



## Our Story

On October 1, 2024, funding from the McKesson Foundation launched In Cancer Care, Food is Medicine, an inaugural initiative at VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center. This program bridges the gap between cancer treatment and nutrition by advancing research and expanding patient services to address food insecurity.

## Why Food is Medicine

Cancer patients often face

- Increased nutritional needs
- Financial hardship due to treatment
- Higher risk of food insecurity

Food insecurity threatens treatment success. We believe nutrition is essential to recovery.

## Our Mission

To be a national role model in:

1. Pioneering evidence-based food insecurity research in the cancer population
2. Providing nutrition and cooking education to cancer patients and their caregivers
3. Promoting health and wellness in the cancer community through access to nutritious food



*"At VCU Massey, we believe cancer care goes beyond treatment. When food insecurity impacts our patients, it hinders their healing. Through our Food is Medicine initiative, we're giving patients the support they need to focus on recovery and regain their strength."*

**Robert A. Winn, M.D.**

Director and Lipman Chair in Oncology,  
VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center



### Short Term Resources

#### Food Boxes

In partnership with Feed More, we receive over 800 lbs of food to provide emergency support while patients are connected to long-term resources.

#### Nutrition Education and Cooking Demonstrations:

Free nutrition education and cooking demonstrations led by our very own Massey dietitians and skilled VCUHS chefs. All class participants receive take-home cooking supplies and complimentary fresh produce.

#### Food is Medicine Voucher Program

In partnership with Shalom Farms, patients receive \$5 vouchers to purchase fresh produce at local farmers markets, held year-round.

### Long Term Resources

#### Unite Us Referral: Long-term Food Resources

We provide holistic care by partnering with Unite Us to connect patients to sustainable, long-term food resources such as food pantries.



**Thank you to our partners! Together, we're making a real difference in the lives of our cancer patients.**

For more information, please visit [masseyfoodrx.com](https://masseyfoodrx.com)



# Clinic Workflow

At VCU Massey, we are committed to caring for the whole person. We believe lack of access to food should NOT be a barrier to receiving life-saving cancer treatment.

That's why each patient is screened with two validated Hunger Vital Sign Questions:



In the past 12 months, did you worry about whether food would run out before you got money to buy more?

In the past 12 months, did the food you bought just not last and did you not have the money to buy more?

All Massey patients under active cancer treatment who screen positive for food insecurity are eligible to receive food resources from the Food is Medicine.

# Research



**Led by Dr. Aduse Poku**  
**Study 1:** Registry  
#HM20032146

*First Registry in the U.S. to focus on Food Insecurity in Cancer Patients*

**Study 2:** Exploring the Association between Medicaid Food coverage and food Insecurity Risk

**Led by Dr. McGill**  
AI-powered nutrition education and food resource phone app



Between Dec. 9, 2024 – April 9, 2025, over **450 patients** have screened positive.

## VCU Massey: A Leader in Addressing Food Insecurity in the Cancer Population

▪FIM Virginia ▪State Task Force  
▪(Massey-VDH Partnership)

▪Community: FIM Advisory Board

▪Patient: Fresh Produce for ALL food insecure Massey patients