

St. E. Gives Comfort Food To Cancer Patients

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This week, [St. Elizabeth Medical Center](#) became the nation's first hospital to introduce a line of foods specially formulated to combat the deadly problem of malnutrition in cancer patients.

Incredibly, it's not cancer, but malnutrition that claims the lives of approximately 30 percent of all cancer patients, according to the Cancer Recovery Foundation of America. [Comfort Care™ Foods](#) were developed by two Greater Cincinnati companies, in conjunction with St. Elizabeth, specifically to combat this devastating problem.

"Cancer treatments can cause nausea and suppress appetite," said St. Elizabeth Nutrition Services Director Helene Gruber, R.D., L.D. "As a result, people receiving treatments frequently don't get the nutrients or fluids that are so important to healing and recovery. In the worst cases, we often see cancer patients returning to the hospital during, or following treatment, due to inadequate nutrition or dehydration."

Late in 2007, Gruber banded with the clinical dietitians at the medical center to address this potentially lethal problem head-on, by launching a product development initiative with KHI Foods in Burlington, Kentucky.

Their primary goal was to develop a line of exceptionally flavorful foods,

fortified with the protein, fiber, vitamins, minerals and antioxidants that are so critical to cancer patients.

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The group not only attained that goal, but also managed to:

- Build their product line around Kentucky Proud sustainable agriculture products
- Package their products in all "green" materials
- Employ local disabled individuals to assemble their products

Comfort Care™ is a one-of-a-kind restaurant-quality food line, developed by chefs at the Burlington company, along with bakers at Giminetti Baking in Cincinnati, that provides cancer patients with the nutritionally dense sustenance they need to thrive. The line is built around an assortment of soups, each of which provides the protein and fiber of a full meal in a single 8-ounce serving. Artisan whole wheat bread from Comfort Care™ is also enriched with protein and fiber.

"I've been in the food business for more than 25 years, and this opportunity to create food products that taste good, are good for you, and which provide comfort and hope to people recovering from a serious illness such as cancer, is work that comes from the heart, and has real meaning," said Millard Long, the president and owner of Comfort Care™ Foods in Burlington.

The complete line is available through St. Elizabeth and Comfort Care™ Foods. If you're interested in more information about this innovative product or the problem of malnutrition in cancer patients, contact St. Elizabeth Public Relations at (859) 301-6300.

Full product details can also be obtained online, [click here](#).

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