

Who We Are

For twenty years, the Gloria Gemma Foundation has provided cancer support services to people affected by cancer. Through its many years of unwavering dedication to the people it serves, the Foundation has earned a stellar reputation for delivering its programs with genuine compassion and thousands of Rhode Islanders have been positively impacted as a result.

What We Are Doing

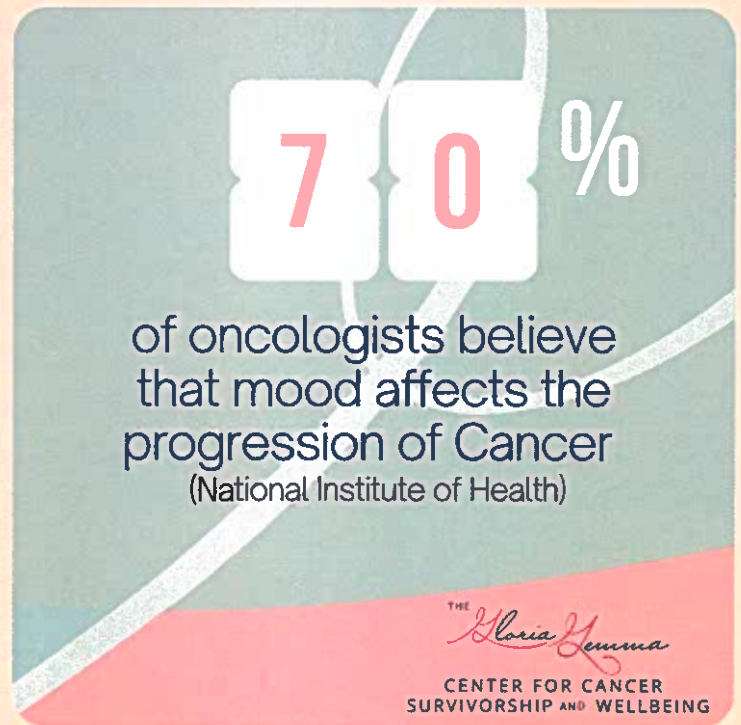
In 2025, the Gloria Gemma Center for Cancer Survivorship and Wellbeing will open its doors to serve as the first and only cancer rehabilitation center in southern New England providing help to people with all cancer types. It will offer comprehensive support services to Rhode Islanders that will help cancer patients, survivors and their loved ones thrive through their cancer journeys.

How Cancer Impacts People and Their Families

Mental health and depressive disorders have a significant impact on cancer patients and their loved ones.

Depression is a common comorbidity in cancer cases, affecting more than 10% of patients. A cancer diagnosis is life-changing and is a source of considerable psychological and emotional stress (National Institute of Health).

Depression causes difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions. It also causes sleep disturbance, changes in appetite or unplanned weight changes. Depressive disorders also manifest physical aches or pains, headaches, cramps, and digestive problems without a clear physical cause that do not go away with treatment. (National Institute of Mental Health)



Affording mental health services becomes increasingly difficult for many cancer patients who experience financial hardship. “Financial hardship is common among cancer patients and survivors, affecting between 25% and 50% of people.” (American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network)

“The evidence for integrative interventions in cancer care is growing, with research now supporting benefits of integrative interventions across the cancer care continuum.” (American Society of Clinical Oncology)

Facts

Complimentary and alternative therapies are cost-effective remedies to help improve the wellbeing of cancer patients, survivors and their families.

“Rhode Islanders are over four times more likely than the national average to be forced out-of-network for mental health care than primary health care, making it more difficult to find care and less affordable due to higher out-of-pocket costs.” (Rhode Island Current)

THE *Gloria Gemma*
CENTER FOR CANCER
SURVIVORSHIP AND WELLBEING

The number of people the Foundation serves has increased 31.6% since 2018 or 3.95% annually.



In order for the Foundation to keep up with demand of our services, we need to add staff to deliver our programs and services.

“...around 40% of adult mental health consumers in Rhode Island are unemployed.” (Rhode Island Behavioral Health System Review)

“A stunning one-third of people with a cancer diagnosis use complementary and alternative medicines such as meditation, yoga, acupuncture, herbal medicine, and supplements.” (UT Southwestern Medical

Center)” “Of CAM (complimentary alternative medicine) users, 57.4% felt improvement with CAM modalities.” (National Library of Medicine)

Why the Gloria Gemma Center For Cancer Survivorship and Wellbeing is Important

The programs and services offered will improve the mental, emotional and physical wellbeing of cancer patients in Rhode Island, enabling them to return to work and live productive lives.

Currently, 98% of the people we serve have breast cancer. Once the Gloria Gemma Center for Cancer Survivorship and Wellbeing opens to all cancers, we anticipate the number of people we serve to increase by approximately 2,376 people touched by cancer.

The Foundation needs to increase its revenue by \$500,000 annually to cover the cost of programs and additional staff to deliver the programs.