

# impact

advancing health care through philanthropy



SWEDISH

Spring 2015

How Swedish  
is reducing  
the barriers to  
mental health  
treatment

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A SECOND  
CHANCE  
AT LIFE

thanks to  
the Swedish  
heart team





# Treating the whole patient through The Ivy Center's Integrative Patient Support Program

Generous gift provides patients with brain tumors access to financial guidance, at-home care, and social work

An estimated 688,000 people in the United States are living with a brain tumor. The Ben & Catherine Ivy Center for Advanced Brain Tumor Treatment at the Swedish Neuroscience Institute treats thousands of patients with complex, difficult-to-treat brain tumors.

With a patient-focused approach, the team at The Ivy Center, headed by Charles Cobbs, M.D., balances research with patient care, bringing new hope and understanding to patients receiving a life-changing diagnosis.

During what can be a frightening, overwhelming, and often lonely experience, The Ivy Center provides compassionate care and support while our medical team focuses on the challenges unique to people living with brain tumors. Dr. Cobbs and his team provide a personalized, comprehensive treatment plan and access to services that fall outside standard medical care to ensure each and every patient's experience is as stress-free as possible.

"When patients are diagnosed with a brain tumor, a curtain drops on them and can interfere with their ability to sort out complex medical decisions and to coordinate multiple specialties that are coming at them. We are one of only a few comprehensive brain tumor treatment centers in the country specializing in helping patients



Donors Dick and Deb Ferse (bottom row, far right), with Team Deb at last year's Seattle Brain Cancer Walk. Join the Ferse's in supporting programs at The Ivy Center by participating in this year's walk on Sunday, May 3, 2015.

navigate this difficult period, making it less frightening for them and their families. This kind of comprehensive care is only available to our patients because of support from the community," said Dr. Cobbs.

Dick and Deb Ferse understand firsthand the importance of The Ivy Center's Integrative Patient Support Program and its role in patient care. "Having a brain cancer diagnosis is very personal and the goal is to have everyone treated as an individual and all our needs are different," Deb said.

With their \$100,000 gift, the Ferse's are helping to provide each patient with access to financial guidance, at-home care, and social work.

"This amazing gift allows us to provide patients with care and support that goes beyond treating the brain tumor," said Robyn Callahan, MSW, LICSW, an integrative clinical social worker at The Ivy Center. "We are able to address each patient's unique needs while integrating conventional medicine with emotional support. It also allows us to facilitate group support and events which help build communities focused on patients, caregivers, and those who have lost a loved one to a brain tumor." **I**

## Walk for the brain cancer community on Sunday, May 3

Over the past eight years, participants in the annual *Seattle Brain Cancer Walk* have raised more than \$3.5 million for research, clinical trials, and comprehensive care at The Ben & Catherine Ivy Center for Advanced Brain Tumor Treatment at the Swedish Neuroscience Institute.

This year, the Walk coincides with Brain Tumor Awareness Month in May and is a chance for people affected by brain cancer to come together and support each other while raising funds, with a 100 percent of proceeds directly benefiting our patient care and research.

Want to support the Walk? Be a team captain, virtual walker, or volunteer. Register and get details at [www.braincancerwalk.org](http://www.braincancerwalk.org) or email [seattle.braincancerwalk@swedish.org](mailto:seattle.braincancerwalk@swedish.org) to volunteer or with questions.