



Claire Bennett

CLAIRE, HER HUSBAND CRAIG, AND
TWO KIDS

HOMETOWN

Jackson County, Sandgap

TRAVEL TIMES IN GOOD WEATHER

15 minutes to McKee

40 minutes to Mt. Vernon

1 hour 15 minutes to Lexington

TRANSPORTATION SITUATION

Claire has her own, reliable vehicle. But she doesn't have a person who can regularly drive her to treatment.

PATIENT DETAILS

Age: 35

Occupation: Stay-home-mom

Cancer diagnosis: Stage IV metastatic choriocarcinoma of the uterus, with metastases in one breast.

Other health issues: Diabetes

Insurance: Employer-provided by spouse's employer

THE BENNETT'S STORY

Claire and Craig live in Sandgap, Kentucky, in a home they recently built themselves. Craig works for the local power company, and both kids are now in school. Claire was hoping to go to work part time, but then she learned she was sick.

The whole family relies on Craig's income and insurance, so he cannot jeopardize his job to care for Claire. He feels bad he can't be of more help. Craig's parents are nearby and can help with childcare sometimes, but they are elderly and it is hard for them to keep up. Claire's own family is in Tennessee.

Claire and Craig attend a church in town, and the church has helped arrange a rotating schedule of volunteers to drive Claire to and from her treatments in Mt. Vernon. Claire is very grateful for this offering, but sometimes she feels guilty that she has to rely on people outside her family for help.

CLAIRE'S CASE

- Claire went to her primary care provider in McKee after finding a lump in her breast herself.
- Claire's PCP sent her for a CT scan and biopsy at Rockcastle Regional Hospital in Mt. Vernon. She was diagnosed with stage IV metastatic choriocarcinoma of the uterus, with metastases in one breast.
- The doctors at Rockcastle RH recommended systemic chemotherapy. Claire decided to get her treatments at Rockcastle RH due to convenience.
- Claire has been doing chemotherapy for 3 months now, and her response to treatment has been excellent. However, she still has several cycles to complete.

IN CLAIRE'S WORDS

- "I don't feel like myself any more, and I feel like I can't be a good mom to my kids. I am so tired all the time. I want my family's life to be normal, but it is not normal right now. We were also hoping to have more children, and now I'm not sure that will be possible."
- "I spend a lot of time looking up information. I Google every word in the papers the doctors give me. It keeps me up at night not knowing what to expect or what things mean. But when I ask the doctors about the information I find online, sometimes they get annoyed, like I'm a kid asking too many questions."
- "I wish I had someone to talk to who had been through the same thing as me. But all the ladies I know from chemo are a lot older than me. I feel like I'm the only young person with cancer. And not having my hair or nails makes me feel lonely."



Janet Craft

WIDOW, ONLY SON LIVES IN CINCINNATI

HOMETOWN

Owsley County, Mistletoe

TRAVEL TIMES IN GOOD WEATHER

30 minutes to Booneville

1 hour 35 minutes to Hazard

2 hours 15 minutes to Lexington

TRANSPORTATION SITUATION

Janet has one older vehicle that is not very reliable, and she doesn't like to drive, especially in foul weather.

PATIENT DETAILS

Age: 54

Occupation: Used to cook at a restaurant, now on disability.

Cancer diagnosis: Locally advanced (stage II) colon cancer

Other health issues: Fell 2 years ago and broke multiple bones. Has been on morphine daily since the fall. Weight loss.

JANET'S STORY

Janet lives in a hollow in a rural part of Owsley County. Her husband passed away in 2012. She has one son who lives in Cincinnati and has a good job. He is sometimes able to send her money for gas and food, but he doesn't like to send too much because he worries she is spending it on medications she doesn't need.

Janet may not have family nearby, but she is very self-sufficient. She is used to living alone and taking care of herself. Since getting sick, she has been frustrated that she can't do all the chores she used to do. She hates to ask for help, but sometimes she is willing to make a trade—a neighbor will come mow the lawn and she'll give him some vegetables from her garden. Janet attends a small church near her home. Her church family looks out for her and prays for her, but there are few other resources to go around.

Two years ago, Janet fell off a ladder when she was cleaning out the rain gutters. She broke six vertebra, three ribs, and her arm. She still has a lot of pain from this accident, which seems worse than the cancer pain sometimes.

JANET'S CASE

- Janet called her Primary Care Provider in September 2018 because she was losing weight and had changes in her bowel habits. Janet's doctor urged her to have a colonoscopy, but Janet declined.
- Janet's symptoms got worse, and she finally went to her doctor for a colonoscopy in March 2019. She was diagnosed with locally advanced (stage II) colon cancer.
- Janet has been traveling to Hazard ARH Medical Center for additional testing. Her doctors there have recommended surgery, which can be performed in Hazard. Janet is still deciding whether to do the surgery.

IN JANET'S WORDS

- "I have a lot of pain from my fall, or maybe it's from the cancer, I'm not sure. My son doesn't like me being on morphine, but without it, I can't do anything. And if I can't do anything I get angry. I have my moments where I get angry."
- The doctors want to talk to you about everything, trying to talk about dying and all that. But I don't want to know what they think because I have my faith. If God wants to heal me, He will, and if not, there's nothing those doctors can do about it."
- "Driving all the way to Hazard just to get poked and prodded is probably the hardest part for me. I don't like driving, and I don't like leaving my home. I'm not sure I'll keep going there. I'm not sure what to do."



Tom Owens

TOM, HIS WIFE SUSAN, AND TWO
YOUNG GRANDCHILDREN

HOMETOWN

Jackson County, Anville

TRAVEL TIMES IN GOOD WEATHER

30 minutes to Manchester

90 minutes to Lexington

TRANSPORTATION SITUATION

Joe and Susan have two older vehicles. Their oldest son has one new, reliable vehicle they are sometimes able to use.

PATIENT DETAILS

Age: 61

Occupation: Federal census worker, 2 years until retirement

Cancer diagnosis: Squamous cell lung cancer

Other health issues: Hypertension, coronary artery disease, lumbar disk herniation

Insurance: Employer-provided insurance

THE OWENS' STORY

Tom and Susan live just outside Anville, Kentucky. They are raising their youngest son's two children because he and his wife suffer from addiction and chronic unemployment. Their older son and his family live just down the road. This son works construction and his wife is a healthcare administrator in London. They have 3 school-age children whom Susan helps care for on weekday afternoons. Tom and Susan also have a daughter who is a nurse in Knoxville.

Susan used to work part time at a nearby Family Dollar when not caring for the children. She and Tom both rely on his health insurance and income. They attend a Baptist church in town and have a supportive "church family." Since Tom's diagnosis, Susan has been his primary caregiver. He needed constant care during his treatment, and she stopped working to be with him. Susan received some help with food and housework from her church family, and phone calls with her daughter helped her understand the medical jargon the doctors use. Money has been tight. During Tom's treatments, they borrowed their son's car to drive to Lexington and stayed at Hope Lodge for several days at a time.

TOM'S CASE

- Tom went to his primary care provider in Anville in February 2019 because he had shoulder pain and had been coughing up blood for 3 months.
- Tom's PCP sent him for a CT scan and biopsy at Advent Health in Manchester. He was diagnosed with stage IIIA squamous cell lung cancer.
- On the advice of his daughter, who is a nurse, Tom decided to get treated at Markey Cancer Center in Lexington. He did 4 cycles of pre-operative chemo-radiotherapy, from March-May 2019.
- Following his initial treatment, Tom had a good response with reduction in the size of his tumor. Tom's team of UK doctors recommended surgery be done in 8 weeks.
- But this month, Tom was diagnosed with radiation pneumonitis and his surgery has been postponed. He is currently taking oral prednisolone.

IN TOM'S WORDS

- "They have me on these steroids, but my chest still hurts and I get tired just walking to the mailbox. I am worried because I don't know if I can go back to work like this. But I don't think there is anything else they can do for me."
- "I am blessed because I am allowed 12 weeks of unpaid medical leave from my job, but I have already used 6 weeks. I need to keep my job because without it, we won't have health insurance."
- "Sometimes I feel like I can't motivate to do anything. I just sit. But I don't even tell the doctors about that because I should be able to fix that, I mean, I shouldn't need medicine to make me happy for heaven's sakes, I shouldn't be sad."
- "I use my phone to try to look up information about lung cancer and the drugs I'm taking, but I don't understand everything I read. I suppose the doctors would tell me something if it was important, so maybe I ought to stop that."