Engaging our community transforming our future

MERCYHEALTH
Foundation
Mahoning Valley

2014 annual report
Because of the work and dedication of our board, our talented foundation staff, our skilled clinicians and generous donors, Mercy Health Foundation — Mahoning Valley had a year that can best be described as groundbreaking. Many new initiatives were implemented this year, while all existing programs continued to grow.

It is groundbreaking that today clinicians in our hospitals, doctor’s offices and dental offices are learning to identify the subtle signs of substance abuse to allow them to direct patients to intervention services before the most severe consequences of their addictions become a reality. This unique program, known as SBIRT (Screening-Brief Intervention-Referral to Treatment), was the first of many new programs funded by the Foundation in 2014.

It is groundbreaking that low-income women now have the resources they need to provide fresh, locally-sourced food for their families. Our Fresh Start program provides vouchers to purchase food at the farmer’s markets and a fun-filled educational environment at the Mercy Health Foundation — Mahoning Valley’s demonstration kitchen, which is located in the Idora Park neighborhood. The program teaches participants healthy cooking. This program is designed to address the root of the child obesity problem and hopefully, instill a lifelong love of healthy, unprocessed food in our children.

At St. Elizabeth Hospital, we broke ground to begin a complete renovation of the Pediatric Therapy Unit. It will be furnished with the most current equipment to help 1,500+ children annually overcome hearing, speech and many other physical challenges. Additional thanks goes to more than 600 employee donors, the volunteer auxiliary and local foundations for their support of the Cancer Treatment Center at St. Joseph Hospital. The funds raised will help support renovations to make the patient experience as comfortable and pleasant as possible.

Five years after our largest fundraising event, Panerathon, began in support of the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center, the groundbreaking event has now reached two incredible milestones—more than 25,000 participants have been reached and more than $1 million has been raised! To date, we know that more than 1,500 lives have been saved right here in the Mahoning Valley as a direct result of the Joanie’s Promise program.

We all have to face difficult times in our lives, but thanks to the generosity of our donors and the hard work of our caregivers, social workers, community educators, physicians and so many more, we have the necessary support to help others cope and heal. Those who face poverty in our neighborhoods can find the resources they need to raise healthy children and live with dignity. All of us can experience the healing touch of compassion that we have for one another when we are most vulnerable. Thank you for supporting the mission of the Mercy Health Foundation — Mahoning Valley.

Sincerely,

Thank you

James P. Schultis
President, Mercy Health Foundation
Mahoning Valley

Dr. Gary Bitonte
Board chair, Mercy Health Foundation
Mahoning Valley

Alvin M. waits by the door of his small Cornersburg home, anticipating a visit with his Mercy Health home healthcare nurse. He is 83 and in poor health. The bright spot of his week is his visit with Alvin. When she arrives, she greets him warmly and then tenderly starts his home assessment. Simple conversation-style questions help her gauge his condition. She checks his blood pressure and gives him some simple exercises to complete. She makes sure he has enough food in the refrigerator and something to drink to stay hydrated. She strikes up a conversation about current events to assess his motor skills.

At the end of her visit, Anna rings a few minutes as they say their goodbyes. At the last second, she tells him she will call him on the phone the next day. A beautiful smile lights up her face. “OK,” he says. “I’ll be right back here waiting.” A smile. Someone to talk to. Someone who cares. This is our Mission moment.

This is Our Mission moment.
Giving back

Mercy Health has provided more than $42 million in direct charity care as we have become the Mahoning Valley’s ONLY Safety Net Hospital. We treat anyone in our community regardless of their ability to pay. Mercy Health — Youngstown also provided more than $48 million in community benefit, which is an investment that Mercy has made in our Valley.

1911 Founders’ Circle

The Mahoning Valley is rich in culture and heritage. When the Sisters of the Humility of Mary began plans on opening St. Elizabeth Hospital in the early 1900s, they turned to the Mahoning Valley for help. Embraced by the community, the campaign for St. Elizabeth hospital raised a staggering $100,000.

Because of their support, the Sisters opened the doors of St. Elizabeth Hospital in December 1911. More than 100 years later, our community has carried on their legacy of compassion and caring. The following contributors have continued to help us drive our mission and ministry into the 21st century and their individual legacies will continue to benefit generations to come. The following are members of the 1911 Founders’ Circle, which is reserved for those who contribute $1,911 or more each year.

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Phila Neighborhood
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The HealthPath Foundation
The Thomases Family
The Leila Sharp Fund
The Mahoning Valley Endowment of the Cleveland Foundation
The Youngstown Foundation
The Youngstown Foundation
The Wolves Club of Youngstown

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* denotes deceased
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Priscilla Hays
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The spirit of caring continues.