



OHIO HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY SOCIETY

2025 PATIENT ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR TOP TEN

Winners were selected based on the highest number of votes, not the comments themselves.

Here are just a few of the many comments submitted in support of our nominees.

Emily Atkinson, Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital

Emily is known for her empathy, persistence, and patient-first approach. She works tirelessly to secure timely access to therapy while helping patients navigate complex insurance and financial concerns with clarity and compassion. Her grace, wit, and determination bring comfort and confidence to those she serves.

Kayleen Cunningham, Toledo Clinic Cancer Centers

Kayleen is a tireless patient advocate, going above and beyond to ensure patients receive the coverage and medications they need. She leads by example, supporting her staff to provide the same dedication and care. Her commitment makes her an exceptional leader and advocate.

Amy Drew, Dayton Physicians Network

Amy's dedication to her patients is evident in the care and attention she provides every day. She takes the time to truly understand each patient's needs and works tirelessly to help them navigate their challenges. Her compassion and devotion set her apart.

Mary Heinichen, TriHealth Cancer & Blood Institute

Mary goes above and beyond to ensure every patient receives the assistance they need. She takes personal accountability, often working extra hours to advocate for her patients and improve their experience. Through her patient support and collaboration, she has helped secure millions in financial support for those in her care.

Dr. Joseph Hofmeister, MD, Columbus Oncology & Hematology

Dr. Hofmeister is an outstanding advocate and leader dedicated to improving the lives of patients. With over twenty years in oncology, he advances patient care through his clinical work, educational outreach, community involvement and even written books to help individuals affected by cancer. As Chief Medical Officer and President, he continues to lead with compassion and purpose.

Alison Mulholland, Oncology Hematology Care (OHC)

Alison goes above and beyond every day to help patients find the financial support they need. She approaches each case with care and determination, fully understanding the impact her work has on patients' lives. Her dedication ensures that no patient faces their journey alone.

Tamura Okwu, ProMedica Cancer Institute

Tamura makes a difference every day through hands-on, compassionate support. She goes the extra mile to resolve insurance and access issues- often sitting beside patients or joining calls to ensure their needs are met. Her dedication earns constant praise from patients and colleagues alike.

Angela Ray, Columbus Oncology & Hematology

Angela goes above and beyond for our patients. She is gifted in a way to help calm them when they are stressed from a financial challenge, an insurance change or delay and takes the time to advocate and support them while empowering them with options to solve the situation.

Tina Shearer, TriCounty Hematology & Oncology Associates

Tina exemplifies patient advocacy through her compassion, knowledge, and hands-on patient support. She goes above and beyond to ensure every patient receives seamless, coordinated care- personally checking in, assisting with appointments, and guiding them through challenges. Her dedication and empathy make her an invaluable advocate and source of comfort for patients and staff alike.

Dana Zager, MA, ATR-BC, MSW, LISW-S, OSW-C, ACHP-SW, Zangmeister Cancer Center

Dana is a passionate and tireless advocate who goes above and beyond for her patients. From securing new resources to testifying on Capitol Hill, she champions the needs of cancer patients at every level. Her creativity, empathy, and unwavering commitment make her an inspiring force in oncology care.

