

Gift^{of} Health

Our Philanthropy Magazine



Inside

- 2 Michigan Health Endowment Fund
- 5 A Planned Gift for Cardiovascular Care
- 6 Giving Back for Life-changing Care
- 8 Making a Difference One Day at a Time
- 10 A Donor's Vision for Education
- 12 The Farm
- 16 COVID-19 Update

for donors of
Saint Joseph Mercy
Health System

SPRING 2021

BeRemarkable.



**Gaining health –
body, mind and spirit.**

Scott Baird shares his patient experience
and why he chooses to give back.

Budding Program Brings Promising Future

\$410,000+ grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund engages physician residents and community youths in learning, partnering, and living healthy through pilot program titled Nutrition Buddies.

Poor nutrition is a major contributing factor of chronic disease in America, and people who experience food insecurity are at a higher risk. Healthy eating during childhood and adolescence is important for proper growth and development, and associated with improved cognitive function and mood. Nutrition can be used as medicine to prevent chronic diseases and reverse some pre-existing diseases. Establishing healthy eating patterns at an early age is not only essential, it can be lifesaving.

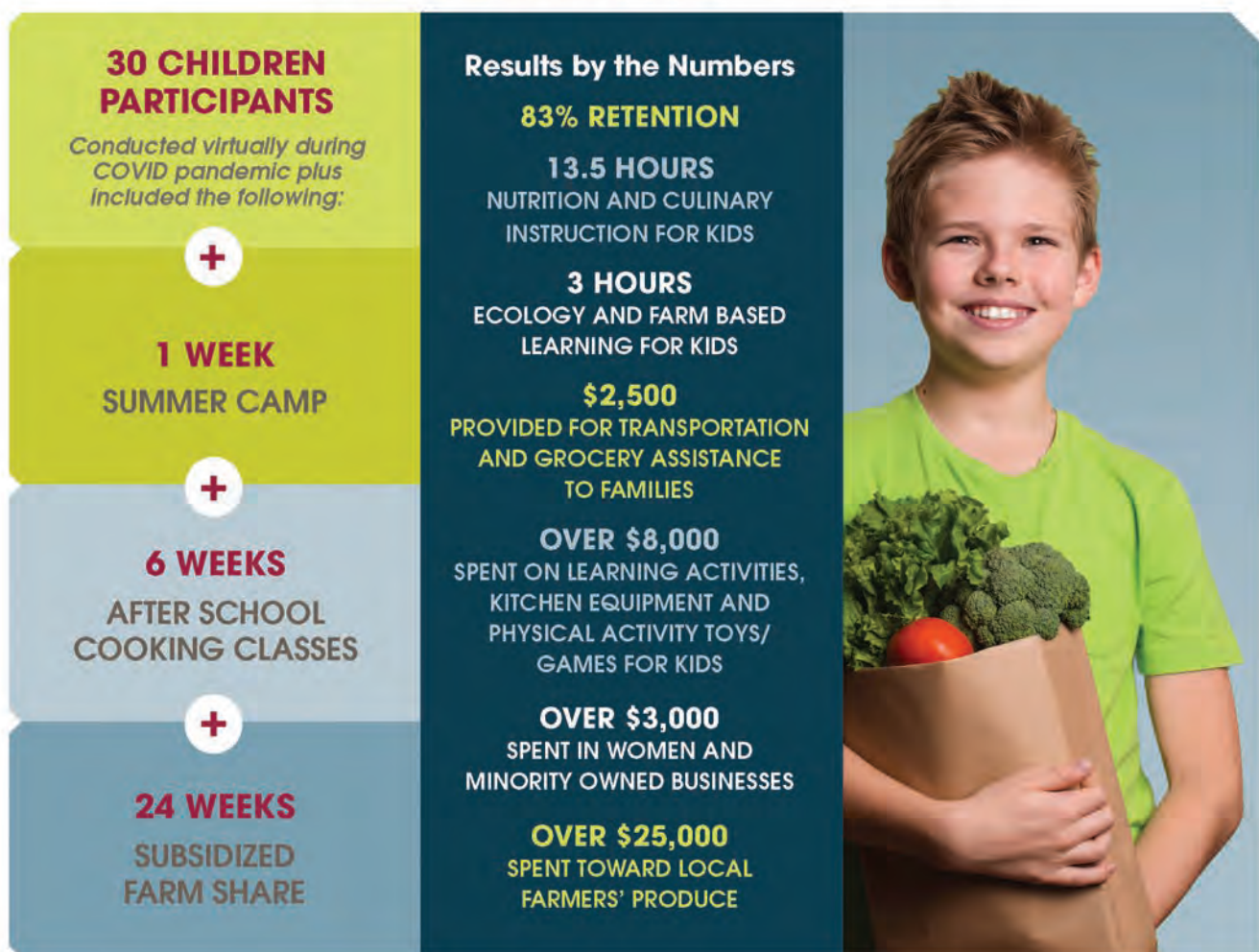


"The grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund made it possible to implement the Nutrition Buddies pilot program at St. Joe's Ann Arbor, which provides food insecure teens and medical residents with the resources, education and tools to learn about proper nutrition and proactively create and sustain healthier habits," shared Allie Babcock, Lifestyle Medicine Coordinator. "We offer an engaging approach that includes weekly cooking classes for the youth to gain confidence in kitchen skills while building a healthier relationship with food. Ingredients, many fresh from our Farm at St. Joe's, are provided to cook a nutritious, balanced meal from start to finish."



"We are grateful to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund for supporting this innovative initiative. The mentor-buddy approach is helping our physician residents learn how they can better serve families experiencing health care inequities, create open dialogue with families for better understanding, and build trusting relationships that are all essential to a healthier future for our community," shared Alonzo Lewis, president, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Livingston.

Impact of Giving Phase I



For more information about how you can make a difference at St. Joe's, contact: Melissa Sheppard, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, at 734-712-4079 or Melissa.Sheppard@stjoeshealth.org, or Jana McNair, Director of Major Gifts, at 734-712-3919 or Jana.McNair@stjoeshealth.org

Continued on page 16.

Giving

is at the Heart of Quality Cardiovascular Care

Thank you to James Flagg for investing in our cardiovascular care through a planned giving vehicle called a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT), which matured to \$250,000 and fully funded the purchase of a new transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE) machine.

James gave his gift in gratitude for the care he had received and to help others. In 1988, James was driving down the highway when he began to experience shortness of breath and chest pains. He pulled over, honking for help, but no one came. He really felt as though he would die. James had just purchased a car phone and found the strength to dial 911. He was rushed to St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor by ambulance.

James recalls one of the doctors telling him at the time that the type of heart attack he experienced was referred to as "the widow maker." James followed the advice of the doctor to undergo treatment including a cardiac catheterization and a five-day hospital stay.

St. Joe's came to mind first when years later James sold his business, with his long-time business partner and friend Bruce Murphy, and set up a CRUT to provide income to himself for many years and ultimately to benefit St. Joe's Cardiology with the purchase of a TEE machine. He shared that he visited St. Joe's in 2008 and was able to see the advancements in cardiology care that were already in place, seeing at that time he had chosen a great place for his gift to go to good use. Today, James feels good that his gift is already making a difference.

"I really wanted to help other patients have the best cardiac care," James explained. "The Charitable Remainder Unitrust maximized support for St. Joe's to improve care. It is fulfilling to see the CRUT in action today, being used to purchase technology that can help save lives."

"Our physicians, care teams and leaders are thankful for this gift and feel fortunate to have partners in the sacred work of caring for patients and families in our community," shared Alonzo Lewis, president, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Livingston.

St. Joe's provides our community with 1,600 TEE procedures each year. This new, latest model, allows us to meet increasing demands, reduce wait times, and ensure a remarkable patient experience. The new TEE unit will benefit patients by:

- Improving quality and clarity of images of the patient's heart muscle, chambers, valves and blood vessels needed to assess the heart structure and function
- Evaluating signs and symptoms of conditions including heart disease, heart failure, heart valve disease, blood clots, and stroke
- Serving patients who rely on our comprehensive approach to cardiovascular care

"Support like this from Mr. Flagg allows us to move forward more rapidly and efficiently with improvements and to continually strengthen our leading cardiovascular program. This past year, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor was named among the Top 50 Cardiovascular Hospitals in the nation in the annual study by Fortune and IBM® Watson Health®," stated Kevin Moore, Director of St. Joe's Michigan Heart and Vascular Institute. "We are so grateful for this generous support and were honored to install a named giving plaque to recognize and inspire giving that is critical to serving our patients with world-class care."

To learn more about the impact of giving, please contact St. Joe's Office of Development:

Jana McNair, Director of Major Gifts, 734-712-3919 or Jana.McNair@stjoeshealth.org

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



Charitable Remainder Unitrust

A Charitable Remainder Unitrust offers many people an option for giving that also provides them with a tax benefit and ongoing income, while helping them to realize their philanthropic vision for supporting a cause close to their heart and making a difference in the lives of others.

If you are interested in learning more about a Charitable Remainder Unitrust, your financial advisor or a qualified estate planning attorney can help.

A Healing Journey and Giving Back

When Scott Baird began his healing journey in 2018, it was at St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea's Cancer Center. But that was only the beginning and has since led to gaining control of his overall health, finding a new outlook on life, and giving back.

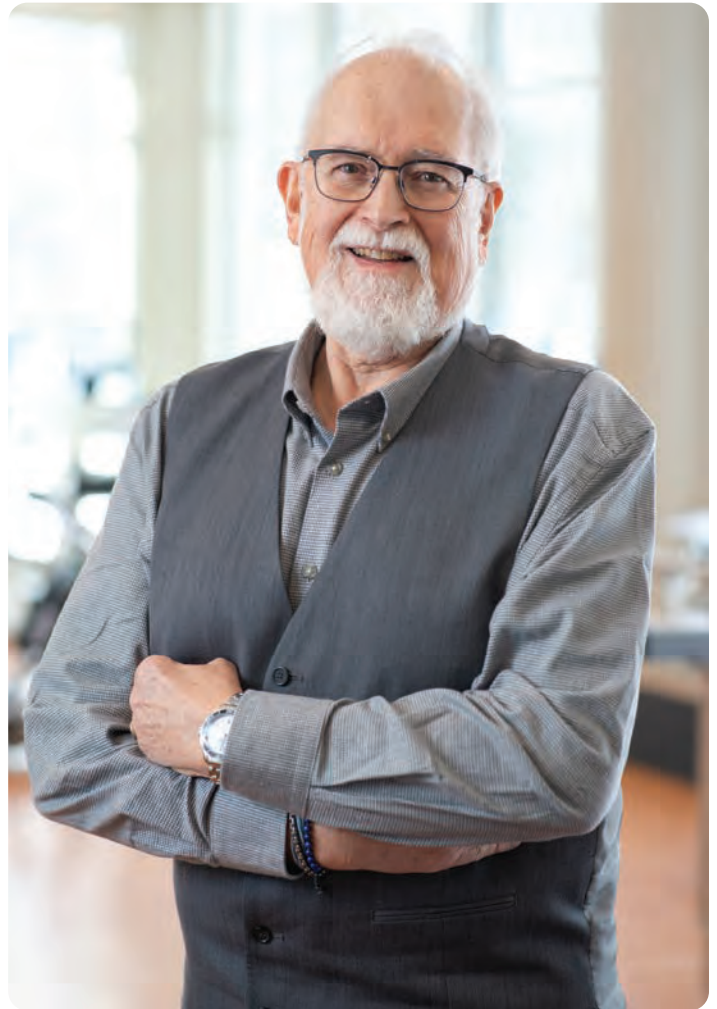
Diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer at age 72, Scott remembers being worried he would not survive. He is the first to admit he had not given much thought to his health before then. "I was overweight and physically unfit," Scott said. "I had been obese most of my life. I couldn't even reach down to tie my shoes."

"The cancer made me realize I had to make some changes," Scott said, "And, today, I just want to give back and support other people on their path to health in any way that I can."

His first goal was to beat the cancer. Because of his weight and enlarged prostate, Scott was unable to have traditional surgery. Instead, his treatment regimen included hormone therapy as well as a laser surgery procedure called Holmium Laser Enucleation of the Prostate (HoLEP) to treat the obstruction of urine flow. The HoLEP was a success.

Next were 42 radiation therapy treatments that spanned across eight and half weeks. "A lot of time and energy goes into cancer treatment. For radiation, I had daily treatments and prep for my appointments included having an empty bowel and full bladder. That would have been extremely difficult if I had to drive any distance, so I felt really lucky to have a world-class cancer center in my neighborhood."

Finally, after nearly half a year of treatments, Scott's cancer was in remission, but he realized he was at a crossroads. "At the radiation oncology clinic, they have a bell you ring to celebrate your last day of treatment. I remember feeling excited, but also scared, and thinking, 'Now what?' It was near Thanksgiving, and I was definitely grateful for the gift of life. But I had learned I was pre-diabetic and had previously had a silent heart attack. I had young grandchildren and



wanted to see them grow up. I knew I had to gain control of my health."

Scott decided his next step would be St. Joe Chelsea's Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) and he fully committed to the year-long lifestyle and evidence-based program. The classes helped Scott integrate exercise into his routine, keep a food journal, and stick to 1,500 calories per day. On his own, Scott decided to change his diet to mostly plant-based with no sugar, red meat or dairy. And, he became a regular cardio-drummer, going to classes twice a day, two days a week.

The results were life-changing – Scott initially lost 40 pounds and his A1C dropped significantly. "An unexpected bonus of the Diabetes Prevention Program

was taking the opportunity to help others – it was like I was taking some of the other guys under my wing," he recalled.

"Scott really exemplified the power of the Diabetes Prevention Program's community-based, group approach," said Janine Staudinger, RN, Community Health Instructor, Diabetes Education, St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea. "He really encouraged and empowered his fellow participants, and it's that type of mutual understanding, positive energy and comradery that make it so successful."

Scott knew he was making strides but felt there was more he could do to improve his health.

"As I started gaining control of my physical health, I realized how much my ADHD and anxiety had contributed to my poor eating habits, inability to sleep well, and my chronic asthma, which ultimately led to my cancer, pre-diabetic state and heart issues," he explained.

Scott decided to seek help through St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea's Behavioral Health Services and has since benefited from therapy there as well as services from an ADHD coach, life coach and wellness coach.

Throughout his journey, giving back became a guiding light for Scott. "Having cancer gave me a great deal of clarity. I know helping any way I can through my giving, volunteering and being a caring influence is the true purpose to life."

Giving has been an important part of Scott's healing process. He started with a gift of \$10,000 to support Radiation Oncology Service at St. Joe's Chelsea in gratitude for his cancer care, and has since continued to make gifts, now totaling \$75,000, to support St. Joe's Chelsea Diabetes Prevention Program and Behavioral Health Services. As someone who feels passionately about his experience and results through these programs, Scott remains committed to their future through philanthropic giving. He wants to help ensure the programs that changed his life are available to others.

Today, Scott who is a longtime resident and raised his daughters in Chelsea, shares that he has never felt happier, healthier or more connected to his community. He is a moderator and peer support mentor for ADHD; remains committed to maintaining a healthy weight through TOPS; and rides his electric bike 12 miles a day, weather permitting, enjoying the outdoors and Border-to-Border trails.

"I'm excited about my future," Scott added. "If it hadn't been for St. Joe's Chelsea, I don't know what would've happened to me. I feel confident and calm, and like I'm really able to connect with people for the first time in my life. I know my gifts to St. Joe's Chelsea are making a difference for patients in our community and giving back has been a key part of my healing journey."

"Scott's story is one of empowerment and inspiration. He availed himself of the best possible medical care, took advantage of the programs available to him at SJMC, and embraced giving back in order to regain control of his health and well-being and encourage others to join him on his wellness journey," shared Jennifer Maisch, Director of Major Gifts, St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea. "We are grateful to him for choosing St. Joe's Chelsea for his care and his philanthropic giving. As we continue to build on our medical and surgical excellence through our Joint Venture, we are committed to sustaining our community-focused and innovative offerings, and we remain grateful to all those who join us in our healing mission."

For more information about how you can make a difference at St. Joe's Chelsea, contact Jennifer Maisch at 734-593-5373 or Jennifer.Maisch@stjoeshealth.org or Melissa Sheppard, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, at 734-712-4079 or Melissa.Sheppard@stjoeshealth.org.

To learn about our Diabetes Prevention Program visit: www.stjoeshealth.org/find-a-service-or-specialty/diabetes/diabetes-prevention

To learn about our Behavioral Health Services visit: www.stjoeshealth.org/find-a-service-or-specialty/behavioral-health

Healing and Giving Back, One Day at a Time



Sandy's birthday celebration
10 years following her diagnosis
was extra happy and meaningful!

More than a decade ago, our community, physicians, leaders and colleagues came together to build a new cancer center at St. Mary Mercy Livonia. Through your generosity, Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center was opened and has continued to grow and serve our patients and their families in life-changing ways.

Sandy Fine is among our patients who trusted St. Mary Mercy Livonia with her cancer care, and who found the benefits of a community-based program with experts who care deeply and provide coordinated, leading-edge treatments in a healing environment. Sandy shared that while she first chose St. Mary Mercy Livonia for its location, she has since come to feel passionately about the hospital and gives back both in gratitude and to help others facing cancer.

One of the areas Sandy values most is the Helen Palmer Inspirit Salon (formerly the Helen Palmer Image Recovery Center) that provides services to help patients regain their sense of self and find comfort, strength and confidence as they face cancer.

"I'm a strong person but had an aggressive type of breast cancer that was really tough on me. I went through a double mastectomy, radiation and chemotherapy, which made me very ill. I was hospitalized several times. And, I struggled with the changes to my appearance. It was hard," shared Sandy. "I remember the first time I visited the salon. The staff did more than provide me with a wig fitting, they listened, gave hugs, and lifted my spirits on a really hard day. They even stayed an hour past closing time to finish helping me."

The Helen Palmer Inspirit Salon was opened with a meaningful gift from Roberta Palmer to honor the memory of her mom and to serve other patients in our community. It has continued to help several hundred patients each year thanks to ongoing support from donors like Roberta and Sandy who value personalized services such as:

- Wig selections and fittings with a licensed hair stylist
- Prosthesis selections and fittings with a certified mastectomy fitter
- Organic lotions for radiation therapy
- Massage services with a certified massage therapist, specially trained to help reduce pain and tension caused by cancer and its treatments*
- Make-up tutorials and facials by a licensed cosmetologist*

At the onset of COVID-19, the salon closed briefly to reduce chances of exposure for patients, visitors and colleagues, as well as help navigate the sudden loss in hospital revenue caused by the pandemic. When Sandy and other donors learned of the urgent need, they made gifts to help bring the salon back online and safely return to offering wig and prosthesis fittings.

Sandy shared that she made her gift because she remembered how she had felt during her own treatment and the sense of healing she had found at the Helen Palmer Inspirit Salon. Her deep understanding of the patient experience and her desire to make a difference are what set Sandy on her path of volunteering and making gifts to support the salon a decade ago.

"When I was going through treatment, I knew right away, I wanted to help other patients at St. Mary's. I first started volunteering on the oncology unit and then moved to the Salon – I was happy to do anything I could to help. Often times patients just wanted someone to talk to who had been through a similar experience. They wanted to see that you can get through it," explained Sandy. "The insight I shared most often is, 'You just have to take it one day at a time.' That is my motto."

As a volunteer, Sandy found she wanted to do more to help the most vulnerable patients. "I really feel that God gave me the means so that I could help others," shared Sandy. "I couldn't bear seeing patients unable to afford the needs that go along with cancer care like wigs, daily transportation to appointments, and medical supplies, things that are really important to a person's recovery."

Gifts like Sandy's help to provide our most vulnerable patients, especially those who are underinsured, with extra support such as our transportation van, nutrition resources, and medical supplies like mastectomy camisoles. Following a mastectomy, the patient goes home with drainage tubes that remain for several weeks. The mastectomy camisole has inside pockets so patients can tuck the tubes inside and reduce motion that causes pressure at the incision sites.

"Our patients are so grateful for this garment," said Connie Myler, Coordinator/Clinical Specialist at the Helen Palmer Inspirit Salon. "It seems small, but it goes a long way toward their ease, comfort and peace of mind during recovery – a time that comes with a great deal to manage."

"Sandy is a real-life hero, she has served as a beloved volunteer and remains one of our most committed donors in support of our image recovery work, helping us lift people up, often during one of the worst times of their life," Connie added. "It is amazing to see the transformation when a patient comes in and we empower them to feel more like themselves with services like personalized wig fittings and facials, we listen, share stories and laugh together. I'm so grateful to Sandy and all our donors who help us add this human touch to cancer care, it is so healing."

Today, Sandy enjoys being active, spending time with her family and friends, and visiting family in Florida, "I just visited my daughter and granddaughter and we had fun shopping and doing girls' night with a little self-care like facials," Sandy laughed. "I never sit still."

"St. Mary Mercy is really fortunate to have friends like Sandy who share our commitment to patient-centered care that focuses on the whole person body, mind and spirit," shared Dave Spivey, president, St. Mary Mercy Livonia. "Sandy is a wonderful, kind and insightful partner who has truly made it possible to sustain our Helen Palmer Inspirit Salon over the years. We are proud of the Salon and all it does for patients, and grateful for donors like Sandy who have generous hearts and understand the impact of philanthropy."

Since opening in 2007, the Helen Palmer Inspirit Salon has served as a model for programs across Saint Joseph Mercy Health System. Gifts for this innovative program have touched the lives of thousands with care that provides immediate and lasting benefits.

To learn more about how your support for St. Mary Mercy Livonia can make a difference, contact Karen Campbell at 734-655-2876 or Karen.Campbell@stjoeshealth.org, or Melissa Sheppard, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, at 734-712-4079 or Melissa.Sheppard@stjoeshealth.org.

**Some services at the Helen Palmer Inspirit Salon remain on hold to maintain safety in response to COVID-19.*



Donor Vision and the Road to Becoming a Top Major Teaching Hospital

The Angelo and Margaret DiPonio Foundation Auditorium is a renewed and inviting space.

A gift of \$500,000 was recognized with the naming of The Angelo and Margaret DiPonio Foundation Auditorium and fully funded the renovation of the 20-year-old space at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor. The updated auditorium reflects Mrs. DiPonio's and St. Joe's shared commitment to the education of health care professionals and our healing mission.

"Remarkable patient care and patient experiences would not be possible without education," said David Vandenberg, MD, SFHM, Chief Medical Officer, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Livingston. "We are grateful to the DiPonio Foundation and fellow donors who are dedicated to the future of health care. Together,

we are investing in the brightest minds across a continuum of care, and ultimately in the improvement of clinical outcomes for patients."

St. Joe's Ann Arbor celebrated being named the #1 Major Teaching Hospital in America by Fortune/IBM Watson Health spring 2020 and was just named again, ranking third for 2021. We thank Mrs. DiPonio for the Foundation's steadfast giving and all those who have supported our vision for education excellence.

The auditorium, which holds 200 people, is an important space for providing education to our physicians, colleagues and residents and clinical students; holding new-colleague orientation: hosting all-staff celebrations

such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Day events; leading community-wide emergency preparedness exercise briefings; holding patient classes; and offering community events.*

St. Joe's serves approximately 120 medical and surgical residents, 250 nursing residents, 800 nursing students, and 400 students studying clinical roles in areas such as radiology, pathology, respiratory therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy, each year.

"We have more than 2,000 nurses and 250 nursing residents who use the auditorium for their presentations and learning events," shared Lisa Friedman, Regional Director of Nursing Education. "We love the new auditorium and are so grateful to Mrs. DiPonio."

"Through the Angelo and Margaret DiPonio Foundation's continued support for St. Joe's, Mrs. DiPonio builds on a legacy she began with her husband during his

lifetime. Throughout the past decades, the Foundation has supported critical services such as cardiovascular care; our two cancer campaigns, one to construct and one to renew our Robert H. and Judy Dow Alexander Cancer Center; and education programs; among others," stated David Ripple, Vice President for Development, "We are very grateful. By fully funding this most recent project and naming the DiPonio Auditorium, the Foundation demonstrates the incredible, ongoing and lasting difference a family can make."

To learn more about how you can support the future of health care, contact Melissa Sheppard, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, at 734-712-4079 or Melissa.Sheppard@stjoeshealth.org, or Jana McNair, Director of Major Gifts, at 734-712-3919 or Jana.McNair@stjoeshealth.org.

**Classes and events are currently being limited, held or put on hold within COVID-19 safety guidelines.*





A sampling of our 2020 Farm Share

Springtime Excitement at The Farm

Hope springs eternal at The Farm at St. Joe's thanks to our supporters, including Washtenaw County, whose grant of \$20,000 made it possible to construct a propagation hoop house last summer.

Beginning in February, the St. Joe's team planted thousands of seedlings that gave us a head start for the spring growing season! This heated space gives the Farm team the ability to grow seedlings and microgreens all year, increase our annual produce production, and feed more families. And, this space came online just in time as the space previously used was closed due to COVID-19.

Our February seedlings are well on their way to becoming a healthful part of meals for our community, colleagues and patients. The seedlings filled our gardens at The Farm at St. Joe's and The Farm at St. Joe's Oakland*, and some will be offered through

our Farm Share program to give members the chance to experience planting, harvesting and enjoying the nourishment of fresh foods they grew themselves.

Our Farm Share program connects local eaters with local, glorious veggies and fruits from The Farm at St. Joe's and our local farm partners. The program is offered in the spring, summer and fall seasons, and members buy or receive a subsidized box or bag of seasonal, vibrant produce each week. The program reached, 250 members in 2020, including 33% who participated for free thanks to our generous and caring philanthropic supporters.

In 2020 the number of individuals and families relying on free Farm Shares and our other food assistance programs for fresh produce and other fresh pantry items more than doubled. Your support helps make it possible to provide food security for families and meet them on their health journey.

"Estimated rates of food insecurity doubled in 2020. We don't expect that need to go away any time soon. The Farm Share and our other programs support not only families in need, but also the local food economy by generating reliable income for our local farmers. In 2020, we spent over \$200,000 with local farmers all while feeding over 400 people a week. I'm so thankful to be part of a community that invests in the health of their neighbors," said Regional Director of Farming and Healthy Lifestyles, Amanda Sweetman.

"The Farm Share was an immense blessing to our family! I thought we did a decent job of eating fruits and vegetables. We would eat apples, bananas, carrots, salad, the usual. The Farm Share opened my

family up to new vegetables, some of which we had never heard of before. We made so many new recipes and learned that trying new things can be fun and good for you too! Going forward we will seek out and try new fruits and veggies and recipes as well," shared one subsidized Farm Share member.

**We were pleased to complete the first phase of our Farm at St. Joe's Oakland last summer. The seedlings are essential as we build up programming this year and beyond. More in upcoming issues of Gift of Health!*

The Farm is Growing with a New Food Hub

We are also excited to give you a sneak peek at our Food Hub. This amazing new facility has a much larger space for produce washing, food storage, and education than previously on site. The new hub will truly be a community center where we can live our mission to grow a healthy community by empowering people through food, education and relationships.

The Food Hub received funding from our community partners including a grant from the Children's Foundation for the food cooler and one from Washtenaw County for additional equipment. The construction of the building was made possible through the Trinity Preserving our Legacy Fund.

Thank you!

"Your generosity in support of The Farm at St. Joe's shows the power of philanthropy to build a community, to combat food insecurity, reverse health issues through healthy eating, and to change lives," said David Ripple, SJMHS Vice President for Development. "We are incredibly grateful to our partners in our healing mission."

To learn how giving makes a difference at The Farm at St. Joe's, contact our Office of Development: Melissa Sheppard at 734-712-4079 or Melissa.Sheppard@stjoeshealth.org or Jana McNair at 734-712-3919 or Jana.McNair@stjoeshealth.org



Amanda Sweetman, Regional Director of Farming and Healthy Lifestyles, working the curbside pick-up on the 1st day of the Farm Share in April 2021.



Laura Meisler, Education Coordinator, working on dividing and transplanting our perennial herbs for the raised beds around the Food Hub!

A Challenging Year, Your Support, and *A Hopeful Future*

In our December issue, we featured the impact of your philanthropic support on our ability to respond to COVID-19 with your giving totaling more than \$2 million to help protect our colleagues and patients with PPE; transform spaces and increase ICU capacity and testing; serve hundreds of patients daily; provide unprecedented treatment and compassion; and support our colleagues in need.

This past March, we recognized one year since the state of Michigan announced its first case. As we look back at this challenging year together, knowing the fight is not over, we want to take this opportunity to thank you, once again, for joining us as heroes through your generosity, kindness and commitment to our mission.

As we look forward with hope to a healthier future, we feel fortunate for your support, which has made it possible to continue serving with strength, expertise and compassion.

Support from our community has helped in so many meaningful ways.



Healing Body, Mind and Spirit

Being isolated, unable to see family and friends, and being unable to go to church, has been an emotionally overwhelming experience for many of our patients facing COVID-19, especially those who need inpatient care for weeks. Traditionally, the chapel at St. Joe's Oakland serves as a key part of our Catholic heritage and a welcoming and sacred space to pray, gain spiritual strength, and find respite for people of all faiths. The chapel was renewed in 2014 thanks to generous giving.

When a small group of our donors, including Jim Brown and Anita Gala, Walter and Ginny Czarnecki, and Mike and Laura Kerby, learned about the need for an audiovisual system for the chapel to serve our quarantined patients, they did not hesitate. They joined together to make gifts to fully fund the purchase and installation of the AV equipment, allowing us to broadcast Mass and other chapel services in the patient rooms for those who choose. The continued improvement of our chapel and philanthropic support also make a difference beyond COVID-19 for our patients, colleagues and visitors.

"We are incredibly grateful to our generous donors for building on their past support for the chapel and for coming together to help our team provide hundreds of patients with inspiration, relief and comfort," shared Shannon Striebich, President, St. Joe's Oakland, and Senior Vice President of Operations, Trinity Health Michigan. "We would not have gotten through this past year without the dedicated support of our St. Joe's community who continue to invest in in our healing mission."

Respite Rooms Help Provide Comfort to Frontline Heroes

From the onset of the pandemic, you reached out with encouraging support for our frontline teams who have been tapping the depths of their physical and emotional strength to care for thousands of patients. La-Z-Boy was among the lead donors to our COVID-19 response with the gift of recliner chairs for St. Joe's Ann Arbor to provide our health care workers with comfort and help them recharge, inspiring the development of our respite rooms. Providing 11 recliners in total, La-Z-Boy's support honors and inspires our teams.*

"We are grateful to La-Z-Boy for the recliners that give our frontline teams a welcome break from the intense pressures of the pandemic and some comfort of home, knowing so many have been working long, strenuous hours to serve patients," said Melissa Sheppard, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System.

**The recliner chairs within the respite spaces are covered and cleaned between use.*



The Unexpected Impact of Support for Cancer Research

A message from Beth LaVasseur, Executive Director of Oncology*:

As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, it became clear Expanded Access Programs (EAPs), to allow use of investigational treatments, could help save lives. Thanks in part to your ongoing support, the St. Joe's Cancer Research team has continued to grow. The team was poised with the depth of knowledge and size – now 30 strong – necessary to manage the pace and scale of an EAP and took immediate action applying for all opportunities to provide our patients with options.

I will not forget the moment. On April 5, as patients diagnosed with COVID-19 were flooding into our hospital and intensive care units, the Cancer Research team requested an urgent Sunday morning meeting with our Institutional Review Board (IRB) to gain approval needed to participate in two reputable and high-impact EAPs.

Over a matter of weeks, the Cancer Research team and Infectious Disease team partnered to register 88 patients to Convalescent Plasma (collected from patients who had recovered from COVID-19) and 32 to the Remdesivir (a novel antiviral). St. Joe was one of the first hospitals in the state to offer both.

I am so grateful to our donors, your decades of support have helped us develop a robust Oncology Research program that changes the lives of patients facing cancer and has now played a demanding role in the fight against COVID-19, including serving our patients fighting cancer and the virus simultaneously. To continue this vital work, St. Joe's is registering patients to a National Cancer Institute sponsored study observing and collecting biospecimens on cancer patients who developed COVID-19 to learn more. Thank you, again, for your partnership in our mission.

**After 36 years serving St. Joe's and our patients, Beth LaVasseur retired on May 27, and, Daniel Lawson, MBA, BSRT has accepted the position of Executive Director of Oncology. We thank Beth and wish her well.*

Vaccinations Bring New Hope in the Fight Against COVID-19



Kumari Adams, MD, thoracic surgeon poses for her "I Got Vaccinated" photo to help spread the word about the importance of the vaccine in our fight against COVID-19.

December 17 served as a historic day for St. Joe's as we received the first shipment of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration-Approved Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and St. Joe's Oakland. Closely following, on December 23, St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, St. Joe's Livingston and St. Mary Mercy Livonia received their first shipment of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration-Approved Moderna, Inc. COVID-19 mRNA-1273 vaccine.

As of May 7, 2021, St. Joe's and Mercy Health have vaccinated 143,984 individuals.

When we asked Kumari Adams, MD, cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon at St. Joe's, why she chose to be vaccinated, she said, "It was such an empowering moment getting my vaccine. Looking around at my colleagues doing the same, others volunteering to help vaccinate... we need this as an organization and our community should participate too. It was a historic moment being able to witness everyone working together to help stop COVID-19."

For accurate information regarding COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccinations please visit: stjoeshealth.org/covid

To learn more about how you can make a difference through philanthropic support, call St. Joe's Office of Development at 734-712-4040

Continued from "Budding Program Brings Promising Future" pages 2 and 3

“I enjoyed learning at home. It was nice to be in my own space and kitchen. I didn't think learning virtually was any different.”

Nutrition Buddy

“This, hands down, was the best camp for teens ever!! What quality projects you offered and the cooking and things we can actually use. She learned so much and wants to do more!! Can't wait for the fall cooking classes. Another person who can make meals for the family.”

Nutrition Buddies Parent

“Thank you for the great talk yesterday. It was an eye opener [for] me. I realized that my diet has a little of the good stuff. I went grocery shopping yesterday and got some of the anti-inflammatory goodies.”

Chief Resident Physician

New President
Alonzo Lewis

**Committed to stewarding your
investment in St. Joe's**



In June 2020, SJMHS announced Alonzo Lewis as president of St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Livingston. While COVID-19 has interrupted many things, including in-person meetings and introductions, we wanted to take this opportunity to include you in welcoming Lewis to this new role. Lewis joined St. Joe's as senior vice president of operations in 2016 before becoming chief operating officer in December 2018. He was selected President in 2020 and was at the helm when the pandemic hit in February 2020. Lewis took on this monumental effort with conviction, compassion and resourcefulness, and remained committed to stewarding your investment in us.

"St. Joe's has a strong legacy of philanthropic support from our community, physicians and colleagues," shared Lewis. "In my years at St. Joe's, I've seen the impact of your giving on our advanced medical services, innovative approaches to care, commitment to health care equity, and our overall healing mission. As president, I'm honored to join you in continuing this good work."

Lewis has deep roots and extensive knowledge of health care organizations. Before joining St. Joe's, Lewis held leadership roles at Beaumont Hospital-Royal Oak and with The Henry Ford Medical Group, and he began his career in 1993 as an administrative fellow at Trinity Health. He earned his bachelor's degree in sociology and his Master of Health Service Administration from the University of Michigan.

"Alonzo is a trusted leader who has taken on significant initiatives for St. Joe's with remarkable results," said Rob Casalou, president and CEO of Trinity Health Michigan and Southeast Regions. "Since joining our organization four years ago, he has led St. Joe's with a thoughtful, analytical approach to tackling tough issues, building strong teams and designing effective service line strategies while passionately supporting our healing mission. As we continue to reinstate programs and services following the COVID-19 pandemic, I feel fortunate to have such an experienced and capable leader at the helm."

As an Ann Arbor area resident for more than 20 years, Lewis is involved in numerous community organizations and he and his wife Suzanne are your fellow St. Joe's donors, including making gifts to support our Robert H. and Judy Dow Alexander Cancer Center; Behavioral Health Services; Palliative Care; and our SJMHS COVID-19 Colleague Emergency Assistance Program.

John O'Malley maintains his role as president of St. Joseph Mercy Livingston and organizational reporting structure for hospital operations.

"We are fortunate to have such a committed partner in Alonzo who is focused on creating a great experience for our St. Joe's donor community and in stewarding your investment in us," shared David Ripple, SJMHS Vice President for Development.

Coming Together to Help One and All

Your support established and fully funded our SJMHS COVID-19 Colleague Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP), making it possible to provide \$900,000+ in aid to our colleagues facing financial distress caused by the pandemic to date. Our colleagues, many who have been working the frontline, were not immune to the economic effects of COVID-19. Your gifts helped cover the cost of essential needs like rent, childcare, and medical bills, and made a life-changing difference. Several of our colleagues agreed to share their messages of need and gratitude with you:

ONE COLLEAGUE'S RELIEF:

"I have literally helped save dozens of lives in my career and now you have saved me. I never thought I would have this kind of need, but when I did and someone was there to help, it truly kept me from disaster. The contributions that this program provides to people in need are really immeasurable."

– Beth, Nurse

ONE COLLEAGUE'S EXPERIENCE:

Request: "My son is on the Autism Spectrum and requires intensive therapy 5 days a week. Due to the virus my wife had to stop working to take care of him at home...He is clinically prescribed the amount of therapy hours he receives but we are in fear that services will be cut off if we don't get up to date with payments."

Response: "Our family is very fortunate to have had the opportunity to receive the CEAP for our son, Bear – without this assistance, we could not have had these most critical services for him. "

– Barry (and Amanda) Crum, Environmental Services

ONE COLLEAGUE'S THANK YOU:

"What a blessing...because of the kind people supporting CEAP, to be able to get through this hard time and get healthy again. I just want to say thank you and may God bless you."

– Trish Jackson, Welcome Desk

While each of these messages is from one colleague, more than 500 colleagues benefitted from the generosity of hundreds of community members, local businesses, foundations, physicians and fellow colleagues – who came together to support our hospitals' COVID-19 funds and our health system's SJMHS Colleague Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) over the past year. We are forever grateful.

Local Partners Key to Healthy Communities

Lake Trust Credit Union was among our supporters, helping to respond to COVID-19 in Livingston county and to assist our colleagues, and shared this message:

"At Lake Trust, we believe there is power in all of us to make an impact. We've supported the St. Joe's team throughout this pandemic as they have stepped forward as heroes in this crisis. The service and sacrifice of the St. Joe's team has been an inspiration as they have worked to bring critical support to our community. We are proud to partner with them by supporting their COVID-19 fund and to make a direct impact through their colleague assistance program," said Brandalynn Winchester-Middlebrook, SVP, Culture + Community Engagement. "We know that helping St. Joe's today will have a lasting effect and working together is key to a vibrant community."



"Community support has made it possible to lead and endure through the many challenges of this pandemic," said John O'Malley, president, St. Joseph Mercy Livingston and Brighton. "We are incredibly fortunate to have partners who care deeply about our mission and join with us in the important work of keeping our community healthy, strong and prosperous."

To learn more about how you can make a difference at St. Joe's Livingston, contact Lindsay Debolski at 517-545-5151 or Lindsay.Debolski@stjoeshealth.org or Melissa Sheppard at 1-734-712-4079 or Melissa.Sheppard@stjoeshealth.org.

To learn more about how your giving makes an impact:

Vice President:

David Ripple 734-712-0910

David.Ripple@trinity-health.org

St. Joe's Corporate and Foundation Relations:

Melissa Sheppard / 734-712-4079

Melissa.Sheppard@stjoeshealth.org

Ann Arbor: Jana McNair 734-712-3919

Jana.McNair@stjoeshealth.org

Chelsea: Jennifer Maisch 734-593-5373

Jennifer.Maisch@stjoeshealth.org

Livingston/Brighton:

Lindsay Debolski 517-545-5151

lindsay.debolski@stjoeshealth.org

Oakland: Craig Peiser 248-858-6142

craig.peiser@stjoeshealth.org

Jill Schubiner 248-858-6146

Jill.Schubiner@stjoeshealth.org

Livonia: Karen Campbell 734-655-2876

karen.campbell@stjoeshealth.org

St. Joe's Planned Giving:

Jana McNair 734-712-3919

Jana.McNair@stjoeshealth.org

David Ripple 734-712-0910

David.Ripple@trinity-health.org

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.

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

Office of Development

Saint Joseph Mercy Health System

5305 E. Huron River Drive, PO Box 995

Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0995

Phone: 734-712-4040 • Fax: 734-712-3730

stjoeshealth.org



OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

5305 East Huron River Drive

P.O. Box 995

Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0995

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ann Arbor, MI
Permit#130

Fast Facts

- The new Livonia Medical Center, a partnership with IHA and St. Joe's, is now open. The center is located on the Schoolcraft College campus adjacent to I-275. Practices and services will be opening in a phased approach. Current offerings include SJMG Sports Medicine, IHA Urgent Care, and IHA Primary Care. When complete, the 124,000 square foot health care facility will also provide Obstetrics & Gynecology, Midwifery, Orthopaedics, Podiatry, Urology, Vascular, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery. Saint Joseph Mercy Health System will offer numerous ancillary services, including imaging, lab, an ambulatory surgery center, Probiity physical therapy, a retail pharmacy, and Joe's Java coffee shop all in a beautiful patient-centered environment.
- St. Joe's Ann Arbor, St. Joe's Chelsea and Mercy Health Saint Mary's have been named to the Fortune/IBM Watson Health 100 Top Hospitals® list. IBM Watson Health identified the top hospitals after a rigorous evaluation of 2,675 short-term, acute care, non-federal hospitals in the U.S. The annual list recognizes excellence in clinical outcomes, operational efficiency, patient experience, and financial health.
- Mercy Health Saint Mary's and St. Joe's Chelsea were both awarded an 'A' from The Leapfrog Group's spring 2021 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade. The designation recognizes both hospitals' efforts in protecting patients from harm and providing safer health care. St. Joe's Chelsea is one of only 27 hospitals in the United States to be awarded an "A" grade every grading cycle since 2012.

BeRemarkable.