



Cancer Association of Anderson

215 E. Calhoun Street

Anderson, SC 29621

864-222-3500

www.cancerassociationanderson.org

May 11, 2016

Dear Governor Haley:

On January 19, 2016, I officially began my journey as the executive director of the Cancer Association of Anderson. I was so thrilled to be offered this position because as a breast cancer survivor, I knew first-hand what this wonderful organization meant to Anderson County and her many residents who are battling this terrible disease. Since my first day, I can't count how many times patients have said to me, "Dr. Rajeev and/or Dr. Ravinder Malik saved my life." Several have recounted that although they were without insurance or a job, they were provided excellent care by one of the Malik's and several stated they somehow never received a bill for the services.

My mother-in-law, Frances Stringer was a patient of Dr. Rajeev Malik and when all other avenues of treatment were exhausted, Dr. Malik continued to fight for her by helping her get into a clinical trial at MD Anderson for a drug that was just being tested called Taxol. Frances fought valiantly with Dr. Malik constantly by her side, checking on her. She eventually succumbed to her foe, but thanks to Dr. Malik's efforts she lived long enough to see, hold and love her oldest son, Andy's, four children (my children). And 20 years later, my HER2 breast cancer was treated successfully with three phases of chemotherapy, one of which included Taxol, the very drug that Frances had taken in her clinical trial.

I am here today not only as a "survivor" but as a "thrivor" and my life continues to be touched by Dr. Rajeev as well as Dr. Ravinder Malik. I now work for the Cancer Association of Anderson which is located in a beautiful older home owned by the Maliks and generously provided to CAA for the whopping rent of \$200 per month! Dr. Ravinder Malik now serves on our Board of Directors and both Ravinder and Rajeev's generosity continuously flows in the form of consistent monetary donations as well as the gift of their very valuable time spent volunteering at CAA and our fundraising events.

My story is but one of many that paints the picture of two Anderson County Hometown Heroes. Dr.'s Rajeev and Ravinder Malik have fought alongside those who are in desperate need and in many ways, are unable to fight their battle alone. The Maliks were the first resident oncologists in Anderson County and they blazed the trail that resulted in the excellent care available to Anderson County cancer patients. Their efforts and their generous financial support directly led to the beginning of AnMed Cancer Center as well as the founding of the Cancer Association of Anderson. I sincerely hope you will consider recognizing them in your official capacity for all their many contributions to Anderson County as well as to the Upstate of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Angela C. Stringer
Executive Director

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Editing and Writing Services

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May 24, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Like many other cancer survivors in Anderson County, I owe my life to Dr. Ravinder Malik. And to a large degree the Cancer Association of Anderson owes its life to her for recognizing and working for its establishment and success over the past fifteen years.

In 2000, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and became Dr. Malik's patient. Because I underwent a lumpectomy, it was the protocol to follow up with radiation oncology. However, Dr. Malik wasn't satisfied that the surgeon had removed all the cancer and brought my case before the tumor board at AnMed Health. The surgeon reluctantly performed a mastectomy—and found more cancer. I did not need her services at that time, but when my cancer recurred in 2003, she performed the radiation follow-up. Thankfully, I am cancer-free today, just one of thousands of patients who are grateful to Dr. Malik for her compassionate and thorough care.

I began talking to Dr. Malik about starting an organization to assist cancer survivors in Anderson County in 2011. We agreed that money for these patients was badly needed, especially for the transportation required to bring patients to six weeks of daily radiation treatments. She immediately asked, "What can I do to help?" She did everything I asked: talked to other doctors, including her influential oncologist husband Rajeev, and raised and donated money. When the Cancer Association was chartered in 2003, she served on the board of directors and I was its first executive director.

Dr. Malik's many contributions to the organization have included dreaming up one of its most durable fund-raisers, a marathon racing team called the Daring Divas and Dashing Dudes, which raised more than \$100,000 over several years. She became a regular teacher in our Survivor School, an educational program for recent survivors, where her specialty is "laugh yoga." Since she retired in 2011, she has served as an office volunteer, and she recently rejoined the board for the second time.

A native of New Delhi, India, Ravinder Malik came to Anderson in 1982 as one of the first foreign-educated international doctors in town. (The other was her husband.) Today there are 96 foreign-born providers. She was one of very few women providers. Today there are 108. As

Anderson's first full-time radiation oncologist, she got the program at AnMed up and running, while at the same time raising two children—both of whom have become doctors themselves.

She is an outstanding example of an immigrant success story—and an American story, as she became an American citizen in 1984.

Always modest and unassuming, Ravinder Malik has never sought attention for herself. Those of us who have worked with her over the years know how richly she deserves recognition from the State of South Carolina for the contributions made over her long career.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathryn Yandle Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathryn" being the most prominent.

Kathryn Yandle Smith
Founding Executive Director
Cancer Association of Anderson