious mass was found and our doctor recommended a hysterectomy. But Martha is a single mom whose only income is from cleaning houses, and hysterectomies aren't free. Even at a discounted rate, she was looking at a \$32,000 medical bill, much more than she makes in a year, and that was when she asked, “Do I just need to die of cancer?”

Martha came to the Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic because we provide a medical home for adults who are uninsured with low income, **thanks to generous donors and volunteers like you.** These individuals don't qualify for Medicaid and can't afford insurance premiums, co-pays, or deductibles.

For most of our patients, the medical, dental, and pharmacy services we provide are enough to address their healthcare needs. **But for individuals like Martha,** we need resources outside our Clinic for diagnostic testing such as X-rays, MRIs, mammograms, ultrasounds, biopsies – testing that can detect serious illnesses, **even save lives.**

We work with generous healthcare partners who frequently provide testing at no cost, **but the number of services we can negotiate for free is limited.** Last year we spent over \$20,000 helping our patients access urgent diagnostic testing.

This year we need your help to do even more. We are finding many of our patients have not seen a physician in 10 years or more! Because of this, they often need tests for conditions that have been untreated for years. In addition, we anticipate a significant increase in our patient numbers as individuals lose their Medicaid with the expiration of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Diagnostic funds will be needed more than ever as free resources will be pushed to their limits.

Here is how you can help us save lives. I am establishing the ***Urgent Diagnostic Fund*** at the Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic and ask for your support. Your donation will be used to help patients access the diagnostic testing they need, and will be used only when all other resources have been exhausted, or the condition of the patient requires an immediate response.

The good news is, we were able to answer Martha's question with a "no, you don't have to die of cancer." Our doctor and Case Coordinator worked with the local healthcare system and, after exploring every option, were able to arrange her hysterectomy at no cost. Thanks to the MRI, Martha was diagnosed, treated, and no longer has to worry about uterine cancer.

Your donation today will be one of the most impactful gifts you will make this year. Your gift to the ***Urgent Diagnostic Fund*** can change the trajectory of a patient's health from dire to hopeful.

Thank you for making such an important contribution.



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin F. Brox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justin F. Brox, CEO

Matching Gift Challenge

Please help us reach our goal of raising \$40,000 for the 2023 ***Urgent Diagnostic Fund*** with your donation today. Donations made by May 15th will be matched by the **Doris and Norma Van Gorp Foundation** up to a total of \$10,000!

*An envelope is enclosed for your gift, or you can make your gift securely online at gbchc.org/donate. Arrange a **monthly gift** to provide support throughout the year!*

***Gifts of stock** are also accepted on our website at gbchc.org/donate through DonateStock.org. For more information, contact the Development office at 248-309-3752.*

**The name and image of the patient have been changed to protect their privacy. Funds raised in excess of diagnostic needs will be used for patient care services.*