

Gift of Health



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for donors of
Saint Mary's Foundation

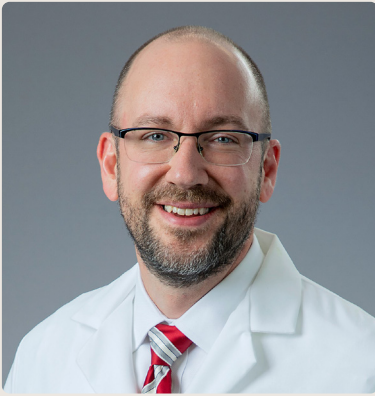
FALL 2021

BeRemarkable.



**Sue Vanzanten and Coco,
Pet Therapy program volunteers,
return to greet patients at
Mercy Health Saint Mary's**
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In this issue of *Gift of Health*, we celebrate the return our volunteers, a lifelong legacy of giving, and our community's support.



Matt Biersack, MD, Named President, Mercy Health Saint Mary's

Matt Biersack, MD, has been chosen to fill the role of president of Mercy Health Saint Mary's.

Dr. Biersack is a trusted leader who has served in an expanded role since March 2021 as interim president and Chief Medical Officer (CMO). He serves as a trustee on the Saint Mary's Foundation Board, and he will serve as CMO until a new CMO is identified.

For the past five months, Dr. Biersack successfully led the Saint Mary's team through the spring COVID-19 surge. He is a visible and accessible expert whom leaders, colleagues, providers and community members look to for guidance.

Dr. Biersack began his career as an internal medicine resident at Mercy Health in 2007 and has served in various capacities as a full-time hospitalist, hospitalist group medical director, chief quality and patient safety officer, and Chief Medical Officer.



From Michelle Rabideau
President, Saint Mary's Foundation

Greetings,

It is my pleasure to share with you this *Gift of Health* and the stories of our volunteers, patients and supporters. Although pandemic concerns linger, I am optimistic that this issue shows some normalcy is returning to our daily lives.



The appointment of Mercy Health Saint Mary's new president, Matthew Biersack, MD, is fantastic news! Dr. Biersack is a proven leader and a trusted medical professional who will lead us forward to an exceptional future. I have experienced his dedication to Mercy Health Saint Mary's, our patients, the medial staff and employees, and especially our community. He is a champion of philanthropy and the difference that Saint Mary's Foundation makes.

What makes philanthropy important? Saint Mary's Foundation exists to support the highest standards of patient care and to bettering the communities we serve. To this end, three strategic priorities are at the core of our vision for the future — *Community Health and Well-Being, Clinical Excellence and Patient Experience*.

Saint Mary's Foundation impacts issues faced by our health system and community. The 2021 annual grant awards announced last month will have direct impact on workplace violence and safety, the high rates of hypertension and diabetes among African American men, and resiliency and anxiety in staff and patients.

This is important work. By making investments in projects and programs, large and small — such as the Nutrition Services live wall, the respite rooms for staff, and support for the ALS Clinic at Mercy Health Hauenstein Neuroscience Center (thank you, Nana's Run!) — we are making a difference that matters!

Together, we are building a healthier community for all. Thank you for helping us make a lasting impact.

Andrew Jameson, MD, FACP, AAHIVS

Regional Medical Director-Infection Control

As the medical director for Infection Prevention and Control and Infectious Diseases for Mercy Health Saint Mary's, it is hard to believe that it has been 18 months since the pandemic began. From the start, our entire health system has put up a remarkable fight against this devastating disease. I am proud of our providers and colleagues who tirelessly work, day after day, and give their all for the sake of others.



As I look back to the pandemic's start, our teams quickly came together in the face of the unknown to save lives. Many staff stepped up when it wasn't required and gave up countless hours of sleep and time with family.

Our Infectious Diseases and Infection Control team participates in the care of many COVID-19 patient admitted to Mercy Health Saint Mary's. We also collaborate with area agencies and have a key role in the community-wide vaccination efforts.

Today, as we face the Delta variant, we remain vigilant. If you or a loved one needs care, please don't hesitate to come to Mercy Health Saint Mary's. It is one of the safest places you can be.

Thank you for being a part of our family of supporters and for walking with us as we live our mission to be a compassionate, healing presence in our community.

Vigilance in vaccination, handwashing and masking remain essential to our community's health. If you have concerns about the vaccines, please contact your health care provider.

2021 Grants Recipients

Saint Mary's Foundation is pleased to announce the 2021 grants program recipients. Funding totaling more than \$338,000 will support these initiatives:



A **canine (K9) program** focused on uniquely addressing workplace violence and safety issues



In partnership with National Kidney Foundation-Michigan, a **program that addresses the high rates of hypertension and diabetes among African American men**



A **Psych-Med Unit green space** to help reduce patient and staff anxiety and promote resilience

My Husband's Miracle

Throughout their 27-year marriage, Bruce and Pam Schmitt were physically active and diet conscious. Even so, in his late 50s, Bruce was diagnosed with high blood pressure, a condition that runs in his family. He took medication to keep it under control. After Bruce's routine blood check, this couple's life changed significantly.

An Unexpected Diagnosis

Bruce learned that he had a low GFR (an overall index of kidney function), as well as other indicators, pointing to the early stages of chronic kidney failure. Much to the Schmitts' bewilderment, a nephrologist confirmed the diagnosis.

As time passed, Bruce's kidneys worsened to the point that he began kidney dialysis in early 2019. Because he was traveling frequently for his job, he chose peritoneal dialysis which, with training, Bruce could do at home at night, freeing his daytimes for work.

The self-administered dialysis kept his kidneys stable, but Bruce had difficulty sleeping and was fatigued during the day. He retired in late summer 2019. "It was difficult to see him not be able to do much of anything," said Pam.

The Kidney Transplant List

To be covered by his insurance at the time, Bruce needed to seek care on the east side of the state, far from their home in Greenville. The medical team at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak determined Bruce was qualified to be on the kidney transplant list in the fall of 2019.

Some family members offered to be tested to see if they could be a living kidney donor, but they were not compatible. Bruce's wait to be matched to a living or a deceased donor continued.

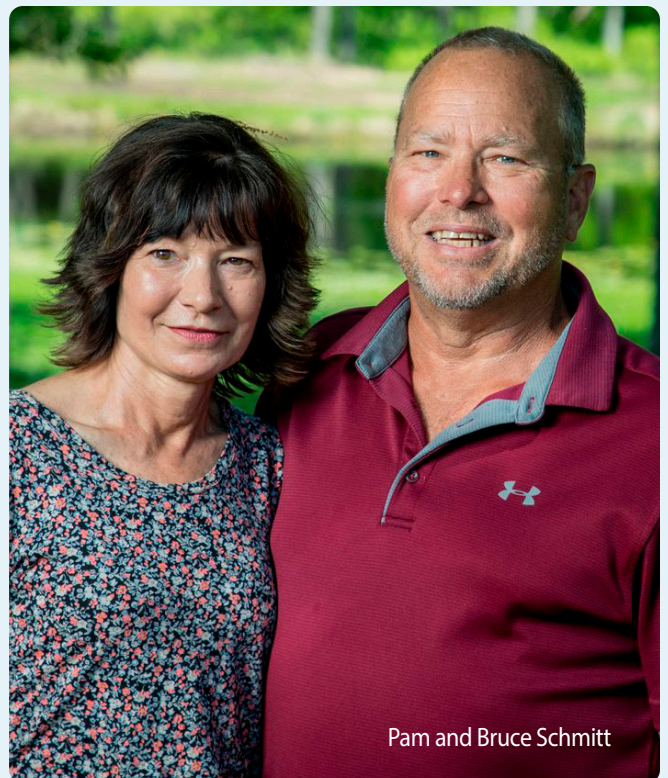
On average, there are more than 2,000 individuals on the waiting list for a kidney transplant in Michigan. In general, the wait time in the state is five to seven years. Being placed on the list does not guarantee being matched to a donor. To have any chance at a normal life, Bruce needed to identify a living donor — and fast.

A Living Donor Identified

After much soul searching, Bruce's wife Pam began the process to see if she could be a donor. Pam remembered, "I was a little reluctant because I didn't want our two daughters to have to take care of both of us at the same time. But I decided I needed to step up, and our daughters reassured us that they would be there for us." Pam said they couldn't have done it without them.

When Bruce's insurance changed in January 2020, the Schmitts transferred his care to Mercy Health Saint Mary's.

Pam had already gone through all the testing and passed everything at Beaumont. She said, "I was relieved and in awe that Bruce and I were a match. I thought there needed to be some type of biological connection. I didn't even know that we had the same blood type much less important markers for a successful transplant."



Pam and Bruce Schmitt

Living Kidney Donor Praises Transplant Experience

A Worldwide Pandemic Stops Plans

With the arrival of COVID19, everything was put on hold. Yet, Pam prepared for the transplant.

"In order to be a donor, you have to be a pretty healthy person to begin with," said Pam. "I don't have a taste for salt and, because my mom never used it, I am comfortable with a low-sodium diet. I have always been very active, and now I power walk. I wanted to be as strong as I could be, mentally and physically, so I could recover quickly and be there to help Bruce recover."

By June 2020, Mercy Health was in touch with the Schmitts. The transplant would take place in August.

On average, more than 2,000 individuals on the waiting list for a kidney transplant in Michigan and in general, the wait time in the state is five to seven years.

An Amazing Kidney Transplant Team

"I can't say enough good things about the entire transplant team, from the nutritionist and social worker to the surgeon and nurses. The compassionate care we received through the whole process both pre- and post-surgery has been phenomenal...amazing. I always had a person I could turn to if I had any questions. Everyone was extremely thorough and explained the full ramifications of what I was volunteering to do and how it would affect me both before and after," said Pam.

Another part of the team is the living donor advocate, an advocate whose role is to ensure that all the donor's best interests are recognized during the entire process. "Mercy Health looks out for you. I was impressed that they had somebody assigned to the donor. They want to make sure that you get what you need to get back to a normal life too," said Pam.

Renewed Life Together

Bruce, 62, is doing well. He is now back to doing the things he loves, such as farming, gardening, hunting, hiking and golfing.

Following her short recovery, Pam was invited to become a volunteer mentor to potential donors, and she has already spoken with a woman who is considering donating her kidney to her husband. The potential donor was grateful to talk to someone who had been through the entire process and could address her concerns.

"Deep down inside I am so excited about this process that I want to tell my story to help other people understand how rewarding and important it is. I went through a small amount of pain as a donor compared to what the recipient goes through. It didn't change my life that much; it changed my husband's life and our life together. I want to spread the word and help make a difference."

Pam tells anyone considering becoming a living kidney donor that the best thing they can do for themselves is to get physically healthy and strong and be mentally prepared go into it with a positive attitude.

"I feel so fortunate that I was able to donate my kidney to my husband. If I had the opportunity to revisit my decision and donate again, I would not hesitate at all."





Coco boosts morale for staff.

Volunteers and Pet Therapy Return to Mercy Health Saint Mary's

Coco's familiar face and wagging tail once again greet colleagues, visitors and patients after a 12-month furlough. Sue Vanzanten of Grand Rapids, a volunteer and therapy dog owner, has had 10-year-old Coco since she was a pup. Coco, a maltipoo, has been visiting patients at Mercy Health Saint Mary's since 2013.

Vanzanten and Coco are happy to be back at the hospital visiting staff and patients each Thursday. When they first returned in February, they were restricted to visiting staff. Now, except for isolation patients and those who would not enjoy seeing Coco, patient visits are permitted.

"We missed the interaction," said Vanzanten. "I felt for the staff and wish we could have been there for them throughout the pandemic to help lift their spirits. They gave so much."

Rachel Jonaitis, director of Mercy Health West Michigan Volunteer Services, coordinated the return of volunteers and Pet Therapy.

Recognizing the program's benefits, Jonaitis said, "Our colleagues have been extremely excited to have Pet Therapy back as this helps alleviate their stress while at work. They also know how much receiving a visit from a therapy dog helps their patients' anxiety. The pets motivate and comfort our patients when they need it most."

With the program back in full swing, at each visit Sue and Coco report to the units, but first they connect with the nurses. They walk from room to room, knocking on doors, asking if patients would like a visit.

Most patients are eager to see Sue and her 12.5 pound, four-legged comrade. "Throughout our visits, staff love it as much as the patients."

During the brief visits, Coco lifts spirits and inspires extended conversation by behaving as if each patient is a dear friend.

Leaders, Teachers, Healers

Sue Vanzanten and Coco

Coco is a calm, loving and social dog who wants to be near people and loves being petted. She gets along well with other dogs and is intuitive.

“Therapy dogs know more than we give them credit for,” said Vanzanten. “I can’t tell you how many times I’ve heard ‘You’ve made my day!’. The pure joy and emotional well-being that comes from these visits helps with the healing process.”

For patients facing a lengthy hospital stay and who are unable to see their own pets, Coco is a friendly reminder of their beloved pets waiting for them at home.

Vanzanten says she and Coco get a lot out of volunteering at Mercy Health Saint Mary’s. “I feel like we are giving something back and helping people. It brings me joy. As long as Coco is well, we will continue coming.”

Coco’s career began while she was a puppy in obedience class. Vanzanten’s friend, Mary Sue VanDyke, RN, Nursing Admin, piqued her interest in the therapy dogs who visited the hospital. Hoping that Coco might be a candidate, Sue was elated when Coco’s obedience class instructor said that Coco would be a great therapy dog due to her disposition, eagerness to please and ability to read people.



First photo: Therapy dog, Coco, patiently waiting for her first patient visit. Second photo: Coco and Sue visit a patient at Mercy Health Saint Mary’s. Third photo: Sue Vanzanten, right, credits, Mary Sue VanDyke, RN, Nursing Admin., left, with inspiring her to get involved with Pet Therapy at Mercy Health Saint Mary’s.

Vanzanten and Jonaitis hope to recruit more therapy dogs to visit patients at Mercy Health Saint Mary’s, noting that many breeds make good candidates.

Coco’s formal training began once Sue connected with the West Michigan Therapy Dogs organization.

The requirements to qualify as a therapy pet start with a prescreening of owner and dog to see if they will be a good fit. Dogs must know basic commands and get along with other dogs. Then, dog and owner go through a weekly 8-session class, followed by testing and shadow visits. To keep the certification, they are tested every 2 years.

“We are eager to find more handlers and therapy dogs to make the Pet Therapy program at Mercy Health Saint Mary’s more robust since it is a proven and needed service for patients and their healing,” said Jonaitis.

The Pet Therapy program is designed to bring comfort and joy to everyone the pets come across and helps patients in their healing process. It is recognized that petting a dog can help lower blood pressure, reduce stress and pain, lift spirits and be a welcome distraction.

**Interested in learning more about
Pet Therapy or Volunteer Services at Mercy Health Saint Mary’s?**

Contact Rachel Jonaitis at **616-685-1898** • rachel.jonaitis@mercyhealth.com

Volunteers and Colleagues

Welcome Back, Volunteers!



Shortly after the outbreak of the pandemic in 2020, our volunteer program was suspended. In March, we were excited to welcome back the volunteers who serve in roles that have no direct patient contact. Before returning, they received COVID-19 training and updated position descriptions.

Currently, there are nearly 50 volunteers on campus, including hospitality greeters, musicians in the Mercy Health Lacks Cancer Center lobby, The Shoppe at Saint Mary's and transport volunteers. Many volunteers have been trained in other roles so they can serve while they wait for their main area to reopen.

Volunteers, such as Eucharistic Ministry and the Patient Advocate Liaisons (PALs), will gradually return as COVID-19 rates decrease and our Infection Control team allows. We hope to recruit new applicants to Volunteer Services this Fall.

Volunteer Appreciation Event

Our tradition of celebrating National Volunteer Appreciation Week with our volunteers in person was not possible, especially with the vaccination effort.

In its place, the Mercy Health Saint Mary's Volunteer Services Department planned a clever way to recognize our amazing volunteers by creating a drive-thru volunteer appreciation event, complete with balloons, flowers, photos, gift boxes, new uniforms, a thank-you video and endless words of gratitude.

Thank you to all our Mercy Health Saint Mary's volunteers!
Welcome back! You are REMARKABLE!



Colleagues delivered treats to staff to promote the BeOne Colleague giving campaign.

BeOne Colleague Giving Campaign

The recent Colleague Giving Campaign, called BeOne, focused on raising funds for the Colleague Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP). Thanks to support from our colleagues, the BeOne campaign raised more than \$164,000.

Match gifts from the Medical Executive Committee (\$25K) and Applied Imaging (\$1.5K) were fulfilled thanks to the campaign's overwhelming success. The campaign also achieved a 100% retention rate of the 2020 supporters, 5% made an additional gift and 10% increased their bi-weekly giving.

We are grateful for these co-chairs who led this year's campaign to success: Stacie Strong, Manager Laboratory Services and Saint Mary's Foundation Board Trustee; Brian Hauenstein, Saint Mary's Foundation Board Trustee; and Mike Hughes, up next alum.

A Lifelong Legacy of Giving

Bob Woodhouse and his family have been longtime supporters of Mercy Health Saint Mary's. His inspiration to give comes from a lifelong legacy of giving his parents and grandparents conveyed.



"My family was involved because my grandfather was personal friends with Dr. Frank Doran, which is how he came to be one of the founding members of the former Doran Foundation, which later became the Saint Mary's Foundation," said Woodhouse. "My grandparents and my parents taught my sisters, brothers and me the importance of giving."

Following the family tradition, Woodhouse says he has been "lucky enough" to partner with many organizations in town as a donor, board member and advisor. He has also been inspired to give by the many role models in our community who have shown the power of giving.

As someone who has served on the board of the Saint Mary's Foundation and has joined the McCorkle Legacy Circle by leaving an estate gift, Woodhouse said, "It's important for me to set an example of what you do as an engaged community member, a grateful patient and a board member. You can do that through a percentage or dollar amount in your estate, but that says you are backing this organization

— now and into the future. I believe if you want to truly have an effect, you have to leave something in the end."

Woodhouse hopes to help provide opportunities for Mercy Health Saint Mary's to stay on top in providing complete health care in West Michigan and make it a special place. "That personalized care you get makes a difference. I saw this firsthand when my mother was receiving care. The staff knew her and asked questions that showed they genuinely cared," said Woodhouse. "Personalized care can make the difference between people living and dying."

Now as an emeritus board member, Woodhouse has helped to shape the vision for Saint Mary's Foundation and says he "hopes Mercy Health Saint Mary's will remain as a local hospital that is great at many medical services, but also connects patients through Trinity Health and other partnerships to help with their medical service needs. People go out of state for care, but WHY? My vision is that no one would have to seek care outside of our community and that Mercy Health Saint Mary's and its partners continue to offer the best options for all care though the network."

Woodhouse's advice to other people who wish to be more purposeful in their giving is this, "Once you get involved and see the people you have helped or the impact of your gifts, there is no better reward than that. We must help, we must continue to pay it forward and keep West Michigan strong."

To learn more about estate or planned giving options, contact Cathy Skene at 616-685-1484 or Cathy.Skene@MercyHealth.com.



Nutrition Services Live Wall

2020, the Saint Mary's Foundation awarded a \$30,000 grant to Nutrition Services for a 1,000-square-foot green living wall from LiveWall® Indoor Living Wall Systems, a company based in Nunica, Mich.

Installed in July, the striking six-foot-tall, two-sided living wall spans the courtyard outside the hospital cafeteria and is located between the eating area and a parking lot.

The idea for the wall was to create a more private, natural setting for the estimated 25,000 colleagues and guests who visit Mercy Health Saint Mary's each year.

"We are excited to create a space where colleagues, visitors and patients can interact with nature and touch and see the plants," said Dave Straney, senior manager, Food & Nutrition



The new live wall gracing the Nutrition Services courtyard at Mercy Health Saint Mary's was made possible thanks to the Saint Mary's Foundation annual grants program and the vision of the Nutrition Services team.

Services. "We are interested to see how this area will develop over time and if we are able to create a peaceful place for our visitors."

The plants chosen for the first year are sweet potato vines as they are known for their vibrant color and cascading appearance as they grow. An early proponent of the live wall, Brian Nader, CEC, regional executive chef, envisions future seasons with edible herbs and plants that will thrive in the living wall.

In the fall, when the growing season ends, the plants will be removed. Straney said, "There are no firm plans for the off season, but we are working on something that will hold up over the usually harsh West Michigan winter."

Plants for next year will be selected with consideration of location and sunlight. The LiveWall® team will chose plantings that are locally grown and specifically selected for this site.

Sr. Rosita Schiller, RSM, is the senior grants and research specialist at Saint Mary's Foundation. With an office facing the courtyard, Schiller sees firsthand how staff and visitors are enjoying the wall.

"Improving the overall experience for our patients, staff and guests is the hallmark of the Saint Mary's Foundation annual grants program. Congratulations to the Nutrition Services team for imagining this project and bringing it to completion," said Schiller.

The Nutrition Services team envisions growing plants and herbs that could provide for future hospital recipes.

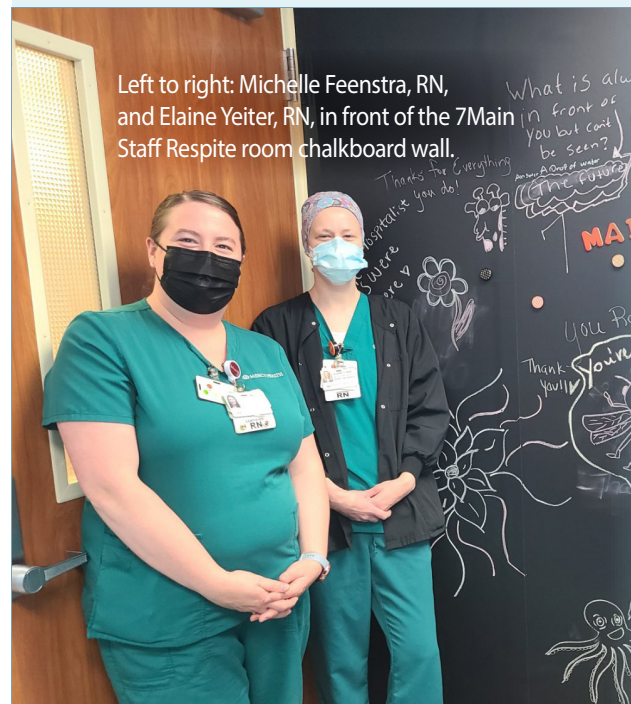
Saint Mary's Foundation Grants Respite For Staff

3 LACKS RESILIENCY ROOM

In 2018, the foundation awarded a \$11,000 grant to 3Lacks, the Senior Adult Unit at the Mercy Health Lacks Cancer Center, to turn a former office into a resiliency room for staff.

3Lacks is a demanding unit. Most patients on this unit are quite ill and require total care and assistance with activities of daily living like dressing, eating and bathing. Often patients can be confused or aggressive. This heightened level of care takes a toll on staff, as evidenced by a higher than average burnout and staff resignation rate.

With the guidance of Jean Watson, nurse theorist, the team hoped to build a quiet and relaxing space that allows staff to practice self-care. Watson's research showed that staff who practiced self-



Left to right: Michelle Feenstra, RN, and Elaine Yeiter, RN, in front of the 7Main Staff Respite room chalkboard wall.

These projects, and several others, were made possible thanks to Saint Mary's Foundation grants made in 2020. Watch for updates on the impact grant funds are making at Mercy Health Saint Mary's, including the newly announced 2021 funded projects.

"I am beyond grateful to the foundation for this space. This room does more for me than you can even imagine."

care were better at providing a healing environment for patients and their families.

3Lacks partnered with the Mercy Health Innovation Hub team to design the room's features. Alicia Kroeze, senior IT innovations specialist, became familiar with the workings of the unit to better understand what resiliency meant to staff.

D'Anna Springer, BSN, RN, 3Lacks clinical services manager, said, "Alicia was an amazing inspiration and partner. She helped identify root causes and helped us create a truly meaningful space by looking at the factors that affect resiliency—environmental, physical, physiological, emotional/mental, and social."

The Resiliency room opened in 2020 and is available to all Mercy Health Saint Mary's staff. To help colleagues



The innovative 3Lacks Resiliency Room helps refresh staff when they need it most.



Teams from 3Lacks and the Innovation Hub worked together to design the features of the new Resiliency Room.

determine the type of resiliency support they need, there are guidance posters on the wall. For example, do they need to relax, refocus or need some physical relief? Each poster offers several ideas that might match their need.

The room includes essential oils, books, meditations, breathing apps, mindfulness activities, a message wall of happy thoughts, a lounge chair, massage devices and more.

The 3 Lacks Resiliency Room has been used by colleagues from across Trinity Health and will soon be highlighted in the upcoming submission of our recertification document to be recognized as a hospital with Magnet status.

Springer said, "On behalf of the entire team, we extend our deepest gratitude to the generous donors."

7MAIN STAFF RESPITE ROOM

7Main is an orthopedic medical and surgical floor in the main hospital with many admissions and discharges each day. They faced some of the same burnout and retentions issues as 3Lacks. The 7Main team was inspired by the Resiliency Room and brought the idea to the main part of the hospital.

They hoped for a space where staff, especially nurses, could go to relax and relieve stress. Their goal was a quiet space in which front-line colleagues could retreat from the demands of their jobs.

In 2020, Saint Mary's Foundation awarded 7Main a \$4,900 grant for their Staff Respite Room. Funds were used to renovate the room, purchase massage chairs, lights, lotions, snacks and create a chalkboard wall for drawings and words of inspiration.

Staff nurse, Elaine Yeiter, BSN, RN-BC, ONC, said, "It has become a welcome place of respite for staff when they need a few minutes to regroup."

Another nurse said, "It is a nice little quiet spot to chill. It's beautiful."

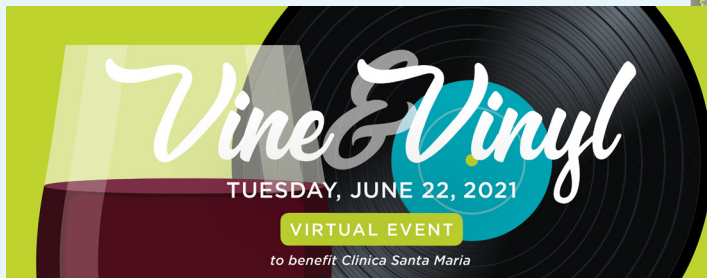
7Main Manager, Jodi VanderLind, BSN, RN-BC, said, "Every day, about ten staff members take advantage of the Staff Respite room. Staff are refreshed and ready to take on their next task. With all that transpired in 2020, this was the perfect time to make this investment in our staff. Thank you!"

Upcoming 2021 Vine & Vinyl Events

November 2: Epilepsy

Vine & Vinyl is a unique storytelling experience complemented by a curated dining cuisine, paired with beer or wine and an accompanying album – all to enhance the story. We invite you to join us for these two virtual Vine & Vinyl events. Each event delivers a difference experience and story. We hope you can join us.

For more information, contact Angela Paasche at 616-685-1426 or angela.paasche@mercyhealth.com.



Thank you to those who joined us for our fifth virtual Vine & Vinyl event that took place on June 22, 2021. The event brought music to life and showcased the remarkable care our patients receive at Mercy Health Saint Mary's. The stories shared by Celestina Monarrez-Deherrera, Christina Villagomez and Dr. David Jasperse highlighted the impact of Clinica Santa Maria.

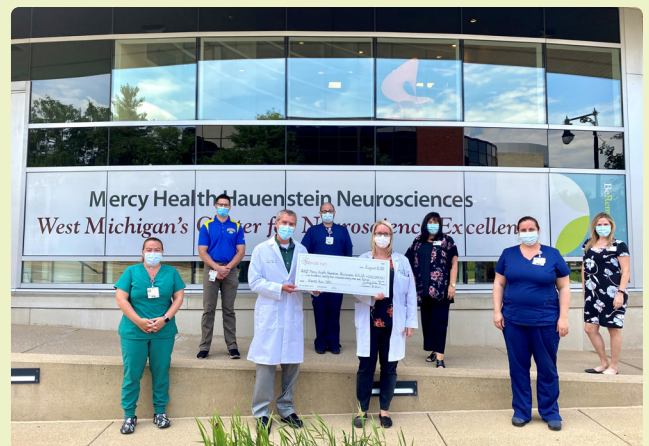
From Left to right: Jenna Leys, Social Worker for the Maternal Infant Health Program at Clinica Santa Maria; Gaby Medina, Medical Assistant at Clinica Santa Maria; Christina Villagomez and her son, Grateful Patient and Vine & Vinyl panelist

Remarkable Partnerships



Nana's Run - The ALS Association Michigan Chapter and Mercy Health Hauenstein Neurosciences, in partnership with the Daniel and Pamella DeVos Foundation, presented the eighth year of Nana's Run, a special 5K race held in Grand Rapids, MI, on May 1, 2021. There were 935 in-person and virtual runners.

Nana's Run raised nearly \$224,600 for the ALS Clinic at Mercy Health Hauenstein Neuroscience Center and the ALS Association - Michigan Chapter.



In the Spotlight: Our Corporate Partners

CareLinc, National Health Care Week



The 2021 National Healthcare Week and Nurses' Week celebrations, underwritten



by CareLinc, included a food truck, a BBQ meal, cookies, cupcakes and more. CareLinc recognizes the resilience of our staff who come to work ready to fulfill our mission to improve the health of our community every day. Thank you, CareLinc!

Fifth Third Day & Newborn College Savings Plans

Fifth Third Bank recently gifted our littlest patients \$1,053 each to fund a 529 College Saving Plan Account. This gift was given to all babies born on Fifth Third Day, May 3, 2021, at Mercy Health Saint Mary's and Mercy Health Muskegon. The hospitals Fifth third Bank partnered with hospitals throughout West Michigan. There was a total of 31 babies born on May 3, 2021 with nine of those at Mercy Health Saint Mary's.



FIFTH THIRD BANK

Lake Michigan Credit Union supports Mercy Health Saint Mary's Birth Center



Each year, Lake Michigan Credit Union members and employees raise funds through the Band Together campaign to benefit pediatric programs serving children in Michigan and Florida hospitals. This year, their fundraising efforts raised \$11,750 for the Mercy Health Saint Mary's Birth Center, which will help provide baby warmers, neonatal resuscitation units, and more!



Reach Out & Read

Thanks to the new Reach Out & Read (ROR) West Michigan Affiliate, Saint Mary's Foundation receives funding from Ready for School provided through Kent County to support programs that ensure 5-year-old children are ready to begin kindergarten. For every Reach Out & Read book given to a child on Medicaid (living below 200% poverty level) at our participating clinics and Mercy Health Physician Partners sites, the program covers the cost.



Remarkable Ongoing Support from the Community

Throughout the pandemic, Saint Mary's Foundation has accepted many generous donations from the community in support of our front-line heroes and patients. Each gift is an expression of support and hope and is gratefully appreciated by our providers and staff. Thank you!



Chamberlain University Snack Donation

Chamberlain University showed their appreciation for our health care heroes by donating 250 snack bags for our third-shift nursing staff.



Genentech Meal Donation

In recognition of National Stroke Awareness Month, our friends at Genentech donated 200 meals to celebrate the Mercy Health colleagues who support our Comprehensive Stroke Center at Mercy Health Hauenstein Neurosciences.



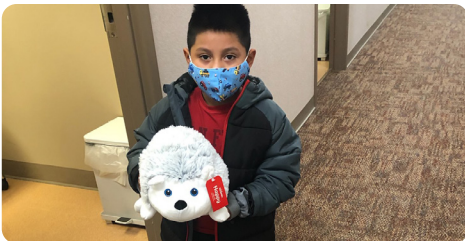
Grand Rapids Networking at Noon + YoChefs Catering Company

In March 2021, Grand Rapids Networking at Noon partnered with YoChefs Catering Company to celebrate our ICU team for their resiliency throughout the last year with a catered meal.



Kraft Meadows Middle School

Students at Kraft Meadows Middle School made more than 400 chocolate first-aid kits for our remarkable nurses to enjoy on Valentine's Day.



PetSmart

Through PetSmart's generous donation of more than 1,500 stuffed toys, young patients at Mercy Health were able to take home a new friend after their visit.



Retired Teachers Snack Donation

Local retired teachers brought joy and many smiles to our colleagues with their thoughtful individually wrapped snack donation.

Saint Mary's Foundation Board of Trustees

Saint Mary's Foundation is grateful to have the support of these community leaders who bring to our mission their exceptional leadership, professional expertise and connections to the communities we serve.

Welcome New Trustees!



Erin Bonovetz



Jill Onesti, MD
Mercy Health Saint Mary's
Chief of Staff



Roslyn Sullivan



Ellie Frey Zagel

Board of Trustees Updates

Saint Mary's Foundation wishes to thank Jeff Dixon and Robert C. Woodhouse, Jr. for respectively serving a full nine years as trustees.

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We are pleased to welcome two new Honorary Trustees, Betsy Beaton Borre and Robert C. Woodhouse, Jr., to the Saint Mary's Foundation Board.

Saint Mary's Foundation is dedicated to building relationships that inspire financial support from the community to advance the mission of Mercy Health Saint Mary's.

Interested in becoming a volunteer?
Contact Laura Conners at 616-685-6084 or
connerla@mercyhealth.com

Interested in planned gift opportunities?
Contact Cathy Skene at 616-685-1484 or
cathy.skene@mercyhealth.com

Interested in becoming a member of our
Grand Groups program?
Contact Alica Woodrick at 616-685-1427 or
alica.woodrick@mercyhealth.com

Interested in your company becoming
more involved?
Contact Angela Paasche at 616-685-1426 or
angela.paasche@mercyhealth.com

If you do not wish to receive information from
Saint Mary's Foundation in the future,
please call 616-685-1892.

For more information
please contact us:

Saint Mary's Foundation
200 Jefferson Avenue SE
Grand Rapids MI 49503
Phone: 616-685-1892

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Mercy Health Saint Mary's Named One of the Nation's 100 Top Hospitals

The Watson Health 100 Top Hospitals® annual study program has named Mercy Health Saint Mary's as one of the highest performing hospitals in the nation and the 4th Top Major Teaching Hospital.

Using independent public data and proprietary analytics, the newly released 100 Top Hospitals study recognizes hospitals that have clearly demonstrated top performance in care, efficiency and community value.

The study objectively gauges leadership impact and organizational health by assessing the ability to drive consistent, outstanding performance versus the performance of industry peers.

As a 2021 100 Top Hospitals award winner, the Mercy Health Saint Mary's leadership team, medical staff and employees – together as a team – have set national benchmarks for the highest balanced performance in the US. Visit 100tophospitals.com for more information on this program.



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