

NEWS RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Lisa Church
lgchurch@brhc.org
660-829-7788

Sept. 18, 2011

BOTHWELL DEDICATES CANON CENTER, HONORS SEDALIA FAMILY WITH CANCER CENTER NAMING

SEDALIA - More than 400 people turned out Sunday afternoon when Bothwell Regional Health Center dedicated the Canon Center for Cancer & Cardiovascular Care at an open house. During the ceremony, Bothwell also announced the formal naming of the Susan O'Brien Fischer Cancer Center.

Bothwell's Board of Trustees voted to name the new cancer center after Susan O'Brien Fischer, a Sedalia mother and newspaper columnist. Fischer, who lost her battle with cancer in 2008, was known as a fierce advocate for appropriate cancer care. The board recognized her distinguished service and the inspiration she became for many in the community who were also fighting cancer..

"The care we received at Bothwell during Susan's illness was extraordinary," said Fischer. "Dr. William Decker and Dr. (Bassem) Chaar and all the staff here took such great care of my lovely Susan. My family and I are very touched by this honor, and we thank Bothwell for commemorating her in such a special way."

Fischer also was praised for having co-chaired the Bothwell Regional Health Center Foundation's capital campaign, which raised \$3.4 million for the new addition.

"The Foundation's efforts to raise the \$3.4 million for the expansion of Bothwell's cancer and cardiovascular services would not have been as successful without Joe's involvement," said Dave Floyd, president of the Foundation's Board of Directors. "We owe a great deal of thanks to the Fischer family for the legacy they are leaving for the people in our community."



Joe Fischer with his daughters Rachel, second from left, Claire and Mary stand in front of the entrance to Bothwell's new cancer center after unveiling the sign naming it the Susan O'Brien Fischer Cancer Center in memory of their wife and mother.

Bothwell President and CEO John Dawes also praised Jeff and Cara Canon for their generosity to many philanthropic causes in the community, including the hospital expansion, to which the Canons pledged \$1 million.

“They have become like the modern-day John Homer Bothwell for all the good they have done in this community, and they have done it with such humbleness, sincerity and grace,” Dawes said.

The 15,000-square-foot Canon Center addition is a two-story brick structure attached to the east side of the hospital. It was designed to match the exterior of the current building with a weather-protected canopied entrance, similar to the hospital’s main entrance, for patient comfort and convenience. Cancer services are located on the ground floor, while cardiovascular services are on the upper floor.

The cancer addition includes a larger chemotherapy treatment area with 14 infusion bays and two private rooms. Other features include five exam rooms, a dedicated laboratory station, larger cancer pharmacy and an outside meditation garden. It also includes a Patient Education Resource Center in partnership with the American Cancer Society.

New equipment for cancer services include a new linear accelerator, which will provide faster, more accurate and multi-dimensional capabilities for radiation treatment, and a computed tomography simulator for treatment planning.

Bothwell Regional Health Center’s catheterization lab and other cardiology services are now in a new centralized location better suited for patient and family comfort. The cardiovascular addition also includes four preparation and recovery rooms for people undergoing cardiac catheterization procedures.

The incidence of heart disease and cancer in Pettis and Benton Counties is greater than in most other counties in Missouri. Bothwell has seen a 23 percent increase in demand for cancer treatment in the past three years, and treatment levels for chemotherapy have more than doubled since 2005. Bothwell is doing three times as many cardiac cath procedures as it was five years and has seen significant growth in the past two years.

The project also includes a free-standing chiller plant built to the south of the new addition. The chiller plant, which provides additional cooled air and water, was designed and constructed to take advantage of newer, more energy-efficient technologies.

Bothwell began performing cardiac cath procedures in the new addition on Aug. 15. Cardiovascular patients were seen in the new area on Aug. 29, and cancer treatment began there on Sept. 7. The roughly 9,000 square feet of existing

space formerly dedicated to chemotherapy and cardiology are being remodeled; this work is expected to be complete in January.

Cost of the project is estimated at \$15.56 million. The name for the Canon Center was chosen following a generous donation by Jeff and Cara Canon to the Bothwell Foundation.

Bothwell Regional Health Center broke ground on the new addition in April 2010. Excel Constructors, Overland Park, KS, was the general contractor, and ACI Boland of Kansas City was the architect.

###