



great opportunities in Seattle. She went to a Mariners game, the theater, symphony and to the top of the Space Needle for the first time in her life.

“They try to make your time enjoyable. There are times when you can’t go out, but when you can, they encourage you to be active,” she said.

In a seamless transition of care, she returned to Mount Vernon on October 30 and started maintenance therapy at the Skagit Valley Hospital Regional Cancer Care Center in November. She is participating in a clinical trial through SCCA for one year on the use of Vorinostat for multiple myeloma patients post transplant. She is feeling good, and knows the continuing treatment will help.

“I have to remember that I had an aggressive form of cancer and this may help prevent it from coming back,” she said.

Becky received great news in February when doctors told her following a bone marrow biopsy that her disease is in remission.

“People tell me ‘you’re a cancer survivor,’” she said. “I never thought I wasn’t going to be!”

She returned to work part time in January and full time in February at the Tree of Life Christian Outlet in Burlington.

Along the way, the self-described timid Voelkel has found a voice to talk to people about her cancer and her faith in God, which gave her peace, removed her fears and gave her hope.

“I think I have more people to talk to and to reach out to and that’s why I’m still here,” she said. **H**



Skagit County native Michal Whiton, MD joins cancer care team

Skagit County native Michal Anne Whiton, MD returns home this summer as the newest member of the physician team at the Skagit Valley Hospital Regional Cancer Care Center.

A radiation oncologist, Dr. Whiton joins David Kantorowitz, MD, PhD in providing radiation therapy and stereotactic radiosurgery.

“I am thrilled to be returning to my hometown to join the dynamic team of oncologists at the Skagit Valley Hospital Regional Cancer Care Center,” Dr. Whiton said. “It will be a privilege to provide radiation services to the community in which I grew up. I look forward to continuing the tradition of providing compassionate oncology services at this progressive local cancer care center.”

Dr. Whiton has a special interest in community education and plans to provide various workshops and lectures for patients who are interested in learning about the biology of cancer, the various treatment methods available, and the components of a cancer prevention lifestyle.

Dr. Whiton, who grew up in the Edison area, received a bachelor’s degree from Washington State University and her Doctor of Medicine from the University of Washington. She completed an internship in Internal Medicine at the University of Washington and a residency in Radiation Oncology at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. Her training has also included clinical rotations at Washington University in St. Louis with a focus on gynecological malignancies and brachytherapy and at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis with a focus on pediatric malignancies.

She will complete her residency training and her term as Chief Resident in Radiation Oncology at Thomas Jefferson University in June and joins the Regional Cancer Care Center in July.

■ **Radiation Oncologist Michal Anne Whiton, MD, a native of Skagit County, joins the radiation therapy team at Skagit Valley Hospital Regional Cancer Care Center this summer.**