

Your Local Cancer Care

BRINGING RADIATION TREATMENT TO MOSES LAKE

Your Local Cancer Care Shortens the Distance

When Alfonso Hernandez was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in January 2018, his wife, Mary, adult children, and extended family banded together to support him. One thing they couldn't do was shrink the distance between Alfonso's home in the small farming community of Lind, and his radiation treatment in Spokane, 80 miles away.

Alfonso faced more than an hour and twenty minutes of travel each way to treatment up to five days a week for 45 treatments. His wife and his four children took turns taking time off work to drive him.

"It was hard to travel 80 miles in a vehicle and in a lot of pain," Alfonso said. "We'd have to leave at about 5:30 in the morning to get there for treatment. It would make a world of difference to people to have a radiation treatment center in the Columbia Basin."

The Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation and the Confluence Health Care Foundation agree. They are the organizations behind the *Your Local Cancer Care* capital campaign working to raise the funds to bring radiation treatment to Moses Lake. When the campaign reaches its \$3.5 million goal, Confluence Health will provide another \$3.5 million to fully fund the state-of-the-art facility.

There are many small communities like Lind in southeast Washington and many people like Alfonso forced to travel to Spokane or even over 200 miles to Seattle for radiation treatment. With Lind 30 minutes from Moses Lake, a treatment center there would have cut Alfonso's time on the road in half.

Alfonso is beyond that now. Last month after three years of treatment, he is at this time, disease free and doing well.



Alfonso and Mary Hernandez

Impacting More Than Radiation Treatment

The *Your Local Cancer Care* campaign has placed much of its focus on bringing the linear accelerator that treats cancer to Moses Lake. This is a key component of the effort because the lack of radiation treatment is what forces residents to drive to Wenatchee, Spokane, Tri Cities or Seattle, sometimes multiple times a week for several months. Locating this state-of-the-art treatment in Moses Lake will bring cancer care closer to home for the region.

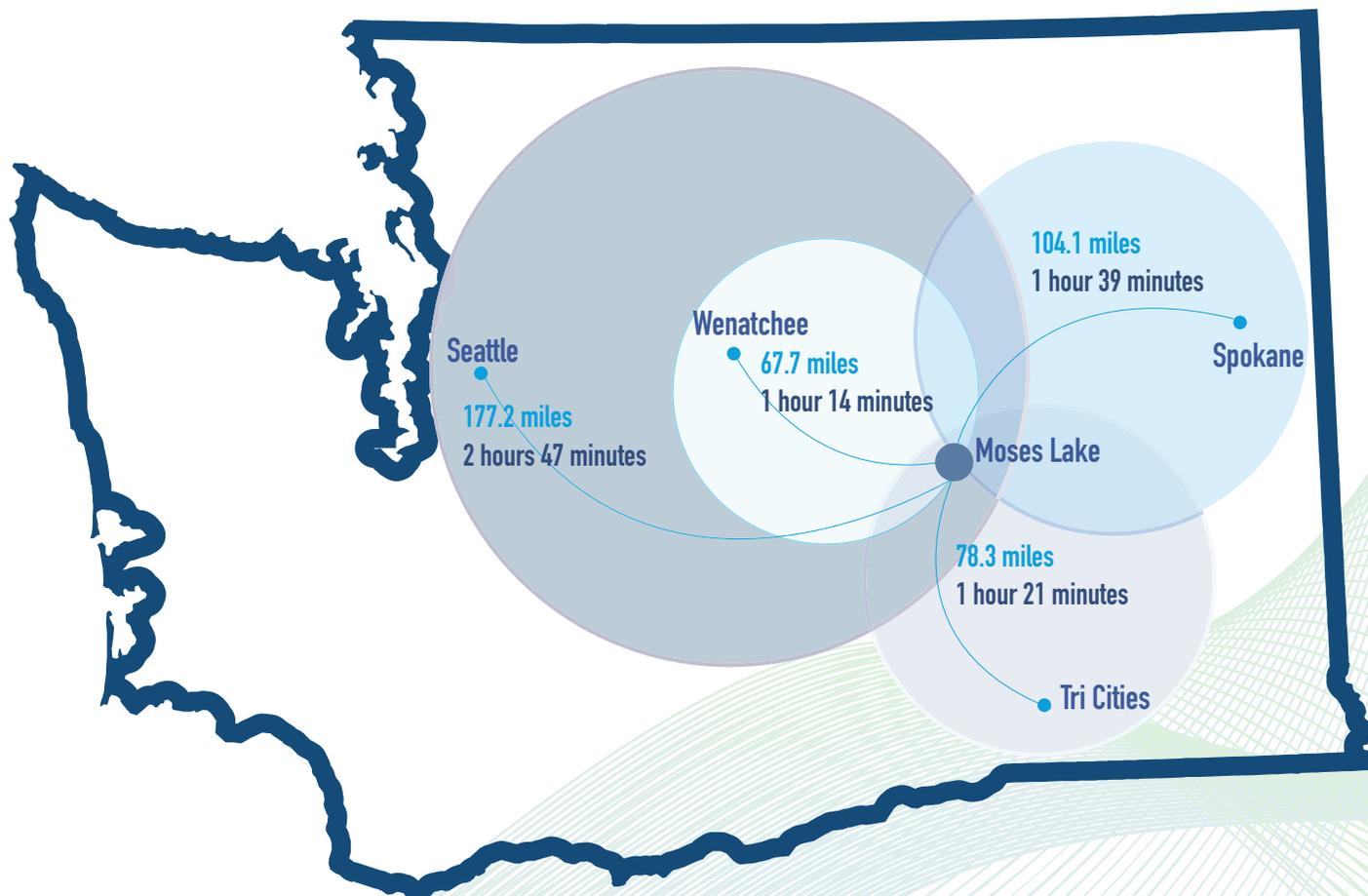
Bringing cancer care closer to home has the potential to impact many aspects of a patient's life:

Time: The closest radiation treatment center to Moses Lake is Confluence Health in Wenatchee, which is a 3-hour round trip. In our story about Alfonso Hernandez, we learned he spent over 2.5 hours traveling to and from Spokane and then spent even more time getting treatment! Over the course of his treatment, he often spent five days a week making this trip.

Money: Of course, time is money, but in addition there are costs for gas, food and, in many cases, lost wages for cancer patients and their families.

Stress: The Columbia Basin is beautiful country to drive through, but it has its share of bad weather, traffic and accidents. All of these add stress to cancer patients and their loved ones – stress that can be minimized with the success of the *Your Local Cancer Care* campaign.

Distance to Radiation Treatment from Moses Lake



Confluence Health Foundation

518 N. Chelan Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
509.665.6030



Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation

1031 W. Broadway Ave.
Moses Lake, WA 98837
509.764.4644