



## The Center Supports Journey of Hope for Myeloma Survivor

“Hope is one of the greatest weapons we have in the war against cancer,” says Terry Purdom, a five-year survivor of multiple myeloma and a patient at The Center for Cancer & Blood Disorders in Fort Worth. He should know—the drugs keeping Purdom’s cancer in check today were not available when he was diagnosed in November 2004. Without hope, Purdom might have given up on further treatment.

On Saturday, May 29, Purdom kicked off a national motorcycle tour, “[Terry’s Great Adventure](#),” to share his personal experience and message of hope with cancer patients and their families. The Center hosted a “meet and greet” event over lunch on Tuesday, May 25, at the Fort Worth location, to help with the send off preparations. The Star-Telegram played an important part in getting the word out, with an interview with Purdom and an [indepth story](#) on his journey.

[Dr. Lance Mandell](#), a blood cancer specialist, joined the event to answer questions about multiple myeloma and other blood cancers and blood disorders.

Ten years ago the median survival of those diagnosed with myeloma, the second most common blood cancer, was about three years. New medical breakthroughs have since expanded that outlook significantly.

According to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, more than 20,000 Americans are diagnosed with myeloma annually. Myeloma is a cancer of plasma cells. Multiple myeloma means the disease involves multiple sites in the body. Plasma cells live in the bone marrow and normally produce antibodies (proteins) that help control infections. Myeloma cells cannot help the body fight infection. As the myeloma cells grow in the marrow they crowd out the normal plasma cells. They also crowd out normal white cells, red cells and platelets.

More information about Terry’s Great Adventure can be found at [www.terrysbigadventure.com](http://www.terrysbigadventure.com) or [www.facebook.com/terrysbigadventure](https://www.facebook.com/terrysbigadventure).