



Pictured: Ryan Moroose, Director of Radiation Oncology/Medical Dosimetrist; Hunter Jones, RN; Michelle Scites, Lead Registration Specialist; Russell Williamson; Tara Hansen, MD, radiation oncologist; Katelyn Miller, Radiation Therapist; Jessica Fisher, APRN, CNP, nurse practitioner.

A Journey of Healing and Hope: Russell Williamson’s Story at the WVU Cancer Institute – Thomas Hospitals

When Russell Williamson was diagnosed with cancer in the fall of 2024, his world shifted overnight. After undergoing an unsuccessful surgery at the Cleveland Clinic, he returned home to West Virginia—uncertain of what would come next but grounded in his belief that he was being guided exactly where he needed to be. That place, he says, was WVU Medicine Thomas Hospitals.

At the WVU Cancer Institute at Thomas Memorial Hospital, Russell received 30 radiation treatments along with 17–18 laser light treatments targeted at the base of his tongue. Radiation Oncology is part of the WVU Cancer Institute, where radiation oncologists, nurses, therapists, dosimetrists, and medical physicists work together to deliver precise, safe, and effective care. Russell said he felt that level of expertise and compassion every single day.

Throughout his treatment, he never lost his optimism. “I believe the Lord placed me at Thomas Hospitals not only to get the treatment I needed,” he shared, “but also to encourage others going through the same thing.” He added that a positive outlook helped him stay strong. “My cup is always half full. A positive mindset makes all the difference in healing.”

When asked how his care team supported him, Russell didn't hesitate: "From the get-go, they were upbeat and always smiling. My appointments were always at 7 a.m., and the staff was joyful and encouraging every single day." Several caregivers made a lasting impact on his journey, including Tara Hansen, MD, radiation oncologist; Jessica Fisher, APRN, CNP, nurse practitioner; Katelyn Miller, Radiation Therapist; Michelle Scites, Lead Registration Specialist; Hunter Jones, RN; and Ryan Moroose, Director of Radiation Oncology/Medical Dosimetrist. To Russell, the Thomas Hospitals team became more than healthcare providers—they became an extension of his family.

If he could share one message with anyone considering treatment at Thomas Hospitals, Russell says it's simple:

"Don't pass up the opportunity to come to Thomas because they are a caring group of people. They give you the utmost attention and make you feel like family. The staff always went above and beyond."

Even though his treatment is finished, Russell still stops frequently to visit his "family" in Radiation Oncology. In July 2025, he received the news he had prayed for—his PET scan was clear, and he is cancer-free. Today, he continues to share encouragement, positivity, and gratitude with others, believing that every part of his journey had a purpose.