



# Mike's story

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**“I am a fighter. There’s a lot I have to do before God can take me.”**

Mercyhealth Cancer Center patient Mike and his wife Patty

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In 2016, Mike was in California to visit family and decided to take a walk in the nearby mountains. At the end of his walk, he felt winded and heard wheezing when he exhaled. This concerned him. When he got back home to Janesville, Mike visited Dr. Mariya Pogorelova, internist at the Mercyhealth Mall Clinic. After an exam and x-rays, she referred him to Dr. Hazen Tuck, pulmonologist at the Mercyhealth Lung Center. Dr. Tuck found cancer in Mike's lung. Mike's next stop was to see Dr. Shahid Shekhani, medical oncologist at the Mercyhealth Michael Berry Building. Mike's PET scan showed stage 4 lung cancer, plus cancer in the lymph nodes and pelvis. Dr. Shekhani ordered a round of 13 chemotherapy sessions. Mike is very impressed with Dr. Shekhani. "He is outstanding ... the smartest person I know. He makes me feel like I am the only patient he has. Always cool and calm. I trust him completely." Battling cancer is a true team effort at Mercyhealth. Cindy Gunn, Mercyhealth Cancer Care Navigator and Oncology Certified Nurse, helps coordinate Mike's many levels of care. "Cindy is an angel," says Mike. Matt Warnke, MSOM, LAc, licensed acupuncturist at the Mercyhealth Complementary Medicine Center, treats the neuropathy in Mike's feet. "Chemo is tough, but I knew I had to do it. I did it for my family and am happy I did," Mike reflected. "I am so thankful to everyone at Mercyhealth for the support and care they have given me."