Bassett Healthcare Network
Bassett Medical Center

October 8, 2013

Dear Charlie:

Words cannot express the thanks we wish to extend to you for your wonderful words and songs of inspiration during our annual National Cancer Survivors' Day Celebration, as well as during your visit to our infusion room the following day.

Your desire to participate in our program, even when your schedule was so tight, was absolutely one of extraordinary selflessness that goes beyond all measure and any expectations that we had.

Over 250 survivors and their loved ones participated in this year's Cancer Survivors' Day celebration at The Otesaga Hotel hosted by Bassett Medical Center. Your journey through your cancer diagnosis and treatment is extraordinary, and you are an encouragement to so many. One survivor shared that she felt a personal connection to the journey you shared. Another survivor expressed that your energy and enthusiasm gave them a hope that they too can have that same zeal that you are experiencing, and they experienced before diagnosis. Many of the cancer center staff members, after attending previous events, were overwhelmed by how powerful your message was making the event the best ever.

The following day your presence in our infusion room was a true blessing. To experience your love of life and music left a feeling of comfort and hope to those who were receiving treatment. Our staff enjoyed watching you interact with our patients, and chemotherapy nurses Krista, Jessica, Kelly, Marianne, and many others experienced an infusion of hope that has rejuvenated their spirit.

We have all been personally moved by your words. Working with the daily issues can sometimes cause one to forget the true message. Bringing perspective back helps the staff remember how we all make a difference in patients and their loved ones lives.

On behalf of the entire staff of the Bassett Cancer Institute, I wish to thank you for all that you do to make a difference in the lives of others every day.

Warmest regards,

Sue van der Sommen
Administrative Director
Bassett Cancer Institute