Welcome

Many of you already know that this is my last issue of Heart of the Mission. I have decided to retire so that I have more time to do the things I enjoy and spend more time with my family. As much as I have treasured my experience as the president of Mercy Health Foundation Mahoning Valley, we only have one life to live. We have to make difficult choices with how we will spend our time. I will miss my wonderful staff, so many donors who are friends and a foundation board (past and present) who are caring and giving people. All of you remain in my heart and in my prayers. And, as Pope Francis always says, “pray for me too.” Of course I will remain involved in the Mahoning Valley. There are a number of projects that I am currently considering.

Looking back on our accomplishments is not something that occupies my thoughts too much. It is more important to bear in mind that there is always more to be done. Because almost one in three third graders have untreated cavities in their time here. Bob transformed a vacant field in Boardman into a 248-bed hospital. He achieved Nursing Magnet status in all three hospitals and brought in Humility of Mary from the Hudson Valley. Bob also built a certified nursing home for seniors who are facing the challenges of breast cancer. And I look forward to having time for more “photo safaris” with you in the coming years!

With sincere appreciation,

James P. Schultis
President
Mercy Health Foundation — Mahoning Valley
Grant enables widespread access to substance abuse training

Mercy Health Mahoning Valley received an $864,311 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The funding will support the “SBIRT —Student Training Program” (Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment).

The SBIRT training program is designed to significantly increase the number of health professionals capable of addressing the needs of persons at risk for substance abuse. Health professionals trained in the SBIRT method will expand the adoption and practice of the program throughout the healthcare system.

The program is for medical residents, nurses, dental hygienists and assistants, behavioral health and students in other health-related professions. The training will be available during the grand period and enables participants to provide screening, brief intervention and referral of patients at risk for substance use disorders to treatment.

“This grant is important because substance abuse is becoming an epidemic in the Mahoning Valley and the number of overdoses due to opiate use continues to increase,” said Crystal Jones, grant director.

“This funding provides the resources to train the healthcare workforce of the future to effectively screen and identify patients who are current abusers, or who are at risk of becoming so, and refer them to treatment.”

Current residency programs include some training on substance use disorders in their curricula; however, the dental residency program is the only one that provides in-depth substance abuse disorder treatment training as part of its curriculum. The experience and documented results achieved through successful implementation of the SBIRT training program have paved the path to expand the program to all residency programs in multiple primary and specialty care disciplines as well as to students in other health-related fields.

The grant will be administered through our dental clinic by Dr. Frank Beck, director, and the New Start Chemical Dependency Treatment program by Terri Grimmett, manager. The health professions training project represents a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, collaborative effort designed to bring substance use disorders into mainstream medicine.

Panera Bread, Covelli Enterprises, YSU’s Zeta Tau Alpha raise $50,000 for breast cancer

During the month of October, our friends at Covelli Enterprises and Panera Bread baked their annual Pink Ribbon Bagels with proceeds benefitting our own Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center and the Joanie’s Promise Fund. The bagel, only available during October, comes in the iconic breast cancer ribbon shape and features dried cherries, cranberries, honey and brown sugar. In conjunction with the Pink Ribbon Bagel sale, Panera Bread also raised funds through their Operation Doughnation initiative, which places canisters for change at each of the cafés.

The month ended with Panera Bread, Covelli Enterprises and our friends at Youngstown State University’s Zeta Tau Alpha sorority hosting the annual Pink Ribbon Cheer Classic at Kilcawley Centre on YSU’s campus. The Cheer Classic has become the staple cheerleading event in the Valley and hosts competition among hundreds of teams from all over Ohio and Pennsylvania. In addition to the competition, survivors are recognized during a special ceremony. This year, both campaigns generated a total of $50,000 that will go to support Joanie’s Promise — the fund that eliminates barriers to diagnostics for those women in our Valley who need it most.
Mercy Health — Youngstown CEO
Bob Shroder retires

Leaves legacy of progress and partnership

Over the last 14 years of Bob Shroder’s tenure as CEO, there has been tremendous growth, progress and change at Mercy Health Youngstown (MHY), formally known as Humility of Mary Health Partners. Notable items include:

• Creation of St. Elizabeth Hospital in Boardman
• Collaboration with Mercy College of NW Ohio to create a nursing school
• Achievement of Nursing Magnet status at all three hospitals
• Implementation of an electronic medical record throughout the market

During this time, Humility House, The Assumption Village and Hospice of the Valley were added to MHY. Additionally, the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center opened.

“Bob’s vision and leadership have enabled Mercy Health Youngstown to be proactive in responding to challenges faced in the healthcare industry. For over a decade, we’ve expanded our services, facilities and programs to meet the needs of the community and provide outstanding care throughout our market,” said Betty Jo Licata, board chair for Mercy Health Youngstown. “His commitment to our mission and his ability to form high-value strategic partnerships are the hallmarks of his success.”

The numbers are equally impressive for the same period. Net revenue grew from $419 million in 2002 to a forecast of $750 million by the end of this year. Market share went from 38% of the admissions to 47% in Mahoning, Columbiana and Trumbull counties. Due to the growth, employment increased from 4,100 to 4,500 full-time employees. MHY has provided nearly one billion dollars in community benefit. The majority of that was charity care for the poor and underserved.

“Bob Shroder is an inspirational leader,” said Germaine Bennett, who has served on both the hospital board of directors as well as the foundation board. “Bob believes in the Mission of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. He has brought our health system into a much better place with his vision and dedication. Aside from that, I truly enjoy being in Bob and Katy’s company; they come as a pair!”

Leonard Schiavone Esq., former HMHP Board Chair agrees Bob was an ideal leader. “I always felt that I worked with Bob as a partner on behalf of the hospital system, working through various challenges and opportunities. He sought and accepted input and consensus, and the results speak for themselves: we are the preeminent healthcare provider here and one of the leaders of the entire Mercy system.”

Although he is the CEO of an organization with such outstanding accomplishments, Bob is quite modest. Rather than claim the achievements as his own, he clearly gives credit not only to the management team, but also to every single Mercy Health employee.

“It’s not me,” said Bob. “It’s always been we. It’s the whole system working together, and I’m proud of that.”

Bob grew up in the Dayton area. His parents didn’t go to college and encouraged Bob and his siblings to seek higher education. He graduated from Miami University with a degree in Public Administration in 1978. He went on to earn a master’s degree in hospital and health administration from Xavier University.

Miami holds a special place in Bob’s heart. It’s where he met his wife, Katy, and from where two of their three children graduated. It’s also where one afternoon, a university administrator changed the course of his life. In his senior year, Bob struggled to pay his last year of tuition. Even though he had a job, he did not have enough money to pay his bill. Katy knew someone who helped him get a meeting with the Dean of Alumni Affairs and was encouraged to ask for a loan to help pay for his final year of tuition. What happened next was serendipitous.

At the meeting, John Dolibois reached into a drawer and pulled out a checkbook. He said, “I’m writing you a check to cover your tuition. This is not a loan; this is a gift from the Miami University Alumni Association.” He started to hand it to Bob and said, “Before I let go of this, I want you to promise me you’ll remember this day when you are a success.” Bob said he would, and he has never forgotten that moment. Today, Bob Shroder sits on the Board of Trustees of Miami University and believes that Miami got a good return on that investment.

As Bob transitions out of his role as CEO of Mercy Health Youngstown, he thinks about advice he was given and what he might say to his successor.

“The best advice I was given was to hire good people and get out of their way. If people are waiting for me to tell them what to do then we’re in trouble. We need them to tell us what they need in order to do their job better.”

Bob looks forward to retirement. He admits the job is high stress and jokes that it’s responsible for his need to take blood pressure pills.

“I wake up worrying about what’s not going right and how to improve it. I go to sleep worrying about the same things, and sometimes I even dream about them.” He admits that worrying is a personality flaw that he has tried unsuccessfully to change over the years.

It will be an adjustment for Bob to not constantly check his email or his schedule, and he’s ready to let go and have less responsibility. He will still be involved with Miami University and may consider a part-time role. He and Katy have three adult children, (Brian, Laura and Matthew, all living in California) whom they will get to visit much more.

As Bob leaves, he tells us that if he could go back and do it all over again, he would do it the same way. What makes Bob’s retirement even sweeter is that they will be grandparents soon. They will remain Howland residents, but they also plan to do some world traveling. When Bob looks back on his 19 years at Mercy Health, it’s with great satisfaction and appreciation.

“I’m just really grateful to everyone who helped me and our organization be successful.”
Leaving his mark, Jim Schultis retires

Reflections on passion, tenacity and leadership

When he accepted the position of foundation president in 2008, Jim Schultis had a lot of obstacles to overcome: a community he was not familiar with, a foundation with a low profile, a small staff and a system without a time-tested culture of philanthropy. Within a few years, he was able to easily overcome those challenges by combining a low-key management style with his fundraising skills and devotion to the Mission of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary.

Jim grew up in the blue collar Cleveland suburb of Parma. One of five children in Catholic family, Jim learned early on that part of his faith includes genuine care and concern about the less fortunate among us. Sister Stella Schmid was part of the team that hired him.

“He’s passion for the organization is most clearly expressed when he describes his commitment to the Mission and core values of the Founding sponsors, the Sisters of the Humility of Mary,” said Sister Schmid.

“Through his leadership, Jim has developed strong relationships with the board, donors and volunteers who will continue what he has started.”

As the new foundation president, Jim knew the importance of finding a good project that would resonate with the community in terms of fundraising. He also knew he would need an advocate to go with him into the community. He found both when he met Dr. Rashid Abdu.

“I’ve often wondered if the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center (JACBCC) would have ever been established had Jim Schultis not arrived on the scene eight years ago,” said Dr. Abdu.

“When I talked to him about it and my frustration over the previous 18 years, we started the fundraising campaign to build what became, as The Youngstown Vindicator described it an editorial, ‘The Crown Jewel’ in breast cancer care in Mahoning Valley.”

Mercy Health Foundation Director of Grants Crystal Jones notes that Jim started a culture of philanthropy within the hospital and grew the foundation board. He also looked beyond the hospital walls to do more community outreach.

“He nearly doubled the amount of donors to our foundation, and he established the employee giving program,” said Jones. “The R.O.S.E. Club (Reaching out Serving Everyone) now has nearly a thousand members and grows every week! Jim began the foundation newsletter magazine; he started donor recognition events and innovative fundraising projects.”

Jones praised Jim for founding the 1911 Society for donors who give $1,911 per year. 1911 was the year St. Elizabeth Hospital was founded.

“Jim also began funding health initiatives in the community with unique partnerships,” Jones continued. “For example, partnering with the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation for the Mercy Health Foundation Demonstration Kitchen teaches good nutrition and shows inner city residents how to cook fresh vegetables grown at the urban farm on Glenwood Avenue.”

Because of his commitment to helping others, Jim was asked to join the board of Millcreek Children’s Center. He now serves as board chair. Colleague Martha Bushey says his leadership is inspirational.

“The campaign for the Joanie Abdu Center was co-chaired by businessman Joseph D. Lane and his wife, Andrea.

“It has been said that in most situations, there are three things that really matter: leadership, relationships and creativity,” said Joseph Lane. “Andrea and I saw those things in Jim from the moment we began working with him on the JACBCC.”

The success of that campaign led to a wonderful collaboration with Sam and Caryn Covelli and Covelli Enterprises for the Panerathon, a 10K/2 mile fun run/walk that has become the valley’s largest fundraiser. In six years, the event has raised well more than one million dollars for the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center.

“Jim took the helm and has directed the Center to amazing achievements in our service to underprivileged children in the area,” said Bushey. “His contributions to families involved with the Joanie Abdu Center have also been invaluable. He has definitely made an impact in our community. I know I am not alone in being truly grateful that he joined us.”

As he transitions into retirement, Jim Schultis plans to relax, travel with his wife, Cathy, and still stay active with the Mercy Health Foundation Mahoning Valley and Millcreek Children’s Center. He looks back on his achievements in his typical modest fashion.

“We’ve had some wonderful achievements through our generous donors who are great friends,” said Schultis. “Our board is made up of dynamic people from all disciplines who understand fundraising and philanthropy. It has truly been a gift to work with all these wonderful people in making a real difference in the Mahoning Valley. It’s been an honor to work with such caring and talented people.”

Jim will continue to consult with the Mercy Health Foundation Mahoning Valley. He has grown quite fond of this community and the people who live here.

“Time and circumstances dictates that he changes course, but his footprint in this community will never fade,” Dr. Abdu said.
Joanie Serenity Garden open for patients, families

We have recently completed the final building phase of the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center Serenity Garden, which began in summer 2013.

The garden was built to offer patients and their families a retreat that lends itself to the healing process. Since the initial campaign in 2013, contributors through the R.O.S.E. Club, private donors and the York Family helped create a space that harnesses the therapeutic powers that nature offers. The Serenity Garden provides an environment that represents life and health and invigorates the senses with the sounds of birds, the aroma of flower blossoms and the feel of warm breezes. The Serenity Garden is open to all those who visit the Center, including patients and their families.

Panerathon raises money for Joanie’s Promise

What began as a rainy and wet Sunday morning turned out to be a great day for the sixth annual Panerathon at the Covelli Centre in downtown Youngstown. On Sun., Aug. 30, more than 10,000 people attended the 10k/2 mile fun run/walk to benefit Joanie’s Promise — a program that eliminates barriers to care for women in Mahoning Valley and gives access to world-class care.

This year’s event included more than 80 sponsors and hundreds of teams that rallied around one cause — breast cancer. The foundation expresses its sincere gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Covelli and their team at Covelli Enterprises, all our sponsors and, most of all, our community for participating and once again making Panerathon the largest fundraising event in the Mahoning Valley.
New Centering Pregnancy program takes off in Mahoning Valley

The Mahoning Valley is facing a true epidemic that must be addressed — infant mortality. Our rates are the highest in the state at an alarming 10.81 per every 1,000 births and even higher among our African American communities at 23.65 per every 1,000 births. At Mercy Health and the Mercy Health Foundation Mahoning Valley, we have developed a program with guidance from the Centering Healthcare Institute to help decrease these rates and create healthier births.

The Centering Pregnancy program, which began serving patients in October 2015, provides high quality prenatal and postpartum care designed specifically to improve birth outcomes for poor, minority and underserved women in our Valley. The foundation-supported program has renovated space in the hospital’s existing Ambulatory Care Clinic, where it operates for those populations that are affected most.

In a recent Brookings Institution study, Youngstown, Ohio has the highest concentrated poverty rate in the United States, with over half of our community residing in neighborhoods where poverty rates exceed 40%. Through education, access to healthcare and additional resources, we are better equipped to support our minority and low-income populations through the Centering Pregnancy initiative. At launch, the program is prepared to serve 150 women with the goal being that 80% of our program participants will experience positive behavior change, increased understanding of prenatal and postpartum care as well as receive social training to prepare these new moms for the road ahead. Our existing Resource Mother’s program that serves this similar population will also provide expertise and assistance in training these women. It is time for us to end low birth weights and address infant mortality as we begin to birth healthier babies.

Michael Stanley Band plays in Youngstown, promotes prostate health

“Let’s get the show on the road…” were lyrics that resonated through the Ford Recital Center at DeYor on the evening of June 14, 2015. Those words, made famous by the Michael Stanley Band in the 1970s, resonated with the theme of the intimate, acoustic concert played to benefit the Man UP Mahoning Valley campaign at the Mercy Health Foundation.

Michael Stanley and a handful of bandmates along with more than 400 fans descended upon the Center to support a worthy cause — prostate cancer awareness, education and screening. He himself knows the importance of yearly examinations and advocated both prior to and during the show. As Michael played songs, he told personal stories behind the lyrics, several of which were written during his trips back to the Cleveland area after playing shows in Youngstown.

Prostate cancer is very common among men in the Valley, and one that is highly treatable and nearly curable when detected early. The foundation along with its Man UP Mahoning Valley campaign, hopes to bring prostate health to the forefront of men’s health in the Valley by continuing the conversation and advocating for annual examinations beginning at age 40 and each year thereafter unless otherwise consulted by a physician.
Remembering Shirley Mae Eddy

Picasso once said, “The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.” Shirley Mae Eddy embodied this quote with all of her being. She was a loving mother, grandmother, sister, wife and friend. She touched the lives of so many in this community with her kind heart and joyful spirit. Shirley Mae was called to her Lord and savior Jesus Christ on May 19, 2015 after a short battle with cancer. Her spirit lives on within all who had the pleasure of knowing her, and her legacy will live on in the hearts of many.

Shirley Mae’s family requested that all contributions be sent to the Mercy Health Foundation in her memory. The outpour of support for her and her family is overwhelming. More than 130 donors have contributed over $18,000 to St. Joe’s at the Mall (SJATM). This facility is located in the Eastwood Mall as an extension of the St. Joseph Warren Hospital. These gifts not only leave a lasting legacy for Shirley Mae, but will also help to fund Mercy’s Strong People, Strong Bones, Strong Heart program. Shirley Mae’s heart, soul, compassion and care will continue to live on and be felt by each person cared for through the services at SJATM.

Staff profile: Kalie Luklan

Kalie Luklan started working with the Mercy Health Foundation in August 2013 and quickly became an expert at using the foundation’s donor software, Raiser’s Edge. In addition to her knowledge and expertise, Kalie cares deeply for others, a trait that undoubtedly roots from growing up in a close-knit family. Her love for life and compassionate nature makes her a valued asset to the foundation. She also works for the downtown YMCA.

Kalie enjoys travel, cooking and sports. She is an avid sports fan, with loyalty to Cleveland teams. Kalie embraces diverse culture, whether she’s traveling to San Francisco or visiting downtown Youngstown.

Kalie is a resident of Canfield and obtained her bachelor’s degree in Applied Health Science from Youngstown State University. Sharon Luklan, of Mercy Health HR department, is Kalie’s mom.
Save the date

Sun., June 14, 2015
Fuel the Fight Mega Car Show and Family Event

Fri., June 26, 2015
Joanie Abdu Night at Eastwood Field Scrappers’ Baseball Game

Fri., July 24, 2015
Man UP Mahoning Valley Night at Eastwood Field Scrappers’ Baseball Game

Sun., August 30, 2015
Panerathon

Mission statement

Humility of Mary Health Partners Foundation supports the mission of Humility of Mary Health Partners to extend the healing ministry of Jesus by improving the health of our communities with emphasis on people who are poor and underserved.

Contact us: 330-729-1180