

# Gift of Health

Our Philanthropy Magazine

FALL 2024

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## SAINT MARY'S FOUNDATION

A Member of Trinity Health

*In this issue of Gift of Health, we celebrate the many ways Saint Mary's Foundation is making a difference at Trinity Health Grand Rapids and in our community.*

For Donors of  
**Saint Mary's Foundation**



As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of Saint Mary's Foundation, I am filled with immense gratitude for all we have achieved together over the past six decades. Since our inception, we have had thoughtful support from countless individuals, families and organizations helping us transform health care in our community. From the earliest days of the Foundation to the present, your belief in our mission has allowed us to provide compassionate care to those who need it most.

As we honor the incredible legacy of the past 60 years, we are also looking toward the future with hope and determination. Health care continues to advance and our commitment to innovation and excellence has never been stronger. Together, we will ensure that Trinity Health Grand Rapids remains a beacon of healing and hope for generations to come.

In this edition of *Gift of Health*, we reflect on the milestones that have shaped our Foundation and highlight the exciting 60th Anniversary Celebration held in September. Our work is far from finished, and with your continued partnership, the next 60 years hold even greater promise.

Thank you for your steadfast support and dedication to making our community a healthier, more vibrant place to live.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Rabideau".

**Michelle Rabideau, CFRE, MPA**  
President, Saint Mary's Foundation

## Make Your Giving Tuesday Gift Today!

This **GivingTuesday**, December 3, 2024, Saint Mary's Foundation invites you to make a lasting impact by supporting the greatest needs of Trinity Health Grand Rapids. Thanks to a generous matching gift from LMCU, every donation up to \$10,000 will be doubled, providing critical resources to ensure exceptional care for our patients and community.

**Your GivingTuesday gift will go twice as far!**





## Humble Beginnings: A Legacy of Compassion

This year, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Saint Mary's Foundation, we reflect on how our journey began—rooted in friendship, compassion and a commitment to serve others. The Foundation's story is closely intertwined with the life and legacy of Dr. Frank Doran, a beloved physician at Saint Mary's Hospital, known for his unwavering care and kindness toward his patients.

In 1963, Dr. Doran received a diagnosis of colon cancer. His close friend and colleague, Dr. James Beaton, along with a group of fellow physicians and community leaders, was determined to honor Dr. Doran's legacy by founding a philanthropic organization in his name. Dr. Doran's humble response to this generous idea was, "If you can raise a nickel on my name, go ahead."

That simple yet profound challenge marked the beginning of what would become the Saint Mary's Foundation. Over dinner at the Schnitzelbank Restaurant, eight passionate individuals pooled their resources—each contributing \$50 to cover the legal fees—and established the Doran Foundation. Their initial vision was to support educational opportunities, but their efforts planted the seeds for something much larger: a foundation that would touch countless lives through health care philanthropy.

From those modest beginnings, Saint Mary's Foundation has grown into a vital force, supporting leading-edge medical advancements, patient care and community health initiatives. For six decades, we've stayed true to the values that inspired our founding—honoring individuals, fostering compassion and improving the health and well-being of our community.

As we celebrate 60 years of impact, we honor the legacy of Dr. Frank Doran and the many individuals who helped shape this Foundation into what it is today. We invite you to be a part of our future as we continue to transform health care and build a healthier tomorrow for all.

### The First 20 Years

- 1964** The Doran Foundation was established.
- 1965** The first Doran Lecture was led by William J. Shivley, MD.
- 1968** The first nursing scholarship was presented by C. Arthur Woodhouse.
- 1973** The first grant was awarded to Saint Mary's Hospital (now Trinity Health Grand Rapids)
- 1973** The Kidney Transplant Center in Grand Rapids for adult patients was established.
- 1975** The first Aquinas College Nursing Scholarship was granted.
- 1983** The Mercy Central School of Nursing was awarded three grants.



## 60th Anniversary Kick-Off

Our 60th Anniversary Kick-off event was a celebration of the heart and soul of Saint Mary's Foundation—the people who make it all possible. From long-time supporters to new friends, we gathered to reflect on the remarkable journey that has brought us to this milestone. The late afternoon event was filled with joy, gratitude and inspiration, as we honored the past and shared our vision for the future.

Our 60th kick-off featured inspiring remarks from Trinity Health Grand Rapids President Matt Biersack, Foundation Board Chair Kim McLaughlin and Foundation President Michelle Rabideau. Each speaker highlighted the profound impact the Foundation has made over six decades, supporting countless patients and families in our community.

The true stars of the evening were two of our K9 units, along with their handlers. Zan, one of the K9s, captivated the crowd with an impressive obedience demonstration on a brightly lit stage, stealing the show and adding a special touch to this memorable occasion. The event was a perfect way to honor our past while looking forward to an exciting future for the Foundation.

These photos capture the spirit of the event and the enduring commitment of our community to advancing health care at Trinity Health Grand Rapids.

*"It's how it tugs at your heart that gets you to want to be engaged."*

*Bob Woodhouse,  
honorary trustee of  
Saint Mary's Foundation*



"The mission of Saint Mary's Foundation is to raise the bar, to do things differently in innovative ways."

*Dr. Dave Baumgartner,  
former trustee of Saint Mary's Foundation*



"The Foundation works on bringing opportunities to provide better health care and services to our community."

*Dr. Jürgen Lüders,  
former trustee of Saint Mary's Foundation*





It really is a family, and our family is extended out to the Grand Rapids community and the community of West Michigan."

*Dr. Paul Farr,  
former chair of Saint Mary's Foundation*



"The combination of mind, spirit, and body that Trinity Health embraces is carried out in the mission at Lacks Cancer Center."

*John Kennedy,  
loyal supporter of  
Saint Mary's Foundation*





## Welcoming Our New Board Chair & Trustees

We are excited to welcome **Kim McLaughlin** as the new **Chair** of the Saint Mary's Foundation Board! Kim brings exceptional leadership and passion to her role, and we look forward to the vision and dedication she will bring to our mission.



Dr. Aileen Antonio



Christa Panopoulos Bird



Lauren Snyder

We are thrilled to introduce three new trustees to our board: Dr. Aileen Antonio, Christa Panopoulos Bird and Lauren Snyder. Each of these leaders brings unique expertise and a deep commitment to advancing health care in our community.

*We are grateful for their service and delighted to work together to further the impact of Saint Mary's Foundation!*

## Connecting With Our Retired Medical Staff and Nurses

Emeritus Physicians and retired RNs from Trinity Health Grand Rapids recently came together for a delightful luncheon filled with fellowship and engaging conversation. As they enjoyed one another's company, they heard an update from Michelle Peña, chief nursing officer, about the state of health care and the latest developments at Trinity Health Grand Rapids Hospital.

*If you are a former medical staff member or RN who retired from Trinity Health Grand Rapids and would like information about joining other retired physicians and RNs at the next luncheon on May 21, 2025, email Cathy Skene at [cathy.skene@trinity-health.org](mailto:cathy.skene@trinity-health.org).*



*Retired colleagues J. Stephen Ebrom, MD, and Kenda Klotz, RN.*

# Community Engagement & Support

## Kidney Transplant Golf Outing Raises \$12,950 for Trinity Health

The **2024 Kidney Transplant Golf Outing**, organized by a grateful patient and donor, was a tremendous success! This year's event raised \$12,950 in support of the Trinity Health Grand Rapids Kidney Transplant program. Thanks to the generosity of participants, sponsors and donors, these funds will help provide critical resources for patients undergoing life-saving kidney transplants. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this event possible. Together, we're making a lasting impact on the lives of transplant patients!



## LMCU Band Together Program Supports Birth Center with \$11,000 Donation

We are deeply grateful to **Lake Michigan Credit Union (LMCU) Band Together program** for their generous \$11,000 donation to the Trinity Health Birth Center. These funds will be used to purchase CUB (Comfortable Upright Birth Support) stools and other essential labor-support equipment, enhancing comfort and care for mothers during childbirth. This gift will make a meaningful difference for families in our community, ensuring the best possible birthing experience. Thank you, LMCU, for your continued partnership and dedication to supporting maternal health!



## Gold Coast Doulas Support New Moms with Donation

A special thank you to Gold Coast Doulas for their generous \$750 donation to the Centering Pregnancy program at Clinica Santa Maria! This contribution will help support new moms in our community by providing essential resources for prenatal care and education. The Centering Pregnancy program offers a unique, group-based approach to prenatal care, empowering mothers with knowledge and support throughout their pregnancy journey. We are grateful for Gold Coast Doulas' commitment to maternal health and their ongoing support of new families!



## Backpack Drive Success: Supporting Students Together!

Saint Mary's Foundation recently led a successful Backpack Drive, collecting school supplies for local students in need. With the enthusiastic participation of Trinity Health Grand Rapids' colleagues, including Up Next! participants and corporate partners, we gathered a wide range of essential items to help students thrive this school year. From notebooks to pencils, every contribution made a difference! A huge thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered—your generosity ensures that students at our Community-Based Offices (Clinica Santa Maria, Browning Claytor and Sparta) have the tools they need for a bright future. Together, we are making a lasting impact!



## A Wedding Gift of Gratitude

At her recent wedding, Ashley Sacco from Long Island, NY, a grateful former guest of the Trinity Health Grand Rapids guest house — Sophia's House — found a special way to give back. After experiencing exceptional and compassionate care that she and her family received earlier this year, she wanted to honor that kindness. In lieu of wedding favors, she donated the value and asked her guests to contribute to Sophia's House in loving memory of her cousin, Haydn Johnson. Her generous gesture is a beautiful reminder of the lasting impact of the heartfelt care of Sophia's House.



*Ashley and Kevin Sacco*

## Saint Mary's Foundation Earns Platinum Seal for Transparency

Saint Mary's Foundation is proud to announce that we have once again been awarded the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid, the highest level of recognition for nonprofit organizations. This distinction reflects our ongoing commitment to accountability and our dedication to ensuring that donor gifts are used to make the greatest impact. With your generous support, we continue to meet the highest standards of integrity as we advance our mission of improving health care and the lives of those we serve. Thank you for being a vital part of this success!



# Planned Giving Myths

At Saint Mary's Foundation, we often encounter misconceptions about planned giving, which can prevent individuals from considering this impactful way of supporting their favorite causes. Cathy Skene, director of special gifts, sets the record straight and helps you understand how planned giving can be an accessible and rewarding option for anyone.



## Myth #1: Planned Giving Is Only for the Wealthy

**Reality:** Planned giving is not just for millionaires or large estates. Anyone can make a meaningful gift, regardless of their financial situation. By including a charitable gift in your will, trust or estate plan, you can leave a legacy that reflects your values, no matter the size of your estate.

## Myth #2: I Need to Rewrite My Entire Will to Include a Gift

**Reality:** Adding a charitable gift to your estate plans is often as simple as updating beneficiary designations on retirement accounts, insurance policies or financial accounts. You don't always need to rewrite your will – a quick update can make a significant difference.

## Myth #3: I'll Lose Control of My Assets if I Make a Planned Gift

**Reality:** With most planned gifts, you retain complete control of your assets during your lifetime. Whether you're making a bequest, setting up a charitable remainder trust, or designating the Foundation as a beneficiary, you can continue to use your resources as you see fit.

## Myth #4: Planned Giving Is Complicated and Expensive

**Reality:** While some planned gifts may require professional guidance, many options are straightforward and affordable to arrange. Your financial advisor or estate planning attorney can help tailor a plan that works best for you, and the Saint Mary's Foundation team is here to support you along the way.

## Myth #5: My Family Will Be Left Out

**Reality:** Planned giving doesn't mean choosing between your loved ones and the charities you care about. Many donors find ways to provide for both by designating a percentage of their estate to charity or including contingent gifts. You can still prioritize your family while leaving a charitable legacy.

## Myth #6: I'm Too Young to Think About Planned Giving

**Reality:** There's no such thing as "too young" when it comes to planning for the future. Estate planning is a way to ensure your wishes are honored, regardless of your age. Plus, setting up a planned gift now can provide peace of mind and flexibility if your circumstances change later in life.



## Including Saint Mary's Foundation in your estate plan is easy.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Cathy Skene at 616-685-1484 or [cathy.skene@trinity-health.org](mailto:cathy.skene@trinity-health.org).

# Saint Mary's Foundation Board of Trustees

Saint Mary's Foundation is fortunate 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.

## Board Officers

Kim McLaughlin, *Chair*

Joe Chamberlin, *Vice Chair*

Rhonda Huisman, *Treasurer*

Ellie Frey Zagel, *Secretary*

Patrick A. Cebelak

Roz Sullivan

Benjamin J. Williams

## Trustees

Aileen A. Antonio, MD, FAAN

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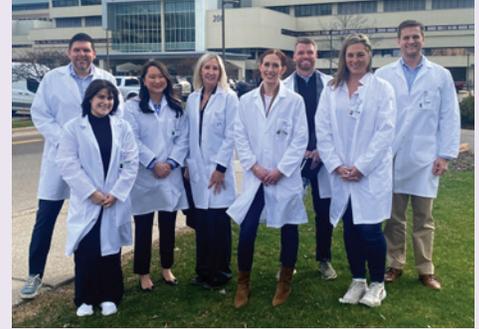
## Honorary Trustees

Betsy Beaton Borre

Robert C. Woodhouse, Jr.

### Trinity Health Mission

We, Trinity Health, serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities.



## Up Next! Celebrates 15 Years of Leadership Development

Up Next! is a program aimed at expanding Trinity Health's volunteer leadership by engaging emerging leaders. This year marks its 15-year anniversary with impressive impact: 123 participants across 10 classes, led to significant involvement in our community. Alumni include one who joined Trinity Health staff, 10 who served on Saint Mary's Foundation's board, one on the Trinity Health Grand Rapids board and one involved in our campaign cabinets. Up Next! continues to inspire future leaders committed to our mission.

*Interested in participating in a future Up Next! class? Contact Angela Paasche at 616-685-1426 or [angela.paasche@trinity-health.org](mailto:angela.paasche@trinity-health.org).*

## Did You Know?

Donor-advised funds (DAFs) are a flexible and efficient way to make a charitable gift. By using a DAF, you can support our mission while enjoying immediate tax benefits and simplifying your charitable giving. Your DAF donation can have a lasting impact on our community.

## Get Involved During Our 60th Year!

Here are six meaningful ways to get involved with Saint Mary's Foundation and make a lasting impact on health care in our community:

**Make a Donation:** Whether it's a one-time gift or a recurring contribution, your financial support helps fund vital programs and services that enhance patient care.

**Attend Events:** Join us at our events and gatherings to help raise support and connect with others who share your passion for making a difference.

**Volunteer Your Time:** By volunteering, you can play an active role in supporting our mission and improving the patient experience.

**Join a Giving Society:** Become a member of one of our dedicated giving groups, where you can help sustain our mission through ongoing contributions and advocacy.

**Become a Community Partner:** Partner with us as a corporate sponsor or offer a matching gift to increase your company's community impact while supporting key initiatives that align with your mission.

**Make a Planned Gift:** Consider including Saint Mary's Foundation in your estate plan, ensuring your legacy of care continues for generations to come.

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

### Interested in becoming a volunteer?

Laura Connors | 616-685-6084  
connerla@trinity-health.org

### Interested in planned gift opportunities?

Cathy Skene | 616-685-1484  
cathy.skene@trinity-health.org

### Interested in becoming a member of our Grand Groups program?

Alica Woodrick | 616-685-1427  
alica.woodrick@trinity-health.org

### Interested in your company becoming more involved?

Angela Paasche | 616-685-1426  
angela.paasche@trinity-health.org

Saint Mary's Foundation  
616-685-1892  
200 Jefferson Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

[SaintMarysFoundationGR.com](http://SaintMarysFoundationGR.com)

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



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