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WE LEAD CANCER CARE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

REGIONAL CANCER SUPPORT GROUPS

Support groups are provided as a FREE service to our community.

All Cancer Survivors and Caregivers	Noontime Cancer Support When: 3rd Tuesday of each month • Time: 12:00 Noon-1:00 pm
Survivors with Oral, Head, Neck and Chest Cancers and Caregivers	Support for Those with Treatment-Related Difficulties S.P.O.H.N.C. – Saginaw Chapter When: 2nd Tuesday of each month • Time: 2:00-3:30 pm
Female Cancer Survivors	Women’s Cancer Support When: 2nd Tuesday of each month • Time: 6:00-7:30 pm
	Young Women’s Cancer Support • Suggested age 45 and under When: 4th Tuesday of each month • Time: 6:00-7:30 pm
For Grieving Spouses in the First Year of Loss	Spousal Loss To register, contact Covenant Visiting Nurse Association at 989.799.6020

Location for all support groups:

Covenant Cancer Care Center
5400 Mackinaw, Third Floor Conference Room A
Saginaw, Michigan 48604

For more information and to register, please call:

Kelsey Schatzer, LLMSW – 989.583.5268
Jody Webb, LMSW – 989.583.5267

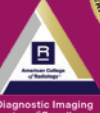
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We are at the forefront of cancer.
Setting the standards. Centered on patients.



Covenant Cancer Care Center
5400 Mackinaw, Saginaw, Michigan 48604
989.583.5020 Tel



ACCREDITATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS



Accreditation by the **National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer** (NAPRC) reflects our commitment to deliver specialized, comprehensive care for rectal cancer patients and recognizes our focus on personalized treatment plans, advanced surgical techniques, and a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to achieve the best possible outcomes.

The **Commission on Cancer** (COC) recognizes our commitment to provide comprehensive, high-quality, multidisciplinary, individualized care. COC standards require facilities to create meaningful processes for implementation of patient-centered care.

National Accreditation Program for Breast Cancers (NAPBC) accreditation means we are voluntarily committed to providing the highest standards of care to patients with breast diseases. NAPBC requires a rigorous evaluation in program leadership, use of evidence-based practices, surgery, imaging and quality-improvement processes.

Breast Imaging Center of Excellence (BICOE) designation signifies we have achieved excellence by earning accreditation in all American College of Radiology (ACR) voluntary breast-imaging accreditation programs. Our facility is fully accredited in mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy, breast ultrasound and breast MRI.

The **Diagnostic Imaging Center of Excellence** (DICOE) program accreditation is an achievement that recognizes best-quality imaging practices and diagnostic care. Covenant Cancer Care Center operates far above the accepted standard for accuracy, professionalism, patient safety and quality assurance to provide the best standard of patient care.

The **ACR Lung Cancer Screening Center** designation recognizes our facility has voluntarily committed to practice safe, effective diagnostic care for individuals at the highest risk for lung cancer.

ACR Radiation Oncology accreditation demonstrated our commitment to quality and patient safety and to providing exceptional oncology care, and it assures our patients of our commitment to excellence.

We are proud to present the 2024 Covenant Cancer Care Center Annual Report. As the new director for Covenant cancer programs, I am pleased to share our 2024 accomplishments and a few strategic initiatives for 2025.

2024 was a year of growth and changes across the cancer center. To address the growing patient numbers, Covenant hired three new nurse practitioners to support medical, radiation and surgical oncology: Lauren Hagarty, NP to work with Dr. Nourkeyhani; Lisa Wojdula, NP to work with Dr. Fugazzi and Dr. Zaki; and Amy Polzin, NP to support Dr. Bays. In addition, two new physicians will be joining our team in 2025, as we continue to recruit medical and gynecologic oncology physicians.

Through the year we reached many patients/community members through our community events. Covenant held screening events for breast and lung cancer as well as many support groups for our patients. And we were a Flag Ship sponsor for the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, with 80 staff and leader participants raising over \$11,000.

Continually striving to provide new services for our patients, the 2025 initiatives we are working on include: implementing Pluvicto treatments for prostate cancer; developing an advanced technology lung nodule clinic for biopsies and patient tracking; offering Bispecific T-cell Engager (BiTE) treatments in medical oncology, which uses the body’s own immune system to attack cancer cells; improved scheduling for our infusion clinic; and strengthening relationships with the thumb hospitals and Covenant Cancer Care Center at Aspire Marlette.

This comprehensive report is a product of many professionals who contribute their expertise and energy to the improvement of cancer care in our community. For more information about our cancer services, please call 989.583.5020 or visit www.covenanthealthcare.com/main/cancercare.aspx.

It is an honor and privilege to serve the residents of the Great Lakes Bay Region and surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

Sussan M. Bays, MD, FACS
Medical Director
Covenant HealthCare
Cancer Care Center

John Koenig
Administrative Director
Covenant HealthCare
Cancer Care Center

Our Cancer Care Center Experts



Sussan M. Bays, MD, FACS
Medical Director,
Covenant Cancer Care Center
and Breast Health Program,
Breast Surgery

Mark A. Zaki, MD
Radiation Oncology

Sue Tobin,
DO, FACO
Medical Oncology/
Hematology

Syed R. Hassan, MD
Medical Oncology/
Hematology

John C. Hughes, MD
Hematology/Oncology

Houman
Nourkeyhani, MD
Medical Oncology/
Hematology

Gregory Sutton, MD
Gynecologic Oncology

Terese Cook,
ACNP-BC, ACGN
High Risk Prevention
and Cancer Genetics

Lauren Hagarty,
AGACNP-BC
Medical Oncology/
Hematology

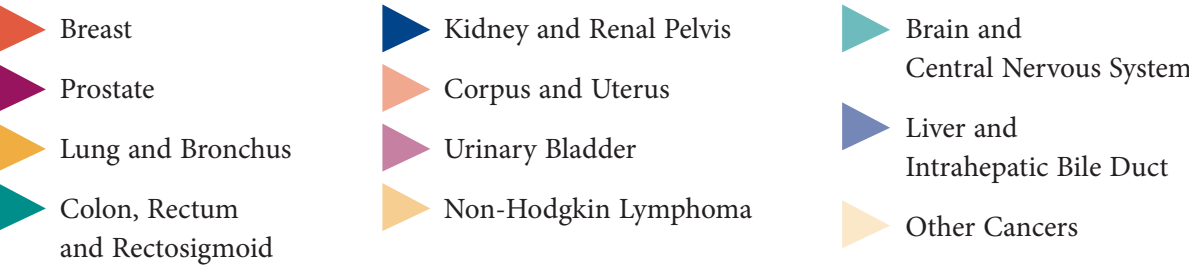
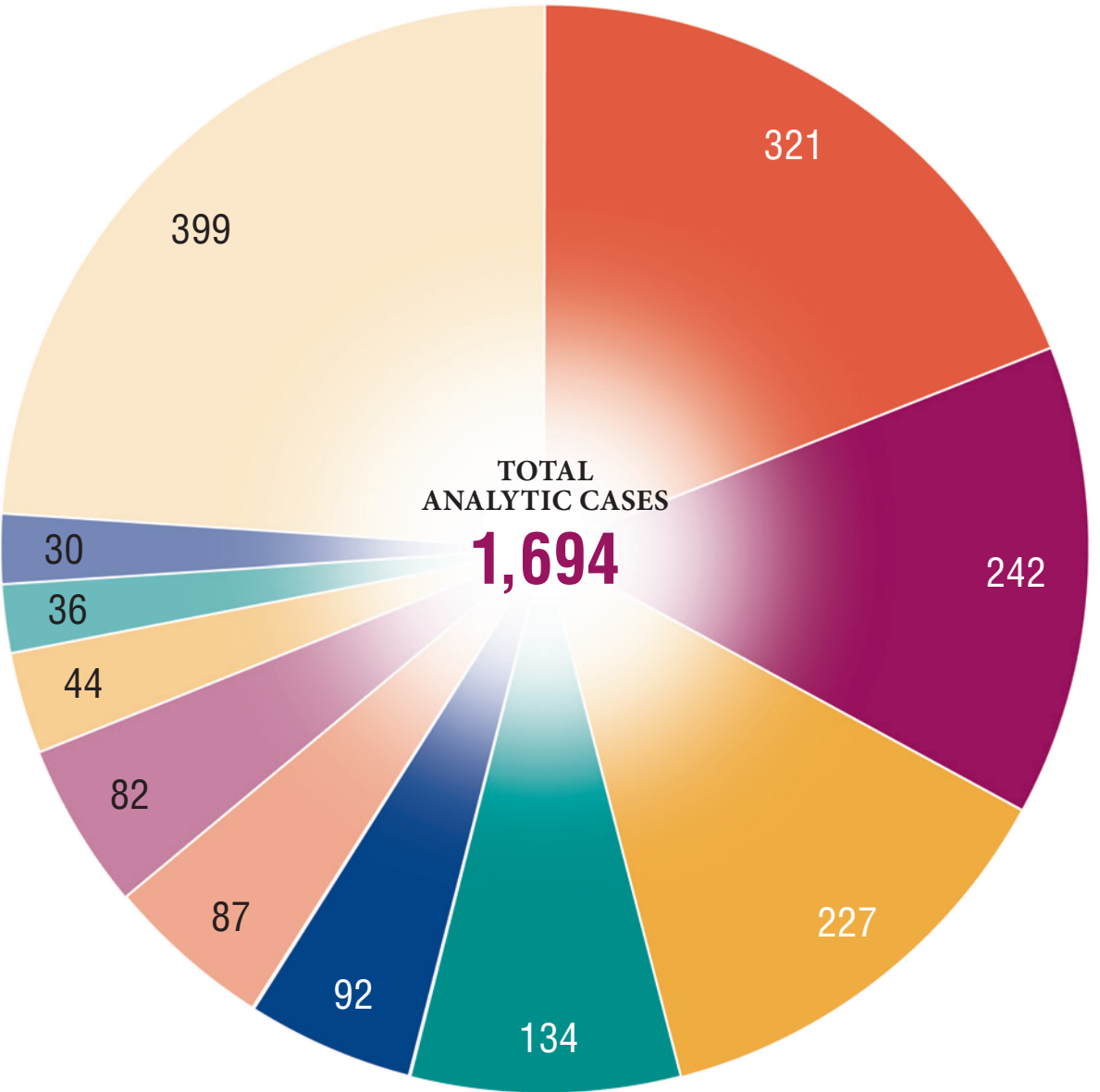
Jennifer Chandler, FNP-C
Inpatient Medical
Oncology/Hematology

Angel Thompson,
ACNP-BC
Inpatient Medical
Oncology/Hematology

Lisa Wojdula,
ND, FNP-BC
Radiation Oncology

TOP TEN CANCERS TREATED AT COVENANT HEALTHCARE

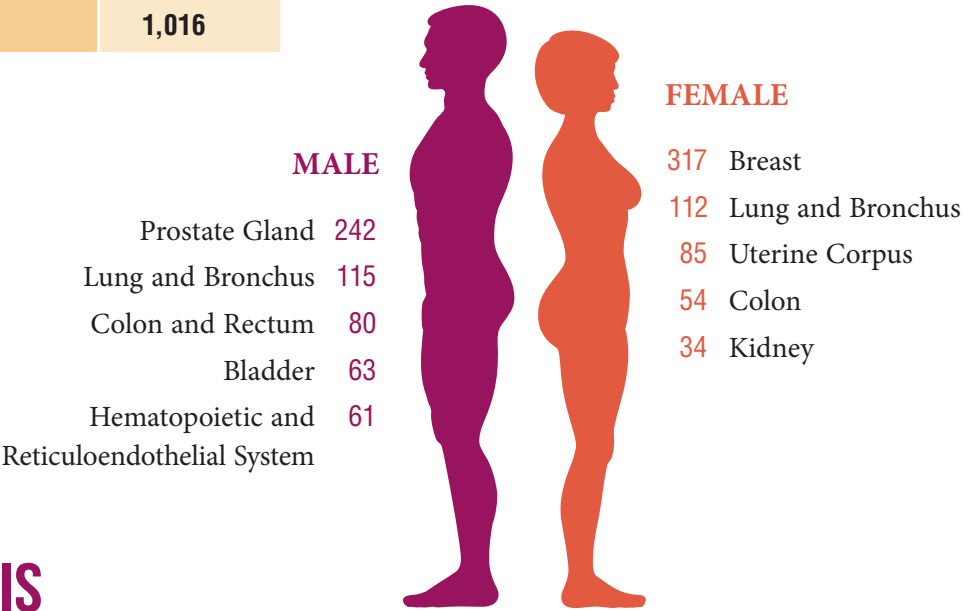
Based on 2023 data. Analytic cases are those patients who were diagnosed and/or treated at Covenant HealthCare for their first course of treatment.



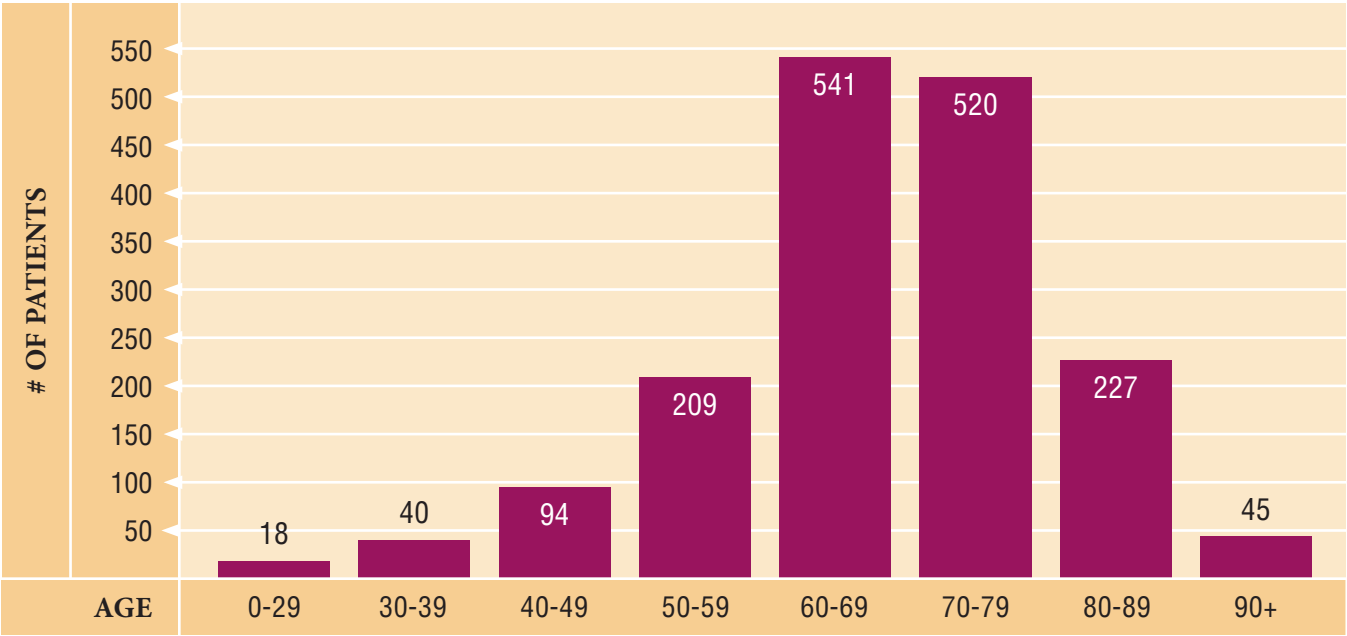
TOP FIVE SITES

SITE	TOTAL #
Breast	321
Prostate	242
Lung and Bronchus	227
Colon, Rectum and Rectosigmoid	134
Kidney and Renal Pelvis	92
Total Cases	1,016

TOP FIVE SITES BY SEX



AGE AT DIAGNOSIS



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Jennifer Hintz, RN, from the Covenant Cancer Care Center, is a 2024 Covenant HealthCare Nursing Excellence Award recipient. During Nurses Week, Covenant recognizes some of the most extraordinary caregivers with these special awards.

- “Jennifer treats every patient with the same care and empathy.”
- “Jennifer is not only amazing with patients, but also makes herself available to support coworkers.”
- “Jennifer is the definition of nursing excellence. Even on the hardest of days she is always there with a smile ready to help where needed.”
- “She shows dependability, compassion and camaraderie in all situations despite her own challenges and hardships.”



Jody Webb, LMSW, a social worker from the Covenant Cancer Care Center, is a recipient of the Heart of Gold Award. This award recognizes extraordinary Covenant employees who live out our mission, vision and WE CARE values.

- “She is an 100% TEAM player and has a special way to make sure YOU know she really cares.”
- “Besides Jody’s caring and open manner, she always has a smile.”
- “Jody took the extra step of making phone calls to local facilities, providing the patient and family with helpful details and guidance.”
- “Jody has an uncanny ability to find new resources for cancer patients to help lessen their distress.”



PATIENTS ARE OUR FOCUS

Patient experience is shaped by every interaction, reflecting the values and culture of our organization. It's in the small, everyday moments – how we communicate, work together and show empathy – that we create a lasting impact on our patients. At the Covenant Cancer Care Center, our commitment to extraordinary care is evident in our performance – consistently ranking in the top 10 percent nationwide. The Breast Health Center stands out even further, ranking in the top three percent for patient loyalty, a testament to the trust and satisfaction of those we serve. This recognition highlights the dedication of our caregivers, whose compassion and expertise help ease patient burdens during life's most challenging moments.



Breast Health Center

Everyone was so kind from the moment I arrived – from the front door greeters making sure I knew where I was going to all of the staff helping me feel comfortable and welcome.

~ Anna



Infusion Therapy Center

As good as it gets! So thankful for this place.

~ David

I live in Oscoda and the 200-mile round trip was so worth it for the exceptional care that I received. Kudos to the entire staff and nursing team at the infusion therapy center.

~ Dawn



Radiation Center

You are treated like family and your staff is very loyal and caring. I would highly recommend this facility to others.

~ Tawnya

The kindness of your care is beyond any I have seen.

~ Charles

I highly recommend this facility to anyone. Staff was excellent!!!

~ Albert



Surgical/Medical Oncology

I can't say enough about All of the staff from check in to nurses, physician and treatment providers. No one ever seemed rushed. They were kind, considerate, gentle, and explained everything thoroughly. The process is extremely organized and well run.

~ Lynn

The care providers in this facility are top of the line. They know their jobs, and they are kind and very attentive. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else for this care at this time.

~ Joann

Excellent staff, excellent facilities and excellent leadership!! Thank you.

~ April

CANCER SCREENINGS OFFER PEACE OF MIND

At Covenant Cancer Care Center, we focus on the prevention, early detection and treatment of cancer.

Breast Cancer

Getting annual mammograms beginning at age 40 is key to the best outcomes. Consider these facts:

- 3D mammography is available at all Covenant breast screening locations to best aid in the protection against breast cancer.
- About 1 in 8 American women (12.4 percent) will develop invasive breast cancer in her lifetime.
- Breast cancer typically produces no symptoms when the tumor is small and most easily treated.
- Mammography has helped reduce breast cancer mortality in the U.S. by nearly 40 percent since 1990.

To schedule a mammogram, call 989.583.6279 or visit www.covenanthealthcare.com/BreastScreening.

Lung Cancer

Screening for lung cancer is done with Low-Dose Computerized Tomography (LDCT). Quick and painless, it is performed without using x-ray dye or contrast. Consider these facts:

- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States.
- 2,146 LDCT screenings were performed at Covenant in 2024. Out of these screenings, 17 cancers were detected.
- The overall relative 5 year survival rate for lung cancer is 27% according to the latest American Cancer Society facts and figures. This rate increases 64% at 5 years when the disease is found at an early, localized stage. Screening for Lung Cancer with LDCT is key to early detection.
- Adults between the age of 50-77 who are current, daily, cigarette smokers or have quit smoking within the past 15 years are at high risk for lung cancer. Someone who has smoked about 1 pack a day for 20 years or 1/2 a pack per day for 40 years is an example of a smoker who is eligible for screening.

Contact your primary care physician to discuss LDCT screening or visit www.covenanthealthcare.com/LungScreening.

Colorectal Cancer

Screening for colorectal cancer is done either with a stool-based test or with a colonoscopy. Consider these facts:

- Colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S.
- Colorectal cancer typically produces no symptoms when the tumor is small and most easily treated.
- When it is found at an early stage, the 5-year relative survival rate is 90 percent.
- Regular screening can even prevent colorectal cancer. With a colonoscopy, doctors can find and remove polyps before they turn into cancer.
- Patients of average risk should start regular screenings at age 45.

To schedule a colorectal screening, call 989.583.7473 or visit www.covenanthealthcare.com/ColonScreening.

OUR SUPPORT TEAM

Social Workers

Oncology social workers are here to help patients cope with their new diagnosis and treatment. They equip patients and their care-givers with holistic self-care strategies (physical, emotional, mental and spiritual) that are helpful in adapting to their cancer journey – from treatment to aftercare. This includes learning to engage in a positive partnership with treatment staff, accessing valuable resources and connecting with support groups.



Kelsey Schatzer, LMSW
989.583.5268 Tel



Jody Webb, LMSW
989.583.5267 Tel

Registered Dietitian

The registered dietitian provides medical nutrition therapy to aid patients in coping with the side effects of treatments and the cancer itself. This therapy is essential in helping them maintain weight, increase strength and recover as quickly as possible. Our registered dietitian facilitates community education classes and meets with patients one-on-one.



Ann Hoffman, RDN, CDCES
989.583.5029 Tel



Laura Pilarski, RD, CDCES
989.583.5029 Tel

Nurse Navigators

The role of the navigator is to identify possible barriers to care, and work with the patient, their family and the clinical care team to provide a team-based care plan. Our navigators help by making the complicated more understandable, the overwhelming more manageable and the overall health experience patient-centered. The navigators help patients understand their diagnosis and treatment, assist them in setting up appointments and connect them to beneficial community and hospital-based resources.



Cindy Baillie, RN, BSN, CN-BN
Breast Nurse Navigator
989.583.5263 Tel



Melissa Latoski, RN, BSN, OCN
Breast Nurse Navigator
989.583.5154 Tel



Angela Bradley, RN, BSN, OCN
GI Nurse Navigator
989.583.5118 Tel



Ann Werle, RN, BSN, ONN-CG (T)
Thoracic Nurse Navigator
989.583.5014 Tel



Christina Tigner
Financial Navigator
989.583.5238 Tel

2024 COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



Al Serra's Subaru of Grand Blanc provided a blanket donation to the Covenant Cancer Care Center to ensure cancer patients in the infusion center are warm and comfortable as they take steps forward to survivorship.

Heritage High School's Pinkout Athletic Association raised and donated \$3,190 to the Breast Health Center.



Exceeding their \$10,000 goal, the Covenant HealthCare Strides team raised \$12,728! Over 80 people registered – making it the largest team for this year's strides event!



SVSU Athletics raised \$1,253 during their Annual Cancer Survivor Recognition Basketball Game, bringing the total raised since 2009 to \$36,634.



There was a great turn out at the "What the Buck? Shopping Extravaganza" breast cancer awareness event, held during deer widows weekend at Bayne's Apple Valley.



The Covenant Regional Thumb Network (CRTN) has renamed its cancer care facility to Covenant Cancer Care Center at Aspire Marlette. The facility will continue to provide comprehensive oncology services for patients throughout Michigan's Thumb.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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Baldauf Foundation
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Heritage High School – Athletic
Association
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DIRECTORY

Covenant Cancer Care Center			Covenant HealthCare Mackinaw, 5400 Mackinaw, Saginaw, MI 48604
FLOOR	DESTINATION		PHONE
Lower Level	Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation at Covenant HealthCare • Occupational Therapy • Physical Therapy		989.583.5140
1	Breast Health Center		989.583.5260
	Cashier		989.583.5045
	Gift Shop.....		989.583.5004
	Imaging & Diagnostics		989.583.6272
	• Bone Density • Nuclear Medicine • CT, MRI, X-Ray • Ultrasound		
	Laboratory		989.583.5110
	Mackinaw Café.....		989.583.5005
	Registration and Information		989.583.5000
2	Mackinaw Surgery Center..... • Outpatient Surgery		989.583.5200
3	Infusion Therapy Center		989.583.5020
	• Education Resource Center • Meditation Room		
5	Covenant Medical Group Cancer Care Center Physician Offices		989.583.5060
Covenant Radiation Center (separate entrance)			4141 Tittabawassee, Saginaw, MI 48604
	Covenant Medical Group Radiation Oncologist Offices		989.583.5250

Management		
NAME	TITLE	PHONE
John Koenig	Covenant Cancer Care Center Administrative Director	989.583.5007
Jenn Blakeslee-Wilber	Covenant Cancer Care Center Practice Manager	989.583.5131
Heather Singletary	Covenant Cancer Care Center Operations Manager	989.583.5142
Deanna Salo	Covenant Radiation Center Manager	989.583.5257