



2024

FORT SMITH
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Dear Friends of Mercy,

Quality health care is the cornerstone of well-being for our region and Mercy is committed to ensuring River Valley residents personally know the healing ministry of Jesus. As we reflect on another unforgettable year, we're filled with gratitude for the compassion and generosity displayed by our community in this pursuit. Because of your partnership, Mercy's legacy of service continues with the promise of even more advancements in the future.

This report highlights a few examples of the healing work Mercy Health Foundation has been proud to support in recent months. I hope you're inspired by these stories and encouraged by the transformational power of the kind and generous spirits who have partnered with us. When we join together, we can do more than we could ever hope or imagine.

We look forward to continuing the work of this life-changing ministry.

Sincerely,



Patrick Pendleton, MBA, EdD
Executive Director
Mercy Health Foundation Fort Smith



Mercy Health Foundation Board Member Jen Anglin and her husband Ed enjoy Charity Ball

Charity Ball Raises Over \$750,000 to Enhance Health Care in the River Valley

Mercy Health Foundation Fort Smith's Charity Ball, held on Friday, December 8, was a resounding success. With over 1,100 guests in attendance, the event exceeded all expectations by raising more than \$750,000.

Charity Ball guests enjoyed an unforgettable evening filled with fellowship, entertainment and heartfelt philanthropy. Proceeds from Charity Ball will play a pivotal role in Mercy's ability to meet the health care needs of our community. Thanks to our generous sponsors and attendees, Mercy will be able to improve patient care and outcomes by investing in advanced equipment and innovative programs.

One highlight of the evening was a direct appeal that raised over \$196,000, thanks to a matching gift from the Walter O. Caldwell Foundation. These funds will help establish a High-Risk Cancer Clinic, a critical initiative that addresses the needs of patients at increased risk for cancer.

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Mercy Health Foundation Board Member and Women with a Mission Member Stephanie Wright with her husband Damon

Women with a Mission Empowering Women and Transforming Health Care

Mercy's Women with a Mission (WWAM) giving society unites diverse women with a common goal: to bring high-quality health care to all people who need it, no matter where they live or what they can afford. Founded in Fort Smith in 2008, WWAM began with a remarkable group of women dedicated to making a difference.

One member who has profoundly impacted WWAM is Stephanie Wright. Her journey began eight years ago when she joined WWAM. Her passion for giving has only grown stronger since. Stephanie actively invites and educates other women about WWAM events, encouraging them to become members.

To date, WWAM members have provided over **\$500,000** in philanthropic support.

"Joining Women with a Mission isn't just about giving back," said Stephanie. "It's about empowering women to shape the future of health care in our community. Together, we can make a difference—one act of generosity, one moment of compassion at a time."

Thanks to Stephanie's efforts, we've welcomed many new members to our chapter. To date,

WWAM members have provided over half a million dollars in philanthropic support, sponsoring over 80 projects and programs. We are deeply grateful for our members and their unwavering support of Mercy's mission.

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Our Funding Priorities

Cancer Care

Nearly 5,000 River Valley residents are diagnosed with cancer each year. Mercy's goal is to increase services, improve access and invest in advanced technologies to ensure cancer patients can stay close to home for their treatment.

Women's and Children's Care

Mercy works to support a comprehensive range of services to meet the unique needs of women and children at every stage of life. Last year we welcomed over 2,600 babies in our Labor and Delivery department. Mercy Fort Smith provides the only Level IIIA NICU in the region, serving hundreds of families with critically ill infants each year.

Access and Assistance

Our greatest health care initiatives will always fall short if patients can't access them. Mercy supports programs that expand access to quality care for all those in our community.

Innovative Care

Mercy aims to offer advanced treatments for the most challenging diseases while keeping patients close to home. Our goal is to equip our caregivers with the most innovative technologies, programs and education needed to provide exceptional care.

Your Gifts at Work

Because of generous donations and continued support from donors like you, many programs and services were funded in fiscal year 2024.



Capital Improvements \$9,250,883



Area of Greatest Need - Fort Smith \$786,061



Cancer Care \$175,769



Maternal Child Services \$174,180



Co-worker Crisis \$103,118



Women's Services \$63,590



Women With A Mission \$49,870



Other
Service Line Enhancements, Community Outreach, Fitness Center, Behavioral Health \$28,899



Charity Care \$14,286



Hospice \$11,855



Area of Greatest Need - Critical Access Hospitals \$9,029



Clinical Education \$3,210



Women with a Mission members gathered at the Annual Voting Dinner

Women with a Mission (continued from page 2)

Join us in continuing this legacy of compassion and excellence. Together, we can transform health care and create a healthier future for all. For more information, visit mercyhealthfoundation.net/fortsmith/wwam

Heartache to Hope: Eleanor's NICU Journey

Jerra and Jeremy faced a six-year struggle with infertility before the joyous discovery that they were expecting. Despite a healthy start, Jerra developed severe pre-eclampsia at 26 weeks, leading to her hospital admission and an emergency C-section at 29 weeks. Baby Eleanor, born at just 2.5 pounds, was immediately taken to the NICU.

Jerra vividly recalls the compassionate care the NICU nurses provided, tending to all of Eleanor's needs as she grew stronger and healthier.

After spending 66 days in the NICU, Eleanor was ready to go home. Today, she is a smart and hilarious eighteen-month-old toddler, thriving and enjoying life with her loving parents. "All the years we had been praying, it had finally come true," reflected Jerra about the moment they were able to bring Eleanor home.



Jerra Thomas holding her daughter Eleanor in the NICU



Eleanor Thomas - a thriving, energetic and happy toddler!



When you give to Mercy Health Foundation, you support our NICU care teams in providing high-quality, compassionate care for our tiniest patients, like Eleanor, and their parents. Thank you for your kindness and support. Together, we can continue to make miracles happen.

Charity Ball (continued from page 2)

This clinic will offer early detection, personalized treatment plans and ongoing support, significantly improving patient outcomes and providing much-needed peace of mind.

Mercy Health Foundation looks forward to continuing our vital work. Together, we can build a healthier, stronger future for all those we serve. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to making a difference in our community.

Together we can touch more lives. Save more lives. And improve more lives.

Mercy Health Foundation Fort Smith Board of Directors

Scott Clark, Chair
Ken Warden, Chair-Elect
Travis Beshears, Secretary
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Jen Anglin	Lisa Newton, MD
Ricky Beauchamp	William Ricks
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Leann Hicklin Cox	Eddie Sorg
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Charlotte Davis	Alan Wright
Steve Forsgren	Stephanie Wright
Zach Ledford	

Ex-Officio Members

Clark Ellison
Ryan Gehrig
Patrick Pendleton
Greta Wilcher

Our Mission

As the Sisters of Mercy before us, we bring to life the healing ministry of Jesus through our compassionate care and exceptional service.

Our Purpose

Through collaborative partnerships, Mercy Health Foundation impacts the flourishing of our communities by inviting into our ministry those who have a passion to improve quality of life and make care accessible for all.

Mercy
Health Foundation

Mercy Health Foundation Fort Smith
PO Box 17000
Fort Smith, AR 72917



For more information or to view a full donor list, scan the QR code or visit us online at mercyhealthfoundation.net/fortsmith