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Tammy Walker Cancer Center at Salina Regional Health Center Recognized for Contributions to The University of Kansas Cancer Center's Comprehensive Designation from the National Cancer Institute

SALINA, Kan. (February 23, 2023) — Staff members from Tammy Walker Cancer Center (TWCC), Salina Regional Health Center (SRHC), and the Masonic Cancer Alliance (MCA) gathered at TWCC earlier this month with community leaders, elected officials, and others to celebrate the role TWCC and SRHC played in The University of Kansas Cancer Center earning comprehensive designation from the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

In 2012, KU Cancer Center became the 67th cancer center to be designated by the NCI; today there are 71 NCI-designated cancer centers. Last summer, KU Cancer Center earned comprehensive cancer center designation, the highest level of recognition awarded by the NCI. Only 52 other cancer centers have earned comprehensive status. Comprehensive cancer centers are leaders in cancer research, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

Comprehensive designation is a crucial milestone in the journey to conquer all cancers. This designation brings increased access to more federal funding and research dollars. For the four-and-a-half million people living in KU Cancer Center's catchment area – all of Kansas and 18 counties in western Missouri – comprehensive status provides access to more tools and more funding to help minority and at-risk populations. This includes finding better ways to prevent cancer, diagnose it earlier, accelerate treatment and clinical trial access, increase survival rates, and improve overall quality of life.

Without the collective strength of KU Cancer Center and MCA partners like TWCC, comprehensive designation would not have been possible. As a clinical research partner of the Masonic Cancer Alliance, TWCC played a

critical role in earning comprehensive designation. Tammy Walker Cancer Center has consistently been one of the highest enrolling sites for clinical trials in the MCA.

“We are blessed to have a wonderful team of physicians and staff members at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center delivering state of the art care to patients from Salina and north central Kansas,” said Joel Phelps, President/CEO at Salina Regional Health Center. “Our partnership with the University of Kansas Cancer Center through the Masonic Cancer Alliance allows our patients access to many of the same clinical trials patients in Kansas City have access to – right here, close to home.”

“We are so pleased with and proud of the work being done across KU Cancer Center’s catchment area at our Masonic Cancer Alliance (MCA) member sites,” said Gary Doolittle, M.D., professor of clinical oncology and medical director of the MCA. “As the outreach network of KU Cancer Center, MCA sites like Tammy Walker Cancer Center have done a tremendous job for more than a decade now bringing outreach activities to their communities, offering access to clinical trials to their patients close to home, participating in professional development and much more. We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with Tammy Walker Cancer Center and look forward to continuing to work toward conquering cancer together.”

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About Tammy Walker Cancer Center:

The Tammy Walker Cancer Center at Salina Regional Health Center offers comprehensive adult medical oncology, hematology and radiation oncology services using some of the latest technologies coupled with diagnostic, educational and support services under one roof. The program is certified through the ASCO Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI®), which is designed for outpatient oncology practices to foster a culture of continuous improvement. The TWCC also is affiliated with the Masonic Cancer Alliance, which is the outreach network of the University of Kansas Cancer Center.

About The University of Kansas Cancer Center:

The University of Kansas Cancer Center is transforming cancer research and clinical care by linking an innovative approach to drug discovery, delivery, and development to a nationally accredited patient care program. Their consortium center includes cancer research and health care professionals associated with the University of Kansas Medical Center and The University of Kansas Health System; the University of Kansas, Lawrence; The Stowers Institute for Medical Research; Children’s Mercy; and in partnership with members of the Masonic Cancer Alliance.

About the Masonic Cancer Alliance:

The Masonic Cancer Alliance, the outreach network of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, is a membership-based organization developed to improve cancer care across the Heartland by providing access to the latest advancements close to home. The Masonic Cancer Alliance links hospitals and healthcare partners across Kansas and western Missouri to lab discoveries made at KU Cancer Center. It also provides its members with access to major clinical trials, professional education, patient navigation services, networking, and outreach opportunities.