Your membership in the George Eastman Circle, the University of Rochester’s premier leadership annual giving society, helps shape the future of the Wilmot Cancer Institute and the patients who we serve. Your generous support, of at least $1,500 annually over five years, provides critical budget-relieving annual funds and helps us continue to provide the exceptional cancer care that the Rochester community and beyond have come to count on.

**YOUR PHILANTHROPY AT WORK**

Every day, dedicated cancer researchers at the Wilmot Cancer Institute work hard to answer key questions about how cancer cells develop and spread, how to keep cancer survivors healthy, and how to provide targeted approaches for a new generation of precision cancer treatment—one with higher success rates and lower toxicity.

**Gifts of all levels will help us continue to provide care to our courageous patients**, who range from the more than 4,000 patients from across upstate New York to upwards of 200,000 outpatient clinic visitors seeking cancer-related procedures each year. With your support, you can help us better understand cancer, develop new life-saving discoveries that hold the keys to eradicating this disease—and in which more and more patients are cancer survivors. Every gift makes a difference: impacts our ability to attract and retain world-renowned researchers and faculty, develop new cancer therapies, preventions, and cures, and ensure excellence in treating and caring for our patients.

**LOOKING AHEAD: OUR MISSION**

UR Medicine’s Wilmot Cancer Institute is the Finger Lakes region’s leader for cancer care and research. As a component of Strong Memorial Hospital, Wilmot Cancer Institute provides specialty cancer care services at the University of Rochester Medical Center and a network of locations throughout the region. The Institute also includes a team of 100 scientists who investigate many aspects of cancer, with an emphasis on how best to provide precision cancer care.

We have a great history of discovery, innovation, and collaboration. Your support can lead us to a future in which you have helped us better understand cancer, developed new life-saving discoveries that hold the keys to eradicating this disease, and in which more and more patients are cancer survivors.
In July of 2011, Ralph and Beverly Olney’s lives changed forever when Ralph was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) after a routine blood test. He was admitted to the Wilmot Cancer Institute’s Blood and Marrow Transplant (BMT) Unit in November 2011, and received his first stem cell transplant under the care of Jane Liesveld, M.D. In March 2014, Ralph and Beverly bravely faced a major setback when he fell out of remission, and Ralph had a second transplant in June 2014. Currently, Ralph continues his chemotherapy treatments regularly every six weeks.

When first diagnosed, Ralph knew very little about the disease and relied on a textbook the Wilmot staff gave him on leukemia treatment and side effects. As he went through this journey, he was so grateful for the personalized treatment plan and the expert medical staff who were available to help him through treatment. Time and time again, the staff’s competency in diagnosing and treating various medical issues that would arise put Beverly’s mind at ease—knowing he was always receiving the best care.

“We looked for ways to give back and found that the George Eastman Circle allows us to thank and support the tremendous medical staff at the Wilmot Cancer Institute,” explains Ralph. “They are capable, talented, professional, and empathetic and have contributed to the reputation that the Wilmot BMT Unit is one of the best places to be treated in the United States. Without them and their colleagues at the UR Medical Center, I would not be alive today.”

“Our ability to give back in terms of both volunteerism and ongoing financial support has allowed our family and friends to help others who are faced with similar situations. There is a great sense of peace when you can help others.”

Ralph is doing well and continues to be interested in accessing research protocols during his therapy. He has participated in several laboratory and registry studies related to his two stem cell transplantations.

For more information on how you can join the George Eastman Circle and create an even greater impact, please contact Michael Fahy at (585) 276-5176 or at michael.fahy@rochester.edu