



Donor Impact Report

Ray's Decision to Volunteer is Both Act of Service and Remembrance

Ray Thys carries the memory of his wife Pam in his heart always. He also carried her Mercy volunteer badge in his pocket during his first day as a volunteer.

Pam was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2014 and received treatment at Hall-Perrine Cancer Center. That experience inspired her to volunteer in the infusion center after she retired in 2017.

"She brought people warm blankets. She sat with people when they needed somebody to talk to. With her going through chemo and radiation, she could relate to patients," said Ray. "She did the best she could to take care of people. She really enjoyed seeing the patients each week and seeing their progress. She really loved working with the nurses."

Pam passed away after a heart attack in 2022. Ray said her death was completely unexpected. It meant a lot to Ray to receive letters from Mercy patients and employees about the positive impact she made during her time as a volunteer.

"Some patients came to the visitation and said, 'I saw her almost every Tuesday morning.' She was like a fixture there to them," Ray shared.

It was important to Ray make a donation in Pam's memory to Hall-Perrine Cancer Center.

"I knew her passion for volunteering at the Hall-Perrine Center," said Ray. "I know that's what she would have wanted, to give to an organization that did so much



Ray & Pam Thys



Pam Thys pictured with her grandchildren.

good for her personally (*as a cancer survivor*) and also for the satisfaction she got volunteering here and helping others, so it was an easy decision."

Now, the active grandfather has also become a Mercy volunteer. He describes the decision as a way to honor Pam's memory and to also help in his own grief and healing process. ♥

More people like Ray are needed at Mercy to help rebuild the volunteer force. At the beginning of 2020, Mercy had about 900 volunteers. Currently, there are about 300, or one-third of the pre-COVID count. Mercy volunteers do everything from assisting with tasks in the Emergency Department and helping with wayfinding at entrances; to serving up coffee in UnCommon Grounds and working in the gift shops. They are a valuable and necessary resource. If you would like join Ray in giving back as a volunteer, apply online at www.mercycare.org/volunteer.

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Mission Statement

To be the sole philanthropic catalyst in service to
Mercy Medical Center's mission:
to care for the sick and enhance the health
of the communities we serve, guided by the spirit
of the Sisters of Mercy.



MMCF
Mercy Medical Center Foundation

Donate online at
mercyare.org/giving



Mercy Medical Center Receives ARPA Grant

Mercy Medical Center will use a recent grant award to better treat and contain infectious disease. The hospital was awarded a grant of \$750,000 from the Linn County portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The Mercy Foundation facilitated the grant application process requesting support for the “Hospital Enhanced Infection Control Project” with the goal of significantly increasing Mercy’s capacity to manage current and future airborne pathogens and protect immunocompromised people.

These grant funds will help the hospital equip 31 inpatient rooms as self-contained, independently controllable negative airflow units, which is a crucial tool for stopping the spread of airborne viruses.

During the height of COVID-19, Mercy converted two floors to a “negative airflow isolation wing,” losing three patient care rooms to equipment, supplies and donning and doffing of Protective Personal Equipment (PPE). The ARPA funds allow Mercy to have a solution that provides more room-to-room clinical flexibility.

“We’re grateful to receive this grant and thankful Linn County entrusts Mercy to be excellent stewards of these resources,” said Dr. Tony Myers, MD, Senior Vice President & Chief Medical Officer. “We’ve learned from the past several years that we can never be overprepared to treat infectious diseases. This grant allows us to further equip our private suites with the next evolution of advancements in caring for the most vulnerable patients while ensuring our caregivers’ safety.” ♥

Genetic Counseling Services Expand Thanks to Donor Support

A cancer diagnosis creates many questions for patients and their families. Genetic counseling may offer some insight.

If you or a family member has cancer, ask the treating oncologist about the potential benefits of genetic counseling. Not only could this benefit the patient, but also siblings, children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews and other relatives. They may gain important information regarding their risk for cancer, simply because of their genes.

“Cancer patients will be offered genetic testing if there are certain indications for genetic testing, such as the type of cancer, family history of cancer and age of diagnosis,” said Amie Hass,

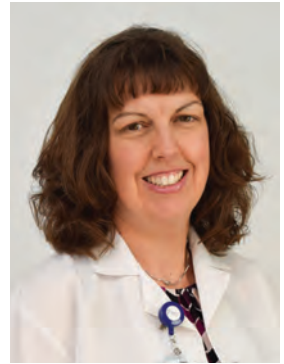
ARNP-ANP, Hall-Perrine Cancer Center Oncology Genetics. Amie noted insurance coverage for genetic testing has greatly improved over the past 10 years.

Amie added, “The need for this counseling has continued to grow with the discovery of new genes associated with cancer risk and more specific treatment based on a genetic test.”

To support this growth, Mercy Medical Center is proud to welcome Barbara Peters, ARNP-ANP as the newest addition to the Hall-Perrine Cancer Center Oncology Genetics. By understanding the genetic make-up of your cancer, our genetic nurse practitioners – Amie and Barbara – can help you through your treatment plan, as well as inform you if your family is at risk for cancer.



Barbara Peters, ARNP, DNP



Amie Hass, ARNP, FNP-BC

“I would recommend receiving counseling for any family pattern of cancer,” Barbara said. “For cancer patients, I would recommend genetic counseling and consideration for testing with breast, colon, prostate, ovarian and pancreatic cancers – to name a few. Each decision to counsel and/or test is very individualized and includes a complete family history.” ♥



Generous donors like you made this expansion of care possible. Providers expect to be able to provide counseling to an additional 30 patients each month. To learn more about our genetic counseling services, visit www.hallperrinecancercenter.org/cancer/cancer-team/oncology-genetic-counselors/.



Donor-funded Scholarships Make Dreams Come True

Thanks to generous donors like you, Mercy employees can apply for dozens of scholarships to support their education and professional development. In her nine years with Mercy, Chief Nursing Officer Mary Brobst has seen the positive impact this support provides.



Mary Brobst, MSN, RN, Sr. Vice President, Patient Care Services and CNO

The ability to offer scholarships helps advance the capabilities of our staff members and, indirectly Mercy's quality of care. "Studies indicate that as staff continue to further their education, quality, safety and process improvement is elevated," Mary said.

In the last year, Mercy distributed \$109,214 in scholarship funding to 42 recipients.

"A huge thank you to donors who choose to support educational dreams and goals," Mary said. "Donors want to see our employees succeed, so they give to the Foundation with the intent to support our staff and to augment their ability to afford school."

Mary takes every opportunity to tell new Mercy employees about the scholarships available to them. She makes sure to reiterate that message whenever she discovers an employee is also a student.

"This organization has an incredibly robust scholarship program," Mary added. "I am continually impressed by the amount of dollars given."

"A huge thank you to donors who choose to support educational dreams and goals."

– MARY BROBST

Mary sees the scholarship program as more than a way to support employees financially. She said it shows them what it means to be part of Mercy by "enveloping them in *The Mercy Touch*® and the philanthropic culture we have here."

Mary added, "As a nurse myself, it's always fun to see patient care techs advance and complete their nursing degrees. It's rewarding to watch them achieve their dreams of becoming an RN." ♥



Family Caregivers Center Volunteer Feels an Obligation to Care for Others

Service is such an important part of Shiela Kielly's life that she finds it hard to understand why everyone isn't doing it! At the recommendation of a friend, Shiela started volunteering at the Family Caregivers Center of Mercy three years ago, not long after relocating to Cedar Rapids from Marshalltown.

A retired school psychologist, Shiela has always felt an obligation to care for others. It was after her retirement that her volunteer service ramped up.

Shiela feels a special connection to the Sisters of Mercy. She is proud to share that she is also a Mercy Associate. Mercy Associates are women and men who discern a call from God to actively engage in a commitment to Mercy within a formal relationship with the Sisters.

In addition to volunteering at Mercy, Shiela also supports the Mercy Foundation as a donor with gifts spanning the past 15 years. Her most recent donations are designated to the HallMar Village project. She donates to HallMar Village because she knows Mercy will meet the needs of those living there with the same dignity and respect she sees in other areas of hospital operations, like the Family Caregivers Center.

"I've never experienced gratitude like this before."

– SHIELA KIELLY

With a chuckle and a smile on her face, she added that she gives to HallMar Village for personal reasons too. "I want to live there someday," she said.

Shiela has a number of friends that are Sisters of Mercy. She knows HallMar Village will provide them with a caring and comfortable place to go. Her current housemate is a Sister of Mercy and they hope to relocate to HallMar Village together when it opens.

As a Mercy Foundation donor, Shiela feels valued and appreciated and that's hugely important to her. In fact, it was that expression of gratitude, and from so many different people at Mercy, that played a part in Shiela's recent decision to include the Mercy Foundation in her estate plans.

"I've never experienced gratitude like this before," she said. ♥

**Sustainer
OF MERCY**

**Catherine
McAuley
CIRCLE**

**Steward
OF MERCY**

**Founders'
SOCIETY**

**Spirit
OF MERCY**

To show appreciation for loyal donor support, Mercy has created five recognition societies. By including Mercy in her estate plans and sharing her intentions, Shiela is now a member of the Founders' Society. To learn more about recognition societies, call the Foundation at (319) 398-6206 or visit our website at www.mercycare.org/giving

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE HallMar Village



Imagine moving into a brand-new apartment with views that stretch for acres. Whether you have a sunrise or sunset view at HallMar Village, it's a dramatic one enhanced by ample green space to enjoy. Construction continues on this innovative new community for older adults, scheduled to open in late 2023. Donors like you have generously contributed nearly \$13.7 million to date to the project, which is a joint ministry of Mercy Medical Center and Presbyterian Homes & Services.

The Kocourek Independent Living Apartments, like the one shown here, are the furthest along in the project. Several units have countertops, sinks, plumbing fixtures, doors, flooring and lighting installed. Corridors are being painted and ceiling grids are being placed. Siding and stonework is almost complete and an elevator has been installed.

The McGrath Care Center is weather tight as it is framed, sheathed and roofed. Pre-drywalling has also started.

Inside the Village Center, the conservatory and bistro are framed. The two-story open atrium is enclosed and the roof is in place. Siding and stonework in this area and the exterior are nearly complete.

Crews are installing drywall in the Memory Care and Assisted Living units. Electrical, plumbing and HVAC rough ins are nearly complete. Half the siding and stonework are accomplished.

The 3-to-5-foot-deep indoor pool is ready for completion and the outdoor yoga space sits immediately outside facing the walking trails. Groundwork has been laid for the gazebo, fire pit and dog park. Topsoil is being spread and areas have been seeded. ♥

Learn more about the new HallMar Village community, see photos of progress online, learn about housing options, and the Chris & Suzy DeWolf Family Innovation Center for Aging & Dementia at www.mercycare.org/services/hallmar-village.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE Jewel & Jim Plumb Heart Center

Have you driven by the construction site of the Jewel & Jim Plumb Heart Center recently? The new facility is not only attracting attention for the advanced heart care it will provide – all under one roof, but also for its interesting design.

The building has unique windows inspired by the look of stained glass, as well as Mercy's identity and heritage as a Catholic hospital, founded by the Sisters of Mercy. With beautiful shades of blue, the glass mimics the tone of the winter sky above, and the renowned detailing of the windows found in Mercy's chapel, located in the main building across the street.

Another notable exterior development is the installation of the expansive skywalk that connects the new heart center to the main hospital. Interior spaces are also progressing including the state-of-the-art rehabilitation

gym and track, which includes a door that can be opened to extend the track outside when weather permits. Another interesting feature is the peace room, a calming space with relaxing artwork for use by patients, families and employees.

Scheduled to open in mid-2023, the Plumb Heart Center is being supported by a generous lead gift from the estate of Jewel & Jim Plumb. Additional fundraising efforts continue. There are many naming and recognition opportunities within the new facility for designated spaces and needs, including artwork. If you are interested in supporting the heart center in one of these ways, please let us know. ♥

Learn more about Jewel & Jim Plumb, the new heart center and Mercy's record of excellence in cardiac and vascular care at www.mercyheartcenter.org.

JEWEL & JIM
PLUMB
HEART
CENTER





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Arc of Peace Installation

The “Arc of Peace” sculpture now stands at the entrance of the Hall-Perrine Cancer Center. The installation of the artwork in September, brought to fruition a vision set forth by Mercy donor and Board of Trustees member Mary Quass. Mary is also a breast cancer survivor. She and three other generous donors contributed gifts for the sculpture.

“It was important that we have something for people who are going through a scary, incredibly challenging time and the inspiration they can get from art is significant,” said Mary.

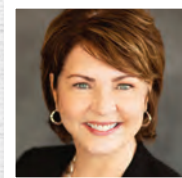
Artist Lorri Acott is known for her large public art installations. The sculpture depicts a woman reaching upward with extended arms as she holds an arch of origami cranes. Her long legs signify overcoming life’s challenges. The “Arc of Peace” was intentionally installed to face the building making it visible to patients receiving cancer infusion treatments.

“Her art speaks to me,” said Mary. “The cranes are a symbol of hope and in the cancer journey that’s an important part.” Mary likes knowing that the sculpture is there to hopefully make people smile and help them through a difficult time in their lives. ♥

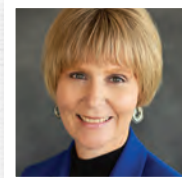


Mary Quass, Lorri Acott, Adam Schultz and Arc of Peace installation

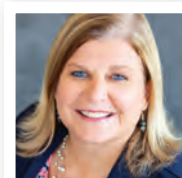
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