Application

FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant Cycle

Iowa Cancer Consortium
www.canceriowa.org

Applicant Information:

Name of Project Lead: Abbey Loughman
Project Lead Email Address: abbey@wingsofhope.org
Project Lead Phone Number: 712-325-8970
Organization: Wings of Hope Cancer Support Center
Street Address: 427 E Kanesville Blvd Suite 202
City: Council Bluffs
Zip Code: 51503

Project Details:

Project Title: The Family Room
Total Amount of Funds Requested for FY26 (up to $25,000): $17,800

Provide a brief description of your intended project and any relevant background information about your organization. *(Suggested: 1,000 words or less.)*
The Family Room project provides psychosocial intervention for the entire family affected by a parent or primary caregiver's cancer diagnosis. The 6-week experiential evidence-supported psychoeducational program will be offered by Wings of Hope in collaboration with The Children's Treehouse Foundation. In addition to the CLIMB (Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery) program, Wings of Hope will be offering quarterly support groups to children and parents/caregivers who have completed the CLIMB program.

Wings of Hope has been providing emotional and mental health, and practical care, services in Southwest Iowa since we incorporated in 1994. In addition to services directly responding to the needs of cancer patients and survivors, Wings of Hope has provided counseling and coaching, weekly and monthly groups, and education for caregivers and care partners. The Family Room extends these services by addressing the needs of the entire family – both children and parents or primary caregivers who are diagnosed with cancer.

How many individuals in Iowa do you expect to reach through your project?
20-40

In which Iowa counties do you expect to reach people through your project?
Pottawattamie, Mills, Harrison, Montgomery, Page and Fremont

Please describe how your project addresses one or more of these priority areas: *(Suggested: 1,000 words or less.)*

- Addressing cancer disparities across the cancer continuum.
- Addressing cancer prevention and/or early detection.
- Expanding successful local projects statewide in Iowa.
- Formalizing lasting and broad change in cancer control through policy and systems change within organizations, systems, and communities. (Funds may not be used for lobbying.)

While it is generally acknowledged that cancer affects the whole family, there is a critical care gap between meeting the needs of parents with cancer and addressing the often-overlooked emotional needs of their children. Nearly 23% of individuals diagnosed with cancer are between the ages of 20 and 54 (Shah, et al., 2017) which are prime parenting years. In turn, approximately 2.85 million children under the age of 18 (Shah, et al., 2017) are faced with the challenge of coping with a parent with cancer. These children may experience increased anxiety, emotional isolation, loss of social interest, and feelings of hopelessness. Dr. Martha Kendall Ryan, a licensed clinical psychologist, says, "Without appropriate counseling, some of these children may experience long-standing emotional difficulties throughout life that may, in adulthood, mean poor adaptive functioning in relationships with others." This points to the importance of providing opportunities for children to process their experiences at age-appropriate levels.

According to the Cambridge Handbook of Psychology (2007), these children are a "hidden, high-risk group whose problems are minimized by overwhelmed parents and are unknown to the medical staff who seldom see them".

Cancer does affect the whole family. There is a lack of targeted support programming for children dealing with a parent or primary caregiver's cancer diagnosis. The Family Room project of Wings of Hope Cancer Support Center will address this disparity by providing age-appropriate, specialized support for a group whose needs are under-addressed in our communities.

The Family Room includes two primary components. The first is implementation of an art-based, evidence-supported psychoeducational program for families impacted by a parent or primary caregiver's cancer diagnosis (Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery – CLIMB). In collaboration with The Children's Treehouse Foundation, Wings of Hope will offer this 6-week program two times each year. The program is designed for children between the ages of 6 and 17 years old and their loved one with cancer (parent or primary caregiver). The program equips children and families with knowledge and emotional intelligence to navigate the challenging and unknown terrain of a cancer journey. Wings of Hope will offer one in-person 6-week program for children (ages 6-12) and primary caregiver(s), and one online 6-week program. Each 6-week program is a closed group to enhance trust-building within the group. Wings of Hope will collaborate with local hospitals, oncology offices, and school counselors to identify and recruit families who might benefit from the program. The online program would allow families from Southwest Iowa to participate, including those from the following counties: Fremont, Mills, Page, Pottawattamie, Montgomery, and Harrison.

The second component of The Family Room project is ongoing support for both kids and parents/caregivers through the facilitation of quarterly support groups. The children's group will offer opportunities to connect with other kids in similar circumstances, continue to explore feelings and coping techniques, and build resilience. The parent/caregiver group will explore ways to maintain ongoing, age-appropriate conversations about cancer/treatment within the family unit and build an ongoing community of support.

Ayers, S. (Ed.). (2007). Cambridge Handbook of Psychology, Health and Medicine. Cambridge University Press.

Shah, B. K., Armaly, J., & Swieter, E. (2017). Impact of cancer on children. Anticancer Research, 37(8), 4025-4028. https://doi.org/10.21873/anticancres.11787

Please indicate which type of funding you are applying for (choose one):

☐ **Single Year** (applying for one year of funding only)

☒ **Multi-Year: Year 1** (applying for the first year of a two- or three-year project with the intention of applying for Year 2 in FY27, if awarded)

☐ **Multi-Year: Year 2** (FY25 Year 1 awardees only) *

☐ **Multi-Year: Year 3** (FY25 Year 2 awardees only) *

If you are applying for continued funding (funded last year for the same multi-year project), please describe your success and challenges in previous years of funding. *(Suggested: 250 words or less.*)
Not applicable

Which goal(s) and strategy(ies) from the Iowa Cancer Plan will your project support/help to implement? (*Suggested: 100 words or less.)*
The Family Room directly supports several goals outlined in the Iowa Cancer Plan 2023–2027, particularly under the priorities of enhancing quality of life for cancer survivors and care partners and expanding access to age-appropriate psychosocial support.

Specifically, this project aligns with: Priority 3 (Strategy A) by providing non-clinical emotional support to families; Priority 8 (Strategy C) and Priority 9 (Strategy C) by enhancing mental health and peer-based services for children and adolescents impacted by cancer in the family; and Priority 4 (Strategy C) through its long-term, resilience-focused support model. Together, these efforts ensure that families, especially children—have the tools, connections, and care they need to navigate a parent's cancer diagnosis with strength and support.

Project Objectives:

These objectives will serve as the grant deliverables for your project, if awarded. The Iowa Cancer Consortium Board of Directors may request to change, add, or remove objectives with your

agreement prior to funding. Where applicable, please include baseline (current) data. Please add additional objectives, if desired.

Objectives should be SMARTIE goals: **Specific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant, **T**ime-Based, **I**nclusive, and **E**quitable. The CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program put together a helpful resource for SMARTIE objectives. (This and additional resources can be accessed at https://canceriowa.org/grants/ifp)*

***Objective #1:** Launch two 6-week evidence-based CLIMB programs for children and their caregivers

- Deadline *(funding period is July 1, 2025-May 31, 2026):* April 2026
- Baseline data: Currently, no structured, evidence-based psychosocial support programs exist in Southwest Iowa specifically for children impacted by a parent's cancer diagnosis.

Target by deadline: By April 2026, Wings of Hope will implement two 6-week CLIMB programs: one in-person and one virtual, serving children ages 6–12 and their parent(s) or primary caregiver(s). While we will start with ages 6-12 (we will be able to expand to teens if we are able to staff appropriately in the future). These programs will: Improve children's self-esteem and emotional literacy, increase confidence in navigating the cancer experience, strengthen communication within the family, and normalize emotional responses and reduce feelings of isolation.

***Objective #2:** Provide ongoing support to children impacted by a parent's/caregiver's cancer journey through quarterly support groups.

- Deadline *(funding period is July 1, 2025-May 31, 2026):* January 1, 2026
- Baseline data: A quarterly group can create a lasting community to support children through and beyond their parent/caregiver's cancer. Through groups, the kids can connect, share, and build resilience.
- Target by deadline: Quarterly meetings will begin after the first 6-week program.

***Objective #3:** Offer a parallel "Parenting with Cancer" support group for caregiving parents.

- Deadline *(funding period is July 1, 2025-May 31, 2026):* January 1, 2026
- Baseline data: This ongoing support group provides opportunities for parents to discuss the impact their cancer is having on their children, and the challenges they face in experiencing cancer as a parent/caregiver with children in the home. Topics may include how to maintain ongoing, age-appropriate conversations about cancer, treatments, and how to express their own feelings and concerns.
- Target by deadline: Quarterly meetings will begin after the first 6-week program.

Project Collaborators:

The Iowa Cancer Consortium seeks to fund collaborative proposals. **At least one collaborator is required per project.** A letter of support is required for each listed collaborator.

Collaborator #1 (required)

Name: Gregor DeBruhl
Organization: The Children's Treehouse Foundation
Mailing Address: 3333 S. Wadsworth Blvd, Unit D318; Lakewood, CO 80227
Phone: 303-322-1202
Email: gregor@childrenstreehousefdn.org
Please describe the collaborator's proposed responsibilities/role in the project. *(Suggested: 100 words or less)*
The Children's Treehouse Foundation will provide initial training of Wings of Hope's professional program staff, and provide ongoing support for the CLIMB program delivery.

Collaborator #2 (optional)

Name: Michelle Kaufman
Organization: Methodist Jennie Edmundson Cancer Program
Mailing Address: 933 E. Pierce Street, Council Bluffs, IA 51503
Phone: 712-396-7789
Email: michelle.kaufman@nmhs.org
Please describe the collaborator's proposed responsibilities/role in the project. *(Suggested: 100 words or less)*
The MJE Cancer Program will promote the program and make family referrals to the CLIMB program.

Collaborator #3 (optional)

Name: Marchell Benes
Organization: CHI Health Mercy Hospital
Mailing Address: 800 Mercy Drive, Council Bluffs, IA 51503
Phone: 712-388-2750
Email: marchell.nebes@commonspirit.org
Please describe the collaborator's proposed responsibilities/role in the project. *(Suggested: 100 words or less)*
Mercy Hospital and Hematology Oncology Consultants will promote the program and make family referrals to the CLIMB program

Evidence & Evaluation:

Resources for Evidence-Based Interventions and Evaluation: (This and additional resources can be accessed at https://canceriowa.org/grants/ifp)

- *The Iowa Cancer Consortium has put together a blog post, A Public Health Professionals Guide to Evidence-Based Cancer Control Interventions (EBIs), which contains state and national resources for public health professionals to visit when selecting interventions.*
- *CDC's Program Evaluation Framework guides public health professionals in conducting program evaluation. It is a practical, nonprescriptive tool, designed to summarize and organize essential elements of program evaluation.*

What scientific evidence is there that your project will be effective? (*Suggested: 500 words or less.)*
The CLIMB program is the only manualized, evidence-based group intervention specifically designed for children aged 6–17 who have a parent or primary caregiver with cancer. Developed by licensed professionals and supported by pilot studies, it uses expressive arts, storytelling, and psychoeducation to address the emotional impact of a parent's/caregiver's diagnosis.

A pilot study completed in 2016 researched the effects of the CLIMB program on psycho-behavioral functioning and emotional regulation in children with a parent or caregiver with cancer. The results are outlined below:

Psycho-behavioral Functioning:

- Significant decreases in emotional symptoms (as reported by caregivers)
- Marginally significant decreases in conduct

Emotional Regulation:

- Significantly increased emotional awareness (reported by children)
- Significant decrease in suppression of emotions
- Nonsignificant increase in emotion-focused coping
- Nonsignificant increase in dysregulated expression

Wings of Hope believes that quarterly follow-up groups—which are a core part of The Family Room—will help reinforce this emotional growth over time, allowing children to return to a safe space as their family's journey evolves.

In addition, a 2018 systematic review published in *Psycho-Oncology* by Inhestern et al. found that children of parents with cancer are at significantly higher risk for anxiety, emotional dysregulation, and behavioral challenges. The review concluded that structured, peer-based interventions that include psychoeducation and expressive activities—like those offered through CLIMB—are among the most effective models for reducing long-term psychosocial risk.

Furthermore, the study noted that children in these situations often experience feelings of invisibility, overlooked by both medical systems and overwhelmed parents. Programs that create

consistent, age-appropriate outlets for expression have the potential to interrupt that pattern and build lifelong coping skills.

Together, this research confirms that The Family Room is more than a support group, it's a protective intervention. With consistent, creative, evidence-backed programming, we are not only improving today's experience for children—we are safeguarding their emotional health for years to come.

Inhestern, L., Johannsen, L. M., & Bergelt, C. (2021). Families affected by parental cancer: quality of life, impact on children and psychosocial care needs. Frontiers in Psychiatry, 12, 765327. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2021.765327

Shallcross, A. J., Visvanathan, P. D., McCauley, R., Clay, A., & van Dernoot, P. R. (2016). The effects of the CLIMB® program on psychobehavioral functioning and emotion regulations in children with a parent or caregivers with cancer: a pilot study, *Journal of Psychosocial Oncology, 34*(4), 259-273. https://doi.org/10.1080/07347332.2016.1191577

How will you evaluate your project? How will you know if you have been successful? (*Suggested: 250 words or less.)*

1. Pre- and Post-Program Surveys & Interviews
   Administered to both children and caregivers, surveys track progress in emotional regulation, communication, confidence, and feelings of isolation. Age-appropriate formats ensure accessibility. All responses are anonymized and compiled for program review and grant reporting. Additional data will be compiled through qualitative data gathering with interview style questions on an individual basis.
2. Attendance and Retention Metrics
   Wings will monitor attendance for both the CLIMB and quarterly groups to gauge consistency, retention, and potential barriers (e.g., scheduling conflicts, transportation). High retention reflects perceived program value and emotional safety.
3. Facilitator Observations and Clinical Notes
   Trained facilitators will document engagement levels, emotional breakthroughs, and behavioral changes. This qualitative data is especially valuable with younger participants who may struggle to articulate feelings. Trends over time will inform program adaptations and highlight success stories. These observations are especially critical with children, who may struggle to express their feelings through words alone. Over time, these notes provide a powerful record of how participants progress emotionally and socially.
4. Together, these tools provide a full-spectrum view of the program's impact—capturing both measurable change and emotional nuance. They will ensure we're not only measuring outcomes – we're growing from them.

How will you modify your project to meet the unique needs of certain populations? *(Suggested: 500 words or less.)*

At Wings of Hope, we believe that support should never feel out of reach. While our groups have historically reflected the demographics of our community, we recognize that accessibility and inclusivity are not one-time checkboxes—they're ongoing commitments.

We're actively working to ensure that any family who needs us can find a place in The Family Room. For example, we're located just down the road from the Iowa School for the Deaf and are prepared to integrate ASL interpretation or communication access tools as needed. Our staff is trained on using built-in translation features on phones and computers for real-time language support. And we're committed to learning more—about what each family needs to feel welcomed, understood, and safe.

We also know that unique needs aren't always visible. Whether it's adapting activities for neurodivergent kids, offering transportation support when possible, or hosting virtual options to accommodate illness or distance, we aim to meet families where they are. As the needs of our community shift, so will we.

We don't have all the answers - but we're listening, learning, and ready to grow. After all, accessibility isn't just about entry, it's about belonging.

Budget:

Allowable budget categories have been identified below. If funding is requested within a specific category, a brief explanation or funding justification is required.

Staff Support

- Applicants may request funds for key personnel. Funds may not be requested to supplant existing job responsibilities.
- For any staff support requests through this grant mechanism, a copy of staff resume/CV, estimate of project hours, and list of staff project-related responsibilities must be included along with the budget request. Resumes should be included as an attachment.

Travel

- Travel essential to the proposed project may be funded under this proposal.
- Travel reimbursement is allowed at the following rates: $0.50/mile; in-state travel reimbursements follow Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS) guidelines, which is $37/day for meals ($27.75/day for first and last day of travel); out-of-state travel reimbursements follow Iowa DAS guidelines, which varies by destination. Maximum lodging reimbursement for in-state hotels is $80 plus taxes per night (see the Iowa DAS travel webpage for more information and resources).

Printing and Copying

- Estimate the total number of document pages that will be copied or printed. Use $0.06/page for calculating costs. Example: 500 pages X $.06/page =$30.00

Supplies

- Estimate the unit cost for each item to be purchased and the total number of items needed. Example: 200 brochures X $1.25/brochure = $250.00

Indirect/Administrative Costs

- Applicants for whom the Iowa Cancer Consortium is not serving as a fiscal agent may charge an indirect rate limited to 8% of the direct costs proposed in the budget.
- The total budget, including indirect or administrative costs, may not exceed the total requested funds (maximum of $25,000).
- Administrative costs are those incurred for common or joint objectives and cannot be identified readily and specifically with a sponsored program but are still necessary to the organization's operations.
- For example, the costs of operating and maintaining facilities, depreciation and administrative salaries are generally treated as indirect/administrative costs.
- If there is a need for indirect funding beyond 8% of direct program costs, requests should be written into the applicant's budget and justified heavily.
- The applicant shall maintain documentation to support the administrative cost allocation. The Consortium reserves the right to request the documentation at any time.

Other:

- Equipment
    - Describe equipment needed for project implementation.
    - Equipment costs must be justified, and an explanation provided for equipment use after the grant period ends.
    - Items that cost $5,000 or more are not routinely funded but will be considered on an individual basis.
- Incentives
    - Incentives are an allowable expense only if proven to be effective as part of an evidence-based intervention. The research or evidence case must be outlined.

- Clinical Care/Service Delivery
    - Clinical care, including the provision of medication, vaccinations and/or treatment, is not an allowable expense. Service delivery, including radon mitigation and cancer screening test purchases, will be reviewed individually.
    - Community organizations and collaborators are encouraged to provide financial support for service delivery components.

Please explain your budget in words: *(Suggested: 100 words or less)*

The requested funding will cover the essential costs of delivering both the 6-week CLIMB programs and our ongoing quarterly support groups. This includes compensation for licensed facilitators, training through our partnership with The Children's Treehouse Foundation, program supplies like art materials and snacks, and printed outreach materials.

Each line in the budget reflects something we believe every family deserves—skilled support, a welcoming environment, and the tools to heal together. This investment allows us to offer all services at no cost to families, because we believe support should be free, accessible, and stigma-free.

Use the table below to complete your proposed budget:

Reminder: Funding period is July 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026. This is an 11-month period, not a full year.

Budget Items and Explanation	Grant Funds Requested	Other Funding	Total Funds for Project
If possible, please divide them into categories. Examples include staff support, travel, supplies, equipment, etc. If service delivery or incentives are included within the budget, please include a statement of need along with each budget item.	*Funds being requested from the Iowa Cancer Consortium.*	*Include in-kind support, volunteer hours, collaborator financial support, and other types of financial support.*	*Include requested Iowa Cancer Consortium funds + items outlined in the Other Funding category.*
Staff Support			
2 Facilitators/Meeting @ $150 – 12 Weeks	$3,600		$3,600
140 Hours- Training and Program Development	$4,900		$4,900
2 Facilitators for Quarterly Meetings @ $150	$1,200		$1,200
Travel			
Printing			
1,000 Pages x $.06/Page		$60 WOH Operating Budget	$60
Supplies			
Arts & Crafts Materials ($50/child; 20 children)	$1,000		$1,000
Food ($100/Meeting - 1 Six-Week + Quarterly Meetings)	$600	$600 in kind	$600
250 Brochures x $1.25/Brochure		$325 WOH Operating Budget	$325
Other			
The Children's Treehouse Foundation Partership	$4,000		$4,000
Program Outreach & Marketing	$1,000		$1,000
Indirect/Admin Cost	$1,500		$1,500
Totals:	$17,800	$985	$$18,785

Submit your completed application, along with letters of support from all collaborators and resumes/CVs for anyone whose salary will be supported by requested funds, to orton@canceriowa.org by 11:59pm (CDT) on May 14, 2025.

The Children's Treehouse Foundation®
Inspiring emotional support for children affected by a loved one's cancer

3333 S. Wadsworth Blvd #D318
Lakewood, CO 80227
(303) 322-1202
admin@childrenstreehousefdn.org

May 13th, 2025

Iowa Cancer Consortium

Subject: Letter of Support for Wings of Hope Cancer Support Center's Grant Proposal

Dear Grant Review Committee,

The Children's Treehouse Foundation is delighted to provide this letter of support for Wings of Hope Cancer Support Center and their current grant proposal for implementing "The Family Room" program. As the developers of the evidence-based CLIMB® (Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery) program, we strongly endorse Wings of Hope as an outstanding community partner uniquely qualified to deliver this critical support service.

It is our evaluation that Wings of Hope has established itself as a trusted leader in cancer support in Southwest Iowa, boasting long-standing relationships with local hospitals, healthcare professionals, and the community. Their demonstrated expertise in providing emotional, mental health, and practical care services for cancer patients positions them to implement the CLIMB® program successfully. Wings of Hope's relationships with Methodist's Jennie Edmundson Cancer Program and CHI Health's Mercy Hospital, among others, allow a network to identify and support families most in need.

The Children's Treehouse Foundation developed the CLIMB® program precisely to address the significant gap in psychosocial support for children experiencing a parent or caregiver's cancer diagnosis. Our structured intervention is

backed by robust research and proven effectiveness, and it is widely recognized for reducing anxiety, fostering emotional resilience, and enhancing family communication during the cancer journey. Wings of Hope's commitment to this evidence-based model demonstrates their dedication to impactful, quality-driven community service.

Furthermore, the Children's Treehouse Foundation is fully committed to supporting Wings of Hope by providing comprehensive training, continuous programmatic guidance, and strategic advice for program growth and sustainability. We will continue collaborating closely with Wings of Hope in exploring long-term funding opportunities and strategies to maintain the CLIMB® program beyond a grant-funded life cycle. Together, we will ensure that these essential services remain accessible to families into the future.

Our partnership with Wings of Hope is grounded in shared values and a common mission: delivering compassionate, effective, and enduring support solutions for families navigating the complexities of cancer. We enthusiastically support this grant application and look forward to continuing our productive and impactful partnership with Wings of Hope Cancer Support Center.

Thank you for considering their application. We strongly encourage you to award this valuable initiative that promises meaningful, lasting benefits for families in Southwest Iowa.

Warm regards,

Gregor DeBruhl
Executive Director
The Children's Treehouse Foundation
www.childrenstreehousefdn.org

CHI Health

Administration
Mercy Council Bluffs
800 Mercy Drive
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

P 712.328.5000
CHIHealth.com

May 14, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

We appreciate the opportunity to partner with Wings of Hope Support Center to support patients and families dealing with the many psychosocial concerns related to a diagnosis of cancer. Currently, Carolyn Ettinger and the staff of Wings of Hope, provide various cancer support programs and assistance to patients treated at CHI Health Henry Lynch Cancer Center.

As an oncology social worker at CHI Health Henry Lynch Cancer Center, I witness the anxiety and fear patients experience while being treated for cancer. If the patient has children, their anxiety increases relative to how they tell their children and the impact of their diagnosis and treatment will have as they cope with the "new normal" in the family. Addressing the needs of the whole family unit provides the patient and their family with better coping skills and stress management throughout this experience.

Our patients have benefited from the support programs and assistance offered through Wings of Hope. They receive emotional support through counseling services and support groups. Many patients who are unable to work during their treatment benefit from the financial support provided by Wings of Hope along with the many programs and services addressing cancer survivorship needs after treatment.

CHI Health Henry Lynch Cancer Center looks forward to continued collaboration with Wings of Hope Cancer Support Center in supporting cancer survivors, their families and the community they serve.

Sincerely,

Marchell Benes

Marchell Benes, MSW, CSW, LMSW, OSW-C
Oncology Social Worker
CHI Health Henry Lynch Cancer Center

May 12, 2025

Carolyn Ettinger
Program Administrator
Wings of Hope Cancer Support Center
427 E. Kanesville Blvd., Suite 202
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Dear Carolyn,

On behalf of Methodist Jennie Edmundson Cancer Center, we are pleased to partner with Wings of Hope Cancer Support Center in meeting the psychosocial needs of families diagnosed with cancer. We believe the psychoeducational and counseling services offered by Wings of Hope help meet the very real needs of cancer patients, survivors, children, and care partners. Our hospital is active in referring patients to Wings of Hope for programs such as support groups / huddles, financial assistance, counseling, survivorship care planning, A Time to Heal, and Healing Touch services.

As a healthcare provider, we strongly believe in the importance of addressing mental health concerns during cancer treatment and recovery. Wings of Hope Cancer Support Center is unique in its ability to respond personally and promptly to the needs expressed by our patients throughout the counties in Southwest, IA. After participating in the services, cancer survivors and the entire family are better able to assume responsibility for their ongoing health care, show significant improvement in mental health status, and improve the ability to access available community resources to meet their ongoing needs.

It is a pleasure to write this letter of support and collaboration for Wings of Hope Cancer Support Center. If you have questions, please call me at 712-396-7789

Sincerely,

Michelle Kaufman

Michelle Kaufman, MS, R.T. (R,T)
Service Executive Radiation Oncology
Methodist Jennie Edmundson Cancer Center
michelle.kaufman@nmhs.org

Carolyn J. Ettinger, MA, LMHP, CHTP
311 Forest Glen Drive
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
712/329-9108

Education:

Oak Park High School	Kansas City, MO	Diploma	1975	
Graceland University	Lamoni, IA	B.A.	1978	Major: Psychology
University of Missouri	Kansas City, MO	M.A.	1980	Major: Counselor Educ.

Licensing:

Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (LMHP) – State of NE: License #2486
Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) – State of Missouri: License #SW001226

Professional Experience:

2002 – present Council Bluffs, IA	**Program Administrator** and **Executive Director** at Wings of Hope Cancer Support Center, providing patient support, referral, counseling, facilitation of support groups, fiscal management, grant writing, and development/implementation of programming.
2002 – 2012 Omaha, NE	**Adjunct instructor** for Human Services, Communication and Psychology courses at Metropolitan Community College.
1997-2001 Independence, MO	**Social Worker/Intake Coordinator** at Sunshine Center, a school providing early intervention services to young children at school and home. Provided support, counseling, service coordination, and referrals.
1997-1999 Liberty, MO	**Parent Educator** in preventative, educational "Parents as Teachers" Program for parents of children, birth-3 years old, in Liberty School Dist.
1991-1997 Kansas City, MO	**Family Support Specialist** with Cradles & Crayons, an agency serving infants, toddlers and preschoolers with medically fragile conditions and development disabilities.
1989-1990 Kalamazoo, MI	**Bereavement Coordinator** with licensed Hospice, including grief counseling, teaching grief recovery classes, coordination of all bereavement services.
1984 – 1986 Council Bluffs, IA	**Community Development Coordinator** at Family Services, including administration of community development program and program development of needed services.

Additional Education/Training and Certifications

2012	HTI Healing Touch Practitioner Certification
2011	Comfort Touch Training
2009	*A Time to Heal* Certification – Facilitator for All Cancer Groups
2007	*A Time to Heal* Certification – Facilitator for Breast Cancer Groups
2004	Renewing Life Certification – Facilitator
1997	Parents as Teachers Certification – Parent Educator

Volunteer Experience

2007-2013	Advisory Committee Member of Hospice of Southwest Iowa
1998-2018	Reach to Recovery Volunteer for American Cancer Society
1999-2001	Board Member and Educator for Liberty, MO Young Peacemakers Club
1994-2000	Board Member for the Metropolitan Council on Developmental Disabilities
1987-1989	Member of Hospice of Greater Kalamazoo Bereavement Team
1986-1987	Hospital ministries to terminally ill patients Member of Independence Regional Health Center Hospice Pastoral Care Team
1983-1984	Professional counselor in Lay Counseling Program

Ann Kuglin Jones, PhD, MN, MBA, RN

Address: 535 Forest Drive, Council Bluffs, IA 51503.
Phone: 402-658-8765
Email: annkuglinjones@gmail.com

LICENSE AND CERTFICIATIONS

Registered Nurse – Multi State License: Iowa Board of Nursing. License #101512.

Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse (AOCN), Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation.

Board-Certified Nurse Coach (NC-BC), American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Program Specialist 2024-Present
Wings of Hope Cancer Support Center, Council Bluffs, IA

- Provide companion counseling and coaching for cancer survivors and care partners.
- Facilitate support groups.
- Develop and implement cancer specific programming.
- Coordinate research projects.

Independent Practice – Integrative Nurse Coach, Educator, & Consultant 2014-Present
Health Forward, LLC, Council Bluffs, IA

- Provide coaching and counseling to cancer survivors and their care partners seeking emotional support, education related to their cancer experience, and assistance in navigating the healthcare system.
- Utilize a root cause analysis (functional medicine) strategy with clients to solve persistent health issues.
- Offer healing touch, clinical meditation and imagery, and energy boosting breathwork for stress management and relaxation.
- Design and facilitate interactive workshops focused on cancer care and whole-person wellness.
- Author health-focused content; including blogs, articles, and educational resources.

Senior Advisor 2016-2023
Executive Director 2009-2016
Midwest Independent Physicians Practice Association, Omaha, NE

- Developed the infrastructure and provided the leadership, operational, and financial oversight for this start-up company.

- Developed the application and granted approval by the federal government the option to participate in the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP); one of the first Accountable Care Organizations in Nebraska.
- Negotiated the first and only physician health plan offered on the Nebraska Health Insurance Marketplace.

Clinical Data Abstractor 2017-2022
Flatiron Health (Part-time), New York, NY
- Extracted data points from oncology clinical records to support researchers and drug developers to understand the real-world impact of cancer treatments.

Healthcare Strategist & Clinical Operations Specialist 2011-2013
Leo A Daly, Omaha, NE
- Worked with the Healthcare Team to develop evidence-based strategic, clinical, operational, and facility planning and design solutions

Vice-President, Oncology Services 1999-2009
Human Experience Design/Innovation Team Lead 2007-2008
Interim Chief Nurse Executive 2003-2005
Alegent Health System, Omaha, NE
- Responsible for the oncology service line system wide; including developing and implementing the strategic agenda, managing physician relationships, pursuing new business development opportunities, developing and implementing new programs and services, managing the quality improvement program, and overseeing the day-to-day operations of all cancer centers.
- Managed over $50 million in revenue, more than 100 employees, 3 comprehensive community cancer centers, 2 satellite programs, and 1 radiation oncology joint venture. Core components of the service line included radiation oncology, dedicated inpatient units, outpatient infusion center, image recovery centers, community outreach, tumor registry, nurse navigators, cancer support team, cancer rehab, clinical trials, genetics, and cancer counseling center.
- Managed and conducted ethnographic research for the purpose of designing systems, products, and services that enhanced the patient experience within the health system.
- Responsible for the delivery of inpatient and outpatient nursing at the system's 400-bed flagship hospital.

Vice-President, Clinical Services & Chief Nurse Executive 1999-1997
University of Kansas Hospital System, Kansas City, KS
- Responsible for the delivery of nursing care and clinical operations across the University system.
- Managed ten direct reports and over twelve hundred staff.

Director, Perioperative Services 1996-1997
Director, Medical Nursing 1991-1996
Nurse Manager, Medical/Surgical Oncology 1987-1991
Assistant Nurse Manager, Medical Oncology 1986-1987

Staff Nurse, Medical Oncology 1985-1986
Nurse Aid, Medical Oncology 1981-1985
University of Kansas Hospital System, Kansas City, KS

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Nursing, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Master of Business Administration, University of Kansas, Overland Park, KS

Master of Science, Nursing, University of Kansas, Kansas City, KS

Bachelor of Science in Nursing, University of Kansas, Kansas City, KS

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION and TRAINING

Clinical Certificates of Completion

- Functional Medicine for Nurses: Integrative Nurse Coach Academy
- Functional Nutrition: The Institute for Functional Medicine
- Clinical Meditation & Imagery™ (CMI): Huntington Meditation & Imagery Center
- Healing Touch Certificate Program, Levels 1-4: Healing Beyond Borders
- End of Life Doula: IAP Career College
- Holistic RN Patient Advocacy Training: RN Patient Advocacy & Wisdom of the Whole Coaching Academy
- HeartMath – Building Personal Resilience: HeartMath
- RN as Writer: RN2Writer

Completed Program Facilitation Training

- Cancer Survivorship 101 Certification: A Time to Heal Foundation
- Brain Fog 101 Certification: A Time to Heal Foundation
- Facilitator Trainer for Cancer Survivorship 101: A Time to Heal Foundation
- Grief Facilitator Training: The Collective for HOPE
- Healing Circles Training Program: Healing Circles Global
- Mindfulness Certification Training: Dallas Yoga Center
- Stress & Well-Being Assessment Provider: HeartMath

MULTIPLE RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Available upon request.