



## Cancer Support Services Report Fiscal Year 2015

### Overview

**Cancer Support Services**, a program of Holy Cross Hospital, are non-clinical supports that improve the quality-of-life of people with cancer and their families. We link people experiencing cancer with trusted local businesses to help meet basic needs, ease stress, and promote healing. Every client receives navigation to additional resources and services statewide. We serve all area residents from Taos and Western Colfax counties early in their diagnosis up to a year after their last treatment with:

- Assistance with:
  - Food
  - Transportation
  - Lodging
- Weekly Support groups
- Weekly yoga
- Personal care such as cooking and home care
- Grief and loss counseling for families
- Massage, Feldenkreis and other complementary alternative modalities
- Fitness, cancer, and health coaching
- House cleaning, errands
- Navigation of health and financial resources

### Funding

Our Programs funding comes primarily from the event “*For The Health Of It!*” which takes place every June. In 2014, we raised \$46,000 through this event and other fundraising efforts. Another \$1,000 was raised and donated to the program through “Flex Your Chest” an event that took place in September and \$6,000 during the “Paint The Town Pink” campaign in October. “Paint The Town Pink” consisted of a silent auction and loft party, community yoga, Zumba and other fitness class donations as well as contributions from a local theater company production.

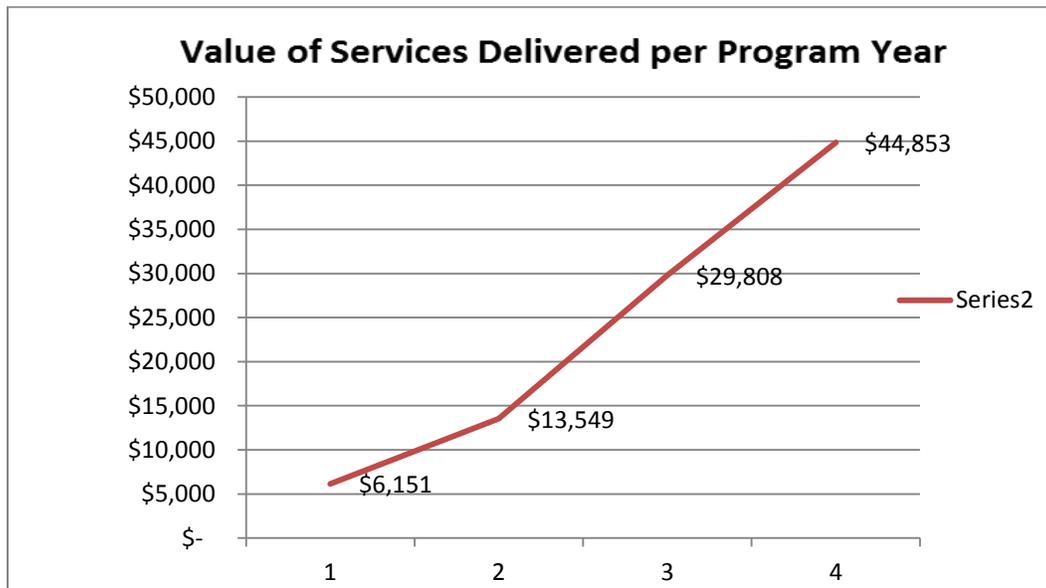
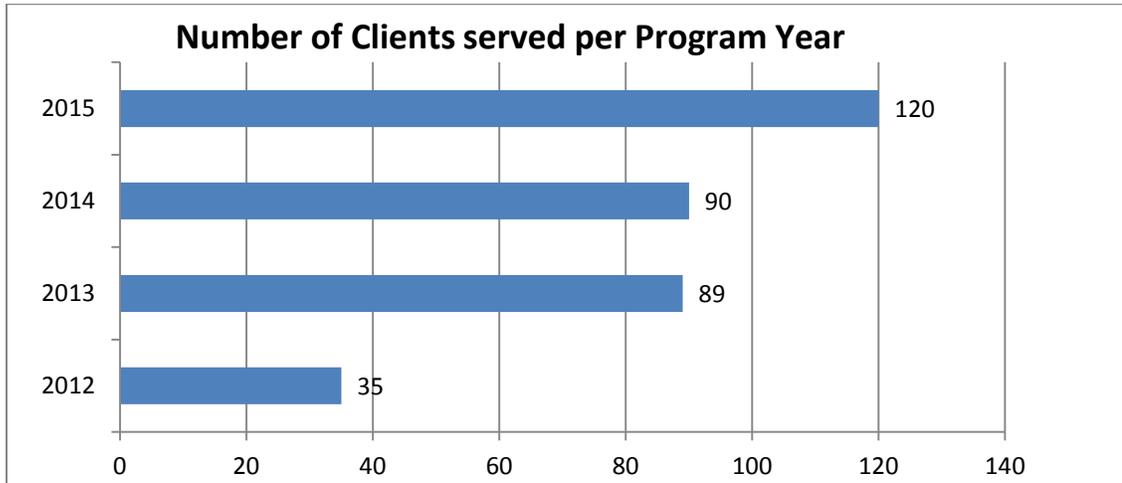
### Steady Growth

Thanks to the support and generosity of the people of Taos and Western Colfax Counties, from the time Holy Cross recognized the need and began offering Cancer Support Services late in 2011, the program has grown exponentially. Near the end of 2014, we added a bi monthly breast cancer support group. In 2015, we also added an assistant coordinator to ensure consistent, timely and ongoing support for our clients.

- FY 2012:<sup>1</sup> **35** new clients and family members served. **\$6,151** in services delivered to people experiencing cancer.
- FY 2013: **89** new clients and family members served. **\$13,549** in services delivered to people experiencing cancer.
- FY 2014: **93** new clients and family members served. **\$18,580** in services delivered to people experiencing cancer.
- FY 2015: **120** new clients and family members served. **\$19,400** in services delivered to people experiencing cancer.

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<sup>1 1</sup> Taos Health Systems’ Fiscal Year runs from June 1 each year to May 31 of the next year.

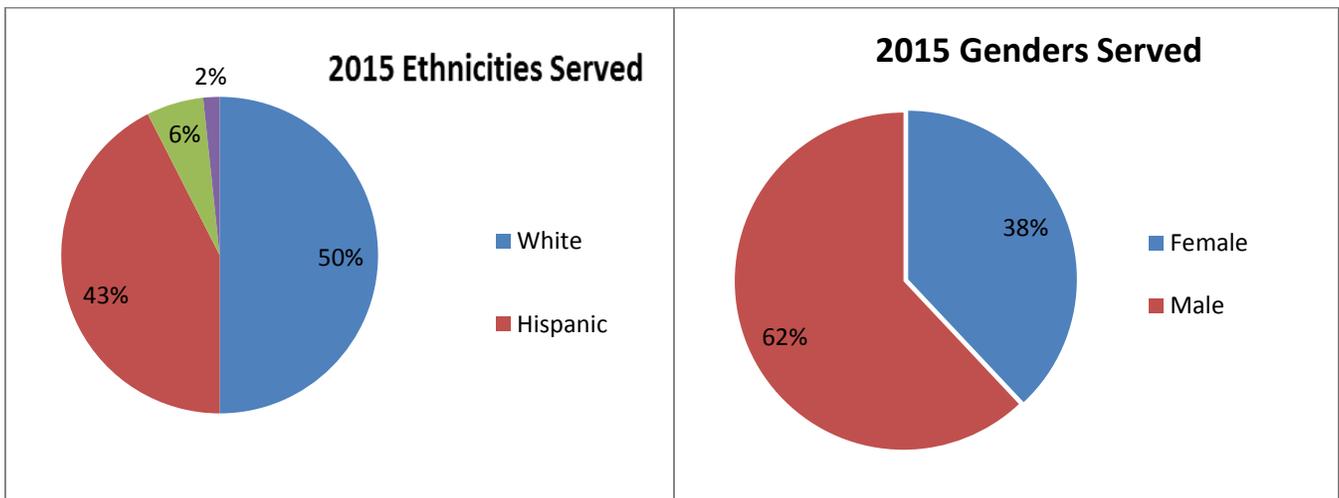
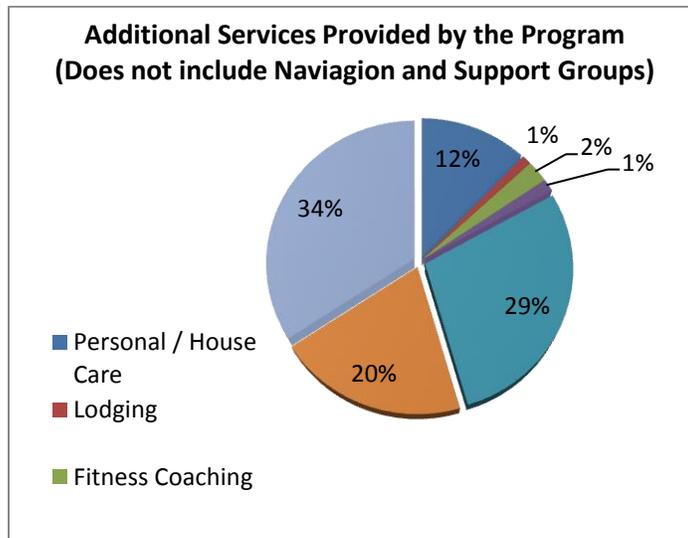


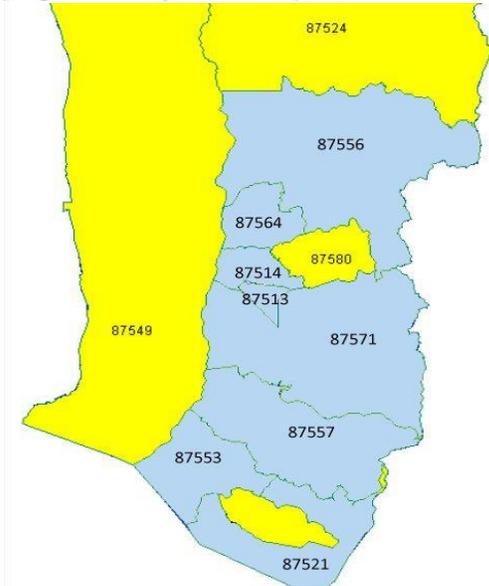
*99% of money raised stays in our community and goes to the people and families in need, and the local businesses and staff that serve them. The remaining 1% covered out-of-town lodging during treatment.*



Providing a Variety of Services to Our Whole Community

Cancer Support Services strives to meet the most often identified non-medical needs of members of our culturally and geographically diverse community.





### Area Served

Ojo Caliente  
Velarde  
Vadito  
Ranchos de Taos  
Taos  
Taos Pueblo  
El Prado  
Arroyo Seco  
Arroyo Hondo  
San Cristobal  
Questa  
Cerro

### What People Say:

Taos Cancer Support Services Program continues to be a place of hope and relief for those struggling with cancer:

- “I could not have done this without you” (referring to assistance filling out medical financial assistance forms).
- “Thank you for all the help you gave my daughter. Everything was greatly appreciated.”
- “The Cancer Support Group is a very vital and extraordinary opportunity for anyone who has had to face that kind of diagnosis.”
- “Cancer Support Services was my life line when I was diagnosed with cancer and all the challenges that I was facing.”

Coordinator and Support Group Facilitator, Jason Pfeifer, sees the program working primarily to provide relief:

“When someone hears about the program, they immediately feel a sense of support and hope. To be able to allow someone the space to talk about what they are going through without judgement gives them the ability to think clearer and feel better about their decisions. Providing something as simple as a gas card to help get them to treatment or a food voucher to help pay for some healthy foods really helps reduce the financial burden that comes along with a cancer diagnosis which in turn, eases some of the additional stress they are experiencing. All the services the program provides are decided on a case by case basis, based on what the individual or family may need at that given moment as well as in the near future. This makes the program a benefit to anyone who is experiencing cancer no matter what their situation or where they are in the process.”

### What’s Next?

We continue to assess service needs, provide timely assistance to those in need in our community, and build awareness of the program. . Through the navigation component of the program we will continue to connect families to the wide network of resources available in our state and throughout the nation. We have added additional fundraising activities to our yearly operations and are considering adding a retreat and an educational talk component to the program. As we grow our priorities are stress reduction and quality of life enhancement for patients, survivors, and families, along with enhanced access to quality resources and treatment.