

AYA Newsletter

February 2026



adolescent +
young adult
cancer program



Children's
Wisconsin



Froedtert & MEDICAL COLLEGE of WISCONSIN

AYA Cancer Program

What is the AYA Cancer Program?:

- The AYA Cancer Program is a collaboration between Children's WI and Froedtert & MCW.
 - The program is centered around patients between the ages of 15-39 at the time of cancer diagnosis.
 - The program focuses on improving health outcomes, quality of life and resources.

Program Resources:

- [Froedtert AYA Cancer](#)
- [Children's WI AYA Cancer](#)
- [MCW AYA Cancer](#)

Patient Corner

In upcoming newsletters, this section will be used to share information, insights, and resources from our AYA Patient Advisory Committee.

What is the AYA Patient Advisory Committee?

- The purpose of the group is to give patients and survivors a forum to share their thoughts and ideas regarding programming and overall care that impacts the AYA cancer population.
- The committee helps advocate for AYA cancer patient voices to be heard.

AYA Program Information:

Email: aya@mcw.edu / Facebook: YAOG Midwest Wisconsin

Resource Highlight: Elephants and Tea



Matters of the Heart

In honor of Valentine's Day, we are highlighting articles in the Elephant's and Tea December 2025 magazine, Matters of the Heart.

- ***Healing the Heart (pg. 10)*** - Highlights the conflicting feelings of cancer such as joy, fear, and happiness.
- ***Fear Was Only the Beginning (pg. 14)*** - Discusses the range of emotions one faces when in treatment and survivorship.
- ***Whose Pain Matters More (pg. 21)*** - Illustrates how a cancer diagnosis can impact family members and how patients have to be the rock.
- ***Joy (pg. 21)*** - A poem that describes how joy still exists even in the hardest of times.
- ***The Wall Around My Heart (pg. 42)*** - Reflects on the emotional challenges of living with cancer, the struggle to express vulnerability, and the journey toward breaking down emotional barriers to seek support
 - *Content Warning:* Self-harm and suicidal ideation discussed
- ***Between Heartbreak and Hope (pg. 48)*** - Highlights the experience of love, heartbreak, and resilience after a cancer diagnosis.

Read the full articles on [Elephants and Tea's Website](#)

Upcoming Patient Events



Young Adult Oncology Group Events

- March 2026 - Luxe Golf Bays
 - Thursday, March 26th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
 - Attendees can bring a guest
 - Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/a4TdbXFBir>
- April 2026 - Mini Retreat
 - Saturday, April 25th from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 - Location: Schlitz Audubon Nature Center
 - Updates to come when registration opens



AYAs Take Chicago 2026

- A free event for young people impacted by cancer. Includes interactive zones, food, music, and a powerful community panel.
- Thursday, April 2nd from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at Sarabande in Chicago, IL



Stupid Cancer - CancerCon

- April 30th - May 3rd in Seattle, Washington
- The gathering place for the AYA cancer community. Brings together patients, survivors, advocates, and health professionals to learn, share, and build community.