

Piper Cancer Center at 10 years old still innovating

Scottsdale Healthcare embarked on an exciting new chapter in its history when the Virginia G. Piper Cancer Center was dedicated on Dec. 6, 2001. Made possible through the generous philanthropy of many community donors and the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, the center heralded a new era in the approach to treating cancer.



My Turn
TOM SADVARY

Planning for the center involved casting a broad net. We listened, we learned, especially from those touched by cancer. The feedback inspired everyone involved to take personalized care to a higher level.

The result was the Valley's first comprehensive cancer-treatment and research center, designed by cancer survivors for cancer survivors, with virtually all needed services in a single location on the campus of Scottsdale Healthcare Shea Medical Center.



Scottsdale Healthcare's Virginia G. Piper Cancer Center is celebrating a decade of providing personalized care. DEIRDRE HAMILL/THE REPUBLIC

Services and programs were created that give back to those with cancer a sense of control and an outlet for their energy and emotion, in an environment that brings nature's healing touch indoors.

Our expert physicians, staff members and volunteers truly know what it takes to "care" for people. Through collaborations with our community's leading physicians and many of the

OPEN HOUSE

The Virginia G. Piper Cancer Center at Scottsdale Healthcare is celebrating its 10th anniversary with an open house from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday. The center is at 10460 N. 92nd Street, on the east side of the hospital's Shea campus. The public is invited.

world's top scientists, patients no longer need to travel outside the Valley for specialized cancer treatment. Patients from across the U.S. and abroad are now referred to the Piper Center.

We know there is much work yet to be done in the battle with cancer. Our job is to give each person who walks through our doors the tools to help them through their battle, to help keep life in the moments.

We also are proud of the many firsts and innovations achieved by the center. Some of the significant milestones include:

» First in the Phoenix area to offer

Phase I clinical trials of new cancer treatments, often for the first time in the world.

» First in Arizona with Novalis shaped-beam radiation therapy for tumors untreatable by surgery.

» First in Arizona to perform da Vinci robot-assisted surgery for treating prostate cancer.

» First in metro Phoenix with a cancer genetic risk program, a cancer exercise program, a music and art therapy program, a cancer information resource center open to the public, and a retail boutique dedicated to meeting the needs of those affected by cancer.

» Cancer Care Coordinators, a free "nurse navigator" service now duplicated in hospitals across the country.

The passion and enthusiasm that helped create our center continues. New discoveries allow treatments to target specific genes, giving hope that soon we will indeed bridge the gap between care and cure.

Tom Sadvary is president and CEO of Scottsdale Healthcare.