



Contact: Jennifer Walker
Media Relations Manager,
American Cancer Society
Cell: (281) 782.4646
jennifer.walker@cancer.org

The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation issues \$4 million Challenge to build American Cancer Society Hope Lodge Houston

TEXAS (May 5, 2015) – The American Cancer Society announced a major fundraising challenge from The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation to help build an American Cancer Society Hope Lodge in Houston. As part of the Society's mission to save lives and relieve suffering from cancer, Hope Lodge Houston will provide no-cost lodging and support to those traveling across America to receive cancer treatment in Houston.

The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation committed a \$1 million gift early on in the campaign. Now, the Foundation is pleased to extend a 2 to 1 challenge opportunity until December 31, 2015. For every \$2 the Society raises, the Foundation will give \$1 up to \$4 million to help us reach ground breaking by the end of this year! “I am anxious to get construction underway,” said McNair who himself is a survivor of chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and skin cancer.

Robert C. McNair, a leading businessman, sportsman and philanthropist is the founder, chairman and chief executive officer of the Houston Texans. McNair has battled skin cancer for more than 20 years, but six years ago, he was diagnosed with CLL, a type of cancer that starts in the bone marrow but then goes into the blood. He underwent experimental treatment, painful surgery on the left side of his head and neck and 30 sessions of radiation. Then in the fall of 2014, he had surgery to treat squamous cell carcinoma, a non-melanoma skin cancer.

“When Bob was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma it was a shock. We then realized how devastating this despicable disease can be,” said Janice McNair. He was treated at the

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and was recently given a clean bill of health. Throughout his cancer journey McNair saw firsthand the thousands of patients who come to Houston to receive their treatment. “These folks are from all over and with the expense of coming here and staying for an extended period of time adds additional burdens onto a family who is already under so much stress,” says McNair.

“With more than 125,000 cancer patients traveling to Houston each year for life-saving treatment, there truly is a need for a free place for adults to stay,” said Joanie Haley, Executive Director of The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation. There are currently 31 Hope Lodges operated by the Society nationwide, including Lubbock. Due to patient demand, Hope Lodge Houston will be the largest in the nation with 62 patient suites. At capacity, the Lodge will offer approximately 23,000 nights of lodging per year, representing a combined savings of over \$2 million to patients.

Hope Lodge Houston will be open year-round with a unique homelike setting that includes a shared kitchen, dining spaces, a help-yourself pantry, daily access to fresh linens, patient laundry facilities and a library with Internet access as well as free transportation to and from treatment facilities. Once constructed, Hope Lodge Houston will be southeast Texas’ first and only no-cost residence specifically for cancer patients, helping to alleviate the overwhelming financial burden these families face.

“Bob and Janice McNair, who are family-oriented, entrepreneurial, and civic-minded, have provided a simple way to make a meaningful contribution to the future health of thousands of cancer patients,” said Sandy Biggers, American Cancer Society’s campaign director. “Whether you are able to give \$10 or \$10,000, the Robert and Janice McNair Foundation will increase your gift. This provides an incredible opportunity for people to truly make an impact.” With everyone’s help – we can meet this challenge!

To donate or learn more about the Hope Lodge Houston campaign, please visit our website at www.cancer.org/hopelodgehouston, or you may contact Sandy Biggers, campaign director, at (713) 706-5640 or sandy.biggers@cancer.org. Together, we can ***Build hope & Touch lives***.

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About The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation

The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation was established in 1988 to address the needs of the Houston community. Robert McNair is the founder of Cogen Technologies, which was sold in 1999. He is currently the chairman and CEO of The McNair Group and the founder, chairman, and CEO of the Houston Texans. The McNair's are co-chairs of the capital campaign, while their friends, President George and Mrs. Barbara Bush are serving as honorary co-chairs.

About the American Cancer Society:

The American Cancer Society is a global grassroots force of more than three million volunteers saving lives and fighting for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community. As the largest voluntary health organization, the Society's efforts have contributed to a 20 percent decline in cancer death rates in the U.S. since 1991, and a 50 percent drop in smoking rates. Thanks in part to our progress nearly 14 million Americans who have had cancer and countless more who have avoided it will celebrate more birthdays this year. We're finding cures as the nation's largest private, not-for-profit investor in cancer research, ensuring people facing cancer have the help they need and continuing the fight for access to quality health care, lifesaving screenings, clean air, and more. For more information, to get help, or to join the fight, call us anytime, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345 or visit www.cancer.org/fight.