Service Projects

We feel very fortunate to be part of a community in which individuals and groups are so willing to donate their time and talents in order to accommodate the patients here at the facility. It is because of the generous donations of others that many patients have had a positive experience at the Huntsman Cancer Hospital.

Huntsman Cancer Institute welcomes groups and individuals interested in helping cancer patients through the programs listed below.

- **Graduation Blanket Project**: Patients are given blankets as ‘graduation’ presents on the last day of their chemotherapy, radiation treatments, and bone marrow transplants. Two yards of fleece material will provide the right size for our patients; or you can use a 5’x5’ (roughly) piece of fleece material. Material must be new, not used or recycled and made in a smoke free and pet free environment. A variety of styles and colors for both male and female adult patients are greatly appreciated. If time and resources allow, a nice ribbon and tag tied to the final rolled blankets makes for a nice present. The tag can contain a word of inspiration (Hope, Love, Hugs, etc.) and/or name of group or individual (example: made with love from, Jane; thinking of you, Troop 104; especially for you from Bountiful Ward; etc.). This adds a personal touch when the patient receives the blanket. Please exclude comments such as ‘in memory of’ as we would like to keep the tags uplifting.

- **Essential Bag Project**: Bags contain items of comfort and are helpful for patients when they stay in the hospital for an extended period of time. Bags can be medium to large sized gift bags or medium to large sized canvas/reusable bags. Bags can be plain, colorful, or decorated with a holiday theme. Patients benefit from travel size items like tissue packets, hand sanitizers, hand lotions, and lip balms all free of perfumes. Activity books like Sudoku and Crossword puzzles are a great way to pass the time. A portable reading light for night reading. A DVD with moving art or nature images and sounds to sooth the soul. Other items can include mints or hard candy which help with dry mouth symptoms; used books and/or a magazines for those that like to read; warm fuzzy socks for cold feet; small note pad and pen/pencil to make notes; blank greeting cards to send a thank you or birthday wish to family and friends; boxer shorts to wear under the hospital gown; and/or a deck of playing cards. Essential bags for holidays can be fun for patients to enjoy.

- **Decoupage Composition Journals**: Decorate and embellish composition books using scrapbook paper. Add inspirational quotes, words, or saying to the covers of the journal. Patients are able to use these for writing down notes or thoughts; they are a great creative writing tool. You can add a fun pencil or funky pen to go with the journal.

- **Media Drive Project**: New or used books and magazines are other types of activities enjoyed by patients either in our outpatient clinics or inpatient areas. Reading books can include all genres, preferably quick reads, current novels, or young adult books. Magazines collected should be the three most current months. We are experiencing an increase in International and Spanish movies requests; any would be appreciated. We also accept books on CD.

- **The Headwear Project**: Cancer patients benefit from knit hats during colder months to brimmed hats and caps during the warmer months. Soft fabric scarves and bandanas are also a favorite headwear for patients during the hot summer months. Knit or crocheted hats should be made from soft yarn, chemo caps or turbans should be made of soft cotton materials, and brimmed hats and scarves should be new, not used. We provide these hats to our patients year round for protection from all types of weather. All shapes and styles are welcome; neutral colors are more popular with our male patients while fun and embellished hats are popular among our female patients. We also accept new and used wigs, all styles and colors. These wigs are cleaned and used by cancer patients who may not otherwise have access to a wig.

[Click here for pattern](#)
Service Projects - continued

• **Neck Pillows:** Often time patients are receiving care or treatment for several hours, during this time they are constrained to a chair or bed and can be uncomfortable. A neck pillow is always a nice treat to provide some neck relief. Neck pillows can be store bought or handmade. If you are interested in making a neck pillow and need a pattern, email blanca.raphael@hci.utah.edu or call 801-581-7169. Any material used to make the pillow must be new, soft and neutral or adult prints for both male of female patients. Click here for pattern

• **Activity Books:** For our patients that have to stay a few extra days, weeks or even months, it is nice to be able to offer them activity books that can help keep their minds sharp. Activity books like the Crossword Puzzles, Sudoku, and Word Searches are the most popular; any with big words and number plus beginner levels are the best. These can be dressed up in a clear cellophane bag with a mechanical pencil; tie a ribbon and add a tag with your name, your group’s name, or an inspirational word (or quote) and you have an instant patient gift.

• **Sewing for Hope Project:** If you like to sew, here are a few simple sewing projects that help our cancer patients. **Sleep masks** help patients rest and block out light when they are receiving chemotherapy or other types of infusion as these treatments can last for several hours. Eye masks should be lined with a satin or soft material for the eye side and sturdy cotton for the outer side. Eye masks in both masculine and feminine colors and patterns are accepted. Material must be new, not used. **Medical pouches** help patients keep their ‘JP’ drain and tubes in one neat place next to their sides and help avoid the drain and tubes from rubbing and irritating the skin. For pictures, measurements, and pattern please email your request to volunteer.services@hci.utah.edu. Click here for pattern

• **INDIVIDUAL ITEMS OF NEED:** Often times we need to put together comfort packets for our patients and small individual items are always helpful. Here is a list of individual items that are in need, all items must be new, unused:
  a. Mylar balloons, deflated, new, unused, non-latex
  b. Playing cards
  c. Travel size tissue packets
  d. Travel size hand-sanitizer bottles
  e. Travel size hand lotion
  f. Lip balm
  g. 3x5 pocket memo pads or notebooks
  h. Pens or pencils and sharpeners
  i. Crossword, Sudoku, and Word Find activity books
  j. Adult size socks for men and women, must be new
  k. Hard candy or gum packets
  l. Prepaid calling cards

Please attach information about the organization or individual that is making the donation, along with an address so donation receipts can be mailed. If you have any questions about service projects or donations please contact Volunteer Services at 801-581-7169.

**Drop off location:**
Information Desk, first floor  
Huntsman Cancer Hospital  
1950 Circle of Hope  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112  
Seven days a week  
7am to 7pm

**Volunteer Services Contact:**
Blanca Raphael  
blanca.raphael@hci.utah.edu  
801-581-7169 Office  
801-581-2603 Fax  
Monday through Friday  
8:30am to 4:30pm

Groups that are interested in volunteering for special events can contact the Huntsman Cancer Foundation at [www.huntsmancancer.org/foundation](http://www.huntsmancancer.org/foundation).