Mercy Foundation of Lorain County awards $2.2 million in support of Mercy programs, technology and services

The Mercy Foundation of Lorain County awarded more than $2.2 million in grants to the Mercy Health System for the 2016 fiscal year. Grants made to the health system are vital to supporting the programs and services that many residents of Lorain County depend on; these grants would not be possible without the generosity of individual and corporate donors, the health system’s auxiliaries and other local foundations.

A large portion of these gifts were generated by the foundation’s two marquee fundraisers, a Taste of Friendship and the Mercy Golf Classic outing. The foundation also relies on the generous engagement of Mercy employees, patients, and community organizations and outside grants. Additionally, the foundation receives memorial gifts from the families and friends of loved ones served through Mercy New Life Hospice.

continued on next page
"We are so grateful to every individual and organization that has supported the Mercy Foundation of Lorain County over the last year," says Scott Pember, President of the Mercy Foundation of Lorain County. "Our total dollars raised in 2015 reflect a 43% increase over the 2014 total dollars raised, and a 105% increase over the 2013 total dollars raised, which is why we are able to sustain such substantial grant awards. Again, this record achievement would not be possible without the continued support of our dedicated and generous donors—no matter the size of the gift, each and every dollar donated helps us to improve the health of the very community in which we live and work."

The foundation receives requests for funding from numerous sources, including clinical departments, physicians, staff, and individual program managers. Because there are always more requests than available funds, decisions are guided by how the request will support the Mercy mission and provide a margin of excellence that would otherwise not be possible. Funds are awarded in a variety of categories—to purchase new medical equipment, to provide cutting-edge educational opportunities to physicians and staff and to make Mercy’s high quality healthcare accessible to every member of the greater Lorain community.

Highlights of the services and programs the Mercy Foundation is proud to fund for the 2016 calendar year include:

**Community Outreach: $841,663**

Mercy’s community outreach efforts include a number of services designed to assist at-risk populations who may not otherwise have access to healthcare. Outreach initiatives include: the Resource Mothers Program, Spanish Interpretation Services and the Parish Nursing Program.

**Women’s Health Center: $725,000**

Foundation funding is used to cover the cost of mammography services for patients who could not otherwise afford this life-saving health screen. In 2016 the Foundation will also fund the purchase of a digital breast tomosynthesis device, which is a groundbreaking form of 3-D mammography that provides a clearer, more accurate view than digital mammography alone. Benefits of tomosynthesis include better visualization of the breast, earlier detection of abnormalities and less discomfort to the patient.

**Mercy Cancer Center: $195,000**

Award dollars are used to provide the holistic services of the Center for Body, Mind & Spirit to those touched by cancer entirely free of charge.

“These are just a few examples of the ways in which our donors’ philanthropic dollars are kept in the community and utilized to directly impact patient care,” says Scott. “Thanks to the generosity of the foundation’s donors and supporters, thousands of lives will be touched through these diverse programs and services.”

Another notable contribution from the foundation to the health system that will be made available to the community in 2016 is a new, state-of-the-art MRI scanner. The new short-bore MRI, the GE Optima MR450w, was installed on December 10, 2015 and combines caring design with insightful technology for a better patient experience. Benefits of the new machine include: reduced scanning time; higher image quality; enhanced comfort and an expanded range of clinical applications. The new MRI machine represents nearly a $3 million investment in the community’s health by Mercy, with $1.3 million of the funding being provided by the Foundation.

Jim Leone, who serves as chairman of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees, explains, “While a large part of Mercy’s mission is centered on providing equal access to care for all members of our greater Lorain community, it is equally important to our mission that the care we provide be held to the highest standards possible. This speaks to the value Mercy places on excellence and our belief in the sacredness of all life. Providing the very best technology—such as tomosynthesis mammography and the latest in MRI machinery—allows us to be the most responsible stewards possible of the lives entrusted to us.”

Continues Leone, “We are deeply grateful for the continued support of our Lorain community—it is our dedicated donors that make these accomplishments possible.”

If you would like to join Mercy in its efforts, please consider a donation to the Mercy Foundation of Lorain County. Visit mercylorain.org for more information about making a gift, sponsoring a fundraiser, volunteering your time or donating raffle prizes to be auctioned off at a special event.

For more information, please call the Mercy Foundation of Lorain County at 440.960.3545.
New state-of-the-art MRI installed at Mercy Regional Medical Center

Lorain County residents will soon have access to the latest in MRI technology with Mercy Regional Medical Center’s new imaging equipment.

A new short, wider-bore MRI, the GE Optima MR450w, was installed on December 10, 2015 and combines caring design with insightful technology for a better patient experience.

**Benefits of the new MRI include:**
- Reduced scanning time
- Higher quality images
- Enhanced comfort
- Increased capacity for larger patients
- Silent imaging, especially helpful for claustrophobic patients
- Ability to more effectively capture images for patients with metallic orthopedic implants
- Needle-free imaging
- Expanded range of clinical applications to help clinicians make more definitive diagnosis

To further assist in making the MRI experience more pleasant, Mercy’s new technology includes the Caring MRI Suite. Instead of seeing a typical bare-walled room with a scanner inside, patients are handed an iPad, so they can set up a personalized theme for the room. Image panels on the walls and ceiling help transport the patient away from the confining space of the magnet bore. The ceiling image panel can display image slideshows or video of the patient’s choice. Music, lighting, and visuals on the ceiling can all be customized by the patient, and they can bring their own iPhone or iPad for docking if they have special images that help them relax or particular music that they would like to hear.

Plus, the MRI system is equipped with GEM Suite® technology. This advanced system not only provides greater workflow and image quality, but includes key features that will keep patients comfortable throughout their visit, including a flexible table design that embraces the patient, comfort tilt for brain and neck exams and variable density padding that minimizes pressure points in the body. The system can be adjusted to ensure maximum comfort for each patient.

“This new MRI will be more spacious and less claustrophobic since it is comparable in size to a CT scanner,” noted Carrie Jankowski, Director of Imaging and Emergency Services, Mercy Regional Medical Center. “Many patients dislike having an MRI due to their heads being inside the magnet during a scan, but this unit moves patients into the magnet feet first for most testing, reducing the typical fear associated with having an MRI.”

The physical space of the new MRI suite has doubled from the current size and will provide better privacy for inpatients and outpatients scheduled for testing. While outpatients will continue to enter through the main diagnostic imaging department, there will be a separate waiting room for MRI patients.

The new MRI machine represents nearly $3 million in the community’s health by Mercy, with $1.3 million of the funding being provided by the Mercy Foundation of Lorain County. We anticipate that the new MRI machine will be operationalized by mid-January.

Construction for the new equipment began in August, with the addition of a special building to house the new MRI. This new unit will replace the current MRI at the hospital.

*Construction workers ease the new MRI at Mercy Regional Medical Center into the special building that will house the unit.*

*Once unloaded from the crane, construction workers work to move Mercy Regional Medical Center’s new MRI into the special building that will house the unit.*
Each year since 1996, Mercy employees have been helping to make local families’ holiday wishes come true through the Resource Mothers Adopt a Family program.

This year, because of the kindness of Mercy’s employees, as well as community churches and businesses, Mercy’s Resource Mothers program was able to provide over 137 families in need with holiday gifts and necessities.

“It’s remarkable to see the generosity of our employees and our community,” says Beth Finnegan, director of the Resource Mothers and Parish Nursing programs at Mercy. “We had 15 Mercy departments ‘adopt’ 18 families this year. Because of their generosity, close to 530 individuals will have their holiday season made a little brighter.”

To participate, individuals, Mercy departments, churches and local businesses receive a paper with a basic description of their “adopted” Resource Mothers clients and their needs and wishes. Gifts purchased for the families range from toys, gift cards and clothes to necessities such as household items, diapers and wipes.

Finnegan states that without this program, many of the client families would not have much of a holiday. “Last year, we had a young mother tell us that she was close to telling her children that there was no such thing as Santa Claus because she could not afford gifts. Because of the generous individuals who purchased gifts on their behalf, the spirit of St. Nicholas will live on for that family.”

The Mercy Resource Mothers program has been providing care to at-risk mothers and newborns in Lorain County for over 20 years. The program employs certified community health workers, who are trained mentors, teachers, advocates and friends. The resource mothers are carefully matched with pregnant and parenting women to create a special relationship which helps achieve healthier lifestyles and connect them to the healthcare and social services they need.

Funded largely in part by the Mercy Foundation of Lorain County, the program has demonstrated tremendous results. For example, 96 percent of infants are born at a healthy birth weight of 5.5 pounds or above and 98 percent of infants receive necessary immunizations by their first birthday. The program also includes Spanish interpretation, car seat installation, friends and family CPR, infant massage and social services.

For more information on the Resource Mothers program or how you can help, please call 440-989-3920.
New minimally invasive procedure at Mercy Wound Center makes wound healing easier and safer

When the skin is damaged beyond the body’s natural ability to close the wound and heal, a procedure called skin grafting may be necessary. Traditional skin grafting requires anesthesia in an operating room. The recovery time can be long, and the patient is often left with scarring. However, with a new technology at the Mercy Wound Center, the skin grafting process is simplified and the healing process improves.

“It wasn’t that the place on my ankle hurt, but it was always on my mind,” says Lynette Rogers, an employee in the Mercy laboratory department, who has lived with a recurring wound for the past 10 years. “It interrupted my sleep because I was afraid that I would turn over and kick it, opening it up more, and I had to always wrap it in a plastic sleeve when I bathed. So, it was an irritant.”

Lynette was the first patient at the Mercy Wound Center to undergo what is called epidermal skin grafting, a much different procedure than a traditional skin graft. A traditional skin graft is an outpatient procedure that involves cutting healthy skin and stitching it to a non-healing wound. It requires anesthesia, and patients normally have substantial pain at the site of skin removal and on the graft as it heals.

Epidermal skin grafting does not require anesthesia and is virtually painless. The epidermal harvesting system is placed over healthy skin—normally on the thigh—and is secured in place. Over the next 30 to 45 minutes, the Epidermal Harvesting System removes thin sections of epidermal skin by using suction and heat. When the harvesting is completed, the epidermal grafts are placed over the non-healing wound. The epidermal harvest dressing is covered in lines of cells at the proper spacing and placement that adhere to the wound, giving optimal opportunity for healing success.

Lynette, a lifelong Lorain resident, says that the epidermal skin graft that she had in April was a miracle since it was simple and effective. After years of having her ankle wrapped and having to be so aware of the wound, she now feels like she has a new lease on life.

“It was remarkable how easy it was and I felt no pain at all, pretty amazing after what I went through with a traditional skin graft,” she notes. “There is truly no comparison between the procedures. No anesthesia, no pain and no inconvenience of having a surgical procedure.

“I would say that the epidural skin graft was uneventful and produced great results. I hope that others have had the same outcome and are as happy as I am. I would strongly recommend anyone with a non-healing wound to talk to their physician about trying this first before having any type of invasive surgery.”

Patients feel heat at the site during the procedure and any mild discomfort or redness at the graft donor site is temporary and will resolve within a short period of time.

In Lynette’s case, she had undergone a traditional skin graft more than ten years ago. “It was a much more involved treatment, and although it healed, the sore returned two years ago. I underwent many medical treatments and even had to be hospitalized with cellulitis at one point. So, when this new non-invasive procedure became available, I was thrilled.”

Lynette says that throughout her experience at Mercy Wound Center the staff kept her fully informed and always explained the benefits of the treatment. “It is definitely a knowledgeable and caring staff that puts patients and families first.”

For more information about the Epidermal Harvesting at Mercy Wound Center, talk to your provider or call us at 440-960-3985.
The last thing that Connie Dropko expected was to go to the doctor’s office and eat cake, but that is exactly what happened one week prior to her 100th birthday. Her actual birthday is on Oct. 13, but the staff knew she was scheduled for an appointment, and decided to surprise her a bit early. On Oct. 6, Connie and her son, Gary Dropko, arrived at Mercy Health — Vermillion Primary Care and were seated in the waiting room. When the door to the exam rooms opened, they thought she was going in to see the doctor. Instead, what happened was a total surprise. The entire staff—physicians included—greeted her with a chocolate cake inscribed with “Happy 100th Birthday.”

“We don’t say that we have ‘favorites,’ but Connie has been a long-time patient with our practice,” noted Amber Werner, office coordinator at the Vermillion practice. “Her first two physicians, Dr. Adams and Dr. Myer, have both retired, but Connie is still here. She is so sweet and caring, and makes us smile. At the end of each visit, she always says that it is easy to get in, but you have to pay to get out! We have many older patients, but only a few that have reached the century mark.”

The retired Vermillion High School library assistant is well-known amongst former students in the community, including some who work at the practice. Amber, who attended high school while Connie worked in the library, said that many children passed through the library doors and knew that Connie was always there to help them. Her giving spirit extended to years as a volunteer at a local food bank and at Trinity Lutheran Church, where she is charter member.

“While she uses a walker, she is able to travel to appointments and church and loves watching the Cavaliers play on her iPad,” explained Gary Dropko, who helps care for his mother. “We were completely shocked when the whole staff came out with a cake. My mom was so touched by their thoughtfulness.”

“While she uses a walker, she is able to travel to appointments and church and loves watching the Cavaliers play on her iPad,” explained Gary Dropko, who helps care for his mother. “We were completely shocked when the whole staff came out with a cake. My mom was so touched by their thoughtfulness.”

She also likes cake. According to Dropko, Connie managed to eat a few pieces to celebrate her centennial birthday.
Promise spotlight: spiritual care

Every day our spiritual care team works to help fulfill our mission and promise to make lives better—mind, body and spirit.

Did you know that the spiritual care team provides these services for you?
- Morning prayer to help focus your day with special remembrance of each department
- Prayer whenever needed
- Evening prayer to bring peace at the end of day
- Leading and training staff in reflection groups
- Missioning services for various occasions
- Seasonal services throughout the year
- Department services for all needs
- Dedication and blessing ceremonies
- Memorial services when losing coworkers
- Visits to offer support to staff as needed
- Stress and debriefing support

Additionally, the spiritual care team provides support for our patients:
- Participates in interdisciplinary team
- Consults with patients facing serious medical diagnosis and decisions, i.e., terminal wean, cancer, major surgery, organ transplantation
- Responds to all codes
- Arranges for sacraments for Catholic patients (we have 3 priests that come in during the week to offer Sacrament of Sick; we also have on-call priests who come in emergency situations)
- Visits approximately 70% of patients admitted
- Contacts local clergy as requested
- Explains and prepares patients to complete advance directives. Christina Shahedeh also sets up appointments to have former patients come in and complete advance directives
- Assists with ethics consults
- Training Spiritual Care Visitor Volunteers
- Volunteers who offer visits and communion

If you, your team or a patient could benefit from the services of our spiritual care team, please call the office at 440-960-3782.

Not pictured: Christina Shahedeh, Office Coordinator, Fr. Dunson, Fr. Divis and Fr. Retar who do Sacrament of the sick during the week.

Ready? Action!

Be Well Within 2016 began December 30, 2015! Log on to MercyBeWellWithin.com to start earning points towards Level 1 Feel Well and sweepstakes opportunities. We have an exciting year planned. It’s filled with new features—including a new challenge called Track Your Activity, enhanced sweepstakes, additional Naturally Slim offerings and more!

Onsite health screenings begin February 17! Log on to your Be Well Within account and schedule your appointment today. Participants in the Lorain market who complete their health screening by May 3 will receive one entry into a special early bird sweepstakes. Sweepstakes prizes include two iPads and 10 Withings activity trackers.

Questions? Contact Be Well Within Support at bewellwithinsupport@adurolife.com or 855-376-6474.

December drive helps refill our blood bank supply

On Dec. 3, our generous Mercy team members took a step to help patients and loved ones in our community. The winter blood drive yielded 14 pints of blood, enabling us to continue to build up our blood supplies.

Thank you to the following participants:
Ann DiCarlo          Greg Markus
Mary Earle           Michael Marquardt
Toni Fields          Paul Richardson
Misty Harkless       Catherine Verbiar
Michelle Kaiser      Dana Traxler
Beth Ann Koz         Nicholas West
Charlene LaBondano   Catherine Woskobnick

Since we surpassed 10 donors, two people were randomly selected to win $25 gift cards to Kohl’s. Congratulations to Ann DiCarlo and Nicholas West for being the lucky winners!

Volunteers needed for Mercy Night at Second Harvest Food Bank

With the cold months ahead, so many families Lorain County depend on the food available through the Second Harvest Food Bank to get them through the winter. Mercy has an ongoing opportunity for you to help ensure that adults and children in our community do not go hungry—through our monthly Mercy Night at the Second Harvest Food Bank.

On the second Wednesday of each month, volunteers from Mercy go to the Second Harvest Food Bank to sort, weigh and package food that is distributed to agencies throughout our community. These dedicated employees, and often their family members, donate time as another way of fulfilling Mercy’s Mission.

The evening is not only a way of giving back to our community, it also builds camaraderie among team members. At the beginning of the shift, Mercy Regional Medical Center’s nutrition services team provides pizza for all volunteers. Our next volunteer nights are Wednesday, Feb. 10 and Wednesday, March 9 from 5:45 – 7:30 p.m. at the food bank’s new facility, located at 5510 Baumhart Road, a half-mile north of the old location and across from the old Ford Plant.

Please think about signing up to volunteer as a department and enjoy the evening helping others. To help the food bank prepare, we need you to sign up in advance. Please ask your manager to help you sign up by going to the sign-up sheet on the leader drive under the Second Harvest Food Bank folder. Or you may also email Julie Jones at Julie.Jones@mercy.com or Catherine Woskobnick at Catherine.Woskobnick@mercy.com with your name, department, the number of volunteers (all school-aged children and above) and a telephone number where you can be reached.
Congratulations to KAREN EIBON, Respiratory Therapist, for being recognized by Lorain County Community College as Clinical Instructor of the Year for the respiratory therapy program. Karen was the only clinical instructor from Mercy to be recognized by LCCC this year. To help celebrate Karen’s achievement, Eli White, Vice President of Ambulatory Network, Carrie Jankowski, Director of Imaging, Respiratory and Cardiac Services, and Shawn Gerrick, Manager of Pulmonary Services, presented her with a special cake.

MARY ANN DIEDRICK, Nutritional Services Assistant, recently celebrated her 50th year anniversary of working for Mercy Allen Hospital. Members of the Mercy Allen Hospital recently gathered to celebrate Mary Ann’s milestone day with cake and festivities. Congratulations Mary Ann and thank you for your years of service and dedication to our mission!

Congratulations
In our prayers

The following employees and volunteers are facing difficult times. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Our most sincere sympathy is extended to the following individuals who have lost a loved one:

**ADALIA KELLEY**, Registrar, Mercy Health — Lorain Pediatrics, on the loss of her brother

**ALEXIS GRAYSON**, Health Records Clerk, Mercy Health — Physicians, on the loss of her partner

**ANNE RADOSEVICH**, Patient Relations Specialist, quality, on the loss of her mother

**CANDICE DARMAFALL**, Practice Manager, Mercy Health — Physicians, on the loss of her grandmother

**CATHY HENLINE**, RN, ICU, on the loss of her mother

**DR. RICHARD WHITE**, Mercy Health — Amherst Family Medicine, on the loss of his brother-in-law

**JEWEL JONES**, LPN, 2 West, on the loss of her brother

**NAYTASHA SIMS**, Office Secretary, Mercy Health — Wellington Primary Care, on the loss of her grandfather

**SUSANNA SHULTZ**, COTA, inpatient rehab, on the loss of her grandmother

**TANEQUA PHILLIPS**, Registrar, Mercy Health — Vermilion Primary Care, on the loss of her father

*Please note:* The email address for bereavements is now #CHP Bereavements. If you would like to include an employee experiencing a difficult time, please send an email to that distribution list or Meredith Eaton via email or at ext. 3124.

Our Mission

We extend the healing ministry of Jesus by improving the health of our communities with emphasis on people who are poor and under-served.

Our Values

Compassion, Excellence, Human Dignity, Justice, Sacredness of Life and Service.

Our Promise

To make lives better—mind, body and spirit.
To genuinely enjoy being of service.
To make healthcare easier.

Also join us on Facebook and YouTube