



## **Kara's Place**

### **The Kara M. Lalumiere Residential Living Endowment for Young Adult Patients and their Families at the The Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center**

Recognizing the uncertain nature of a cancer diagnosis is more profound when you learn that you will need to relocate far away from home to receive cancer treatment. Leaving your community and your support network as a young adult can be especially difficult. The need for supportive residential living resources for young adult cancer patients and their families is real. The Kara M. Lalumiere Residential Living Endowment was established in loving memory of Kara, as a novel resource to support the unmet residential living needs of young patients and their families relocating to the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center for treatment.

A group of suites at the Hackerman-Patz Patient and Family Pavilion has been named in honor of Kara as a unique resource to assist young adult patients and their families during a most uncertain time in their lives. The Hackerman-Patz Patient and Family Pavilion is a state of the art residential living program on the campus of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, which focuses on the care of the whole patient and their family. While carefully integrated with the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, the Hackerman-Patz Patient and Family Pavilion offers uniquely tailored psychosocial programs, complementary and integrative medicine and supportive care education.

Why is such a resource needed for young adults and their families at Johns Hopkins? The incidence of cancer in young adults continues to increase. In many cases, access to complex procedures and clinical trials does not exist in community based medical facilities. The Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center is uniquely designed to support young patients and their families. The Kimmel Cancer Center is a Comprehensive Cancer Center as designated by the National Cancer Institute. As a resource to the world, and also the regional community, the physician investigators at Hopkins' are leading the way in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. A recent article from Science Watch recognized Johns Hopkins as being at the leading edge of cancer research. The top 5 cited cancer researchers in the world are on the Hopkins' faculty.

Supporting the Kara M. Lalumiere Residential Living Endowment provides young adult cancer patients and their families with additional resources to ease the financial burden of relocating to Baltimore for cancer treatment while providing a supportive atmosphere to build bridges back to wellness. The Kara Lalumiere Residential Living Endowment is the only such Hopkins' based resource of its kind for the young adult patient population.

Thank you for your support.