

# 2013

## REVIEW

### MAY



# Your Partner in Health

## Approach to Cancer Care is Nationally Recognized

I am honored to report that Port Huron Hospital has earned the very prestigious **Outstanding Achievement Award** for cancer care. The award, presented by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, recognizes cancer programs that strive for excellence in providing quality care to cancer patients. Accreditation is given only to facilities that have voluntarily committed to providing the highest level of quality cancer care, the best in cancer diagnosis and treatment, and compliance with established standards.



We are particularly proud because Port Huron Hospital is the *only hospital in Michigan* to have earned this award in 2012. This award reflects our multidisciplinary approach to cancer care which combines medical expertise and state-of-the-art resources with an array of outreach services; many of which are partnerships with our caring community. The blend of expertise and compassion is what has always helped Port Huron Hospital demonstrate such high standards and provide world-class cancer care to oncology patients.

*Thomas DeFauw, President and Chief Executive Officer*

## Cancer Outreach Addresses Complex Needs

A diagnosis of cancer involves so many emotions and reactions. We know that individuals have a better chance fighting cancer if they can receive support and education to work through fears, anger and misunderstanding. They also need encouragement and resources to fuel that important personal resolve and determination for survival. Our Cancer Outreach Programs are designed to meet a variety of needs and have contributed to the hospital's national recognition for cancer care.

One program is the **Cancer Support Group for Women**. It's open to all cancer diagnoses, and features informational guest speakers and needed support. According to Michelle Carolan, RN, an employee of the hospital's cancer education and outreach services, this group is a powerful combination of newly diagnosed women and established survivors.

"There are some women who are 13-year survivors who know what the

new members are going through. They often exchange phone numbers and take them 'under their wing' to answer questions and provide encouragement and strength. They can often help each other with resources and tips because they know what worked for them," says Michelle.

Another hospital program that addresses a very real need is the hospital's **Look Good, Feel Better Program**. This helps with the changes many women experience as cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation affect their appearance. This collaborative effort with the American Cancer Society brings experienced volunteer cosmetologists and hair stylists to cancer patients for a "one stop" evening of beauty techniques and instruction.

Perhaps equally important is the vital component of laughter and camaraderie.

"In addition to coping with a diagnosis, so many women are dismayed at how their looks change during treatment," says Michelle. "Many

show up looking and feeling tired, but leave elated, laughing and revitalized."

A unique aspect to the Port Huron Hospital program is that it offers patients a personally styled wig, a wig care kit, and a complimentary bag of cosmetics and products, valued at \$200-\$300. This generous gift is made possible through donations to Port Huron Hospital Foundation. Stylish and functional scarves and hats are also offered, with instruction on the best techniques for wearing them.

"This is such a good community effort," says Michelle. "When we combine all of these talents and expertise, we reinforce our commitment to cancer care and excellence."



### CANCER OUTREACH PROGRAMS

More information can be found at [www.porthuronhospital.org](http://www.porthuronhospital.org), or at HealthAccess at 1-800-228-1484.

- ~ Look Good Feel Better
- ~ Cancer Support Group for Women
- ~ Smoking Cessation Program
- ~ Community Skin Cancer Screening  
*(bi-annual; next in 2014)*
- ~ Breast Cancer Survivor Luncheon
- ~ Relay for Life Team
- ~ Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk



For more information, please visit or contact us at:

1221 Pine Grove Avenue, Port Huron, Michigan 48060 | 1.800.228.1484 or [www.porthuronhospital.org](http://www.porthuronhospital.org)