



# Donor Impact Report

JEWEL & JIM  
PLUMB  
HEART  
CENTER

## Plumb Gift Moves New Heart Center Forward



A Reflection by Darrel Morf

Mercy Medical Center Board of Trustees Member and  
Mercy Foundation Board Member

I am pleased to have been asked to share a brief reflection on Jewel and Jim Plumb. I had the honor of working with Jewel and Jimmy, as Jewel called him, for many years and they were very special people – humble, unassuming, caring and generous. Interestingly, the Plumb family was very close to the Halls and Perrines, who have also been generous benefactors of Mercy.

Jim's dad, James F. Plumb, Sr., was the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Iowa Manufacturing and Iowa Steel, from the time Howard Hall acquired them. James Plumb, in fact, had been the Receiver in Bankruptcy who originally sold the assets of a bankrupt company, which became the basis for Iowa Manufacturing, to Howard Hall and a partner in 1922.

Jim recollected that as a young boy at the age of four, he would accompany his dad to the office on weekends, and would occasionally accompany Howard Hall when he delivered Christmas gifts (*of Howard's homegrown pheasants*) to family and friends. He would sometimes also accompany his dad, James, and Beahl Perrine, who he referred to as Papa Beahl, when they traveled to collect past due accounts. At age 13, his

dad engaged him on the weekend to take a pail and walk the train tracks adjoined to Iowa Manufacturing where equipment was built on railroad flat cars, to collect all the bolts and nuts that had fallen to the ground.

Jim became a graphic designer at Iowa Manufacturing, and used his meticulous and artistic skills to build the models of Iowa Manufacturing equipment, some of which are now at Brucemore. Jim also served as the “unofficial” historian of Iowa Manufacturing and kept a treasure trove of records, which are now located at Brucemore.

*(Continued on next page)*



Learn more about Mercy's Jewel & Jim Plumb Heart Center and record of excellence in cardiac and vascular care at [www.mercyheartcenter.org](http://www.mercyheartcenter.org).

## Plumb Gift Moves New Heart Center Forward (continued)



Jim was an artisan, a painter, a builder, and restorer skilled at the restoration of old cars, including a Packard convertible that had been owned by Clark Gable and Howard Hall's 1938 Ford convertible. He also was a premier collector and restorer of antique toy cars and trucks and his toy collection was of museum quality. But most of all Jim was a quiet, almost reclusive, shy gentleman who never sought attention, but was always concerned about others. On one occasion when the news reported a couple missing during an Iowa storm, Jim and Jewel drove the back roads of Linn County in search of the lost vehicle.

If Jim was quiet, Jewel was his opposite – effervescent and outgoing. She was born on a peanut farm in rural Alabama. She lost a twin sister when she was very young, and she was always in her thoughts.

Jewel met Jim at a dance, while he was in the Army stationed at Fort Rucker, and six months later they were married. They moved to Cedar Rapids in

1952. Jimmy was the love of her life, and she was devoted to him.

Jewel loved to entertain guests and always had her sweet tea at the ready to serve. When Jewel greeted people at her door, she would often say, “Welcome to my wabby-sabby home.” I later learned that wabby-sabby was a Japanese term meaning “**there is joy in imperfection.**”

Jewel over the years became the caregiver for her father-in-law, then her mother-in-law, and then brother and sister-in-law, and finally her husband, Jim. After Jim had some heart issues, Jewel determinedly kept him at home and later funded the nurse’s station on the cardiac floor at Mercy in his honor.

Both Jewel and Jim were very generous and big hearted while living, but in a very quiet way, never seeking attention or recognition. Jewel once observed “**my husband’s parents were people who loved to give, and Jimmy and I learned, when you have, you give.**”

We can now celebrate that Jewel and Jim continued their generosity by giving to Mercy in a very big way. I suspect they are smiling down, knowing their gift has made possible the Jewel & Jim Plumb Heart Center, a wonderful and enduring legacy. ♥



Groundbreaking of The Jewel & Jim Plumb Heart Center at Mercy.



### Scheduled to open in mid-2023, Mercy's new heart center will offer coordinated care under one roof and provide:

- ♥ Heart-focused specialty clinics.
- ♥ Increased access to screenings and early detection.
- ♥ State-of-the-art cardiac and vascular technology.
- ♥ Cardiac rehabilitation space to help patients transition back from medical and surgical intervention to full daily living.

Learn more about Mercy's Jewel & Jim Plumb Heart Center and record of excellence in cardiac and vascular care at [www.mercyheartcenter.org](http://www.mercyheartcenter.org).

Bob Hanson and Dr. Balasubramanian (Dr. B)



## Heart Patient Hopes His Giving Inspires Others

Bob Hanson was on his way home from a birthday party last October when his heart started beating abnormally.

“My chest was just pounding,” Bob said. “I laid down as soon as I got home and when that didn’t work, I knew I had to go to the ER.”

Bob was diagnosed with Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) with Rapid Ventricular Response (RVR) and was admitted to the Cardiac Stroke Center at Mercy Medical Center. After admission, it was discovered that he had also suffered a heart attack.

It was then that Bob met Velu Balasubramanian, MD, MS – or Dr. B as he is known to his patients and co-workers. The two had an instant connection. Dr. B determined Bob was a candidate for triple bypass heart surgery. Bob said he appreciated the time Dr. B took to explain the procedure and answer his questions.

Today, Bob is doing great and feels blessed.

“I can’t say enough good things about how I was treated at Mercy,” he shared. “Everyone is kind and considerate while ensuring you do the things you’re supposed to be doing to heal.”

Bob knew he wanted to give back to Mercy and recognize his heart care team. He was moved to take action in November when he saw a heart surgery story about another Grateful Patient, Patrick Slater, along with a generous match being offered by Fairfax State Savings Bank for Giving Tuesday.

“Patrick’s story inspired me; I related to it,” Bob said. “I hope sharing my story will inspire others to support Mercy too. It’s a wonderful place.”

Bob’s donation means a lot to Dr. B. “Bob’s support will have a wide-spread effect. It impacts the care future patients will receive.”

Dr. B joined Mercy as a cardiothoracic surgeon in September of 2021. Bob’s surgery was the first procedure he performed at Mercy, another reason why Bob’s gift means so much to him.

“I hope sharing my story will inspire others to support Mercy too. It’s a wonderful place.” – BOB HANSON

This is not the first time Bob has supported the Mercy Foundation. Bob’s giving history includes donations to hospice, the Family Caregivers Center and the new HallMar Village project, gifts often made in memory of his wife Beverly.

Bob shared that Beverly had Alzheimer’s. He did his best to care for her at home for several years before moving her to Hallmar at Mercy. Her condition eventually required more specialized care than he could provide so she lived at Hallmar until her passing in 2018. Bob said she also received hospice services from Mercy in her final days and how meaningful the experience was for both of them.

Bob plans on continuing his support of Mercy.

“Everybody at Mercy really cares,” he said. “I couldn’t ask for better treatment.”

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701 Tenth Street SE | Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403  
Phone: (319) 398-6206  
Fax: (319) 398-6471  
Email: [mmcf@mercyare.org](mailto:mmcf@mercyare.org)

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[lerusha@mercyare.org](mailto:lerusha@mercyare.org)

Mindy Kayser, Vice President of Community Engagement  
[mkayser@mercyare.org](mailto:mkayser@mercyare.org)

Patti Kunz, Director of Philanthropy  
[pkunz@mercyare.org](mailto:pkunz@mercyare.org)

Jennifer Perkins, Senior Accountant  
[jperkins@mercyare.org](mailto:jperkins@mercyare.org)

Julie Potter, Project Coordinator  
[jpotter@mercyare.org](mailto:jpotter@mercyare.org)

Christine Stevenson, Donor Services Specialist  
[cstevenson@mercyare.org](mailto:cstevenson@mercyare.org)

Tiki Johnson, Data Analytics Specialist  
[tjohnson@mercyare.org](mailto:tjohnson@mercyare.org)

#### Mission Statement

The Mercy Medical Center Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation organized and operated exclusively to support the mission and activities of Mercy Medical Center.



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Mercy Medical Center Foundation

Donate online at  
[mercyare.org/giving](http://mercyare.org/giving)



Gary Hunt

## Hospice Donor Finds Joy in Giving

**“I was able to hold her hand even after I knew she had passed. I still have a hard time talking about it; I just miss her so much.”**

Gary Hunt lost his wife of 49 years in January of 2020. Gloria spent her final days in the care of Mercy and its Hospice House. Gary will never forget the kindness and support their whole family received.

Gary has made several gifts to the Dennis & Donna Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy in memory of Gloria and in honor of her care providers. Gary knows his gifts will help others needing hospice care and giving back makes him feel good.

**“When I think of the wonderful care we got and how nice everyone was, those donations are money well spent. She was treated with so much respect in her last days,”** Gary said.

He shared that his experience with hospice touched him deeply and has stayed with him. “It made a big

impact on my life. I’ve even been back to the Hospice House to talk with the staff and personally share my appreciation,” he said.

Gary also recently treated the Hospice House staff to a pizza lunch, something he was beyond happy to do. **He still felt compelled to do more though. Gary made the decision to include Mercy’s Hospice House in his will as an enduring gift and lasting legacy.**

While Gary finds personal joy in giving, what he may not realize is how much joy he brings to others. He has a wonderful sense of humor and a generous and caring spirit. He has touched many staff members at Mercy with his wit and compassion. Getting to know Gary is joy in and of itself. ♥



Marco Delgado,  
Mercy scholarship recipient

## Scholarship Funding Offers Life-Changing Support

After 22 years as a restaurant manager, Marco was inspired to pursue a career in healthcare. He credits his mother-in-law for “planting the seed,” he said. It was after her cancer diagnosis that Marco and his wife made the decision to move their family from Illinois to Iowa to help care for her.

Marco left his restaurant job behind and became his mother-in-law’s primary caregiver. It was her encouragement, and that of her hospice nurses, that gave Marco the confidence he needed to begin his nursing journey, a journey he started shortly after her passing.

Marco needed more than a GED to reach his goals, and the idea of going back to school filled the father of four with anxiety. He had a family to provide for and bills to pay. He took that important first step though, and successfully completed a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program.

Obtaining a college degree was the next step for Marco, and understandably, a daunting one. The son of immigrants, Spanish is his first language and he found himself needing to take classes just to catch up to his peers. He sometimes wanted to give up, especially early on, but found strength in his faith and prayer, he said. Marco is now a senior at Mount Mercy University and will graduate in May of 2022 with his Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Marco also works part-time as a Patient Care Tech II, Specialty Float, at Mercy Medical Center. His job can take him to any area of the hospital that needs help. It’s the patient

interaction he enjoys the most and he’s learned that just being there to listen can make a world of difference to someone.

Marco received scholarship support through the Mercy Foundation to finish his college degree. “This support is such a blessing,” he said. As a non-traditional student, it’s hard to balance work, school and family. Not being able to work

**“I’m so appreciative of the donors and gifts that make these scholarships possible. My life has been impacted in a big way. I’m reaching my goals and dreams, and hopefully one day I can give back and inspire others.” – MARCO DELGADO**

full-time puts stress on my family’s resources. With this help, I can focus on my schooling and not feel so worried.”

He added, “I’m so appreciative of the donors and gifts that make these scholarships possible. My life has been impacted in a big way. I’m reaching my goals and dreams, and hopefully one day I can give back and inspire others.”

Marco loves coming to work at Mercy and plans to continue his employment here after he graduates. He describes Mercy as a hospital full of mentors. He said he learns something new with every shift he works, and everyone is always willing to teach. He also said Mercy feels like family – and family is very important to Marco. ♥



Pat Martin, Auxiliary Member

## Auxiliary Member Spotlight

**“I know firsthand what *The Mercy Touch*® means. I experienced it after my stroke. My care team gave me hope when I was feeling discouraged and helped me reach my goal – to go home again.” – Pat Martin**

Pat has contributed to the Mercy Foundation for over a decade as an Auxiliary member offering her time, talents and financial support. She felt moved to make a donation in 2021 as a Grateful Patient in recognition of the many departments and care providers that helped her regain her independence.

**“My faith directs me to help others. My involvement with Mercy allows me to do this.” – Linda Kelly**

Linda is a Mercy Auxiliary member and dedicated volunteer often seen serving up coffee at Mercy’s UnCommon Grounds, just one way the Auxiliary generates funds to support the Foundation. Linda and her husband Tom are also donors and Founders’ Society members choosing to make a planned gift to Mercy through their will.

*The Auxiliary partners with the Mercy Foundation on its fundraising efforts, contributing thousands of dollars to designated causes each year. Learn more about Mercy Auxiliary membership and service opportunities at [www.mercycare.org/giving](http://www.mercycare.org/giving).*



Linda Kelly, Auxiliary Member

## HallMar Village Fundraising Campaign Surpasses \$12M

Construction is underway and the HallMar Village footprint is taking shape. Work is progressing on excavation, drain tiles, footings and foundation walls. Thank you for your caring and generous support of this important project!

Learn more about the new HallMar Village senior living community and the Chris & Suzy DeWolf Family Innovation Center for Aging & Dementia at [www.mercycare.org/services/hallmar-village](http://www.mercycare.org/services/hallmar-village).



## Cancer Patient Shows Gratitude by Giving “Everything I Got”

Russ Lyman knew he was sick and in trouble in 2016. He turned to Mercy for help. What came next was a cancer diagnosis – Stage 4 aggressive, metastatic lung cancer. It had spread to his chest and abdomen.

Russ made an important decision in 2020. “I gave the hospital everything I got because I appreciated living,” he said. His decision to leave his entire estate to Mercy started as a conversation with a social worker in the Hall-Perrine Cancer Center. She connected Russ with the Mercy Foundation.

When asked about the staff at Mercy’s cancer center, he said, “Mercy serves medicine, but also love. It might sound goofy, but medicine without love isn’t worth a whole hell of a lot.”

Russ shared he felt *The Mercy Touch*® from the moment he dropped off his truck with the valet. The two men often visited over the course of Russ’s treatment. “He took care of me. He was one of the people, part of the puzzle, that made this joint work,” Russ said. ♥

Russ Lyman



Learn more about Grateful Patient Giving and read other donor stories at [www.mercycare.org/giving](http://www.mercycare.org/giving).



Mercy has a legacy of delivering the latest technology in cancer care dating back to the 1950s. The Hall-Perrine Cancer Center is an ongoing evolution of Mercy’s commitment to providing the highest quality, most advanced diagnosis and treatment options available. The Hall-Perrine Cancer Center opened its doors in 2012 and will be marking its 10th anniversary throughout 2022. Stay tuned for events and giving opportunities to mark this important milestone.



701 10th Street SE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403  
(319) 398-6206

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*"Including Mercy's Hall-Perrine Cancer Center in my will allows me to help others who are experiencing cancer in a way that lives on long after I'm gone.*

*— Kathy Lariviere, Breast Cancer Survivor and Grateful Patient*

While it's not required you tell a charity about your planned gift intentions, it may be a good idea to do so. Here at Mercy, we love to hear from planned donors. We appreciate the opportunity to get to know you and to express our gratitude. We also want to ensure your gift is designated correctly and used as you intended. Some gift types require special language in legal documents. Making sure you use the correct charity legal name and Employer Identification Number are also important. Complications can be avoided by working in partnership with Mercy to meet your charitable goals.

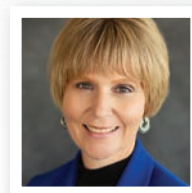
## Planned Gifts – To Tell or Not to Tell?

Planned giving is a fundraising term interchangeable with gift planning or legacy giving. It is the process of making a charitable gift during your life or at death as part of your financial or estate plan. A planned gift can be done through a will or trust, with life insurance, retirement assets, real estate and more and may offer beneficial tax savings. These types of gifts also have a significant and lasting impact on organizations like the Mercy Foundation.

Donors that make a planned gift to Mercy, that reach lifetime giving of \$50,000 or more, or that create an endowed fund are recognized by the Foundation as members of our Founders' Society. We understand not everyone likes recognition though, and that's okay. We will work with you to honor your wishes.

It's not uncommon for the Mercy Foundation to receive planned gifts we knew nothing about beforehand. We're grateful for the support and also left with feelings of disappointment and regret that we never had the chance to build a connection with the donor and to share our appreciation.

Have you made a planned gift to Mercy? Please consider sharing your intentions. We would love the chance to say thank you and to get to know you better. And if you're still just thinking about a planned gift, remember we're here to help. For planned giving assistance, contact:



**Mindy Kayser**  
VP of Community Engagement  
(319) 398-6278  
[mkayser@mercyare.org](mailto:mkayser@mercyare.org)