# Inspired Philanthropy Magazine

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for friends and donors of Mercy Health Office of Philanthropy

WINTER 2022

### BeRemarkable.

# I MERCY HEALTH

#### **Tim Lopez**

shares his remarkable journey to a healthy heart after emergency open-heart surgery





Gary Allore, President Mercy Health Muskegon



Claudine Weber, Chief Philanthropy Officer Mercy Health Muskegon

#### Greetings,

February, heart month, is a good time to share how important it is to take care of your heart. Whether it is learning about your risk factors for heart disease, considering healthier eating options or putting your best foot forward by walking more, your heart health is important. By each of us doing our part, we can create a healthier community.

The community support our health system has received throughout the pandemic has been extraordinary. Thank you for recognizing the demands placed on our medical staff and colleagues. The encouragement, through donated meals, cards, treats and prayers gives us strength and reminds us that our community is behind us.

The resiliency of our medical staff, nurses, colleagues and volunteers continues to amaze. In every area, they have stepped up, in countless ways, facing daily challenges brought by the pandemic with grace, compassion and determination. No words can express how much we appreciate our staff for all they do for our patients.

Looking ahead, we are excited to share the success of the Building Momentum campaign for the new medical center as well as some upcoming projects and programs in this issue that rely on philanthropic support. These include the Mercy Heart Center, Safe Kids, Safe Sleep for newborns, and more.

At Mercy Health Muskegon, we have much to be thankful for, especially you — our donors and friends. We are grateful for every philanthropic gift. Each one strengthens our mission to provide exceptional care.

Thank you for your support and be sure to keep your heart healthy in 2022.

With sincere appreciation,

Mallere (Queling Deepen)

Our mission inspires us to serve together as a compassionate, transforming healing presence in our communities.

### Always Ready Thanks to Incident Command

Long before the pandemic, Mercy Health has had an incident command structure in place to help our health system navigate any crisis.

Led by David (Dave) Ogren, EMT-P, CHEC, Emergency Management Coordinator, the Incident Command team has helped Mercy Health identify and address potential issues, like supply or medication shortages and staffing or patient concerns.

Whenever there is an emergency, Dave is on site, no matter the time of day. Dave is a calming presence for staff, but he is undeterred when in crisis mode.

"Our teams aim to break barriers," said Dave. "If a problem arises, our goal is to fix it now. When our leaders and decision makers meet to address any situation, our mindset is — Just do it. Let's get it done!"

Through the most recent pandemic surge, when many staff had COVID-19 and were not able to work, Mercy Health colleagues stepped up to help in other departments,



whenever and wherever needed.

"As an organization, we've had more than the pandemic these last few years," said Dave.

"There have been deaths, major system-wide changes and campus consolidation. Regardless, our



David Ogren (left), Emergency Management Coordinator, and Leslie Gabriel (right), Emergency Department Supervisor, work together to address a need in the Emergency Department. These two, along with many others, have been key to our successful COVID-19 response.

colleagues continued to provide top-level care. Everyone had to do their job to the maximum."

As incident commander, Dave is always on call and helps teams address any issues that surface.

When not in crisis mode, Dave makes sure his colleagues are prepared in case of any disaster, like a mass casualty, flood or fire, an active shooter, or the need to assist another health system in West Michigan (Region 6).

Our community's support is evident to Dave through the many deliveries of meals, treats and cards for staff. Additionally, contributions to the COVID-19 Response Fund over the past two years have made a difference when it was needed most.

"How our community has supported us is phenomenal," said Dave. "How our colleagues support one another is beyond extraordinary."

"Even after all that our teams have been through, we are still prepared for any situation."

David Ogren, EMT-P, CHEC, Emergency Management Coordinator

Learning that you or a loved one has heart disease is life changing. However, educating yourself about this disease is the first step toward feeling better and making choices that can help you live a longer and healthier life.

For more information, visit: https://bit.ly/2V3M8ZY



# Building Momentum Capital Campaign Update

The *Building Momentum* campaign is the most significant philanthropic effort in our history. Through the efforts of our Mercy Health Philanthropy Council, and the remarkable support from our donors, over \$14 million was raised in support of our new Mercy Health Muskegon medical center and the following two projects that are currently under construction.

### The Roger W. Spoelman Conference & Learning Center

Now under construction and slated for completion this spring.

The Roger W. Spoelman Conference & Learning Center is located in the garden level of the Mercy Campus. It is an 8,000 sq. ft. facility designed for department meetings, patient education, professional development and more. Named for past president and CEO, Roger W. Spoelman, this space will honor his steadfast commitment to innovation and continuous learning.

Featuring a large 4,100 sq. ft. main conference room, three smaller conference rooms, modern aesthetics and the latest in technologies and A/V capabilities; the space will be customizable to host most any size event or multiple events at one time.

"This space is crucial to the training of our medical students and residents. It's going to be a great asset that will help our medical staff and clinical teams keep up to date and well trained."

~Jerry Evans, MD, Chief of Staff



President Gary Allore, left, and Lon Morrisson, right, Senior Director of Facilities Services, in the future conference center



Architectural rendering of the entrance into the Roger W. Spoelman Conference & Learning Center



Architectural view into the Roger W. Spoelman Conference & Learning Center

#### **The Healing Garden**

Construction is slated for completion in late spring.

This four-season, accessible outdoor space will soon be open for colleagues, patients and guests to walk, reflect and find solace in a natural setting without leaving the hospital grounds. Located along the hospital's main entrance, it will feature a common area with a lawn and walking paths. It will be a sign to patients, family members, staff and visitors that this is a place of healing for body, mind and spirit.

Thanks to the capstone gift made by Brad Playford, the Healing Garden will be named in honor of his wife, Kathleen Playford and family friend, Jan Spoelman.

The restorative power of nature is well recognized, yet it is often not easily accessible in the hospital setting. There are significant findings strongly suggesting well-designed hospital gardens help reduce stress, improve clinical outcomes and heighten patient and family satisfaction.



Architectural rendering of the Healing Garden



Current construction progress of the Healing Garden



Architectural rendering of the Healing Garden entrance



Current construction view of the entrance into the Healing Garden

#### These two projects are being funded solely through philanthropic donations.

We are in the final stretch of wrapping up our *Building Momentum* capital campaign efforts. Gifts to the Roger W. Spoelman Conference & Learning Center and the Healing Garden are welcome and help provide for the long-term sustainability and care of the spaces. All gifts are recognized, regardless of size, in thoughtful ways. To learn more, contact Claudine Weber, Chief Philanthropy Officer, at 231-672-3896 or weberch@mercyhealth.com.



### **An Unexpected Broken Heart**

"If you had gone to sleep tonight, you wouldn't have woken up." These are the sobering words Tim Lopez's medical team said to him before his emergency openheart surgery in September 2021. For this 42-year-old, lifelong Muskegon resident, his survival and recovery after an extremely rare condition — an aortic dissection — is remarkable.

Even before his surgery, Tim lived a healthy and active lifestyle by working out regularly and running. He is married and works as the development and events manager for Kids' Food Basket.

On a warm fall day, while at Phyt Physique gym doing his usual push/pull exercises with a partner, Tim felt a pop. Then, he was struck with back pain and became light headed. He thought he had pulled a muscle in his back. After a brief rest, he jumped back in and completed his workout.

Still not feeling well, Tim went home and showered. He took it easy that evening and slept.

When he awoke in the morning, his back pain had dulled. Throughout the day, he developed a sharp abdominal pain that intensified enough that his wife rushed home to take him to the Mercy Health Fazakerley Family Emergency & Trauma Center. On that Saturday evening, thirty hours after his injury, he arrived at the hospital hoping for pain relief, still convinced it was only a pulled muscle. Staff recognized his critical condition immediately and wasted no time.

Tim's blood pressure was sky high. Stat X-rays and an MRI were done. His medical team gathered swiftly. His aortic valve had torn away from his heart. He needed emergency surgery.

Tim's condition was explained to him in simple terms. 'There is a sack or membrane around the aorta. Your aorta has detached and the sack is filled with blood. Your heart is getting some blood because the membrane is containing it, but it could burst at any second.'

It happened so quickly, Tim said, "I barely had time to call my closest family and friends."

Richard Downey, MD, from Mercy Health Physician Partners (MHPP) Cardiothoracic Surgery, led the surgical team with his colleague Shelly Bansal, MD, assisting. Tim now has a new mechanical aortic valve. He recovered in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for eight days and was released home on the ninth day. His recovery has been demanding.

One of Tim's earliest memories was while he was still in the ICU. Rick Hyatt, cardiac rehabilitation coordinator, was first

to start Tim on the road to recovery. Rick told him, 'Today, you are going to walk.'Tim thought Rick was crazy. Rick said, 'You'll thank me later.' Rick was right. Tim is incredibly thankful for the connection and a real sense of sincerity he felt with Rick as he pushed him during those first days of recovery.

Three weeks after surgery, Tim started cardiac rehabilitation at the Mercy Heart Center. On the first day, walking on a treadmill for only a couple minutes at a very low speed totally exhausted him.

He couldn't imagine how he'd go from barely being able to walk on a treadmill for a couple minutes to running again.

His ultimate goal was to get back to normal. For Tim, normal was running again and being able to attend Boot Camp classes at the gym.

Stacey McManus, his lead cardiac rehabilitation coordinator, also a runner, told him he would be running again.

When Tim got discouraged, he focused on being grateful to be alive. He noticed the words *Be Remarkable* on the coordinators' name badges. It motivated him. At every appointment, he pushed himself to do more, to be remarkable.

Undetected high blood pressure was the cause of his tear. His strong heart likely kept him alive for the hours leading up to his surgery, along with his faith and many people who were already rallying to pray for him. In addition to his routine primary care visits, he now sees his cardiologist, Eric Shafer, DO, MHPP West Shore Cardiology, regularly and he takes blood pressure and heart medication.

"Everyone at Mercy Health has truly gone above and beyond," said Tim. "I am grateful to have had an amazing, world-class heart team in here in my hometown. They saved my life." <image>

Tim Lopez with cardiac rehabilitation coordinators Stacey McManus and Angie Barclay

"Throughout my recovery, I was made aware that most people in this situation don't live to talk about it. The expertise of the teams, the technology and the quick response is something I am beyond grateful to have had access to."

Tim is thankful for his cardiac rehabilitation coordinators — Rick, Stacey, Angie Barclay and Julie Johnson. He recently returned to the Mercy Heart Center to show his gratitude.

Today, Tim has begun training for a half marathon, and he is a regular at Boot Camp classes again. And, to cheer him on, his Heart Center team came to surprise him and work out with him on his first day back at class!

Tim is getting back to normal and overjoyed to be living "Life 2.0."

**The Mercy Heart Center** is a comprehensive wellness and rehabilitation center. Heart Center staff help hundreds of cardiac patients each year to gain their optimal health. The Office of Philanthropy supports the Heart Center through cardiac rehabilitation scholarships for those who are underinsured or uninsured. The need for our community's support for healthy hearts and the Mercy Heart Center remains a priority.

We invite you to consider becoming a supporter. To learn more, please call 231-672-4890 or email mhphilanthropy@mercyhealth.com.

# Know the signs and symptoms of a heart attack.

Learn more at https://bit.ly/36SS3Wu



# **Heartfelt Help from Strangers**



Armen Kassouni

Armen Kassouni, 61, isn't in the habit of using Facebook messenger to communicate with people he has never formally met, but in this case, he has made an exception.

His message to the two men he contacted was this: "I'm back on my bike, thanks to you guys."

That's because on October 30, 2021, after riding his mountain bike on the trails at Mosquito Creek near Muskegon, Kassouni suffered a heart attack. These two strangers were among the first to save his life.

"My friends and I had just finished a 25-mile trail ride and were in the parking lot. Apparently, I fell on the ground and threw up, but I have no memory of it. Thankfully, [my friends] rolled me over and cleared my passageway."

Two other men happened to also be in the parking lot: Mark Tourcotte, a Mercy Health Muskegon registered EEG (electro encephalographic) technologist, and Steven Schrader, an EMT for White Lake Ambulance Authority and Lieutenant with Blue Lake Township Fire Department. Ironically, neither cyclist was planning to be there at that time.

#### **Right Place, Right Time**

Tourcotte had the day off so he could attend his son's soccer game, but his son was ill. Instead of going to the game, Tourcotte decided to



Mark Tourcotte

ride his mountain bike on the nearby trails. Typically, this avid cyclist loves to hit the jumps on the trails ... repeatedly.

"Something that day told me not to do it. Instead, I should ride as fast as I can and work on my time, and I never do that. For some reason I listened to the voice in my head," said Tourcotte. When his ride ended at the parking lot, he noticed that several people were on the ground.

Tourcotte went to see what was happening and felt for Kassouni's pulse but "there was nothing there. I started CPR immediately." Again, circumstances aligned for this medical professional to be prepared for that moment. "At work we renew our CPR cards every two years. In addition to this, we are now required to do interactive modules every three months. This involves different CPR scenarios, as well as additional manikin training to further maintain and perfect skills. I literally had just completed my most recent module, so everything was

fresh in my mind. I didn't have to think. I just knew what to do."

"After a few minutes, another gentleman approached to offer help. He introduced himself as an off-duty EMT, and we traded off doing chest compressions until the paramedics arrived. They shocked Kassouni into a sinus rhythm immediately."



Steven Schrader

Schrader was fitting in a ride that day between fixing his brakes and reporting for a shift later. He arrived for his mountain bike ride later than he had hoped. While unloading his bike, he noticed a man in the parking lot walking back and forth with his cell phone looking concerned. Then when he began his ride, he saw someone on the ground and rode over to help.

"Mark and I took turns with CPR and keeping Armen's airway open. Because of my background as a firefighter and EMT, I have seen this scenario play out many times. Time is critical and as we provided continuous chest compressions, we were also able to get the patient ready for the AED (automated external defibrillator) by getting his shirt off. We maintained compressions as the paramedics applied the AED, and even as the AED charged," Schrader recalled. That saved valuable time.

#### **Kassouni's Recollection**

Although unconscious at the time, Kassouni continued the story based on what others told him.

"The two strangers knew immediately what was up. While my friends called 9-1-1, these two men began CPR on me. When the ambulance arrived, the team used defibrillation on me. I understand they did it again during the ride to the emergency room at Mercy Health in Muskegon."

Kassouni's recollections after that are disjointed. He remembers first "meeting" Cardiologist Scott Harris, DO, in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) — after he, too, saved Kassouni's life.

"I had a 'widow maker' heart attack and survived it. Dr. Harris placed a stent in one of my arteries, which was 95 percent blocked."

As a person who regularly exercises, gets annual checkups, and was not on any medications for heart issues, Kassouni did not expect to have a heart attack. His older brother had serious heart issues, so to be cautious, Kassouni had a CT scan checking for plaque buildup in his arteries earlier that year. The scan showed no buildup.

Nonetheless, Dr. Harris concluded that soft plaque, which was undetected by the CT scan, had caused his patient's heart attack. Thanks to the quick actions of everyone involved, Kassouni says, "Dr. Harris said my heart bounced back amazingly well to the point that it was difficult to tell I even had a heart attack."

#### **Quality Care**

Kassouni does remember his time in the ICU. "I love those people. Everyone at Mercy Health was very accommodating. I had eight broken ribs from the CPR, and I was coughing a lot and making a lot of noise. Everyone was extremely nice to me. Even with COVID going on, the staff who came in and out during the different shifts were polite and helpful. I can't say anything but good things about the entire staff. "

Following his procedure, Kassouni was referred to cardiac rehabilitation at Mercy Health Saint Mary's in Grand Rapids, which is closer to his work and home. "I go there three times a week, and they work you out for an hour. The care I got at Mercy Health was secondto-none."

#### A Message for All Readers

Kassouni, Tourcotte, and Schrader cannot stress enough the importance of everyday people learning CPR.

#### "Don't hesitate. Get trained immediately. It's not hard. Your actions could save someone's life," said Tourcotte. "And keep your skills up."

Schrader agrees. "There won't always be another person in a crisis to do CPR. Take advantage of any community training you can get."

As a member of the West Michigan Mountain Bike Alliance, Kassouni and others are now planning a CPR class for all the members. That's one way he is trying to increase awareness of CPR training.

Back on his bike since December, Kassouni also has this message for others: "Dr. Harris indicated that one of the reasons I survived is that I exercise. I would send everyone a message that you need to exercise."

Sound advice from a true survivor!





## **An Interview with John Foss**

*Vice President, Lakeshore Campus, and Hospital Medicine Physician Assistant (PA-C)* 

John Foss leads Mercy Health Lakeshore Campus in Shelby, Michigan, a 24-bed, critical access hospital and an important medical hub for the community. The leadership team includes Melissa Schneider, Director of Nursing Services, and Cory Johnson, Laboratory Manager. Working together, this trio's vision is resulting in innovative care and service expansion.

# What impact has the pandemic had on the Lakeshore Campus?

We're known for being a well-kept secret with a family atmosphere. Due to the pandemic, many people have recently discovered us.

When the pandemic first began, COVID-19 inpatients were cared for in other places. When patients came here for their outpatient tests, they realized they could get in and out quickly.

This resulted in our numbers going through the roof and they haven't slowed since.

# What are your goals for Lakeshore Campus?

The goal has been to provide high quality care locally so that most patients could get their care here at home. Given the constraints of larger hospitals during the pandemic, we worked to keep more patients here.

There has been an increase in specialty physicians (emergency medicine, hospitalists and general surgeons) to the campus. The typical daily inpatient census is now five or six patients, up from the average of one or two from three years ago.

Our emergency medicine and hospitalist physicians are adept at identifying the patients who can be well cared for here and those who need to be transferred. When transferring patients to Muskegon, the process is seamless since our physicians are part of the Mercy Health network.



Melissa Schneider

**Director of Nursing Services** 

Cory Johnson Laboratory Manager

# What was the Lakeshore Campus involvement with the pandemic response?

Lakeshore Campus has been an active site for COVID-19 vaccinations and monoclonal antibody administration.

Historically, transferring patients from the Lakeshore Campus to other facilities was the norm.

During the surges, when inpatient beds in larger hospitals were in short supply, our leaders recognized we had a team ready and able to accept COVID-19 patients.

We have accepted and cared for many inpatients from other facilities who had never heard of us or been to Shelby.

Our leaders and I made it a point to check in with every patient every day to make sure their stay was going well, because they didn't choose to be here. Everyone has had a positive experience, and a lot of them are coming back for return care.

# Did you take other patients during the pandemic?

Yes. To keep bariatric patients in Muskegon from having their surgeries postponed, we brought the surgeon, equipment and staff to Shelby.

This is a specialized surgery we did not do here. However, recognizing all that patients go through to get ready for surgery, we made sure the patients got the care they needed when they needed it.

# How is patient care changing at Lakeshore Campus?

We have made several investments. An example is how we are speeding up testing for stroke. We can now conduct perfusion CT scans.

If your loved one were to come in with stroke symptoms, this test helps us know if an emergency transfer is needed and to where — Muskegon or Grand Rapids. Previously, this test was done on arrival in Muskegon. Some patients were transferred a second time to Grand Rapids, wasting precious time.

By doing the perfusion CT scan here, our patients are immediately sent to the correct site of care.

We're also looking at getting a telehealth robot so that the Mercy Health Hauenstein Neurosciences team can evaluate our stroke patients, in real time, and determine where their optimal care site will be.

# Does your Emergency Department accept chest pain patients?

Yes. Our Emergency Department staff are well trained. They immediately stabilize the patients and transfer them to the cardiology teams in Muskegon.

Having the same emergency medicine group, and with the help of ProMed

and Life EMS, we make emergency transfers seamless.

A cardiologist recently thanked us for the great care his patient received and for how rapidly we got this person to Muskegon for a cardiac catherization. This patient coded here and was revived before transfer. The patient is now doing fine.

When we are needed, our cardiac response is exceptional.

# What plans are in the future for Lakeshore Campus?

Having a two-bed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) would be ideal. This would allow us to keep patients who are septic or intubated overnight. We already have staff who are trained to care for these patients.

We are also looking at expanding surgical services by adding more orthopedic cases and specialty procedures for urology.

#### What makes you proud of the Lakeshore Campus?

When patients stay here, they feel like they are a part of our family. Throughout the pandemic, our team has been extraordinarily resilient. They help each other and they are ready for anything.

I am excited about what lies ahead and I am proud of the exceptional care our team provides for our patients every day.

To learn more about supporting Mercy Health Lakeshore Campus, contact the Office of Philanthropy at 231-672-4890 or mhphilanthropy@mercyhealth.com.

# Lakeshore Campus is part of a network of four primary care rural health clinics:

Mercy Health Physician Partners Sable Pointe (Ludington)

Mercy Health Physician Partners Hart Family Medicine

Mercy Health Physician Partners Shelby Family Medicine

Mercy Health Physician Partners Lakeshore Medical Whitehall

#### **Recent Investments**

- Nurse call system
- Telemetry
- Digital radiology
- CT Scanner (with perfusion)

#### **Future Needs and Opportunities**

- New inpatient beds
- Telehealth, access to specialists
- A two-bed ICU
- Advanced surgical services

#### Gratitude for New Equipment

In 1993, the Lakeshore Community Hospital Endowment Fund was established at the Community Foundation for Oceana County to support future needs of the hospital. Each year, the investment proceeds fund equipment purchases like a bladder scanner and a Medfusion<sup>®</sup> Syringe Pump (a device used to deliver medication).

Most recently, an anonymous family, through their donor advised fund, made a grant for the purchase of 13 Stryker stretchers needed at the Lakeshore Campus. The new stretchers include builtin scales, are safer and more comfortable.

# **Keeping Kids Safe in West Michigan**

Safe Kids West Michigan (SKWM), a Mercy Health program, is dedicated to reducing preventable childhood injuries and deaths. In 2020, Mercy Health Emergency Departments in Muskegon and Shelby, Michigan, treated 391 children who were injured in car (213), bike (124) and burn or scald (54) accidents.

SKWM, led by Holly Alway, Injury Prevention Coordinator, works in partnership with local fire and police departments, schools, community organizations, parents and caregivers to serve families in Lake, Mason, Muskegon, Oceana and Northern Ottawa counties.

In 2020, when 391 kids were injured, SKWM gave out (at no cost) 169 car seats, 19 booster seats, 240 bike helmets and 50 smoke alarms to those in need, likely saving countless additional injuries. The most important benefit of proper safety devices and the education SKWM provides is obvious — keeping kids alive.

#### "Plainly speaking, it is better for all if we can prevent, rather than treat injuries," said Holly. "Safe Kids wouldn't be possible without philanthropic support from our community."

There is a second benefit to keeping kids safe — the cost savings. Every dollar in program costs is compared to the estimated value of the number of prevented injuries and lives saved. For the 2020 distribution (car seats, boosters, helmets and smoke alarms) the benefit to our community in terms of the cost of prevented injuries was a remarkable \$1,488,100!

While Mercy Health Muskegon covers the administrative costs of SKWM, grants and donations are needed to directly fund SKWM and the safety devices distributed throughout our communities.

"Injury prevention is at the core of our Mercy Health mission to be a healing presence in our community," said Holly.

#### "It is my role to help people understand the risks in their environment and equip them with knowledge and the safety devices to reduce that risk."

The injury prevention program at Mercy Health provides direct services to thousands of people each year. Together, with our community partners and support from our donors, we are making a difference.



Holly Alway, right, fitting a young girl for a right-sized bike helmet



Right, Dep. Chris Herremans, Muskegon County Sheriff's Office, helping a local dad with his infant's car seat installation



#### **About Holly Alway**

Safe Kids West Michigan is led by Holly Alway, Injury Prevention Coordinator for Mercy Health Muskegon. Holly holds bachelor's degrees in Behavioral Science and Criminal Justice, and a master's degree in Transportation Safety Administration. Last year, Holly celebrated her 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Mercy Health and Safe Kids West Michigan.

#### Women *for* Health Funds Safe Kids West Michigan

Recently, Safe Kids West Michigan was chosen as the 2021 recipient of a \$40,000 gift from Women *for* Health, a 37-member Mercy Health women's giving club.

#### In addition to 240 infant car seats, this gift will help establish a car seat evaluation clinic for children with special needs in West Michigan.

Currently, families must drive to Ann Arbor for this service, which includes a required car seat fitting for their child. Without it, insurance coverage is not possible, and families may be forced to travel with their children in unsafe situations or keep them from leaving their homes.

#### The Tommy Davis Memorial Fund

The Tommy Davis Memorial Fund is in its second year of supporting the Mercy Health Safe Kids West Michigan Home Safety Program. In 2021, 184 home safety devices — smoke detectors, medication lock boxes, baby gates, door alarms, gun locks and more — were distributed thanks to funding from the Tommy Davis Memorial Fund!

Tommy Davis was a Senior Financial Analyst for the Health Project, the community benefit ministry of Mercy Health, at the time of his death in 2018 at age 30. Tommy was a bright light to all who knew him, and now, his mother, Sherri Davis, is sharing that light with the community through the Tommy Davis Memorial Fund.

If you would like to learn more about how to support Safe Kids West Michigan or how to become a member of Women for Health, please contact Emma Peterson at 231-672-4814 or emma.torresen@mercyhealth.com.

### Safe Sleep for Babies Fund

1,800 babies are born annually at the Birth Center. While newborns are in our care, safe sleep is modeled and taught to families. A safety recommendation we make to parents is to remove loose blankets from baby's sleep area and replace them with a SleepSack<sup>®</sup>, a special wearable blanket with armholes that prevents fabric from covering baby's face.

Since September 2021, the Office of Philanthropy has funded one SleepSack<sup>®</sup> for each baby. Recognizing the need will continue for years to come, we asked our donors at year end to help us continue to fund them through 2022. Thanks to a generous response, we met our goal and the Safe Sleep for Babies Fund is now an ongoing philanthropic program.

SleepSacks<sup>®</sup> will also be available for purchase in our Gift Shoppes, at cost, to encourage families to have more than one for their newborn.



# With Gratitude

Mr. Hans F. Hansen

Mercy Health Muskegon is honored to present the names of our supporters. Their expressions of generosity have helped to build the facilities, programs and technologies that allow us to provide advanced medicine and compassionate care to our lakeshore communities.

#### **President's Circle** Recognizing lifetime cumulative gifts and pledges of \$25,000+

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J'lisa Walker Temeka Ware Sara Watrin Myra Watson Chalie Weaver **Claudine Weber** Latecha Wedlaw Michael Weessies Heather Wendt Sandra Wernstrom **Bethany Westbrook Cheryl Westbrook** Melissa Westmaas Angela Whipple Jakesha White Karly Wiggins Julie Wilde Kari Wildeboer **Dominique Williams** Michelle Williams Shantrese Williams Dave Witham Carrie Wolf Harvey Wolters Kristen Worcester Heather Worth Amy Wright **Breanna Yeary** Katisha Young Donna Zambetis **Connie 7**ornes



Mercy Health Muskegon is honored to recognize our supporters on the displays located in the main lobby and Garden Level. These beautiful donor walls were recently updated.

If you are not already listed, we invite you to consider joining our family of supporters. We welcome and appreciate gifts of all sizes and annually recognize gifts of \$50 and up.

To learn more about our flexible giving options, contact Emma Peterson at 231-672-4814 or emma.torresen@mercyhealth.com.

#### **Special Events**

Recognizing community groups, businesses and organizations that host fund-raising events to support Mercy Health Muskegon.

Ray & Lila Allard Memorial Cancer Scramble American Cribbage Congress Cars for Cancer Labor Day Car Show & Cruise Tommy Davis Memorial Golf Outing Lake Michigan Credit Union Band Together Program Muskegon Firefighters — IAFF Local 370 No Shave November PetSmart Chance & Friends Donation Program Pledge the Pink Ryke's Cookie Poll Salomon's Karate Studio Kick-a-thon Thunderbird Raceway's Rolling Thunder Tim Hortons Smile Cookie and United Donut Programs

# Inspiring **Corporate and Community Support**

#### **Pledge the Pink**

Norton Shores, Michigan, resident Linda Porter joined forces with a national breast cancer foundation and raised funds through can collections, sales, and partnerships with local businesses. By exceeding her goal, she got to choose a local charity to receive a portion of the funds. Linda raised \$8,456 that will support screening mammograms and assist our Comprehensive Breast Center patients.

#### Salomon's Karate Studio Kick-a-thon 2021

Since 2015, Salomon's Karate Studio's Kick-a-thon has raised support for multiple disciplines at Mercy Health Muskegon. The November 2021 event hosted 14 kickers of all ages who secured sponsors for the maximum number of kicks they could manage in a three-hour period. A total of 35,308 kicks were counted by the judges! Funds from the 2021 event supported the Mercy Health Comprehensive Breast Center, a department with special meaning for studio owner Salomon Villalpando and his family.

#### **Ray & Lila Allard Memorial Golf Scramble**

In 2021, Chuck Allard of Spring Lake, Michigan, celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Allard Memorial Golf Scramble. Chuck and family organize the event in memory of his parents, Ray and Lila Allard. Held annually at the Oak Ridge Golf Club, the scramble originally began as an idea of Chuck's mother, Lila, to honor her husband's memory by raising funds for the Johnson Family Cancer Center (JFCC). In total, the Allard Memorial Golf Scramble has raised over \$85,000 for the JFCC.

#### PetSmart

PetSmart customers brought smiles and comfort to kids who visit Mercy Health. Through the Annual Chance & Friends Toy Donation program, the Muskegon store donated 3,500 plush toys. To distribute the toys, Mercy Health colleagues, along with members from area agencies, including Muskegon Police Department, ProMed and SafeKids West Michigan, filled police squad cars, ambulances and several other vehicles to the brim! More than 30 Mercy Health locations received toys for kids.













#### Fremont Insurance

On Christmas Eve, for the past two years, Fremont Insurance has sponsored hot coffee from Brooklyn Bagels for our colleagues on the frontlines. Beth Frey, Marketing Sales Support Specialist II, made the early morning deliveries to the hospital to show our colleagues how much they care. Pictured are Beth's children, Addison and Austin, who helped make the delivery.

#### **Best Financial Credit Union**

families during the holidays.

For Christmas 2021, Best Financial Credit Union of Muskegon, treated Mercy Health Colleagues to 1,000 bags of caramel corn! Colleagues throughout the hospital were thrilled to receive them. Thanks to Best Financial Credit Union for thinking of our colleagues with this delicious treat during the holiday season.

#### Ladies of the Lake Quilting Group, Quest Book Club and Pints & Quarts

Nancy Peters, a member of the Ladies of the Lake Quilting Group and Quest Book Club, led the charge to raise donations to gift meals to Mercy Health Muskegon colleagues. Nancy partnered with local restaurant Pints & Quarts, which generously matched the number of meals the groups funded. In total, they donated 68 meals. Our colleagues appreciate meals given by the community.

#### Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Groups Daughters of Penelope, Antiope #109 and Philoptochas Ladies Society and Pints & Quarts

We are thankful to groups from the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Norton Shores, Michigan, who, together with Pints & Quarts, provided Mercy Health colleagues with 84 fresh and delicious meals.

Great Harvest Bread of Grand Haven and Harvest Spring Lake provided 125 loaves of delicious, freshly baked bread for our colleagues to take home and share with their

To learn more about how your business or organization can support Mercy Health Muskegon, please contact Megan Akselberg at megan.akselberg@mercyhealth.com or 231-672-6976.













# An Incredible Legacy

Hans F. Hansen, or Fred, as he was called, was born in Muskegon in 1882 to Christian and Sophia Hansen, who were immigrants from Denmark and honored pioneer citizens of Muskegon. Mr. Hansen was one of the founders of Madison Manufacturing Company in 1915, and at the time of his death in 1942, was the president of the company.

In his 1933 will, Mr. Hansen designated his entire estate "to aid such worthy or indigent persons as are, in the judgement of said hospital authorities, unable to pay the whole or in part the customary charges for hospital care and treatment."

Thanks to Mr. Hansen's incredible gift, 80 years later his trust generates almost \$20,000 per year for our Mercy Health Gift of Health fund, lessening or eliminating the burden of hospital bills for many patients and their families each year.

# Planning a Future Gift

#### to Mercy Health Muskegon

Many people donate to organizations they care about during their lifetimes, but fewer take the step to continue that support after they're gone. Planning a future gift is easy, leaves a lasting impact on our community and a legacy for your family.

**The beneficiary designation form of your life insurance policy, retirement or investment account** is a simple and quick way to include Mercy Health Muskegon in your plans. Even a small percentage can result in a meaningful gift.

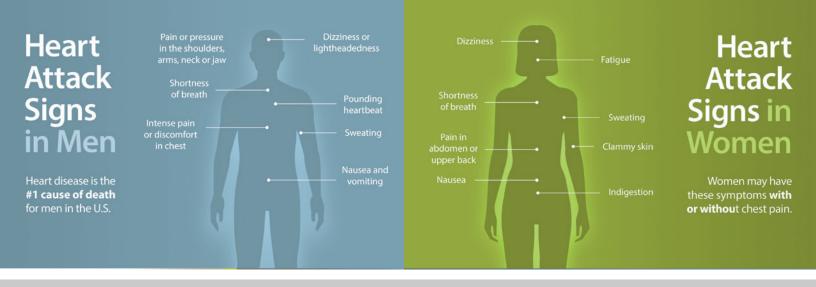
**Your will or trust can include a charitable beneficiary** for any amount of your estate — big or small. These documents should be revisited every handful of years or after a significant life event like marriage or retirement. And, if you haven't yet created a will, now is the time!



Emma Peterson, Director of Philanthropy

Learn more by contacting Emma Peterson, Director of Philanthropy at 231.672.4814 or emma.torresen@mercyhealth.com. Mercy Health Muskegon is a qualified 501(c)3 non-for-profit organization. Tax ID: 38-2589966.

# **Know the Signs of a Heart Attack**



Did you know that properly managing your weight, blood pressure and cholesterol levels can prevent or delay heart disease and its complications? We encourage you to care for yourself and your loved ones through regular health screenings.

Schedule your appointment with a Mercy Health physician today at MercyHealthPhysicianPartners.com.

### Local Board, Philanthropy Council and Staff

Mercy Health Muskegon is fortunate to have the support of these dedicated leaders, providers and colleagues whose diverse experiences and connections to the communities we serve are foundational to our mission of healing. The local board leads our health system. The Philanthropy Council and Office of Philanthropy are dedicated to securing philanthropic funding in support of our patients and our mission.

#### **Local Board Members**

Mishelle M. Comstock, Chair Richard Wilcox, MD, Vice Chair Camille Jourden-Mark, Secretary Gary Allore Jerry Evans, MD Martha Ferriby Erick Johnson Gregory LaPres Aaron Maike, Ph.D. David E. Ramos James J. Steffel Douglas Zwemer, MD

#### **Philanthropy Council**

Executive Committee Mark Fazakerley, Chair Gary Allore Shelley Brocci Karen Kayes Kay Olthoff Claudine Weber

#### **Planned Gifts Committee**

Karen Kayes, Chair Jackie Engel Brenda Jacobs Emma Peterson Steve Woodcock

#### Signature Gifts Committee

Kay Olthoff, Chair Gary Allore Tim Arter Shelley Brocci Mark Fazakerley Greg Gust Trip Johnson Scott Musselman Mary Price Roger Spoelman Ginny Spraque

#### **Office of Philanthropy Staff**

Claudine Weber Chief Philanthropy Officer Emma Peterson Director of Philanthropy Megan Akselberg Stewardship & Donor Relations Officer Joan K. Kessler Philanthropy Communications Manager Courtney Wakefield Philanthropy Services & Prospect Development Manager Ann Pendery Executive Assistant Mercy Health Muskegon Office of Philanthropy is dedicated to enhancing the superior care provided by our health system through financial support from the community. This support sustains our mission to be a compassionate healing presence in the communities we serve.

Mercy Health Muskegon is a qualified 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization. All gifts stay local and honor our donors' intent. Gifts are tax deductible as allowed by state and federal law.

Tax ID: 38-2589966

# For more information, please contact us:

Mercy Health Muskegon Office of Philanthropy 1500 E. Sherman Blvd. Muskegon, MI 49444 231-672-4890

If you do not wish to receive information from Mercy Health Muskegon Office of Philanthropy in the future, please call 231-672-4890 or email mhphilanthropy@mercyhealth.com

MercyHealthMuskegonGiving.com BeRemarkable. OFFICE OF PHILANTHROPY

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Mercy Health Muskegon has earned several awards for quality patient care.

