

\$15 Million Pledge Reached for KU Cancer Center

Kansas Masons are understandably proud as they celebrate their accomplishment of having reached and exceeded their pledge of \$15 million to the University of Kansas Cancer Center for cancer research. Not only did they reach their goal but they did it nearly one year early.

Jeff Sowder, president of the Kansas Masonic Foundation and chair of the campaign, announced to Kansas Masons through their annual mailing sent in April 2008 that, with a \$2 million gift from the Mark and Bette Morris Family Foundation, their total gifts to the KU Cancer Center reached to more than \$15.3 million.

It was in November 2003 that the Kansas Masonic Foundation made a five-year pledge of \$15 million via the Partnership for Life Campaign to help KU in the fight against cancer. The University of Kansas Medical Center recognized the Mason's generosity by naming the research wing of their cancer center the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute. That pledge brought the Foundation's total support for cancer research at KU, which started in 1975, to more than \$20 million.

"The Masons of Kansas have made a great impact on the KU Cancer Center", said KMF President Jeff Sowder. "We are extremely proud of the success of our Partnership for Life Campaign. Kansas Masons and friends have been generous in their giving. I told the Masons in my letter that our campaign has concluded, but our partnership with the KU Cancer Center is lifelong, and we will continue our efforts until there is a cure for this dreaded disease. We must keep the gifts coming!"

The ultimate goal is to assist the KU Cancer Center in achieving National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation — a designation that will not only benefit Kansas residents but patients across the central Midwest region.

The Partnership for Life Campaign had a who's-who list of Kansas notables serving as honorary chairs including Governor Kathleen Sebelius, former U.S. Senator Bob Dole; U.S. Senator Pat Roberts; and Kansas notables Mike Michaelis, Wichita; Joe Self, Wichita; Ross Beach, Lawrence/Hays; Harry Craig, Topeka; Jack Dicus, Topeka; Dave Lindstrom, Overland Park; and Bill Snyder, Manhattan.

"The funds raised by Kansas Masons will help advance cancer awareness and research throughout the region", said Roy Jensen, M.D., Director of Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute and of the KU Cancer Center. "The Institute seeks to bring to KU Cancer Center new cancer research programs, new resources for determining and providing more effective treatments, and greater opportunities to collaborate with the finest researchers

around the world to conquer all forms of cancer,” said Dr. Jensen, who is a Kansas Mason.