

Gift of Health

Our Philanthropy Magazine



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This issue of Gift of Health is filled with hope and joy, hope for breast cancer and Alzheimer's patients and joy for 2022!



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Facing Breast
Cancer with Joy**
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for donors of
Saint Mary's Foundation

WINTER 2022

BeRemarkable.®

Joy is a Year-Round Thing

Have you ever noticed that during the holidays, everyone talks about joy? People even sing about it: Joy to the World!

Well, in my humble opinion, joy isn't just for holidays...it's something to be celebrated all year long. Joy is my goal for all of 2022.

A couple months ago, I read an article from our community friends, 8THIRTYFOUR, and it inspired me to talk to the Saint Mary's Foundation team about how we can rediscover joy in our work. Soon after, our team set a goal to improve joy at work with intentional activities and reflections about how we feel joy every single day.

And, guess what? It's working.

As we acknowledge more joy in our lives, we are physically, emotionally and spiritually stronger. That's because when we feel joy, our brains respond by releasing the chemicals dopamine and serotonin, both scientifically associated with happiness.

According to an online article on *healthline*, there are benefits to feeling joy. Feeling more joy boosts your immune system, promotes an overall healthier lifestyle, fights stress and pain, and supports longevity.

So, if you're still thinking about an intention for 2022, consider simply acknowledging joy in your life every day. Think about what brought you a little or a lot of happiness and do that for at least a week.

Saint Mary's Foundation wants to acknowledge the joy that you, our family of supporters, have brought to us through your kind words, your financial gifts, your notes, your calls, your gifts of time, and your prayers for our frontline colleagues. All of that brings us true joy.

In gratitude,



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



Operation Joy is Underway!

To lift spirits at Mercy Health Saint Mary's, we have initiated Operation Joy. Teams of colleagues and volunteers are spreading cheer, appreciation, and kindness to our colleagues for their continued hard work and dedication.

Operation Joy includes meals, snacks and beverages, pet therapy, giveaways, decorations, surprises, and more. It will continue into 2022 and is made possible, in part, thanks to donor support. If you would like to help spread joy in 2022 or know a business willing to donate, please contact Rachel Jonaitis at rachel.jonaitis@mercyhealth.com.

Thank you for supporting our mission of healing and compassionate care!



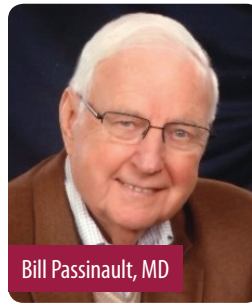
In Memoriam

Celebrating the lives of two individuals who left lasting marks on our organization



Marie Canepa, 90, died peacefully in her sleep on December 14, 2021. Marie, and her beloved husband John, played a very special and important role in much of the success at Mercy Health Saint Mary's by supporting nearly every significant initiative, including

Wege Institute of Health & Learning and our community health clinics. In May 2014, the Mercy Health John and Marie Canepa Place was dedicated in their names honoring their loyal support for decades, which started when John served on the hospital's Board of Trustees in the 1970s.



Bill Passinaut, MD, died at home surrounded by his loving wife, Mary, and family on December 26, 2021. Dr. Passinaut left an indelible legacy with Saint Mary's, starting his career as a general surgeon in 1968 and serving in numerous leadership roles, including Chair

of Saint Mary's (Doran) Foundation, Chief of Staff, and Chairman of Department of Surgery. Dr. Passinaut was also instrumental in the development of the multi-disciplinary breast clinic at Saint Mary's, served as the Medical Director of the Wound Care program and led the Ethics Committee.

Sister Schiller and Dr. Foley Awarded by Senior Neighbors' 16 Over 60

Sister Rosita Schiller and Kevin Foley, MD, were recognized at the 16 Over 60 Awards Gala 2021, which annually recognizes the contributions and impact of 16 individuals over the age of 60. Sister Schiller and Dr. Foley are doing amazing things for our patients and community.

Sister Rosita Schiller: Educator, Dietitian, Grant Writer

Sister Rosita is a grants specialist with Saint Mary's Foundation, and helps raise funds to support vulnerable patients. She served on the hospital's board of trustees, chaired the Quality Committee, and serves on the Community Health and Well-Being Committee. As a registered dietitian nutritionist, she sits on the Trinity Health Nutrition Advisory Council helping develop standards for nutrition services at 92 hospitals nationwide. Sister Rosita says her years of service have been joyful. She is grateful for God's blessings of good health, energy, and the motivation to continue productive engagement.

Kevin Foley, MD, Dementia Care Advocate, Innovator, Educator

Dr. Foley's career has focused on improving care for adults suffering from dementia and expanding educational opportunities for health professionals in dementia care. As the Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorder Clinic medical director since 2003, he has personally cared for nearly 8,000 patients with memory loss and establish vital synergies with organizations and agencies, improving the lives of those struggling with dementia. He has also mentored hundreds of students, residents and health professionals to broaden their knowledge and care management skills. Currently, he is focused on a new collaboration with Michigan State University.

Learn more on page 4.



Sister Rosita Schiller and Dr. Kevin Foley at the 16 over 60 Senior Neighbors Gala 2021.

Leaders, Healers, Teachers

Banking on New Hope, Untangling the Mysteries of Alzheimer's Disease

To bring hope to families impacted by Alzheimer's Disease in the Greater Grand Rapids area, Saint Mary's Foundation helped launch a brain bank pilot program in 2016. An initial \$25,000 grant was given, and in 2020, a \$20,425 grant was made to ensure this important program continues through 2023.

In his thirty-five years of practice, Dr. Foley has cared for thousands of patients with dementia due to Alzheimer's disease and other disorders, and yet little progress has been made in the treatment options available to him.



Kevin Foley, MD

Kevin Foley, MD, medical director of the Mercy Health Hauenstein Neuroscience Center Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders Program, and Scott Counts, PhD, associate professor of translational neuroscience at Michigan State University, have established a brain bank in West Michigan to further understand this devastating disease.

"There are just four medications with unconditional FDA approval for Alzheimer's disease," said Foley. "They were developed at a time when there was urgency to come up with a treatment. Over the past 20 years, we found that these drugs have very modest benefits that are counterbalanced by potential side effects."

The average age of an Alzheimer's patient diagnosis is 74. Yet, the illness can affect anyone at any age. Dr. Foley has a large cohort of early onset patients — those whose symptoms began before age 65. His youngest patient with advanced disease was just 38 years old.



"Patients want to be involved in some type of research," said Foley. "They want to give back because of the hardships they experienced with their illness. They want Alzheimer's to end so others who follow them will have brighter futures."

Today, the Alzheimer's Brain Bank pilot program is profoundly meaningful to patients and their families. It's a concept that isn't easy to talk about, but it has the potential to help researchers uncover mysteries of the brain, leading to promising new interventions and treatments.

Through the program, donated post-mortem specimens are sent to Howard Chang, MD, PhD, for pathological analysis. Dr. Chang is a faculty member in the Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology at Michigan State University and Sparrow Hospital's chief of neuropathology in East Lansing.

Dr. Chang sends the completed analysis back to Dr. Foley who consults with the family and shares the results, bringing them closure. Many families wish to make a difference for others. Some hope to learn if it really was Alzheimer's disease their loved one had.

The team has completed half of the 24 currently consented cases. The program has revealed a high clinical accuracy in diagnosing this difficult-to-diagnose disease.

Meet the Mercy Health Saint Mary's Brain Bank team

- **William Baer, MD**, Medical Director of Research and Innovation
- **Pamela Bartlett, BS**, Tissue Procurement Specialist, Clinical Research Coordinator
- **Julie Bishop, BSN, RN, CCRC**, Clinical Research Coordinator
- **Howard Chang, MD, PhD**, Faculty at the Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology at Michigan State University and Chief of Neuropathology, Sparrow Health System
- **Scott Counts, PhD**, Associate Professor of Translational Neuroscience, Michigan State University
- **Kevin Foley, MD**, Medical Director of the Mercy Health Hauenstein Neuroscience Center Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders Program
- **Andrew Jameson, MD**, Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Control
- **Joel Phillips, DO**, Medical Director, Neuropalliative Care Unit
- **Stacy Smith**, Business Development Liaison, Clinical Trial Unit
- **Abigail Van Kirk, BSN, RN**, Clinical Research Coordinator
- **John vanSchagen, MD**, Regional Chief Academic Officer for Mercy Health West Michigan

The Next Steps

Drs. Counts and Foley hope to establish a western location for the Michigan Brain Bank. With MSU and Mercy Health Saint Mary's providing oversight, it will seek to become a subsidiary of the Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Center, which is administered at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, along with Wayne State University and Michigan State University.

"Alzheimer's can present in many different ways," said Foley. It speaks to how different everyone's brains are. It is a matter of knowing what to look for, asking the right questions and doing the appropriate tests to be as clinically certain as possible."

Every so often, a family member will reach out to Dr. Foley and ask if there are clinical study options available. There are other instances when he has suggested it because he thought it would bring some value and help to answer questions.



Scott Counts, PhD

"Alzheimer's disease is a uniquely human disease. Brain tissue is the gold standard for trying to understand it," said Dr. Counts. "We can compare brain tissue with someone who died with Alzheimer's to someone without disease, or to someone who died at the early stages of disease. We can look at the subtle changes that occur early, and if they persist in the more advanced cases, then we may be on to something."

"Some people pass away with a lot of Alzheimer's pathology but have no cognitive problems. They are termed resilient," said Dr. Counts. "We also want to find differences in resilient people."

"One of the known disease pathologies is neurofibrillary tangles. This involves a protein, called tau, that starts to aggregate inside the nerve cells and appears to keep neurons from functioning correctly. One neuron can't talk to the next, and it breaks up the communication framework. An attractive line of research is extracting the different tangles from the donated tissue and then testing which tangles are truly toxic and whether there are compounds that can bust them up to prevent toxicity."

"Researchers are trying to verify if the tangles are the actual cause of memory loss in Alzheimer's disease; however, it could also be the co-occurring amyloid plaques or something else. We're still very much in the dark," said Foley. "But there is tremendous effort throughout the world to come up with a solution because Alzheimer's is the number one neurodegenerative disease on our planet."

"If we could slow down Alzheimer's disease five years on average, we would reduce the prevalence by maybe 41%. We don't need to stop the disease in its tracks," said Counts. "We just need something to slow it down so that people can live out the rest of their lives being able to remember their loved ones and hold on to these great memories they have."

Mercy Health Saint Mary's Brain Bank participants may be the key to untangling the mysteries of Alzheimer's disease. Saint Mary's Foundation is pleased to support this important initiative thanks to the generosity of our donors.



Dr. Sylvia Mupepi's joyful response to her breast cancer journey is an unexpected reminder to all of us to respond with positivity to life's challenges.

Dr. Sylvia Mupepi, Breast Cancer Survivor. In her own words.

When my results were announced, my nurse from the Mercy Health Comprehensive Breast Center called and said, "Sylvia, where are you? Are you on the road?"

I said, "No, I am at home."

She said, "Are you with someone?"

I said, "No, I'm physically just by myself, and my Lord is with me."

She said, "I'm going to deliver the news."

I said, "You have the best news for me."

She sighed and said, "Why would you say the best news?"

I said, "If my biopsy is positive, it is the best news for me, because things are going to be dealt with in a much faster way and a promising way."

So, she sighed a sigh of relief and said, "Thank you for being so positive about it. Yes, your biopsy is positive."

I said, "Just you let me know what next steps you want done and I will make sure we get things done, and that I get over this one, because the Lord loves me and has favored me to get it caught at this early stage."

I was married to a doctor and professor who was called by the Lord in 2018. He taught at Grand Valley State University and the University of Michigan. I'm blessed with three daughters, Kuda, Tatenda and Clara, who love me so much and who I love so dearly. We take care of each other. I have great support behind me.

The Comprehensive Breast Center was like an angel for me. The time when I came in for breast screening was not anything that was well timed in my life. And, I am saying this is a woman of faith. I so much believe in my faith.

I came for screening and the two radiologists who worked on my mammogram worked so diligently. Eventually, they told me, "We need you to come back. We're not happy about what we see here."

In my inner heart, I was so thrilled because I kept thinking, "Lord, if there's something that is trying to grow in me, it has been caught, and it will be dealt with so early. I wasn't nervous. I was always cheerful. They wondered why. I told them the reason why I was cheerful was that I feel I am in safe hands.

I informed my daughters, who are based in Chicago, what was going to happen. My daughters know and understand my feelings and how I behave. They sent their prayers. The biopsy was done. In 24 to 48 hours the results would come.

I was so much at peace. I loved the environment at the Comprehensive Breast Center, the language that was used there, the respect and the sense of dignity that was brought in by staff. It did not matter what level of staff that came through, they brought in so much love and confidence that I believed the Lord was with me all the time.

After my lumpectomy, I never canceled work. The next day, I was at GVSU teaching a two-hour class, and then went home to rest. My daughters were by my side and I never required a leave of absence from work. I felt if I put myself in a position of a sick woman, I definitely would be sick.

What you believe in and what you make of it is what you become. I knew I needed to be strong, but radiation takes a toll. My responsibility was to make sure that I built my immune system as fast as I could. My daughters helped organize an exercise program and ensured I had a good diet.

I listened to them carefully. They were my partners, not my daughters, colleagues, because I knew if I took them as my daughters, I wouldn't be able to comply with some of my treatments. So, we were great partners, and they did an excellent job trying to help uplift me because this treatment sometimes can pull you down.

One needs to make sure that they understand themselves, and they have a purpose and the meaning for life. If one starts blaming themselves, then they don't do anything better to help with their recovery.

There is so much that you can do to take care of yourself and do the things that you can to keep yourself happy. It is so important to have someone who is strong behind you or they can take the energy out of you.

I have my own gym in the home. When we exercise, that is the best treatment for depression. And, when I listen to gospel music, it's like I'm having the Word delivered straight from God, and I'm dancing, I'm clapping. Afterward, I really feel so much renewed.

I go to bed with my gospel music playing. It's the thing that I should never miss. When I'm by myself, those vibes are in my ears and I love that. There's no time for thinking about anything bad, no depression, nothing. Music is great therapy.

So, whatever you are going through, debunk it with the things that give you joy, like positive thoughts, your faith, a strong support system, dancing, exercising, and listening to your favorite music.

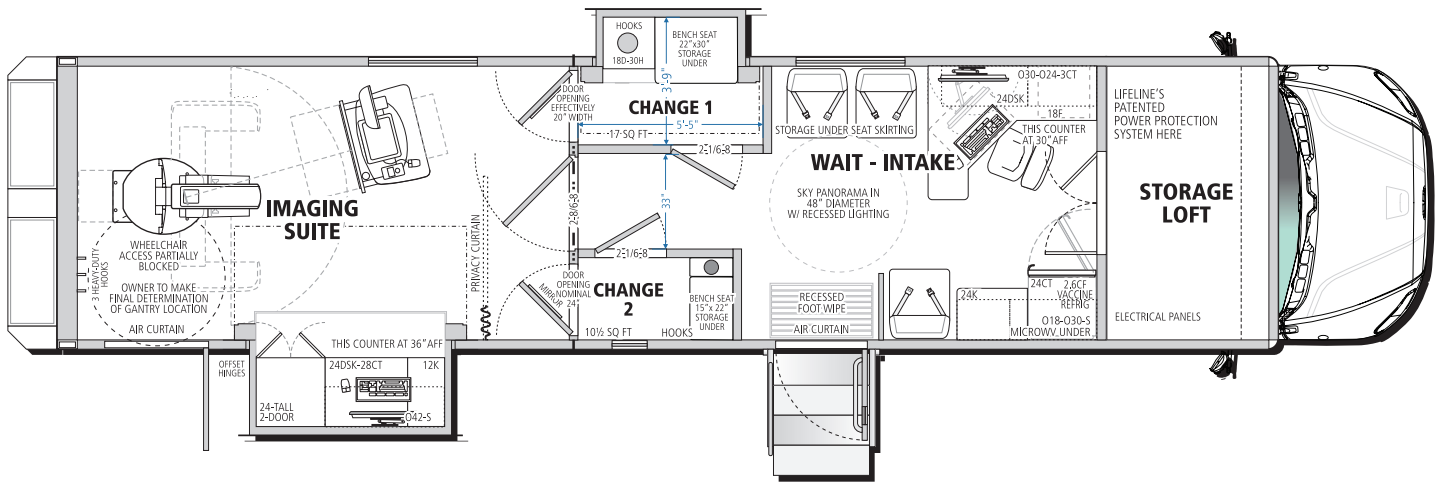
Today, I am so thankful to the Lord, my daughters, and the angels at Mercy Health Comprehensive Breast Center for my care and recovery.

About Dr. Sylvia Mupepi

Dr. Mupepi is a native of Zimbabwe and a national of the United States. She was born in Zimbabwe and educated through Roman Catholic private schools. She completed her nurse training in England and went to the University of London. Her graduate and clinical work in England led her back to Zimbabwe in 1980 when it became independent. She was hired to help organize nursing programs at the graduate level at the University of Zimbabwe and later became the country's director of nursing services. After establishing programs there for 12 years, she worked with the Kellogg Foundation and her work so impressed them that she was offered a fellowship at the University of Michigan to complete a PhD program in Women's Health and Women's Studies. She worked as a research associate for three years. After which, Grand Valley State University hired her as a professor in maternal and child health. For the past 16 years, she has been a nursing professor with Grand Valley State University Kirkoff College of Nursing. Dr. Mupepi's academic work earned her a Fulbright Scholarship and a Carnegie Fellowship to serve for one year to start a masters in nursing program in Ghana. Dr. Mupepi's clinical practice with nursing students included rotations at Mercy Health Saint Mary's Birth Center, Clinica Santa Maria and Browning and Claytor Health Center.

Driven to Increasing Breast Cancer Screenings In Our Community

Mercy Health Saint Mary's has an unprecedented opportunity to build a healthier community.



A Mobile Mammography Vehicle

Mercy Health Saint Mary's plans to purchase, staff and operate a Mobile Mammography vehicle to serve the medically underserved in Grand Rapids and offer easy access to preventive breast care services. This easy access will enhance early detection, promote equity, and decrease mortality. Our immediate goal is to increase the number of eligible women who have a mammogram by 20%.

The Need: Better Access to Breast Care

Mercy Health Saint Mary's data from 2020 showed that of the nearly 8,000 patients eligible for a mammogram, more than half (59%) did not receive one.

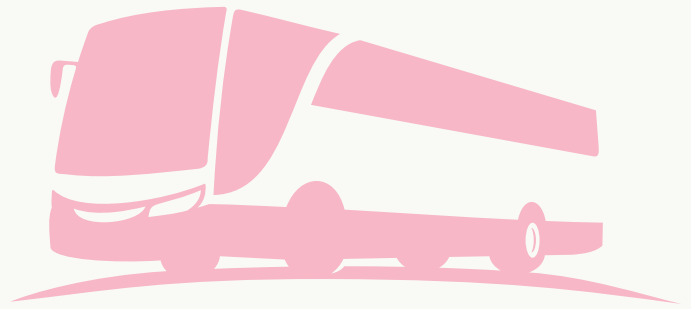
In 2020, nearly half of eligible women in Grand Rapids' racially and ethnically diverse neighborhoods had no mammogram. For many, barriers were lack of transportation and not having insurance. Research shows that women would get screened at a curbside mobile unit if one were available.

Your Compassion Will Save Lives

We know that screening reduces the number of breast cancer deaths by 20%. And, early detection can result in better treatment options, like less extensive surgery and eliminating the need for radiation or chemotherapy. We have an opportunity to bring breast care to those who need it most — the underserved.

This comprehensive mobile mammography program will complement our health clinics, like Clinica Santa Maria and Sparta Health. The goals of the mobile health program include:

- Reaching underserved communities to detect breast cancer and address breast care.
- Providing cancer screenings with a focus on serving Black and Hispanic communities known to have lower rates of preventative care.
- Addressing primary and preventative health care, including immunizations, screenings, wellness, and diagnostics.



DRIVING TOWARD HEALTH

MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY

To learn more about corporate sponsorship opportunities, please contact **Angela Paasche**, Corporate Relations and Community Engagement Officer, at angela.paasche@mercyhealth.com or 616.685.1426.

Will You be the Difference?

Through philanthropic support, we invite you to connect with our healing ministry and our community by caring for the underserved. Your contribution towards our \$1,000,000 goal can help bring to our community this state-of-the-art, high resolution, 3D mammography mobile vehicle, a 40-foot long coach with an imaging suite, two changing rooms and a reception waiting area.

Saint Mary's Foundation welcomes gifts from individuals, organizations and businesses. If your company would like to support the Mobile Mammography vehicle with a customized gift, we welcome the opportunity to work with you. Your support will positively impact the health of our community.

“Many women who will be served by the mobile mammography unit work two or three jobs. Those without children cannot make time in their schedules to have a mammogram. If they do have children, it's nearly impossible. By the time they find out they have breast cancer, it can become a death sentence. They may not realize their life could be saved with early diagnosis. It is so important to meet them in their area of residence. This program shows how deeply Mercy Health and Saint Mary's Foundation care about our community. God bless the hands that contribute and those who will receive this service. There is nothing more powerful than to encourage others and to demystify breast cancer. For those who continue to give generously, you are doing so much good. Thank you!”



– Dr. Sylvia Mupepi, Breast Cancer Survivor and Nursing Professor at Grand Valley State University
Kirkoff College of Nursing

SAINT MARY'S FOUNDATION

GRAND GROUPS

GRAND GIRLFRIENDS™ • GRAND GUYS™

Grand Girlfriends™ and Grand Guys™ giving groups were created to bring women and men together to support programs and services that improve the health and enhance the lives of people served by Mercy Health Saint Mary's. Since inception, the members of our grand groups have awarded more than \$221,246 to Mercy Health Saint Mary's programs through the Grand Girlfriends™ and Grand Guys™ Endowment Funds!

Grand Groups™ announces grants!

Grand Groups members gathered virtually in December for the annual Grand Reception, for updates on the grants awarded in 2020 and to celebrate the 2021 grants. This year, the Grand Girlfriends™ and Grand Guys™ endowment groups awarded more than \$32,000 to several departments at Mercy Health Saint Mary's.



To learn how you can become a member of one of our Grand Groups, please contact Alica Woodrick, Stewardship and Donor Relations Officer, at alica.woodrick@mercyhealth.com or 616.685.1427.

Announcing the Grand Groups Grants for 2021!

The **Comprehensive Breast Center** was awarded **\$11,500** to replace an outdated **SmartCurve stabilization system** on one of the Lacks Cancer Center mammography machines with a more comfortable version. The expected outcome is a better patient experience, increased volume and higher patient satisfaction.

The **Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)** was awarded **\$7,700** to purchase **10 milk warmers**. This grant will provide the right resource for NICU staff, which in turn will increase nurse satisfaction, increase efficiency, provide

parents peace of mind and ultimately provide the best care for our babies.

Radiation Oncology was awarded **\$1,500** to purchase **50 kits with essential adjuvant therapy items** to prevent painful side effects of radiation for head and neck cancer patients. Giving a kit to each patient with written instructions for use of the special products inside the kits, demonstrates attentiveness to patient needs and promotes adherence to skin and oral care.

Grand Groups 2020 Grants are Touching Lives!

Grand Girlfriends™ awarded these 2020 grants to Mercy Health Saint Mary's

The **Birth Center** was awarded **\$18,300** to purchase and gift each newborn an embroidered **Mercy Health sleep sack** upon discharge from the hospital. Each year, approximately 2,000 babies are born at the Birth Center. These garments promote proper sleep safety, help prevent sudden infant death syndrome, and improve the overall patient experience.

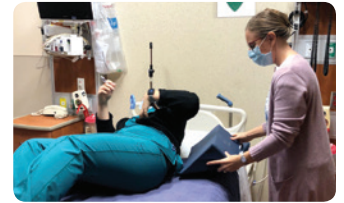


The **Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)** was awarded

\$3,130 to purchase **Dr. Brown's bottle systems for infants**. This grant will provide resources for families who may be unable to afford or have access to this specialized bottle-feeding system. The system provides a more consistent flow for infants and results in a greater overall rate of milk transfer, infant intake and reduction in feeding times; thereby conserving the newborn's precious energy reserves needed to grow and mature.

Grand Guys™ awarded these 2020 grants to Mercy Health Saint Mary's

Hauenstein 2 was awarded **\$4,832** to purchase **Primo wedges to turn patients from side to side**. Hospitalized patients are vulnerable to pressure injury for many reasons, but immobility is one of the largest factors. Frequent turning to offload pressure is the most important intervention nurses can perform to reduce this risk.



The **Endoscopy Department** was awarded **\$4,762** to purchase a **vein finder for use during endoscopy procedures**. Venous access in endoscopy patients is often difficult as they are typically dehydrated due to their pre-procedure preparations.

The **Advanced Care Coordination Program (ACCP)** was awarded **\$5,000** to provide **individual safety devices for medical providers** who make house calls to homebound geriatric patients. Funding will allow the purchase of 15 pocket-sized SoloProtect® safety devices and a three-year subscription to the SoloProtect Call Center for emergency services.

The **Kidney Transplant Team** was awarded **\$4,000** to provide **complimentary lodging at Sophia's House** during the kidney recipient's or donor's inpatient stay and

for subsequent office visits for follow-up. It is important for transplant recipients, living donors, family members and caregivers to stay close to the hospital for their transplant evaluation, inpatient stay and follow-up. Funding will cover five nights of lodging for 20 patients.

Grand Girlfriends™ and Grand Guys™ are also awarding **\$2,546** to the **COVID-19 Response Fund**. This will make an immediate impact and benefit the care of our patients and support our health care heroes.

Remarkable Giving

The Philip H. McCorkle Jr. Legacy Circle

Sometimes a little planning gives big benefits. Many people believe that for a planned gift to have value it must be long and complicated. It does not need to be. Some of the most significant planning can be done in a few moments.

Many of us want to provide for our family and the causes we cherish but don't want the hassle of amending or updating our wills or estate plans. While an up-to-date will is important, you can accomplish many of your goals outside of your will.

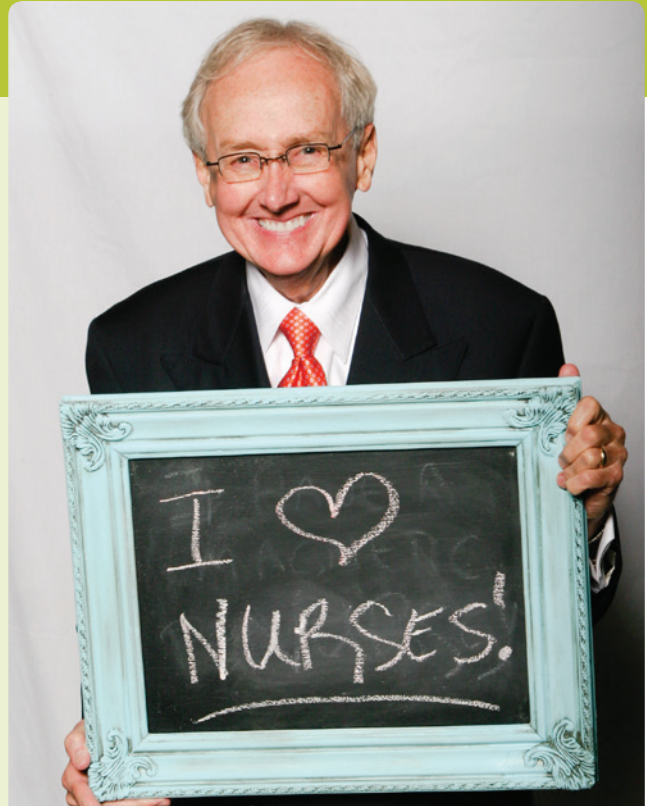
Think about where you have most of your assets:

- Savings account
- Checking account
- Investment account Retirement account: IRA, 401(k), 403(b).

Most of your assets are probably held in one or more of these accounts. If you plan to leave funds from any of them to your family or to the causes you support, you can make your designation with a single form.

Contact your account administrator and ask for a beneficiary designation form or payable-on-death form. No matter what your administrator calls it, it allows you to transfer assets automatically when you pass away.

You can change your mind and change this form quite simply. You can also designate percentages (for example 50% to your spouse and 25% to each of your two children). While these can be given outside your will, it should still be a part of your larger plan, so be sure to check with your attorney or accountant to make sure these designations support your larger goals.



Phil McCorkle, former president of Mercy Health Saint Mary's, was a champion of our mission, our colleagues and philanthropy.



To learn more about estate or planned giving options, contact **Cathy Skene** at 616.685.1484 or cathy.skene@mercyhealth.com.

Remarkable Partnerships

Lake Michigan Credit Union and Giving Tuesday

The Giving Tuesday campaign, on November 30, 2021, achieved remarkable results thanks to a \$10,000 matching gift from Lake Michigan Credit Union and the support of many donors. \$42,151 was raised to help purchase and equip the mobile mammography unit for those at risk in our community.



SpartanNash

SpartanNash recently underwrote the cost for the Mercy Health Saint Mary's and Mercy Health Physician Partners colleague appreciation efforts. Thanks to SpartanNash, as part of Operation Joy, one thousand cookies were freshly baked and donated for colleagues on all shifts! 300 hand sanitizers and \$300 in gift cards were donated to provide snacks and goodies for the Operation Joy Snack Cart. SpartanNash also donated Fast Lane subscriptions that ten colleagues won through a special drawing. Thank you, SpartanNash!



SpartanNash.

Ryan White Grant Award

Mercy Health Saint Mary's was recently awarded two 2022 Ryan White grants, Part B and C, from the Department of Health and Human Services. The grants, totaling \$647,697, will partially fund salaries for physicians, providers, nurses and a pharmacist, as well as case management and support services, such as transportation to medical visits and translation services, for HIV/AIDS patients. Currently, Mercy Health serves more than 1,200 active HIV/AIDS patients in the 12-county West Michigan area.



\$50,000 Awarded to Support Programs Featured in Vine & Vinyl 2021

Saint Mary's Foundation will be awarding \$50,000 in grants to the programs featured in the 2021 Vine & Vinyl storytelling series (\$10,000 each for Heart & Vascular, ALS, Clinica Santa Maria, Comprehensive Breast Center and Epilepsy). More than 400 people virtually participated in this series that highlighted outstanding patient and provider experiences. Each Vine & Vinyl program was a unique, virtual storytelling experience complemented by dinner and accompanying music.



Looking Back at Vine & Vinyl 2021



February 2021
Mercy Health Heart & Vascular Center



April 2021
ALS



June 2021
Clinica Santa Maria



September 2021
Mercy Health Comprehensive Breast Center



November 2021
Epilepsy

Meet the Saint Mary's Foundation Team

What Gives Us Joy? Let us know what gives you joy!



Alberto Acosta, Executive Assistant

alberto.acosta@mercyhealth.com
616.685.1897

- My two cats, Roo and Nova Bean
- Going on adventures with my wife, Katie
- Drawing for myself or others



Cathy Skene, Director of Special Gifts

cathy.skene@mercyhealth.com
616.685.1484

- Friends, family and my dog Bailey
- Coffee or any caffeine!
- Seeing the impact our donors make every day



Joan Kessler, Manager, Philanthropy Communications

kesslejk@mercyhealth.com
231.672.6956

- My children, Chris, Melissa, Mike and Tim
- My English Springer, CJ
- Books and beaches!



Courtney Wakefield, Manager, Philanthropy Services & Prospect Development

courtney.wakefield@mercyhealth.com
616.685.1486

- Family and friends
- Books and writing
- Vacations and travel



Angela Paasche, Corporate Relations & Community Engagement Officer

angela.paasche@mercyhealth.com
616.685.1426

- Friends and family
- Good coffee
- Organization



Alica Woodrick, Stewardship and Donor Relations Officer

alica.woodrick@mercyhealth.com
616.685.1427

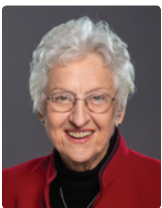
- Quality time with family and friends
- Hearing people's stories
- Sunshine!



Michelle Rabideau, CFRE, MPA, President

rabideaa@mercyhealth.com
616.685.1889

- Sunshine
- Laughter
- Music



Sr. M Rosita Schiller, RSM, PhD, Senior Grants & Research Specialist, RSM

schiller@mercyhealth.com
616.685.1894

- Seeing colleagues with whom I work and laughing with them
- Getting news that a grant application was fully funded — especially those for a larger amount
- Deep, reflective, prayerful breathing— anywhere, anytime

Volunteer Services



Laura Conners, Coordinator

connerla@mercyhealth.com
616.685.6084

- Being on a beach with my toes in the sand, looking out over the open water
- My dog curled up next to me
- Spending time with family and friends, including my work family. They make coming to work joyful!



Rachel Jonaitis, Director, West Michigan

rachel.jonaitis@mercyhealth.com
616.685.1898

- Quality time with my guys; husband Charlie, and sons Tucker, Henry and Burkley
- Finding the perfect gifts for others and making them smile
- Food! Lunch is my favorite part of the day!

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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.

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Operation Joy

Through Operation Joy, we will continue to show our appreciation for our providers, nurses, colleagues and volunteers for their continued hard work and dedication to Mercy Health Saint Mary's and our patients! Our staff are delighted to know this morale boosting, joy-spreading effort is supported by our community.



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 Rachel Jonaitis at 616.685.1898 or
rachel.jonaitis@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
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