



Unique Cancer Diagnosis Sheds Light on the Importance of Exceptional Healthcare

Matt Bishop had a plan. With a great job as an enterprise solutions architect for imaging at UnityPoint Health - Trinity and no plans to retire, he focused on his career. He pushed his bucket list of adventures for later in life.

All that changed in 2023. In July, Matt's sister suffered a heart attack. In August, his uncle passed away. Three weeks later, Matt's father passed away while Matt was caring for him in hospice. The emotional burden of losing three family members was tremendous, and the physical exhaustion of serving as his father's caregiver for several weeks left him with a hernia. Or so he thought.

After finally returning home, Matt visited his nurse practitioner. She sent him off to radiology for a CT scan to confirm the hernia.

"Fortunately, I know all the radiologists because I've worked with them for 20 years," Matt said. "So, unlike most patients, I was able to walk out of CT and walk into the reading room to ask the doctor what was up. It was then they told me I don't have a hernia—I need a biopsy."

Matt's biopsy came back with a diagnosis of metastatic small cell carcinoma, which is typically lung cancer. Looking at lung cancer statistics, Matt knew that metastatic lung cancer that spread below the diaphragm was bad news and wouldn't give him much more than a year to live.

Preparing for the worst, Matt saw UnityPoint Health - Trinity Oncologist Dr. Costas Constantinou on Monday, November 3, who confirmed there was a 90 percent chance he had lung cancer.



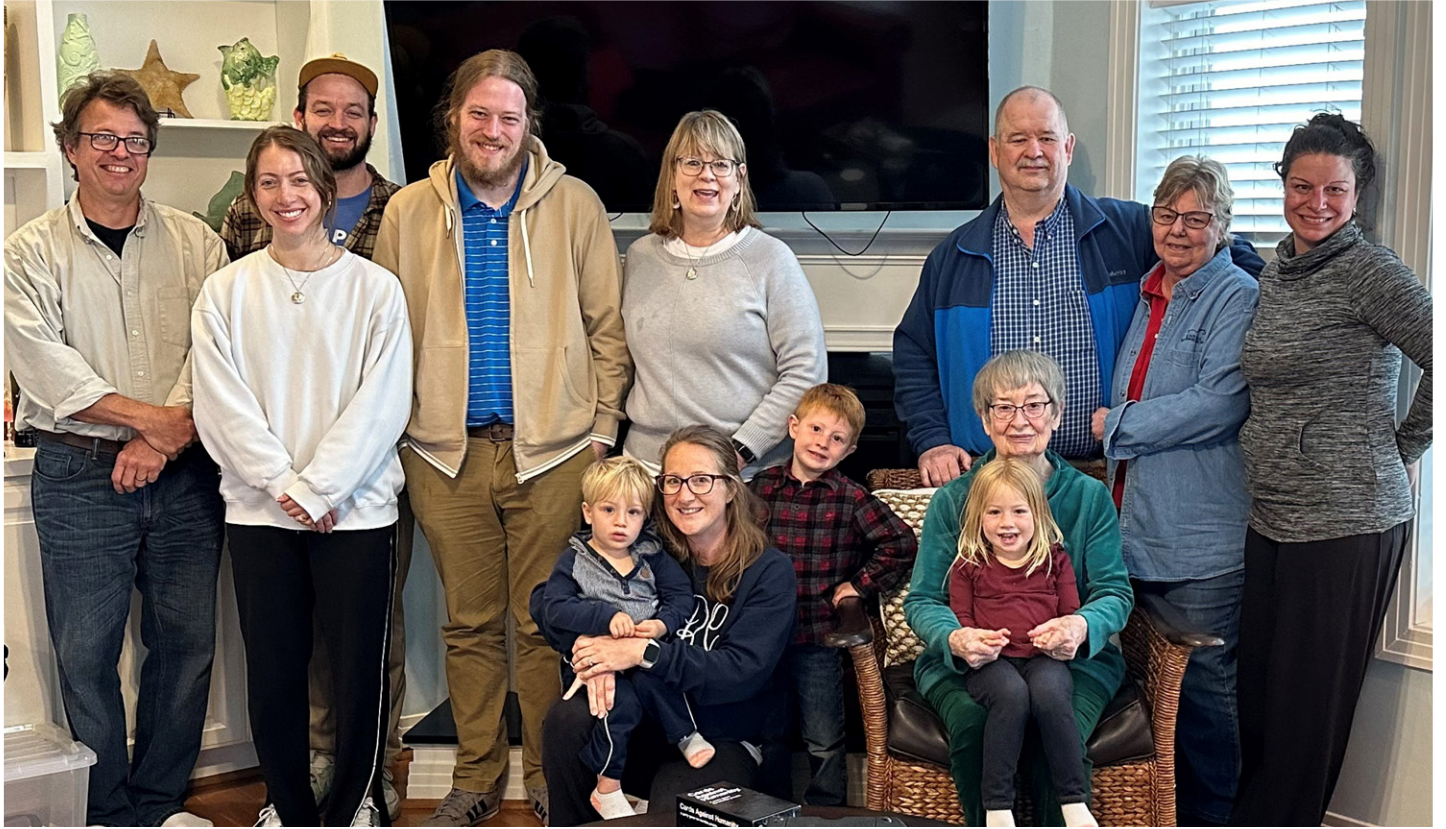
Trinity Cancer Center patient Matt Bishop rings the Trinity Cancer Center bell to celebrate his final treatment.

They decided to be aggressive and treat it with immunotherapy starting the following week. In the following days, he had a PET scan to determine if there was cancer in his lungs, a port implanted, and completed lab work. Matt was ready to fight this cancer.

Matt met with Dr. Constantinou again on Monday, November 10, ready for his first immunotherapy treatment. That's when Dr. Constantinou shared another twist to his cancer diagnosis.

"Dr. Constantinou said I was only the third person in his career to have no primary cancer," Matt explained. "There was no cancer in my lungs. After the PET scan, the only other place they could find cancer was in my lymph nodes."

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Matt and his wife enjoy precious time with their family following Matt's treatment.

This changed Matt's treatment plan. Instead of trying to buy more time to live, they planned to beat the cancer. With renewed hope, Matt battled through his treatment plan. For the next several months, Matt endured four rounds of chemotherapy, 31 treatments of radiation therapy, and monitoring of his kidney function due to a minor kidney injury.

"What was really refreshing and nice about the cancer treatment process and team was their coordination of my care," Matt explained.

Matt witnessed knowledgeable healthcare staff collaborating to provide exceptional care, comfort, and peace of mind to their patients. Dr. Constantinou, Heather McCollough, ARNP, and Megan Pikuza, ARNP made themselves readily available to ensure Matt received the care he needed.

The support staff was also vital to Matt's care. From providing schedules of his treatments and appointments to voicing concerns with the doctor when a new symptom appeared, Matt was impressed with the level of expertise and care he received from the nursing staff.

"I am fortunate to have good health insurance," Matt said. "But for those individuals who don't have that,

Trinity Health Foundation provides resources to make patients comfortable or have access to exceptional care. That's life changing."

In May 2024, new CT scans and lab work showed great progress—still no cancer in Matt's lungs, and the tumor had shrunk.

During his cancer journey, Matt realized he didn't want to delay or miss opportunities with family and travel. He and his wife made new plans. They started shopping for an RV to travel across the country. Recently, they took a trip to Virginia Beach to visit Matt's family.

"I am sharpening my pencil to update and re-prioritize my bucket list," Matt said.

Your gift today can impact the lives of more patients like Matt, so they can live out their bucket lists and celebrate the joys of life with family. **Donate online at www.trinityhealthfoundation.org, by mail with the pre-paid envelope enclosed, or by scanning the QR code below. If you have received outstanding care from a caregiver at Trinity and would like to honor them with a charitable contribution, contact Trinity Health Foundation at (563) 742-7610.**

2024 Bags 4 Breast Cancer Event Attracts Record Attendance

The 13th Annual Bags 4 Breast Cancer Fundraiser was a resounding success, raising \$14,000 and attracting more participants than any previous year. Held on June 15th at Empire Park in Hampton, the annual bags tournament raises funds to support breast cancer education, awareness and support programs at Trinity Cancer Center, as well as the Margie Escontrias Annual Scholarship, awarded each year to a Trinity College nursing student with a passion to pursue a career in oncology. Founded by breast cancer survivor Margie Escontrias, Bags 4 Breast Cancer has raised more than \$60,000.

For more information or to participate in 2025, please call (563) 742-7610.



Margie and Eddie Escontrias (center) are pictured with (l to r): Trinity Cancer Center Manager Toni Weeks, Trinity Health Foundation President Mary Macumber Schmidt, Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences 2024 Margie Escontrias Scholarship recipient Cassie Johnson, and Trinity Health Foundation Development Director Colleen Rafferty at the recent Bags 4 Breast Cancer Event.

Thank you, Ascentra Credit Union!

Thank you Ascentra Credit Union for your generous \$50,000 donation to Trinity Health Foundation. Funds will help support our Career Pathways Pilot Program. The program helps students currently enrolled in a traditional Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) program through a newly created Career Navigator position. This position will play an important role in removing barriers to education and training for those working toward a career in healthcare.



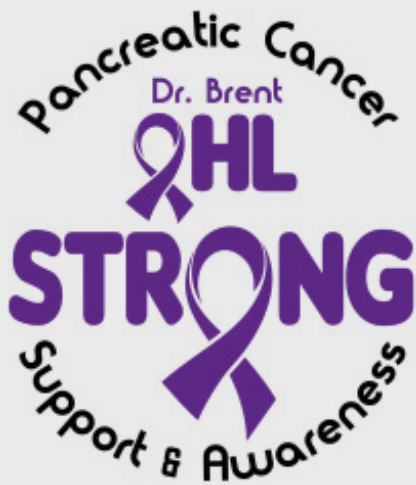
UnityPoint Health again named to Becker's Healthcare 150 Top Places to Work

For the third year in a row, UnityPoint Health has been named to the list of "150 Top Places to Work in Healthcare" by Becker's Healthcare, a highly regarded national trade publication. The list highlights hospitals, health systems and healthcare companies that prioritize workplace excellence and the happiness, satisfaction, well-being, and fulfillment of their employees.

UnityPoint Health was the only Iowa-based healthcare system to be included on the list.



Mark your calendars for the Annual Ohl Strong Event!



Saturday, October 5, 2024
11 a.m.

Traditions Event Center, Eldridge, Iowa

- Join us for an Iowa Hawkeye tailgate party, including a silent auction, raffle baskets, great food, Hawkeye football and wonderful friends.
- 100% of event proceeds go to the Dr. Brent Ohl Strong Pancreatic Cancer Support & Awareness Fund at Trinity Health Foundation, to support local patients and their families battling pancreatic cancer.

For more information, please call 563-742-7610.

*Please consider making a donation to
Trinity Health Foundation to support your WHY.*

Trinity Health Foundation is grateful for the support we receive from our community. If you wish to no longer receive requests for charitable support, please let us know by calling **(563) 742-7610**.

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