



Barrier-breaking navigation improves D.C. cancer screening rates.

When one area woman entered the Community of Hope health center, breast cancer screening was not on her list of critical needs. Homelessness, job loss, complex emotional issues, and chronic illness overwhelmed her. Cancer Patient Navigator, Inna Scurtu, guided her through these barriers and more to a mammogram, biopsy, surgery, chemotherapy, and ultimate recovery. Still, this success story would not have been possible if Scurtu had not broken through the most imposing barrier of all—trust.

“Building trust—and sometimes friendship—is critical for many of our patients. They need emotional support to see them through a difficult experience. And that’s as an important part of my role as a navigator as educating patients about cancer screening, accessing specialists, providing transportation to appointments, and linking them to services to fill gaps in care,” she says.

Scurtu is one of two full-time cancer patient navigators funded by MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and employed by the District of Columbia Primary Care Association (DCPCA). The program, which has been in place since 2016, is helping to improve breast, colon, and cervical cancer screening rates—as well as improve access to treatment—for some of the city’s most vulnerable communities.

Letter from the president.

The Jesuit tradition in which MedStar Georgetown University Hospital was founded is deeply rooted in serving the community.

Through the hospital’s partnership with the DC Primary Care Association, highlighted in this report, MedStar Health has provided cancer screening opportunities for Washington, D.C. residents and much-needed support for patients needing follow-up for additional cancer diagnostics and treatment.

We are very proud of this program, which highlights our long-standing tradition of serving the families of the District of Columbia.

Thank you for your support of our hospital and for recognizing our commitment to the community we so proudly serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Sachtleben".

Michael C. Sachtleben
Senior Vice President, MedStar Health
President, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital

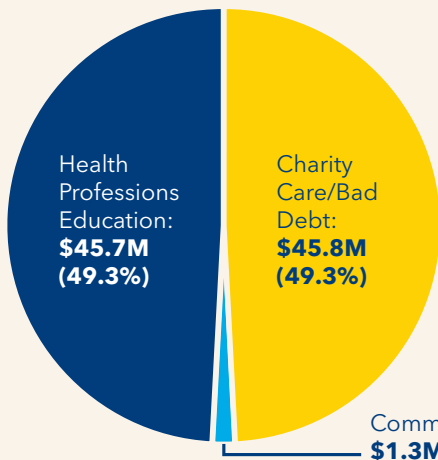


Scurtu says her days are filled with both happy and sad stories, but she knows she is playing an important role in patients' lives. Numbers paint a positive picture as well. Each year, navigators provide comprehensive services to more than 2,000 people—far exceeding the original goal of 500. Breast cancer screening rates at Bread for the City alone rose by 55 percent in just three years.



"This MedStar support has been critical seed money to jumpstart a series of initiatives for quality improvement," says Megan Loucks, DC Primary Care Association (DCPCA) director of quality improvement. "We were able to obtain funding from DC Health for two more patient navigators and launch a district-wide Patient Navigators for Cancer Peer Group to get all the players around the table. DCPCA is working with partners to address a host of systemic challenges to cancer screening and treatment that persist in the city - these challenges, and their solutions, have been made clear by the experience shared by patient navigators," Loucks adds.

"Numbers paint a positive picture...Each year, navigators provide comprehensive services to more than 2,000 people—far exceeding the original goal of 500." –Megan Loucks, DCPCA



2019 Community benefit contribution: \$92.7M

*Includes subsidies, community health improvement services, community building activities, financial contributions, and community benefit operations

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