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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Cancer Support Community at Gilda's Club Opens Food Pantry *Addresses Food Insecurity Among Families Impacted by Cancer***

**ROCHESTER, N.Y., May 19, 2025** – Cancer Support Community at Gilda's Club Rochester announced today the opening of a food pantry for individuals and families impacted by cancer. The nonprofit celebrated the grand opening with a press conference and ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at their office located at 255 Alexander Street.

The agency's food and nutrition programs aim to address food insecurity and nutritional vulnerabilities that can put the well-being of individuals on a cancer journey at risk. Agency representatives stated the food pantry will provide their members with monthly access to nonperishable food items from basic food groups including grains, vegetables, fruits, protein, etc. The shelves will be stocked with items specific to healthier options including low sodium, low sugar, natural juices, and whole grain products to support the good nutrition and dietary needs of individuals living with cancer. The food pantry will operate on an abbreviated monthly schedule: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday from 12-2pm and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays from 5-7pm. It is open by appointment only to members through registration on the agency's website event calendar. The nonprofit anticipates about 50 members initially will turn to the food pantry monthly to supplement their food budgets.

"We're seeing about 57% of our members struggle with food insecurity and putting food on the table," stated **James Love, Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Support Community at Gilda's Club Rochester**. Love added "The food pantry, stocked with nonperishable food products, is an additional resource we are excited to provide along with our existing monthly food and nutrition programs designed for the health and well-being of cancer patients. We are so appreciative to Wegmans, M&T Charitable Foundation, and MVP Health Care for their generous funding support of this vital resource that will benefit our members and their families."

"As a food company, one of our main giving priorities is providing food for people at risk of hunger," said **Wegmans Community Relations Manager Linda Lovejoy**. "Proper nutrition is crucial for individuals battling cancer, which is why we are honored to support the food pantry at Cancer Support Community at Gilda's Club Rochester. By ensuring access to nutritious meals, we help their clients focus on treatment without the added worry of where their next meal will come from."

"The emergency food pantry of the Cancer Support Community at Gilda's Club, and the partnerships that power it, are a strong message," said **Mayor Malik D. Evans**. "A message to every person facing and family cancer that they are not alone. That in this community, we do not look away from our struggles, we walk toward them. It is when compassion turns into action that hope truly begins to grow, and our community is stronger for it."

Cancer Support Community at Gilda's Club currently offers, on average, seven (7) meal and nutrition programs monthly in addition to the newly opened food pantry including Meals of Support (twice monthly), Community Chefs Dinner, Cooking Classes for all ages, Men's Diner, Women's Diner, Ask the Expert Webinar & Dinner, and more. These programs offer about 15 meal opportunities a month for 150 plus people and are designed to encourage healthy eating by providing healthy options to everyday recipes the whole family can enjoy.

Agency leadership added that membership is free and open to anyone – adults, families, children/teens, caregivers - impacted by any type of cancer. Members benefit from 1,000 various program offerings annually including educational, social, emotional and mental health support programs as well as food and nutrition programs. Anyone interested in learning more about their programs or who is seeking support and assistance may contact them at 585-423-9700 or visit their website at [www.cscrochester.org](http://www.cscrochester.org).

**Greater Rochester Chamber President & CEO Bob Duffy said,** "Congratulations to James Love and the Cancer Support Community team on the grand opening of this Emergency Food Pantry! This is an incredible resource for our community and will provide vulnerable individuals in Greater Rochester with support during difficult times. Programs like this make treatment more equitable and accessible by removing barriers to other needs. Thank you to Cancer Support Community for investing in this resource for our region, and to Wegmans, M&T Bank, and MVP Health Care for their support to make it possible. We are proud to support this collaboration and have Cancer Support Community as Greater Rochester Chamber members."

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**About Cancer Support Community at Gilda's Club Rochester**

*Cancer Support Community at Gilda's Club Rochester ([cscrochester.org](http://cscrochester.org)) provides free non-medical, social, emotional, and mental health support for people living with cancer, as well as their families and caregivers. The nonprofit has been serving the greater Rochester community since 1959, assisting over 4,000 people annually and providing more than 1,000 free programs annually for adults, teens, and children impacted by cancer. Cancer Support Community at Gilda's Club Rochester is an affiliate of a global nonprofit network of 175 Cancer Support Community and Gilda's Club locations.*