

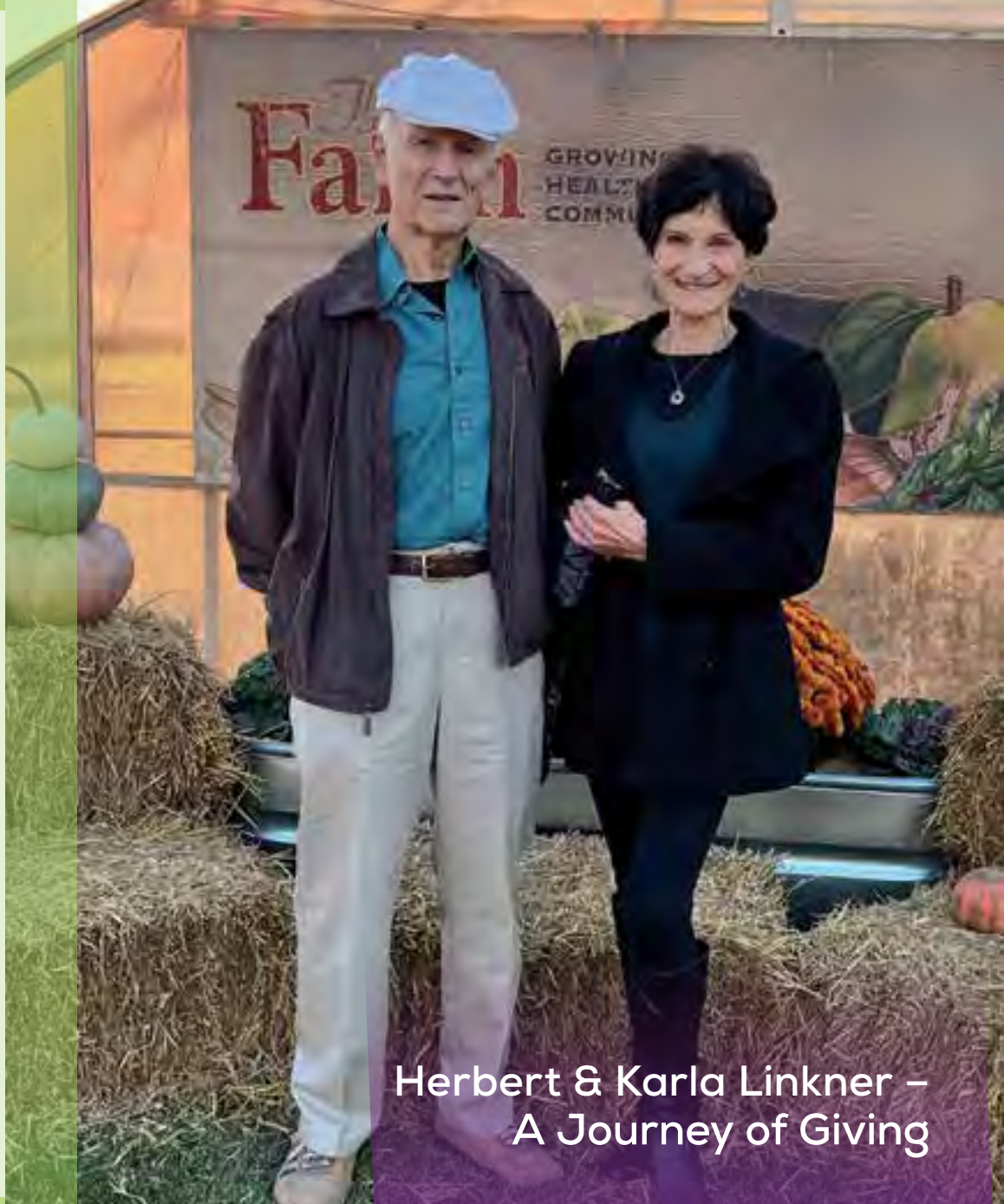
# Gift OF HEALTH

OUR PHILANTHROPY MAGAZINE

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Herbert & Karla Linkner –  
A Journey of Giving

A Publication for Donors of  
Trinity Health  
Southeast Michigan



FALL 2024

# A Message from our Regional Vice President of Philanthropy, Southeast Michigan



As we reach the end of another inspiring year, I would like to take a moment to reflect and express my profound gratitude to each of you. Your continued support and engagement make our work possible, and for that, we are deeply thankful.

Gratitude is more than just a sentiment; it is a powerful motivator. Expressing gratitude helps patients and families heal. Receiving gratitude with grace is empowering. When we take the time to recognize and appreciate each other, we foster a positive community where everyone feels valued and seen. This not only enhances our teamwork but also drives us toward our shared goals with renewed energy. Developing the path for supporting patients and families in grateful giving will be a key focus of our work in 2025.

Catholic health care is a collaborative effort that involves our highly skilled, compassionate physicians and caregivers but also our communities. We walk together on this journey for the greater good. Your enthusiasm and loyalty uplift us and drive us to continually strive for excellence.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a strong community of supporters. Your generosity expressed through contributions of time, talent, and treasure, remind us how crucial our mission is and inspire us to keep pushing the boundaries of what's possible.

In that spirit of gratitude and partnership, I would also like to recognize and remember Herbert Linkner, a dedicated supporter of our Trinity Health Ann Arbor Hospital and The Farm. Herb passed away in September, and his kindness, deep interest in our mission and generosity will be greatly missed. We are honored to have known him. Herb and his wife, Karla, are profiled in this issue, please take a moment to read about their legacy of giving on page 4.

Please know I welcome your thoughts and ideas about how to continue to expand our compassionate care for those who need us. I would welcome hearing from you at: [Douglas.Ferrick@trinity-health.org](mailto:Douglas.Ferrick@trinity-health.org).

Your continued support will be the cornerstone of our future endeavors. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. I wish you and your families a joyous holiday season.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Doug

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas W. Ferrick". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Douglas W. Ferrick**  
Regional Vice President of Philanthropy  
Office of Philanthropy  
Trinity Health – Southeast Michigan

# Your Impact by the Numbers

Over the past fiscal year (July 2023 to June 2024), your gifts uplifted our Trinity Health Southeast Michigan patients, caregivers, and communities in incredible ways by providing more access to life-changing care and programs. Thank you for your investment and partnership in our mission.



**\$7,076,153** total funds raised



**\$3,723,920** secured in grant funding



**\$2,984,522** received in cash and pledges



**\$447,404** received by planned gifts commitments

**42** Endowment Funds provided **\$818,000** to benefit programs and services

**282** new donors were welcomed who contributed **\$319,750**

# A Journey of Giving



The Office of Philanthropy, Trinity Health Southeast Michigan, partnered with The Farm at Trinity Health Ann Arbor to launch the Help Us Grow Campaign to help support The Farm and its mission. The event featured a ribbon cutting for a new hoop house generously donated by Herbert and Karla Linkner.

Pictured from left are: Alison Shores, food program coordinator, The Farm at Trinity Health Ann Arbor; Vanessa Revelli, farm share member, Jae Gerhart, manager of farm programs, The Farm at Trinity Health Ann Arbor, Alonzo Lewis, president, Trinity Health Ann Arbor, Livingston, Oakland and Livonia Hospitals, Doug Ferrick, regional vice president of philanthropy, Trinity Health – Southeast Michigan and Loren Sanders, farm operations coordinator, The Farm at Trinity Health Ann Arbor.

*In 2017, Herbert and Karla Linkner, inspired by the care Karla received at Trinity Health Ann Arbor, made a philanthropic gift to support the hospital's infectious disease program. What began as a personal expression of gratitude blossomed into a true partnership.*

"Karla slipped on the ice and cut her elbow," Herb recalled of that first encounter. "We thought it was just a minor cut, but it turned out to be a gas-emitting infection that was very serious and threatened her arm and her life."

"We were extremely impressed by the collaboration of the team of 21 doctors who grasped the seriousness of the situation and immediately worked for a whole week until the infection was finally eliminated. We were very fortunate and thankful for this amazing team of doctors," he continued. "This prompted our first donation to Trinity Health Ann Arbor."

## Another Exceptional Care Experience in 2019

Just two years later, Herb became a cardiovascular patient at Trinity Health Ann Arbor. Following a trip to Iceland, Herb, a fit and very active person who had run 3-5 miles every single day for over 60 years, developed a limiting shoulder tightness.

"We planned to see and hike to the top of every waterfall in Iceland," he said. "But while we were hiking, I could not go my usual fast speed."

Once home, Karla made an appointment for Herb with Brian Bluhm, MD, Herb's primary care doctor, which resulted in an immediate transfer to the emergency department (ED) at Trinity Health Ann Arbor. The team moved quickly to perform cardiac tests. Following many tests over the course of the next two days, with each test being immediately analyzed, significant blockages were found. Andrew Pruitt, MD, cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon, took the lead in Herb's care plan and performed surgery early the next morning.

After a very successful surgery, Herb meticulously followed Trinity Health Ann Arbor's cardiac rehabilitation program that balanced exercise, Pritikin healthy eating, and yoga for stress management. The Linkners were again inspired to give back, this time to support cardiovascular services.

"We always ate healthy, but we made adjustments after my heart surgery from what I learned in cardiac rehab. We saw how important it is to be educated and follow good nutrition," Herb explained. "Trinity Health Ann Arbor has an excellent Pritikin healthy eating and cooking program."

## Helping Others in Need

Karla said, "We like to donate to programs that helped us, but we also like to support programs that do not benefit us directly but help others in need." That spirit inspired their next gift of a new hoop house to The Farm at Trinity Health Ann Arbor.

"We have seen how vital healthy eating is to overall health," said Herb. "Plus, we see what picky eaters children, and many adults, can be. So, we like that The Farm provides education to both kids and adults, provides food for those with food insecurities, and includes accessible paths and raised garden beds so there aren't any barriers. These are so important for rehabilitation and restoring hope for those with disabilities and for veterans with PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder]. We wanted to support all those."

## Strong Ties to Trinity and its Mission

Earlier this year, the Linkners had another emergency care experience that got them thinking about patients' families. "When you're waiting with a family member, you need to remember to get your rest and take care of yourself, too," said Karla. "Because you'll need to have the energy to care for them at home and help them recover." This experience and realization inspired the gift of 21 new reclining chairs for the ED at Trinity Health Ann Arbor to help make emergency visits a little less traumatic and a little more comfortable for all.

Reflecting on their giving over the years, Karla said, "When we first donated to the hospital, it was to thank our doctors and caregivers, we were just so grateful, but it also is important to us to feel like we have done something to help other people."

Herb added, "Trinity reaches out to and is interested in the well-being of the community – and we like that. We are impressed with Trinity Health as a whole. They offer so much for patients and staff and are an asset to the community. We feel fortunate to be able to contribute to many of Trinity's programs."

*Herb Linkner, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and engineer, passed away on September 18, 2024, leaving a legacy of generosity, creativity, and dedication.*



From left: Katy Hoffman, MSN, RN, chief nursing officer, Trinity Health Ann Arbor, Karla Linkner, Herb Linkner and Judy Kettenstock, MSN, RN, clinical nurse manager, ED, Trinity Health Ann Arbor, enjoy the new recliners that the Linkners donated for the comfort of patient families in the ED.

## Chelsea Hospital Opens Expanded Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit *with University of Michigan Health*



The healing journey from traumatic injury or illness can require specific, intensive rehabilitation to relearn key activities of everyday life. To help support our patients in need of this care on what can be a long, challenging journey, University of Michigan Health (U-M Health) has opened an expanded inpatient rehabilitation unit at Chelsea Hospital.

The new unit, opened in September, provides a calming, well-equipped setting for patients to do the hard work toward recovery. Patients have the support of an integrated team of award-winning U-M Health and Chelsea Hospital clinicians working together seamlessly to maximize their recovery and achieve optimal functional independence. With a joint capital investment of \$11 million from U-M Health and Trinity Health and thanks to generous philanthropic support, the new unit offers expanded capability for patient care and has deepened the partnership.

“This new unit builds upon a strong history of leadership and collaboration,” said Ben Miles, president, Chelsea Hospital. “Our University of Michigan Health colleagues envisioned a new state-of-the-art rehabilitation center that can maximize patients’ quality of life and restore hope by combining the best of academic and research expertise within an extraordinary location that enables the highest level of care. We are proud to partner to fulfill that vision at Chelsea Hospital for the benefit of our community.”

A pioneer in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation, U-M Health continues its pursuit of breakthroughs in care for traumatic injuries, spinal cord injury, cancer, and neurological conditions; innovating to improve cognition after stroke; leveraging virtual reality to engage patients; developing new approaches to neurorehabilitation; and much more.

“Since 1950, when the University of Michigan Medical School was one of the first major institutions in the nation to establish an independent department of physical medicine and rehabilitation, we have built a national reputation as a leader in the advancement of research, education and clinical work in many subspecialties, including spinal cord injury medicine, cancer and pediatric rehabilitation, pain management, rehab engineering and traumatic brain injury management, among others,” said Nitin B. Jain, MBBS, MSPH, chair of the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation and the James W. Rae collegiate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Michigan. “Expanding our inpatient rehabilitation unit at Chelsea allows us to ensure better patient access to our exceptional care and offer a team-based approach with our patients’ needs as our key focus.”

Every day on the new inpatient rehabilitation unit, U-M Health providers work side by side with an extensive team of Chelsea Hospital nurses, doctors, physical therapists, occupational therapists, rehabilitation engineers, recreational therapists, social workers, and speech language pathologists who collaborate and implement individualized rehabilitation care plans for each patient.

The inpatient rehabilitation program will continue to treat those with diagnoses of stroke, brain injury, neurological disease or illness and issues involving orthopedics or trauma. The spinal cord injury and cancer programs will also move from U-M Health to Chelsea Hospital. This decision concentrates the inpatient team and resources into a single center, which enhances the hospital’s ability to provide a world-class experience to every patient.



Left to right: Edward Hurvitz, professor, department of physical medicine and rehabilitation, Michigan Medicine; Linda Grosh, FACHE, MHSA, BS, chief department administrator, physical medicine and rehabilitation, Michigan Medicine; Rafina Khateeb, MD, SFHM, MBA, associate chief clinical officer, Trinity Affiliates, University of Michigan Medical School; Nitin B. Jain, MBBS, MSPH (behind Dr. Khateeb and hidden); Angela Beck, associate chief operating officer, Michigan Medicine; David C. Miller, MD, MPH, president, University of Michigan Health; Sally Sir-Yee Young, MD; Fazleomar Mahmood MD, FACP, FACR, chief medical officer, Chelsea Hospital; Kelly Chan, PT, MPT, director of rehabilitation services, Chelsea Hospital; Lori Williams, RN, director of patient care services, Chelsea Hospital; Cheryl Taylor, RN, MSN, chief nursing officer, Chelsea Hospital; and Ben Miles celebrate with a ribbon cutting for the new U-M Health rehab unit at Chelsea Hospital.

In addition to a 24-bed unit on the second floor, the new unit expands to renovated space on the first floor to support new equipment and programs. Nestled in Chelsea Hospital’s beautiful grounds this location offers ease of access for patients to spend time outdoors and enjoy the healing benefits that nature can provide.

“The joint venture between Chelsea Hospital and University of Michigan Health is continuing care for our rehabilitation patients in both health systems,” said Sally Sir-Yee Young, MD, rehabilitation medical director at Chelsea Hospital and Michigan Medicine. “We are excited to give patients the opportunity to rehabilitate with our wonderful physicians and psychologists in the beautiful area surrounding Chelsea Hospital. This joint venture will continue a culture of patient-centered care and healing that has been present both at Chelsea Hospital and University of Michigan Health.”

*To learn more about how you can support the innovative, life-changing inpatient rehabilitation at Chelsea Hospital, please contact Jennifer Maisch, director of philanthropy, Chelsea Hospital at 734-649-7481.*

# Patient-Centered Focus of Trinity Health Oakland Colleagues Inspires the Family of Barbara Bowman



Barbara Bowman with her daughters from left Katie Coleman, Barb, Karen Williams and Mary Ellen "Mimi" Bowman.

The family of Barbara Bowman recently made a gift in gratitude for their Trinity Health Oakland care team in her honor. Pictured from left are Shannon Striebich, president and CEO, Trinity Health Michigan; Saad Naaman, MD, physical medicine and rehabilitation; Ham Schirmer, Barbara's husband; Karen Williams, Barbara's daughter; and Fabian Fregoli, MD, chief medical officer and president, Trinity Health Oakland Hospital.



Dividing time between Bloomfield Hills and Petoskey, Ham Schirmer and his wife, Barbara Bowman, who had been living with congestive heart failure, had been in and out of several hospitals nearly a dozen times over a span of four years. In late 2023, Barb arrived by ambulance at Trinity Health Oakland for the first time.

*"From that first experience, Barb and I were both really impressed with the quality and caring of the doctors and nurses," said Ham. "We talked about it and agreed we should switch to Trinity. We had no idea how strong our connection to Trinity would become."*

Barb suffered a heart attack in early 2024 just days after she returned home. She was hospitalized for 13 consecutive weeks at Trinity Health Oakland. Barb's care spanned the emergency department, surgery, intensive care, cardiac care, four different nursing floors in the south tower as well as inpatient rehabilitation and the select specialty hospital housed within Trinity Health Oakland.

"Neither Barb's daughters nor I had much experience with Trinity Health Oakland until she was brought there by EMS," Ham said. "But from that moment forward our experience continued to be astounding. Throughout the course of her care, her daughters and I were with her every day and many nights as she underwent healing treatment. During the whole time we remained convinced that she could not possibly have been in a better place, nor received better care."



## A Difference They Could Feel

Serving as a health care foundation board member at a hospital in Petoskey, Ham's knowledge of hospitals runs deeper than most. He was impressed with Trinity Health Oakland's facilities and the comfort and privacy that they provided for Barb and the family.

"It's very modern and new, and we appreciated the private rooms which are so important for recovery and rest," he explained. "We liked how the nurses' work area is positioned with ability to see patients in two rooms."

Ham said he couldn't help noticing how collegial everyone was, with him, with Barb's daughters, Katie, Karen and Mimi, and with each other. It was what he describes as a palpable ethos of care, genuine concern and patient-centered focus.

"We were there nonstop, so we got to know all the staff," recalled Ham. "We even got to know the housekeeping and cafeteria staff. When I went down for a cup of coffee they'd ask, 'How's your wife doing?' They cared enough to get to know us, I don't think that is common."

He added, "I felt a sense of personal engagement with everyone we met. Barb's daughters did, too. It was like being cared for by 'old-fashioned medical practitioners,' and I mean that in the best possible sense of their kindness and their humanity."

"It was so clear to us that the team was truly invested in caring for Barb. It was important to them personally. I cannot tell you how much that meant to us."

## Expertise and True Caring Creates an Authentic Connection

The expertise and advanced technology utilized in Barb's care was extraordinary and inspired the family's complete confidence, said Ham. "We were continually impressed by the professionalism, teamwork, concern, and support of Barb's team of doctors. The nursing staff equally impressed us. I have seldom seen a finer group of professionals."

He added, "They gave it their all and that is what matters to us. They included us in the decisions.

We had the true sense that Barb and our family were real people to them."

In May, Barb was discharged and went home with hospice care. She passed peacefully about 10 days later.

"I went back to the hospital that night to let the nurses know, and they cried and hugged me," he said. "There was some part of Barb that was kind of magic, an aura that people always responded to, and so did these amazing doctors and nurses."

The exceptional care Barb received inspired the family to support the cardiac unit with a generous philanthropic gift. "Barb's issue was her heart, and we thought our donation to cardiology would help others with issues like hers," said Ham. "We spent the most time with the heart team, so we thought that was the best place to support."

## A Charitable Spirit in Action



Ham Schirmer cheerfully reporting for duty as a Trinity Health Oakland volunteer.

Ham decided to take it a step further and recently became a volunteer at the hospital. "While we were in the surgical waiting room, I saw a couple of old guys like me volunteering, and I thought, 'I can do that.'

I'm 84 and retired so I can give some time, that's the least I can do."

"Charitable giving as well as giving your mind and your time is so important.

It outlives you, and you will help people that you'll never know," Ham said. "There was a wonderful actor and dancer named Ray Bolger who said, 'It's important to leave footsteps on the stage.' Barb lived a life that left footprints, and I have a feeling I will as well."

*For more information about how you can support Trinity Health Oakland Hospital, please contact Craig Peiser at 248-736-5815 or Jill Schubiner at 248-417-9974.*



## Renovation Expands Access to Cancer Care Services

*at the Warren R. and Lauraine A. Hoensheid Cancer Center in Brighton*

Access to Trinity Health care continues to grow to meet the needs of our Livingston County community. Construction of our new, state-of-the-art Trinity Health Livingston Hospital is well underway and services at the Warren R. and Lauraine A. Hoensheid Cancer Center in Brighton are also expanding to better serve our patients.

The recently completed renovation includes three new private bays and one private patient infusion room bringing the total number of infusion care areas up to 18. The project also created additional patient rooms in the clinic where patients see their medical oncologists and hematologists increasing access and availability to these appointments as well.

“With new and more effective treatments, cancer survivorship continues to improve and that means more patients living and thriving but also means the need for added capacity for ongoing care and treatment,” explained Kathleen Beekman, MD, medical director of oncology, Trinity Health Michigan. “We want to provide that care close to home, keeping care local for the convenience of our patients and their families.”

“We were able to rethink internal spaces within the cancer center. This enabled us to expand patient care areas within the existing footprint,” said Daniel Lawson, executive director, oncology. “It’s a smart, patient-focused use of the beautiful space we have.”

Many of the current and new infusion bays include windows to help patients pass the time in a more relaxing way during infusion treatments that can last up to eight hours. The renovation also includes the addition of state-of-the-art monitors that offer soothing images providing light and interest to the inner bays without a window.

The reimagined clinic space allows for expansion of staff including an additional medical oncologist and an advanced practice provider (APP) in medical oncology. Palliative Care will also now be offered on site at the cancer center as well as via virtual appointment. Palliative care is specialized medical care for people living with a serious illness which is focused on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of the illness. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family.

“For some patients, virtual care is not as accessible due to the technology required, and others simply prefer an in-person appointment – they want that connection,” said Dr. Beekman. “Thanks to the newly expanded clinic space, as well as a palliative care physician able to care for patients in multiple locations, we can now offer this important healing service on site in Brighton.”

Philanthropy has been instrumental in supporting the cancer center. “We have been so fortunate to have the support of our community,” said Daniel. “For example, the Brighton High School Leadership Class started the Pink Week fundraiser in 2012 and has since raised more than \$340,000 for our Warren R. and Lauraine A. Hoensheid Cancer Center. What began as an idea from then-Principal Gavin Johnson more than a decade ago has grown into a community-wide initiative that involves the entire town.”

“It’s really amazing what the students and the community do for our patients,” added Dr. Beekman. “The dedication and generosity around this cause continues to grow, and we are so grateful.”

*The newly renovated spaces opened for patient care in October. For more information about the renovation or how you can help support cancer services at Trinity Health, please contact Lindsay Debolski, gift officer, philanthropy at 248-755-3510.*



The Brighton High School Leadership Class proudly presents their Pink Week contribution to the Warren R. and Lauraine A. Hoensheid Cancer Center in Brighton.

## Doing Good Together Introducing the Cancer Support Services Fund

Each of our Trinity Health cancer centers and the patients we serve benefit from the generosity of our philanthropic supporters. Giving from generous donors like you has enabled us to build and renew our cancer centers and enhance the patient experience with the latest treatments, groundbreaking research and services that create a truly healing environment.

Our patients rely on us for supportive services that heal the body, mind, and spirit. These valuable services are not often covered by insurance, and philanthropic giving makes them possible.

Giving to the Cancer Support Services Fund allows you to walk alongside our patients in their most difficult moments... when they need the healing comfort of an oncology chaplain, when transportation to treatments takes a toll on their families, to help them look and feel more like themselves with a visit to our Inspirit Salon and Spa. Your gift can help improve life for patients with cancer and their families in a very meaningful way.

If you would like to learn more and join us in doing good together, please contact the office of philanthropy at 734-712-4040 or email: [Trinity-DoingGoodTogether@trinity-health.org](mailto:Trinity-DoingGoodTogether@trinity-health.org)

# Prayers and Support: Volunteer Brings Comfort to Patients

Many patients arriving at the emergency department (ED) experience pain, anxiety, or fear. At Trinity Health Ann Arbor (THAA), Steven Stout is among the dedicated volunteers who support our team in easing the patient experience.

For 30 years, Steven served as a teacher, assistant principal and interim principal at Father Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor. His dedication to his Catholic faith and setting an example for students led him to continue volunteerism, which he began himself as a high school student.



## A Calling Heard Inside the Hospital

In June 2016, Steven began volunteering inside Trinity Health Ann Arbor inpatient units, serving patients and assisting nurses. Due to COVID-19, in 2020 the volunteer program was put on hiatus.

During that time, Steven visited the THAA ED. "The rapid pace and immense need for care was intense and I remember wanting to help," he recalled.

"Steven is heaven sent," shared Lisa Austin, manager of volunteer services at Trinity Health Ann Arbor, Livingston, and Chelsea Hospital. "As we emerged from the pandemic, we called back our volunteers. Steven was eager to return, but this time, he requested the ED."

## Making a Difference

The Volunteer Program has returned post-pandemic and it is once again thriving, according to Lisa.

Steven was among the first to rejoin. He volunteers four hours weekly in the ED, assisting patients facing serious and pressing health needs. "You never know what to expect," he shared. "Often, just talking or praying with a patient eases their minds and improves their experience."

"Our team and patients are incredibly fortunate to have volunteers like Steven, dedicated to our mission," said Lisa. "He shapes our program, from training others to contributing to volunteer guidelines. He truly cares about making a difference."

## A Prayer for Guidance

To this day, Steven begins each shift with a prayer in the hospital chapel. He asks for guidance in finding those who need his help and offering them assistance, comfort, and hope.

*The time and talent of our volunteers are essential to our work at Trinity Health Michigan. You can find volunteer roles for various skill levels and interests. If you'd like to join our mission through the Volunteer Program or learn more about opportunities in the ED, information desk, cancer center, NICU, The Farm, pet therapy programs, and more, please visit: [www.trinityhealthmichigan.org/foundation-and-giving/volunteer/](http://www.trinityhealthmichigan.org/foundation-and-giving/volunteer/)*

# Community Health Worker Program Helps Support Veterans and Their Families

Trinity Health’s mission goes beyond our hospital doors deep into the communities we serve. We invest in our communities to provide the services people need most. Coordinating care and partnering with community members and businesses in new ways are examples of the many things we do to improve the health of our communities and ensure access to care.

A great example of this effort is our Community Health Worker Program. Community Health Workers (CHWs) are trusted members of the community and have a strong understanding of the community they serve, healthcare system, and resources available to assist individuals and families. CHWs work closely with clients to address non-medical needs and other concerns that may impact an individual’s ability to manage their health.



Autumn Orta, community health worker, at Chelsea Hospital consults with a client.

This is important because 80% of what impacts the quality of someone’s health occurs outside of the clinical setting. These factors, called social determinants of health, include the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. By looking at the whole picture, we can make a real difference in people’s health and their lives. This is exactly what our CHWs do every day.

One powerful example of the work that our CHW’s do is with service members, veterans, and their families. Led by the CHW team at Chelsea Hospital, all of our Southeast Michigan hospitals work together, along with multiple community partners, to expand access to social care services.

Recently securing State of Michigan grant funding for veterans’ housing and social care has had a significant impact, helping more than 50 veterans as of August this year. As Autumn Orta, community health worker, community health, explains it, their team “piggybacks” off established Veterans programs to help leverage the best outcome for these men and women.

“With the help of our philanthropy team, we secured a State of Michigan Veterans Affairs grant in 2024 that allows us to help fill in the gaps for the military veterans and their families,” said Autumn. “There are strong programs for housing, for example, but you cannot access them until

*continued on next page...*

2024



**9 veterans** out of homelessness and into stable housing.



**39 veterans** avoid homelessness.



**24 veterans** secure reliable transportation for work and health care appointments.

continued from page 13...

after you are in court facing eviction. This grant funding helps us provide support for short-term housing in an instance like this, so we prevent someone from becoming homeless while they wait to meet criteria. We can help stabilize situations as a bridge to a longer-term solution."

The program can also provide critical financial support for essential expenses like utilities. Autumn recalled, "One veteran picked up extra hours on weekends at his job to afford transportation to the Veterans Administration Hospital which was quite a distance from his home but where he was required to receive treatments. Thanks to grant funding, we were able to help with his mortgage payment and utility bills, so he did not have to work those extra hours.

She added, "This funding enabled us to ease the burden and hopefully support his healing journey."

"The need is definitely there," she continued. "We will soon exhaust the current grant funding and are working with our philanthropy team to reapply, but there is so much more we could do with a base of support."

*For more information about the Community Health Worker program or if you are interested in helping the military service people and veterans in need in our communities, please contact Jennifer Maisch, director of philanthropy, Chelsea Hospital at [Jennifer.Maisch@Trinity-Health.org](mailto:Jennifer.Maisch@Trinity-Health.org) or 734-649-7481.*

## Ending the Year Well: Get a Head Start on your Year End Plans

Where did summer go? As we're well into the season of fall, it's easy to see the end of 2024 speeding toward us. Now is the perfect time to plan how you want to support your favorite causes, including Trinity Health! While gifts of cash are often the go-to method of support, we have some tips about a few additional ways that many have found to be easy and even more beneficial. Consider these options:

- **IRA Charitable Rollover** – Congress made permanent the law that allows people age 70 ½ or older who own an IRA to make gifts directly from their IRA to charity. For many people, this is the best tax-wise way to give. An IRA rollover gift will not be included in your taxable income and may qualify for your required minimum distribution.
- **Donor Advised Fund (DAF)** – If you have created a Donor Advised Fund through your financial advisor or a community foundation, make sure you consider making a gift from your DAF. You can make grants from your DAF now and in the future to support our work and other causes you care about.
- **Gift of Stock** – Perhaps you have some investments that have appreciated over the years. Instead of donating cash, consider giving stock instead! Making a gift this way will not only give you a tax deduction, but by donating the stock directly, you will avoid the capital gains tax that would apply if you sold the stock yourself. It's a double win!

*If you have questions about the best way for you to support Trinity Health and other causes you love, please reach out to George Westerman, senior philanthropy director, gift planning at 248-310-5854.*

# Development Team Updates .....

## *Development Team Restructures to Include a Focus on Gift Planning and Individual Giving*



Jocelyn Turner



George Westerman

The office of philanthropy has recently expanded its programmatic focus to include expertise in gift planning and individual giving.

“We have an opportunity to build relationships with our patients who are inspired to express their gratitude to our caregivers and further our programs to help others,” Doug Ferrick, regional vice president of philanthropy, Trinity Health Southeast Michigan said. “Developing a thoughtful, strategic appeal program can help ensure we are making it easy. We are fortunate to have Jocelyn Turner join our team as director of individual giving to lead that work.”

Jocelyn is a marketing professional specializing in fundraising and donor engagement strategy development. Her background includes roles in higher education and healthcare, both at Corewell and Michigan Medicine. She is an avid problem solver who enjoys creating programs that allow donors to connect their generosity to the compassionate care of our communities. In her new role, she will be building and executing strategies to grow the donor pipeline throughout our ministries across Southeast Michigan.

*“We have an opportunity to build relationships with our patients who are inspired to express their gratitude to our caregivers and further our programs to help others.”*

*~ Doug Ferrick*

George Westerman has also joined the Southeast Michigan philanthropy team and will serve in his role as senior philanthropy director, gift planning. He brings a wealth of experience from more than a decade of working with major and planned giving donors at The Children’s Foundation in Detroit to develop funding for causes critical to children and young adults through endowments, restricted funds, estate gifts and other giving vehicles. During that tenure, George built a planned giving program that both educated donors and engaged them to consider new ways to provide significant support for the causes they love.

George has developed an affinity for showing supporters ways to achieve their philanthropic goals that they might not have previously considered (Learn more in the year end giving story on page 14). He is a board member of the National Association of Charitable Gift Planners and is involved in programming for the Planned Giving Roundtable of Southeast Michigan.

*To learn more how you can create your legacy at Trinity Health please contact George Westerman, at 248-310-5854.*



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To learn more about how your giving makes an impact, contact a member of the Trinity Health Southeast Michigan office of philanthropy team.

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Please call us at 1-855-257-1719 if you wish to have your name removed from lists used to send fundraising requests supporting Trinity Health Southeast Michigan and its hospitals.

## Share Your Remarkable Story

Every day within our Trinity Health Southeast Michigan ministries, patients and families have profound encounters with our compassionate, highly skilled doctors and caregivers. In this issue, we were honored to share stories from the Barbara Bowman Family and Herbert and Karla Linker about the exceptional care they received, and the gratitude these experiences inspired.

*We would love to tell your story.*

If you have an inspiring story of an extraordinary care experience with Trinity Health – please let us know by emailing THPhilanthropySEMI@trinity-health.org.

**To view online visit:**

[www.trinityhealthmichigan.org/foundation-and-giving/southeast-michigan/why-give](http://www.trinityhealthmichigan.org/foundation-and-giving/southeast-michigan/why-give)



Scan this special QR code using the camera on your smartphone to visit our Ways to Give page, learn more about how your giving makes an impact on our mission, and make your gift online today.

**For more information, please contact us at:**

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