



March 19, 2024

Dear Harmony Hill Family of Supporters,
Many of you have been asking "What is happening with the Hill?"

Our Current Status

The new owner of the Harmony Hill Retreat Center property remains unknown. The current property owner is very intentional about the future of this land and supports our hope that this remains a retreat center into the future. The potential buyer has requested an additional 120 days for fundraising, feasibility study, and site analysis.

Moving Forward

So, what does this mean for Harmony Hill? On May 10, 2024, the retreat center will move into a retreat center operational pause during the potential buyer's feasibility period. Denise and Cheryl will continue to live onsite as land stewards and our beloved Harmony Hill Volunteer Program will continue to thrive.

The extra time provides us with the gift of space to fully focus on growing Harmony Hill's legacy of healing, a legacy started by Gretchen Schodde 38 years ago. The Harmony Hill programs for people affected by cancer, healthcare professionals, and others looking to heal and renew, will continue to grow, becoming even more accessible. Our programs have not slowed down, and we are on schedule to deliver even more programs this year than in 2023. We are also scaling our work throughout the Pacific Northwest. We have already expanded our reach to several offsite locations in Washington and Oregon. In April, we will host a 3-day/2-night cancer retreat at a large retreat center that **DOUBLES** the number of people we have ever served in a single retreat!

Our Future

This is an incredible time of change and opportunity. We hope to continue delivering our programs at this beautiful site in the future. The expansion allows us to reach urban areas, underserved communities, and meet people where they are, not just those who can make it to Union, WA. New communities will have access to the Harmony Hill programs that have touched thousands of lives, and we will serve more people than ever before.

Our Seattle location, the Orion Center for Integrative Medicine, is a healing, research, and education hub committed to making integrative medicine the standard of care for cancer survivors. The work of Dr. Bonnie McGregor, founder of Orion and Director of Clinical Research for Harmony Hill, in partnership with the University of Washington, is leading cutting-edge research for psilocybin-assisted therapy in a retreat setting, as a new treatment for anxiety and depression in Stage 4, metastatic cancer patients. This is the first research of its kind in North America!

We Need You!

Harmony Hill's work could not exist without your continuing love, encouragement, and support. We will keep you informed as we move forward with this transition. Thank you for your enduring commitment to the people we serve: cancer patients and their loved ones, health care professionals, people in grief, and those seeking wellness. You make Harmony Hill's mission possible. Together, we will touch more lives, connect more hearts, and honor Gretchen's great legacy of healing.

Please direct any questions to Cheryl@harmonyhill.org or call 206.914.3969.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Sesnon

Cheryl Sesnon, Executive Director