



Ann & Hunt Look

When Julie Ann Look was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, Ann and Hunt Look faced the battle with courage. Their daughter died when she was only three, but her spirit lives on in the Julie Ann Look Fund, established in 2002 by Ann and Hunt to help pediatric oncology patients.

Though Julie Ann was never treated here, the Looks chose to support UNM as a way of reaching out to New Mexican children with cancer. Working with Richard Heideman, MD, Chair of the UNM Pediatric Oncology Division, Ann and Hunt decided to set up an endowment to help UNM attract and retain the most talented pediatric oncologists. As the fund grows, investment income will support research into new treatment options.

Dr. Heidemann and his wife Nancy, along with more than 20 others, have also contributed to the Look Fund, which has grown to provide an endowment of almost \$80,000. Even so, Ann Look wants to see it continue growing, saying simply: "Help us help the kids. We want to give them all a fighting chance."



Jan & Steve Matthews

"Every New Mexican deserves the best cancer care," says Jan Matthews, a breast cancer survivor who decided to stay in New Mexico for her care. "My family and friends said, 'go to M.D. Anderson,' but I wanted to stay here, surrounded by the people I love." Jan and Steve were so overwhelmed by the support of friends and family during her treatment that they felt they had to give something back. She recalls one friend who made a beautiful elk stroganoff for Steve when she was undergoing chemo. The friend had shot the elk herself. "I still can't get over how wonderful people were and I want all New Mexicans who are facing cancer to have the same great care and loving support that I had."

She and Steve decided that the best way to show their gratitude was to support the UNM Cancer Center. They started by making small donations in other people's names and now they've established the Janice S. Matthews Venture Research Endowment to encourage the use of innovative technologies and advanced engineering to accelerate progress in cancer research. "Every time I write a check to them," Jan says, "I think, there's no easier way to hit a home run for our Lord." Last summer she and Steve sent Dr. Cheryl Willman the heartwarming letter to the right.

Excited about the growing opportunities for excellent treatment here in the Duke City, Jan and Steve are looking forward to working with the UNM Cancer Center on future projects. "We truly believe in Dr. Willman's vision," Jan says, "and we want to help her achieve it."



Wade Nelson

Wade Nelson always had a smile on his face. He loved life and was looking forward to going to Mexico with his buddies to relax in his new home on the beach. In 2003, Wade was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. That very day, his closest friend Bruce Pollock was standing in line waiting for dinner at The Flying Star Café on Rio Grande. Little did he know that his place in line would impact Wade's life.

Next to Bruce was Dr. Cheryl Willman. They began to talk about Wade and she suggested Wade see Claire Verschraegen, MD (pictured above with Wade). She set up the appointment and Wade began his journey. Within a year, Wade was in remission and back to his life as the General Manager of Karl Malone Toyota. He planned fundraisers for the UNM Cancer Center and gave very generously to support pediatric oncology research.

Unfortunately, Wade's cancer returned and took his life within a few months. When he passed away, there were hundreds at his memorial service. We will miss his smiling face, his optimistic attitude and his kind words about how well he was treated at the UNM Cancer Center. He was not only our patient, but a great advocate, a generous donor, and a dear friend. 🙏