

Gift of Health



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for donors of
Saint Joseph Mercy
Health System

FALL 2019

BeRemarkable.



**St. Joe's patient
and supporter,
now cancer free,
marries the love
of his life and
best friend.**

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Defining Mercy

Jim and Robin Henderson

Robin and Jim Henderson chose St. Joseph Mercy Oakland as their hospital to deliver their four children in the 1970s, and have given generously to support vital expansions and innovative programs throughout the hospital for more than three decades.

"Our four kids were born at St. Joe's. And, since then, we've been able to watch the hospital grow and progress over the years and have seen the way it helps people and saves peoples' lives," explained Jim as he and Robin accepted the hospital's Mercy Legacy Award this year, presented by Shannon Striebich, President, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland.

Throughout the years, the Hendersons have maintained a close relationship with the hospital and made gifts to support areas of great need.

As part of the 2002 West Wing Campaign, they made a generous gift that allowed St. Joe's to establish the "Robin L. & James E. Henderson Medical Clinic," a teaching clinic for residents and fellows at St. Joe's. The Clinic provides primary care and specialty services such as cardiology and pre- and post-surgical care to more than 1,000 patients each year.

When St. Joe's Oakland launched the Future is Now capital campaign, the Hendersons were among its biggest supporters. The Campaign helped fund the new Patient Tower, Surgical Pavilion and leading-edge technology that has garnered six consecutive annual awards as the "Most Wired" Hospital by the American Hospital Association.

The Hendersons' insightful giving toward the Campaign allowed St. Joe's to implement an incredible technological feature, the Surgical Pavilion's Patient Tracking System to transform the waiting experience for family members who are given regular updates via a screen in the waiting room. Each patient is assigned a number to protect privacy and when the surgery is complete, the surgeon provides a personal update.

"It's just a short period of time in the hospital, but it's a very emotional and intense time," said Jim regarding the wait family members have during a loved one's surgery.

The Hendersons have been true partners in St. Joe's mission providing support for advanced medical services as well as compassionate and spiritual healing. Following their gift for the Surgical Pavilion, they made a gift to name the "Robin L. and James E. Henderson Reflection Garden."

"This is one of my favorite spots on campus... it's just so beautiful. If you haven't visited the reflection garden, I invite you to discover the peace and tranquility that patients, colleagues and guests have come to know," said Shannon. "The Henderson Reflection Garden is an outdoor sanctuary."



Shannon Striebich, president, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, presented the hospital's 2019 Mercy Legacy Award to Jim and Robin Henderson for their commitment to the hospital.

Most recently, the Hendersons made a transformational gift to name the “Robin L. and James E. Henderson Dental Center,” celebrating an ongoing partnership with the hospital, and meeting one of our community’s greatest needs.

The Hendersons’ inspirational giving has allowed St. Joe’s to expand and enhance our patient-focused dental center – one of only a few hospital-based dental centers in the state, providing specialized care to those with disabilities as well as serving families who are uninsured or financially insecure.

Their gift was the capstone of a two-year campaign to raise funds to expand the dental center. The expanded clinic has five treatment rooms, a laboratory workspace for the dental residents, a complete instrument sterilization area, and a private consultation/classroom area. One of the treatment rooms has a floor-mounted hoist that can lock into a wheelchair so it can be tilted back like a dental chair to enhance comfort and safety for patients while they are receiving dental treatment.

“Regular dental care and good oral health are essential to overall health, self-esteem and quality of life,” said Craig C. Spangler, DDS, Program Director Emeritus for the General Dental Residency. “The Hendersons, and all those who have supported the clinic, have made it possible for those patients with barriers to dental care to receive comprehensive dental treatment while training the dentists of tomorrow.”

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Be Passionate About Your Community.



Renee and Ed Chodkowski are avid supporters of St. Joseph Mercy Livingston and Local Care.

Message from Renee:

Ed and I always feel excited to support St. Joseph Mercy Livingston and Brighton. Community support of local businesses – in this case, local WORLD CLASS health care – is one of my passions as a citizen and as The Great Foodini. I have a story, and this is why I am so committed to St. Joe's and their remarkable Transformation project right here in Livingston County.

My story....my dad died at 45 from heart disease. His dad died at 42 from heart disease. His brother and sister barely made it to 60. Heart disease. My mom died of lung cancer at 52. My goal is to live 25 out of my 24 hours every day.

When we were working as a family to get care for my dad, we found ourselves traveling two and three states away for meetings, surgeries, consultations and treatments. It was a logistical nightmare and financially impossible to get what was considered the best care. It was never spoken aloud, but I know that weighed heavily on my dad and I believe he would have been with us longer had great health care been local.

Be Remarkable.

My mom's story is similar – her best treatment was a thousand miles away, next best was 50 miles away, but between Michigan winters, serious commuter traffic, parking nightmares and waiting, a half hour treatment was a full day's work. It exhausted her and she ultimately declined treatment. I believe she would have been with us longer had great health care been local.

There are two takeaways from my story. One is how important local care is, and St. Joe's has demonstrated unwavering commitment to Livingston County. Second, education is key to prevention with so many illnesses. St. Joe's has so many health education, screening, diagnostic, prevention and health management programs available – right here in Livingston County. You should see their new healthy education kitchen! Foodini was excited! This is part of the ongoing Transformation project.*

"St. Joe's and the patients we serve benefit greatly from passionate support like the Chodkowskis give. We are so grateful to have them as partners," said John O'Malley, president, St. Joseph Mercy Livingston. "As donors and volunteer leaders, Ed and Renee help ensure our community has high quality, high value, compassionate and local care."

Renee (*aka The Great Foodini) believes anyone can learn to prepare healthy, delicious meals. She teaches and presents both home cooking and worksite wellness programs for all ages and groups sizes but her favorite is her home base demonstration kitchen at Cleary University in Howell. She is regular on Livingston County's 93.5 WHMI FM; has achieved national acclaim on FOX's reality series "MasterChef," was recognized in the "Pie of Emeril's Eye" Contest on ABC's "Good Morning America," and was selected by Red Gold Tomatoes as one of the top seven food writers/bloggers in the U.S. Renee is a tireless volunteer leader in support of farm-to-table cooking, good nutrition for all ages, fighting hunger and making nutrition a part of healthy living.

Outside the kitchen, Renee and Ed have been married for over 38 years, and have lived in Livingston County for 40 years. They raised their children here, who are both graduates from Howell High School, and were born at St. Joe's (when it was still named McPherson Hospital). As part of a healthy-lifestyle, Renee and Ed enjoy playing tennis, traveling, scuba diving, and golfing, and of course eating the healthy meals Renee prepares.

Ed and Renee are champions for St. Joe's, including serving as co-chairs for the 2019 Livingston Ball last April. The couple is most passionate about partnering with St. Joe's on local care, prevention and treatment through healthy eating, and making a lasting impact on the community.

First Intensive Heart Health Rehab Program in Livingston County

Your investment in St. Joseph Mercy Livingston is an investment in innovative, evidence based, local health care. In November 2018, we opened the county's first intensive heart health rehab program, Pritikin ICR™ (Intensive Cardiac Rehabilitation).

"The Pritikin program has proven to be very successful for patients at high risk for a cardiovascular event, and we are thrilled to offer this program to Livingston County to improve the health and wellness of our local community," said John O' Malley, president of St. Joseph Mercy Livingston. "This is one example of our commitment to transforming care."

Numerous studies have documented the Pritikin program's ability to lower blood cholesterol levels, improve blood pressure and blood sugar control and reduce other lifestyle-related risk factors.

Patients benefit from Pritikin's three-pronged approach that focuses on: healthy eating, healthy mindset and exercise.

At St. Joe's Livingston, exercise physiologists facilitate individual and group workshops, yoga therapists lead our mind body workshops and yoga classes, the program includes personalized counseling and coaching, and nutritionists lead classes in meal planning, supermarket shopping and cooking – all in a renovated space including a gym, classrooms and demonstration kitchen. Patients learn skills they can use in every-day life to improve their health.

Cardiac rehab can reduce the risk of dying or having another heart attack by as much as 30 to 50 percent, according to the American College of Cardiology.

For more information, please call St. Joe's Cardiac Rehab at 517-545-6385.

To make a gift in support of innovative, quality, local care, contact:

Tina Casoli at 517-545-5156 or tina.casoli@stjoeshealth.org; or Lindsay Debolski at 517-545-5151 or lindsay.debolski@stjoeshealth.org

You Make Life Remarkable

On June 6, 2019, "Life is Remarkable" Campaign lead donors and volunteers celebrated and toured the renewed and re-opened Robert H. and Judy Dow Alexander Cancer Center with Health System leaders and hospital president Bill Manns.

"When we talk about the impact of your gifts for the Robert H. and Judy Dow Alexander Cancer Center, the real measurement is the lives you are saving, extending and making better. 'Life is Remarkable' is more than a campaign, it's a belief we practice every day, because patients are fighting cancer every day," said Bill Manns, President, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Livingston.

Each day, approximately 200 patients receive care at St. Joe's transformed Robert H. and Judy Dow Alexander Cancer Center, re-opened December 2018 with thanks to 1,024 donors to St. Joe's "Life is Remarkable" campaign.

"This project was built upon a legacy of support from donors who gave to the original cancer center more than 25 years ago, and have continued to serve as partners in our healing mission. We are grateful for the ongoing support, and to the generous community members, physicians and staff who are making an incredible impact *today* through their inspirational giving to the "Life is Remarkable" Campaign," said David Ripple, SJMHS Vice President for Development.



India Manns; Judy Dow Rumelhart, Campaign Honorary Co-chair; Phil Stella, MD, Medical Director of Oncology; Bill Manns, President of St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Livingston; Sister Yvonne Gellise, SJMHS Senior Advisor for Governance



Campaign honorary co-chairs Techy Rodriguez-Doyle and Patrick Doyle with Phil Stella, MD



"Making our gift was something special Teresa and I did together to recognize the compassion and expertise of her care team and help ensure personalized care for others. This is a reflection of how Teresa lived her life with gratitude, and I hope it inspires others." – Andy Yu

Photograph: Adam Zimmer, Megan Yu, and Andy Yu on a tour with Susan Wyman, Regional Oncology Director, SJMHS (second from right)

Your support is still needed.

Because every patient has a life that is remarkable.

To date, gifts for the Campaign have reached \$9.5 million toward the \$10 million philanthropy goal. And, the first two phases of our campaign are complete – renewing and re-opening our Robert H. and Judy Dow Alexander Cancer Center and transforming our services.

Additional gifts through December 2019 will help complete the campaign, supporting the Cancer Care Innovation Endowment and the future of cancer care for our patients.

*To learn more or make your gift, please contact the Office of Development
Katie Elliott, Director of Major and Planned Gifts, at 734-712-3919 or Katie.Elliott@stjoeshealth.org*

Karen Campbell, Gift Officer, at 734-712-2890 or Karen.Campbell@stjoeshealth.org

Melissa Sheppard, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at 734-712-4079 or Melissa.Sheppard@stjoeshealth.org

The Impact of Your Giving

Through the experience and courage of a patient...

"Recently I came across the definition of the word Courage. It is the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty or pain. You have to have courage just to walk through these doors and hear your diagnosis," said Sandra Lymburner, 58-year-old Ann Arbor resident, of her experience facing breast cancer. "Cancer can make you feel overwhelmed and alone. But together with your cancer team here at St. Joe's you find the courage. There is strength in knowing you will receive the best cancer care possible."

While Sandy celebrates five years cancer-free this past September, her journey of braving a new treatment path will have an ongoing impact on others. She's quick to credit the cancer care and research team at St. Joe's Robert H. and Judy Dow Alexander Cancer Center.

Weeks after being diagnosed with invasive ductal carcinoma in the right breast and lobular cancer in the left, Sandy underwent a double mastectomy in September 2014. Her chemotherapy port was placed the next month, fully expecting it was the next course of treatment.

But on the day of Sandy's first scheduled chemotherapy session, Dr. Philip Stella, medical director of oncology at Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, suggested she might be able to bypass chemotherapy altogether.

"He came into the room with a big smile on his face," Sandy described. Dr. Stella had sent in her breast tumor samples for



Katie Elliott, Director of Development; Judy Dow Rumelhart, Campaign Honorary Co-chair; Kelly Sorini, Campaign Chair



Phil Stella, MD; Beth LaVasseur, Director of Oncology; Lynn Stella; Cecilia Fileti, Campaign Cabinet member; Tom and Jennifer Butman

molecular testing. Sandy had some of the lowest cancer recurrence risk scores he had seen, making her a good candidate for the groundbreaking Trial Assigning Individualized Options for Treatment (Rx), or TAILORx trial. Sandy received a score of 10 and 7 (on a scale of 100), and was randomly selected to receive hormone therapy alone.

Rather than receiving infusion chemo treatments, Sandy chose to participate in the clinical trial for a 10-year-period, which includes a treatment regimen of medications to block the production of hormones and reduce her risks of the breast cancer recurring.

She also followed her cancer team's recommendations for radiation therapy – to tackle the microscopic cells. But avoiding chemotherapy and its drastic side effects was a huge morale booster for Sandy, who began journaling and running every day.

In 2016, Sandy completed a half-marathon, and, in 2018, to mark four years of being cancer-free, she ran her third half-marathon in Chicago on Sept. 23.

At the Robert H. and Judy Dow Alexander Cancer Center Dedication and Blessing in December 2018, Sandy shared her experience with our community and donors as a speaker at the event, "The clinical trial allowed me to walk out of the cancer center that day without requiring chemo. Every time I tell the story, I recall the moment I looked back at the chairs in the infusion clinic. I was on the other side. I got to go home. My good fortune was due to the outstanding staff in the Oncology and Research Departments at St. Joe's and Dr. Stella.

At that time I didn't realize St. Joe's is recognized as one of the nation's best National Cancer Institute funded community research programs. They have 100 trials open to enrollment at any given time. These studies offer investigational treatments for a wide variety of cancers, symptom management, and cancer prevention."

Sandy went on to explain, "The exceptional care I received at St. Joe's has been incredible and is the main reason I decided to become an Experience Advisor." As such, Sandy was closely involved in the Cancer Center redesign and renovation project and found it enlightening and gratifying to have another unique opportunity to shape the care of those following a similar path.



Sandy Lymburner (far right) with Kenn Sheats (1959-2019), a fellow patient advisor and 23-year St. Joe's employee, and Gail Panoff, fellow patient advisor, at the 2017 groundbreaking ceremony for the renewed Robert H. and Judy Dow Alexander Cancer Center.

Closing her remarks at the Dedication, Sandy shared these powerful words, "Society has labeled me a cancer survivor. That term doesn't really resonate with me. I like to think of myself as a resilient fighter... Someone that didn't know how strong she was until being strong was the only choice she had. Thanks to my family and the staff at St. Joe's we embraced the unknown together and I have celebrated almost five years of being cancer free."

To learn more about St. Joe's Cancer Care and National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program, visit stjoesannarbor.org/cancer.

To make a gift to St. Joe's Ann Arbor "Life is Remarkable" Campaign please contact:

Katie Elliott at Katie.Elliott@stjoeshealth.org or 734-712-3919; Karen Campbell at Karen.Campbell@stjoeshealth.org or 734-712-2890; or Melissa Sheppard at Melissa.Sheppard@stjoeshealth.org or 734-712-4079



Sandy with Dr. Stella were speakers at the Robert H. and Judy Dow Alexander Cancer Center Dedication in December 2018

Cancer Care Innovation Endowment

Your support for innovation and research helps us make groundbreaking changes possible.

TAILORx trial shows no need for chemotherapy for most women with early breast cancer.

The TAILORx trial, launched in 2006 and supported by the National Cancer Institute, analyzed breast tumors using the Onco-type DX Breast Recurrence Score and assigned a cancer recurrence risk score to each individual. Based on those scores, the trial randomly assigned participants to hormone therapy alone, or a combination of hormone therapy and chemotherapy.

Forty St. Joe's patients participated in the trial.

In June, the National Cancer Institute said new findings from the TAILORx trial show no benefit from chemotherapy for most women with early breast cancer. Researchers hope the new data will help inform treatment decisions for many women with early-stage breast cancer, especially for those deemed to have an intermediate risk of recurrence.

Leaders, Teachers, Healers



Hazem Eltahawy, MD

Director of Neuroscience and Chief of Neurosurgery,

Dr. Eltahawy, St. Mary Mercy Livonia, is among our doctors who serve as leaders, teachers and healers.

Tell us a little about yourself:

I grew up in Egypt with my family – my dad was a physician and my mom was a social worker. I have fond memories of childhood.

One very important thing my dad instilled in us was a sense of roots. He was originally from a countryside province next to Cairo. Every weekend we would go visit family. There was no TV, sometimes no electricity. Sometimes, being kids, we would try to get out of going, but later in life, I saw those visits gave us a sense of family. This had an important purpose, because no matter where I've travelled, when I started my life in the U.S., I never experienced homesickness. It made me well-grounded.

What drew you to St. Mary Mercy Livonia?

I chose St. Mary Mercy Livonia because the culture here focuses on compassion and quality.

I always felt the need to contribute in the same way that science is advancing. I had a good deal of training in Egypt, and it was good training, but all the advances were coming from the U.S. and a few other countries. I decided to move to the U.S. in order to get firsthand exposure and research how things are discovered...neurosurgery is still a frontier.

It's an exciting time for this field; we are going where no one has gone before, like space discovery and the explorers who set out before the geography of the earth had been mapped.

How did you choose to become a doctor? How did you choose your specialty?

Initially, I wanted to go into science. I was very keen on exploring and making big discoveries. In Egypt, however, our entrance exam into university is like a final exam. It's different than in the U.S., where you look at all the aspects of learning and testing to determine if someone would make a good doctor or should go to medical school. If you score well that determines if you have the capacity to be a doctor, and your score becomes a driving force that you don't want to waste. I did very well in exams.

My dad sat with me and said, "Going into medicine will also give you the opportunity to pursue science."

My interest in discovery stayed with me. I spent six years chasing so much knowledge and participating in many experiments. Through education and training, I selected the specialty of neurosurgery. I felt neurosurgery combines my interest in new frontiers with the most direct contribution on patients' wellbeing.

What is your philosophy of care?

My philosophy is to have a team and empower all members of the team. This is based on my own experience and those I learned from. It's important to bring the patient in as part of the team. We are treating a condition that we are all fighting together. It's important the patient is empowered and feels they will have a good outcome and safe recovery.

We are dealing with complex medical situations, and as a surgeon, I cannot do it without a team. I feel blessed to work with a team of highly qualified individuals who fulfill their duties and roles as members of a team that cares for patients.

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Dr. Hazem Eltahawy values a team approach to providing care, photographed here with Nurse Practitioner Ashra Mirza.

What is the role of philanthropy at the hospital and to make an impact on the health of our community?

Philanthropy is crucial. There are so many developments and programs that can have a tremendous impact on the community and care we provide that need resources – personnel, state-of-the-art medical equipment, research.

Some examples would be doing more to serve people with seizures and epilepsy, cerebral palsy and other conditions that cause spasms. Also, elderly people facing problems with bones, we see a lot of compression fractures. I often wonder about ways to address the source and make homes safer and good diets easier and more affordable.

I think philanthropy can help bridge those gaps.

What are two or three of the most important advancements in neurosurgery? What is on the horizon for this field of medicine?

Deep Brain Stimulation. Interaction between the nervous system and implantable devices is changing the course of disease. This science is in its infancy. We implant electrodes to reduce tremors or dystonia – think of it as like a pacemaker for the heart, but this is for the brain for motor skills. The device sends electric pulses to improve symptoms and has been very successful with people with Parkinson's and other conditions that cause non-stop tremors. It improves quality of life for people with those conditions.

Deep Brain Stimulation is being developed for many other areas too including memory loss and ALS where the brain is alert, but most of the body is not getting signals. Steven Hawking got some and was able to operate his voice through eyelid movement. For depression, for persons whose condition are drug resistant and nothing else is helping, we are finding we can create targeted interruptions in the vicious cycle and give a better quality of life – this is much

Leaders, Teachers, Healers

better than ECT, which addresses the whole system. For people with epilepsy who may not be candidates for other procedures, there is a promising device that detects seizures and stops seizures, again it works like a pacemaker in the brain. We are also working toward spinal injury to bypass the injured part of the spine and address paralysis.

Measurement of Stroke. There are many options for prevention, especially healthy weight, active lifestyles and nutritious diet, but when a stroke happens, there is now increased awareness to intervene within a certain amount of time, originally thought to be within 3 hours, but newer studies are showing up to eight hours and beyond that. We use clot dissolving drugs and mechanical clot retrievers. Treatments for stroke save people from paralysis and speech issues.

Spine Surgery. Statistically 1/3 of people will have back problems at some time in their life. Again, prevention is key through healthy active lifestyles, good posture, avoiding repetitive injuries and practicing good job ergonomics. But when problems happen, the spine has many joints that are all connected and we have to watch how corrections will affect the rest of the body. We have to look at how we can minimize the effects a treatment will have on other parts of the body through a personalized approach factoring in things like age, health, lifestyle and the patient's goals.

We have had very promising advancements in neck and spine treatments including artificial disc replacements as another option beyond spinal fusion. We have improved safety and risks of complications. We are able to use navigation systems that ensure accuracy.

Robotic spine surgery is the most recent advancement. The robot helps take the surgeon's roadmap and mimics it by placing screws in a very safe way. Traditionally, the benefits of spine surgery are good, but there are risks. The roots of the bones where the screws go in have critical particles at high risk of breakage. We started robotic surgery a year ago, and since then have had zero breakage of critical particles. This is an example of why we must continue to explore and advance in the neurosciences.

Are you involved in other leadership roles beyond St. Mary Mercy Livonia?

I am the President of the Michigan Association of Neurological Surgeons. I've just transitioned into this leadership role, so I'm very excited and will remain for the next three years. It brings a lot of opportunities to serve society and the neurosurgery community in Michigan. My focus would be to help neurosurgeons achieve a good work-life balance.

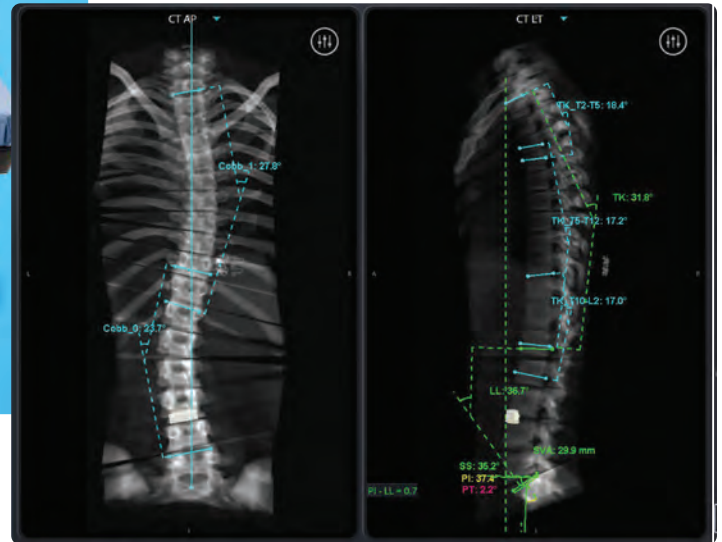
In 2019, I was invited to present at the Egyptian Society of Neurological Surgeons annual conference as a guest speaker on skull-based craniocervical junction disorder – abnormalities in the complex area where the brain transitions to the spine. I was invited to speak and teach in the lab about safe exposures and reducing risk and to provide scientific sessions on complex spinal surgeries. I cherish those international interactions, especially with colleagues and professors I studied with in Egypt, and to exchange knowledge I've been blessed to gain here in the U.S.

What is your favorite movie?

It's not easy to pick a favorite movie. There is one I've liked that I had the chance to see again recently. It's not very common, it's an Italian science fiction movie called "Raiders of the Year 3000." I like science fiction – I feel like you want to watch it again and again and every time you see something new – those are the kinds of movies that are really interesting. Set against this post-apocalyptic scene, you see how man can change, and you see hope.



Mazor X™



St. Mary Mercy Livonia became the first in Michigan to offer patients the Mazor X™ Robotic Guidance Platform

In March 2019, St. Mary Mercy Livonia became the first in Michigan to offer patients the Mazor X™ Robotic Guidance Platform, a new state-of-the-art surgical device that combines pre-operative planning and 3-D simulation tools and analytics with intra-operative guidance, giving physicians new minimally-invasive spinal surgery options that promise to raise standards of care and improve outcomes.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia remains grateful to donors who have supported surgical care, technology and innovation to improve treatments and outcomes for patients. "This technology elevates our surgical capabilities and will lead to better results for our patients," said Hazem Eltahawy, MD, Chief of Neurological Surgery at St. Mary Mercy Livonia. "With this tool we receive a greater amount of pre-operative information on each patient, have an improved visual field of the patient's spine before and during surgery, and can operate with a greater degree of confidence and precision."

To learn more about innovative care and how you can make a gift, contact Colin Berens at 734-655-2876 or Colin.Berens@stjoeshealth.org

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The Hendersons' generous gift is making a difference for the 600 patients who visit the Dental Center each year. Some of these patients have not had dental treatment in many years, and present with treatment challenges that may be treated in the clinic, or require treatment in the operating room under general anesthesia.

Jim has shared, "Robin and I view our contributions to St. Joe's over the years as something we just wanted to do because we thought we could help a few people be a little better off than they otherwise would have been. We're delighted St. Joe's has been able to provide that help to so many people in need."

"Having philanthropic partners like the Hendersons allows St. Joe's Oakland to be an innovative leader in health care and to sustain our commitment to serve all those in need," said Shannon. "We are grateful and inspired by Jim and Robin's vision and ongoing investment in St. Joe's, our healing mission, and the patients we serve."

To learn more about St. Joseph Mercy Oakland and ways you can support our healing mission, please contact Craig Peiser at 248-858-6142 or Craig.Peiser@stjoeshealth.org or Jill Schubiner at 248-858-6146 or Jill.Schubiner@stjoeshealth.org.

Your Legacy

You can ensure the Remarkable Medicine, Remarkable Care that your family has counted on is available for future generations. Making a gift through your will or trust is a simple and meaningful way to leave your legacy.

Contact Katie Elliott, Director of Planned Giving, SJMHS, 734-712-3919 or Katie.Elliott@stjoeshealth.org, for more information and allow us to recognize you as a member of one of our Legacy Societies.





It's a Great Day to Be Alive

The pastime of upcycling, flipping and finding hidden treasures at vintage markets, flea markets and resale venues has become a national pastime. But that's not what inspired Gary Klapperich, a 3rd generation Dexter resident and owner of Klapperich Welding since 1979, to establish the "It's a Great Day to Be Alive" fundraising event that features a rummage sale, auction, 50/50 raffle, cook-out and more. Gary was responding to a much more serious trend...he started the event to help fight cancer.

Nearly twelve years ago, Gary was diagnosed with colon cancer. Having never been to a hospital before, he shared the diagnosis was terrifying. To treat the cancer, Gary underwent a successful surgery at St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, followed by chemotherapy at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor.

It was during the long hours of infusion that Gary kept his spirits up with the Travis Tritt tune "It's a Great Day to Be Alive." Gary was so grateful for the care he received from his surgeon Jennifer Kulick, MD, and oncologist Katie Beekman, MD, and their care teams, he joined with fellow members from the Ann Arbor Fraternal Order of Eagles #2154 and the Dexter American Legion #557 to launch an annual fundraising event named for the song, to support cancer care.

They were inspired by the care Gary received and the idea that same level of care could be possible close to home for more families. They were early to join the community in supporting St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea's

current Cancer Center. Gifts made it possible to open the Cancer Center in 2014 and offer state-of-the-art radiation, chemotherapy and surgical services as well as a healing environment for personalized care.

"I wanted to show my gratitude and help others. I'm so lucky I have some great people in my life to help me do that and who take pride in supporting the cancer center like I do," said Klapperich. "I think people are drawn to rummage sales because it's exciting to find something others see as broken or forgotten, and you take it home and shine it up and make it new again. When you have cancer, you really rely on your doctors to fix you up and make you new again, and their dedication to giving you a second chance makes you love life more than ever."

The "It's a Great Day to Be Alive" event gained popularity over the years. Gary and friends have raised an overall total of \$275,000 in support of cancer care at St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea.

Today, Gary gets regular colon cancer screenings and is cancer free. His renewed health gave him the chance to marry the love of his life, Karin, on September 13, 2014. And, yes, Gary will tell you, "That was the greatest day to be alive. She is my very best friend."

Gary, Karin and the other leaders involved remain dedicated to ensuring event guests, many who would not likely get screened otherwise, understand its benefits and know that St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea has seamless screening, diagnosis and treatment options.

"Every year, this fundraiser brings together friends and families to support the fight against cancer in our community," said Nancy Graebner, president, St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea. "In no small part due to Gary's own inspirational cancer journey, what began as a small community effort has grown to have a significant impact."

To learn about how you can support St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, please contact Katie Elliott, Development Director, at Katie.Elliott@stjoeshealth.org or 734-712-3919.

If you are interested in learning more about colon cancer screening, call 734-593-5650.

Colon Cancer Screening

- In 2017, there was an estimated 95,500 new cases of colon cancer in the U.S.
- The slow growth from precancerous polyps to invasive cancer provide a unique opportunity for prevention and early detection.
- Screening is recommended beginning at age 50 for people at average risk, and earlier for people at increased risk because of family history or certain medical conditions.*

* <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/colorectal-cancer-facts-and-figures/colorectal-cancer-facts-and-figures-2017-2019.pdf>



St. Joe's Mourns the Loss of *Garry C. Faja*

Garry Faja with his wife, Barbara, and daughter, Christine, at the 2010 Holiday Ball.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Garry Faja, the longtime president and CEO of St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor who served as the first regional CEO of Saint Joseph Mercy Health System. Garry passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, July 21, in his home in Traverse City.

His extraordinary leadership and vision united the southeast Michigan Trinity Health hospitals into one large regional health delivery system, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System.

Garry was a champion for St. Joe's Office of Development, as an advocate for our fundraising efforts and as a friend to donors. Garry served as philanthropy co-chair of the 2010 St. Joe's Holiday Ball when his wife, Barbara, served as co-chair of the event. And, he and Barbara gave generously to support key beneficiaries throughout his 32-years as President and CEO and into retirement, most notably as a donors to St. Joe's Ann Arbor's Renewal Campaign – the Health System's largest Campaign to date that supported the new patient towers, The Helen and Marion S. DeWeese, MD, Surgery Pavilion, chapel, and entrance. This endeavor celebrated the hospitals 100 year anniversary and community support that has made continued growth possible. In addition to this major achievement, Garry made many significant contributions over his 32-year career with St. Joe's. Other major revitalization and expansion projects he led include the creation of a 15-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in 2001; a two-story addition with 54 private rooms and new Emergency Department at St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea; a new eight-story tower with 136 acute care private beds at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland and a 154,000 square foot addition at St. Mary Mercy Livonia. And, he was truly grateful for community support to help make these projects a success.

His determined stewardship of both organizational resources and philanthropic gifts from the community resulted in the investment of more than \$700 million that established and revitalized SJMHS health care facilities and programs throughout southeastern Michigan.

"Regardless of how health care has changed over the past 30 years, Garry has always said it's about people caring for people," said Sister Yvonne Gellise, Senior Advisor for Governance at Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, who added that Faja has valued the legacy of this hospital started by the Sisters of Mercy.

Garry was very active in the community, including serving as a key voice in Medicaid expansion, a founding member of the Washtenaw Housing Alliance, and a founder of the Mercy Cancer Network. He was instrumental in the establishment of The Quality Institute at St. Joe's as well as Michigan's first Senior ER program and supported the major expansion of St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea making them the newest member of our health system. A leader in the health care industry, Garry served as

chair of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association Board—receiving its notable Meritorious Service Award in 2014—and was also a delegate for the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board.

In celebration of his accomplishments and with sincere gratitude for his leadership and friendship, in 2015, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor established the Garry C. Faja Chapel Courtyard.

"Garry had an incredible way of engaging those around him," said David Ripple, Vice President of Development, SJMHS. "I had the honor to work with him during my time on the Development team in the early 2000s and witness his commitment to our mission and donors. We are deeply saddened by this tremendous loss and grateful for his life's work that will make an ongoing impact."

Garry was a graduate and loyal alumnus of the University of Michigan. His numerous accomplishments during his time leading SJMHS were always based on what was best for patients and caregivers. And, most importantly, Garry was a man who loved and valued his family. Garry is survived by his wife Barbara, who has dedicated countless hours to fundraising and other philanthropic efforts for the health system, and daughter, Christine.

Garry was loved, admired and respected and will be deeply missed by his family, friends and the St. Joe's team.



Garry Faja and Sister Yvonne Gelisse celebrating with leaders and donors who helped build the original St. Joe's Robert H. and Judy Dow Alexander Cancer Center in the 1990s.

To learn more or make a gift to the hospital closest to your heart contact:

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Please contact us at 1-855-257-1719 if you
wish to have your name removed from lists used
to send fund-raising requests supporting
Saint Joseph Mercy Health System.

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FastFacts

St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea was named one of the best hospitals in the world according to *Newsweek's* 2019 ranking. SJMC was joined on the list by five Trinity Health sister hospitals as well as its joint venture partner, Michigan Medicine. Hospitals were selected based on recommendations from medical professionals, patient survey results and medical performance indicators.

The new St. Mary Chapel at SMML, funded by generous donors, continues to be lauded for its design. The space opened in September 2018 and has now won six major awards given by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and Society of American Registered Architects (SARA).

St. Joe's Livingston and President John O'Malley hosted "Leadership Livingston" in April with community and business leaders participating in tours and discussion about how medical care, services and spaces are being transformed through donor support to keep local care local.

St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and St. Joseph Mercy Oakland received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's (AHA/ASA) Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award, the highest award for stroke care.

BeRemarkable.