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LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center and Cancer Crusaders commit \$500,000 to advance cancer research, education and outreach efforts in Louisiana

October 14, 2024 – New Orleans, La. - LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center and Cancer Crusaders have committed \$500,000 for state-wide outreach, education and clinical cancer research. This marks one of the largest donor agreements between the volunteer-run Cancer Crusaders and the LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center specific to research, community outreach and engagement.

The LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center will utilize the funding to support its mission by:

1. Developing a 3-year fellowship program called *The Cancer Crusaders Cancer Research Fellowship Program* to help develop a pipeline of the next generation of cancer researchers. This program will host three fellows in LSU Health New Orleans' graduate programs.
2. In conjunction with the LSU Health New Orleans School of Public Health, developing and implementing the multi-generational *ForeSee Community Study (Comprehensive Cancer Community Cohort)*. This study and associated programs will help the LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center better identify the causes of cancer among Louisianians and why they differ by parish. While each patient's journey is unique, the ability to reach specific geographic areas across Louisiana allows the LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center to better understand each community's needs, culture, and access to cancer care.
3. Opening the *Cancer Crusaders Cancer Risk Clinic* at University Medical Center in New Orleans. This specialized medical clinic will transform the way we work with patients by focusing on education and screenings specific to viral, genetic and environmental impacts of cancer. There also will be a virtual outreach component within the clinic.

"The generous ongoing support of Cancer Crusaders and this new commitment underscore the vital role of community collaborations in enhancing access to cutting edge medical care for everyone throughout Louisiana," said Joe W. Ramos, Director of the LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center. "Together with our dedicated partners, we are committed to driving innovative research and impactful education initiatives that will save countless lives."

“The Cancer Crusaders organization is honored to be recognized by the LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center with the distinction afforded us by naming of the Research Fellowship Program and Cancer Risk Clinic as well as the ongoing participation in the multi-generational *ForeSee Community Study*. We are grateful to be a pivotal component of this forward thinking, progressive approach to cancer research and care. We are both honored and excited to partner with LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center to bring additional research opportunities that directly benefit the community. This is an amazing opportunity and provides great visibility for the Cancer Crusaders organization as well as recognition of our continued commitment to fund research to find a cure for cancer.” The Board of Directors of Cancer Crusaders voted unanimously to approve this transformative partnership.

This group effort illustrates a dedication to advancing cancer care and improving patient outcomes in Louisiana and the Gulf South. By investing in cancer care, research, education, and community outreach, the LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center and Cancer Crusaders will make a difference to better prevent, detect, and treat cancer, as well as educating the next generation of researchers in Louisiana.

About the LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center

LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center has reimagined, reinvented, strengthened, and modernized how Louisianians tackle a cancer diagnosis and more importantly, how they can prevent it. Home to more than 100 cancer researchers, the LSU LCMC Health Cancer Center’s research programs through the Stanley S. Scott Cancer Research Center of Excellence directly benefit the Louisiana community by conducting focused research necessary to better prevent cancer, detect it earlier when it can be more effectively treated, and to develop the new cancer therapies of tomorrow. Through funding and critical partnerships such as those with LSU, LCMC Health, Tulane University, and Louisiana Cancer Research Center, LSU LCMC Health Center brings together cancer care and research in Louisiana to focus on the specific challenges the state faces to reduce the inordinate cancer burden.

To learn more, visit www.lsulcmchealthcancercenter.org.

About the Cancer Crusaders

Cancer Crusaders is a non-profit, all volunteer organization. There are no paid employees. The monies raised are designated for cancer research. The volunteers have worked tirelessly for 50 plus years giving their time, talent and resources. We enjoy, and greatly appreciate, the loyalty and generosity of our community as well. Over \$5 million has been raised and donated to find cures that will treat those with this dreaded disease. Cancer Crusaders has five fundraisers throughout the year. These are the Mardi Gras Bingo Bash, the Annual Golf Tournament, the Seersucker and Sass Summer Gala, the Celebration of Life Luncheon and the Evelyn Hof Fielding Tennis and Pickleball Tournament. To learn more about our organization or to join our crusade, please visit <https://www.cancercrusadersla.org>.