
Dempsey Center
29 Lowell Street, 5th Floor
Lewiston, ME 04240
dempseycenter.org



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C E N T E R



Cancer Community Center
778 Main Street
South Portland, ME
cancercommunitycenter.org

Dempsey Center & South Portland's Cancer Community Center Announce Intent to Merge

People impacted by cancer around the state will have greater access to programs and quality of life services as two leading cancer care organizations combine

PORTLAND & LEWISTON, MAINE (July 17, 2017) – The boards of directors of South Portland's [Cancer Community Center](#) and Lewiston's [Dempsey Center](#), both well-respected for delivering cancer quality of life services in Maine, unanimously agreed to develop a merger agreement over the next several months. The newly merged entity will be independent of Central Maine Healthcare (CMH), a founding partner, and operate under the Dempsey Center name. The new entity is anticipated to begin operating by early 2018 under the name of the **Dempsey Centers** reflecting the organization's scale and mission. The merger remains subject to ongoing due diligence, the negotiation of a merger agreement, and final approval of the boards of directors of both organizations.

The Dempsey Center currently operates as part of CMH, but intends to become wholly independent from the health system prior to the anticipated merger with Cancer Community Center. The decision to become independent was driven by growth opportunities which will allow the Dempsey Center to expand its mission in the face of growing demand for cancer care services in Maine by opening access to more philanthropic support and grant opportunities.

Wendy Tardif will continue as executive director of the combined Dempsey Centers. Nicole Avery will take on a senior leadership role within the new organization. Patrick Dempsey plans to be more involved with the expanded organization and will hold a permanent seat on the new board of directors working closely with leadership, donors and staff as its guiding voice.

Nicole Avery added, "Our management teams complement each other in terms of roles and skill sets. We are looking forward to bringing together the expertise, focus and passion of our amazing people. And, what's exciting is that those we presently serve benefit from our shared services, multiple locations, enhanced programming and a new vision for the future."

"Cancer hit our family hard, experiencing our mother's [Amanda Dempsey] journey we were inspired to ensure those impacted by cancer had the programs and services needed to support healing and simply cope with everyday living," said Patrick Dempsey, Dempsey Center founder and actor. "We know our work in Maine will never be done, though we all see potential to replicate this model throughout Maine and beyond in some capacity in the future. By working together, the possibilities are endless."

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According to statistics from a 2014 Maine Cancer Surveillance Report and 2013 Maine Cancer Foundation report, cancer is the leading cause of death in Maine.

- Estimated over 125,000 Mainers who are cancer survivors
- Average of 8,321 new cancer diagnoses made in Maine annually
- In addition to cancer patients, there are over 11,000 individuals acting as primary caregiver

In the first year following the merger, the combined Centers are projected to employ approximately 30 people to provide services to more than 5,000 individuals and families impacted by cancer around the state. Clients of both organizations will continue to have access to all the services, programs and groups they currently participate in.

About Dempsey Center

The Dempsey Center is a leader in Quality of Life care for individuals and families impacted by cancer. Founded in Lewiston, Maine by actor Patrick Dempsey, the Dempsey Center provides a personalized, holistic and integrated approach to cancer prevention, education and support. All services are provided at no cost to anyone impacted by cancer regardless of their socioeconomic circumstances or where they receive their medical treatment. For more information visit dempseycenter.org.

About Cancer Community Center

The Cancer Community Center creates a haven where anyone whose world is disrupted by cancer can regain control and make sense of their new normal. By offering free wellness programs, complementary therapies, and peer support, the Center helps community members gain valuable tools and connections for healing through shared experience. All support services are free to cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers. For more information visit cancercommunitycenter.org.

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Dempsey Center at a Glance

In response to his mother's multiple bouts with ovarian cancer, actor Patrick Dempsey founded the Dempsey Center in Lewiston, Maine in 2008 with the intention of giving back to the community where he grew up, and where his mother first received cancer treatment.

The Dempsey Center improves the quality of life for individuals, families and communities impacted by cancer. They provide a personalized, holistic and integrated approach to cancer education, prevention and support. All services are provided at no cost to anyone impacted by cancer (patients, families and friends) regardless of their socioeconomic circumstances, where or when they receive(d) their medical treatment.

The Dempsey Center's services remain free to all clients thanks to the strong support and fundraising done through the Dempsey Challenge. The Dempsey Challenge is a two-day, non-competitive run, walk, cycle fundraiser which champions the spirit of celebration and culture of paying it forward -- all hosted in Lewiston, Maine. Every dollar raised by the Challenge directly benefits the Dempsey Center. And in 2016, participants raised a record-breaking \$1.3 million. This year, the 9th annual Dempsey Challenge will be held on October 7-8.

"The Dempsey Center helped me see the possibility of tomorrow and [gave me] an appreciation for today. I was introduced to the concept of treating the mind, body, and soul while enduring the physical treatments cancer required. With the lessons I've learned through the services of the Dempsey Center, my post-cancer life is far better than my pre-cancer life. Hope and healing are essential ingredients for all patients, family and friends of cancer warriors. Without the Dempsey Center, my journey, and my family's experience, would have been much different. I wish every cancer patient had a 'Dempsey Center' - the place that allows them to heal."

2016 REVIEW OF PROGRAM AND SERVICES PROVIDED

- 17,536 total units of services provided
- 7,114 people provided with education programs on coping with cancer, caring for others with cancer, and preventing cancer (at the Center, and in the community)
- 4,064 one-on-one client services provided (resource navigation and financial assistance, oncology and bereavement counseling, oncology massage, Reiki and acupuncture sessions, wig and headwear fittings, nutrition and fitness consults)
- Served people in all 16 Maine counties with resource navigation
- 360 people received resource navigation or direct financial assistance
- 221 regular volunteers provided 26,354 hours of service
- \$84,472 dollar value of Volunteer Staff time at the Center
- 2,043 massage, Reiki and acupuncture sessions provided
- 503 programs and workshops were presented at the Dempsey Center
- 1,231 counseling sessions provided to clients of all ages
- 881 Healing Tree Youth and Family units of service provided



Cancer Community Center at a Glance

The place to start when you don't know where to begin.

Cancer Community Center founder, Jane Staley believed that a supportive community was essential to healing. Diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1994, Jane sought a place that offered support and information as well as a sense of community for adults impacted by cancer. She soon discovered that support services commonly available in other parts of the country were non-existent in Maine. This motivated her to organize a steering committee of friends, business leaders, community leaders, oncology professionals, and cancer survivors to establish a no-cost cancer support center dedicated to life and living.

In the fall of 1998, the Cancer Community Center opened its doors. Today, the Center improves the quality of life for adults living with cancer and their loved ones through a wide variety of free services and programs. Programming is research based and designed to improve address the most common challenges faced by cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers. Peer support is woven into the fabric of the Center, with many programs being led by trained volunteers who have personal experience with cancer.

The Cancer Community Center provides free services through the support of individual donors, corporate partners, foundation grants, and two major fundraising events, an online auction and Pouring for a Purpose, an annual tasting event held at Thompson's Point.

WHAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS SAY ABOUT THE CANCER COMMUNITY CENTER:

"The Cancer Community Center was there when I did not know where to turn. I'm so grateful for all the services, connections, and people that were a part of my recovery process. You saved my life!"

"I have been amazed at the power of our support group process - instilling hope, knowledge, even laughter in the face of our challenges. The experience of watching last month's or last year's distraught group member step forward proudly to offer their support and knowledge to yet another newcomer is transcendent."

"I have nothing but praise for the Cancer Community Center! Thank you for the work that you do and the safe space that you provide for those with cancer and the people who support them."

"At my lowest point, the support group gave me hope. They helped me know I could have a better life, to just keep doing the things needed to get better and stronger."

2016 REVIEW OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED

- 1,212 community members received services at the Center
- 8,120 units of service were provided, including individual support, group sessions, Reiki, oncology massage, acupuncture, Reflexology, movement and meditation classes, nutrition workshops, and informational sessions.
- 525 volunteers donated a total of 12,267 hours of their time

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Frequently Asked Questions

WILL THE NAME CHANGE?

Upon completion of the intended merger, we expect to operate Dempsey Centers in both Lewiston and South Portland. Legally, our name will be Dempsey Centers for Quality Cancer Care.

WILL YOU RELOCATE?

No. Once the intended merger is complete in 2018, there will be two amazing locations in Maine for those impacted by cancer to access our services; the Dempsey Centers will operate at both 29 Lowell Street in Lewiston and at 778 Main Street in South Portland, the current home of the Cancer Community Center.

WHAT'S PROMPTING THIS CHANGE?

The incidence of cancer rates is increasing in Maine. Thus, the need for our services is growing exponentially. This intended merger will allow us to expand to serve more people across Maine and to access more donors and grants to continue to offer quality of life services at no cost for individuals or families impacted by cancer.

WHY IS THE INTENDED MERGER GOOD FOR PEOPLE IMPACTED BY CANCER?

As aligned nonprofits pursuing the same mission, this intended merger will allow us to expand to serve more people across Maine and to access more philanthropic support so that we can continue to offer our quality-of-life services at no cost.

WHO WILL LEAD THE DEMPSEY CENTERS?

Wendy Tardif will continue as executive director of the combined Dempsey Centers. Nicole Avery will take on a senior leadership role within the new organization. Our current management teams complement each other in terms of roles and skill sets. We are excited to start working together.

WILL PATRICK BE MORE OR LESS INVOLVED?

Patrick will be even more involved in the new Dempsey Centers. He will hold a permanent seat on the new Board of Directors. He will continue to be the North Star for our organization, guiding our direction and working closely with our Board, leadership, donors and staff.

WILL YOU EXPAND FURTHER IN MAINE? OUT OF STATE?

Our vision is to expand and provide our quality-of-life cancer support services to more people in Maine. Our work in Maine will never be done, but we also see potential to replicate the model within and beyond Maine in some capacity in the future.

ARE ANY JOB LOSSES PLANNED?

No job losses are planned. As we expand our services in both markets and across the state, we expect there will be an opportunity to create more jobs within the Dempsey Centers over time.