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Tri-Cities Cancer Center

Celebrating a New Medical Oncology Wing in Kennewick

Continuing the 15-year legacy of providing cancer care close to home to residents of the Tri-City area, Taylor Gregory Broadway Architects (TGBA) and the Tri-Cities Cancer Center celebrated the opening of a 25,000 square foot medical oncology wing in March, 2009. This \$7 million expansion provides not only much needed space for current treatment services, but also allows for additional services and programs in the future.

The third expansion to the Cancer Center, located at 7350 West Deschutes Avenue, Kennewick,

Washington, was built from the beginning with the patient in mind.

As Kent Gregory, AIA and founding Principal of TGBA explains, this project was designed to provide patients who endure sometimes lengthy and painful medical procedures a place of contemplative beauty. “From the first view of the building, patients and staff are welcomed to a facility that encourages compassionate and comfortable care,” Gregory says. “An incredible steel sculpture greets patients in an uplifting gesture and artwork has been incorporated throughout the facility to enhance

each clients time in treatment.”

Artist Bernie Hosey created the largest steel-art installation on the West Coast; the 126 foot long structure of rusted steel beams soars across the vestibule of the building in a sweeping arch – giving all who enter a sense of optimism and hope. “We designed this facility as a serene setting,” Gregory explains, “and Bernie has captured the hope we aimed to instill as each client enters the lobby to begin treatment.”

Incorporating a modern exterior design with warm interior materials and colors was also central to



Tri-Cities Cancer Center, Kennewick, Washington

the design concept, reinforcing the environmental aspects of the Tri-Cities area to create a peaceful, restful care center. Oncology (or infusion) treatments can last anywhere from twenty minutes to over six hours says Gregory and TGBA designed the new facility to maximize the patients ability to relax and remain calm during the treatment session.

Tom Cothran, Executive Director of the Cancer Center, says that this new expansion increases the ability to treat cancer patients close to home – and in a facility that enhances their experience. “As our community grows, as the need for cancer care grows, so must we. We owe it to our community to be here for anyone who needs the best cancer care close to home.”

Leasing space to Columbia Basin Hematology and Oncology

(CBHO), the Tri-Cities Cancer Center provides comprehensive care at one location. Patients no longer have to travel long distances for care, Cothran explains, while communication between doctors and medical professionals is increased – all factors that improve the patient experience.

“This expansion was designed to provide the efficient movement of patients from exams to infusion,” Gregory explains. “We developed an efficient medical diagram that includes an open layout, houses exam rooms on one end, administrative offices in the center and infusion suites at the opposite end. Patients are treated in private cubicles, each with a window view.”

Doubling the available space for medical oncology services, the new expansion features floor to

ceiling windows on three sides, bathing the interior areas with natural light. The infusion cubicles are outward facing and patients can gaze into a garden-like setting that is enclosed in a privacy wall. Cement sculptures created by Nicolas Gadbois are incorporated into the wall, giving patients another contemplative setting.

“We understood that the need for this expansion to blend with the existing facilities would require an ‘understated building’,” Gregory says. “Working with Bouten General Contracting of Spokane, we were able to accomplish that while creating a working partnership with local artists to design and deliver a space that is functional, convenient, and hopefully comforting for patients.”

Cothran agrees, adding that the Tri-Cities Cancer Center began

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as a community effort to provide comprehensive, state-of-the-art cancer care close to home. “This expansion continues that dream – from the very beginning, our communities have felt a strong sense of ownership in the center. Even our serenity garden, located adjacent to the entrance of the building, is

a gift from Leadership Tri-Cities, Class XIV.”

“It really is all about the quality of patient care,” concludes Gregory. “We designed a facility that supports patients as they face difficult treatment options; our intent was to create an infusion center that was functional, unique, patient-

centric and offered each client a private oasis of healing.”

To learn more about TGB Architects, visit their web site at www.tgbarchitects.com, send an email to Info@TGBArchitects.com or call (425) 778-1530.

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