

Mercy<sup>+</sup>  
Health Foundation

Mercy<sup>+</sup> Sports  
Medicine

# 2024

**SOUTHWEST MISSOURI/KANSAS**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

# Dear Friends of Mercy,

Every year we get to look back on our achievements and marvel at new milestones we've reached and incredible impacts we've made. Oh, and by "we" I mean YOU. Your generosity didn't just bring more care to more people, it transformed lives and reshaped possibilities for patients and families right here at home.

You helped enhance our capabilities in Cancer, Cardiac, Orthopedics, Mercy Kids, Hospice and Women's services, to name a few. In fact, your investment in Mercy supported programs and projects across Joplin, Carthage, Galena and Columbus. That's why we're excited to share that we have officially changed our name to Mercy Health Foundation Southwest Missouri / Kansas. Our name now reflects the entirety of the communities we serve, including our new Pittsburg friends and neighbors.

We end this year in celebration of you. You are the hands and feet that advance our mission, the face of hope and healing for those we serve. We are honored to lock arms with you, our donors, our Board of Directors, our committees, our faithful supporters in service. On behalf of all of us at Mercy, thank you.

With heartfelt gratitude,

*Miranda Lewis*

**Miranda Lewis**  
Vice President  
Mercy Health Foundation Communities

## Wes and Jan Houser Ushering in a new era of health care

Mercy Hospital Columbus recently experienced a transformative moment, thanks to a generous \$90,000 gift from Wes and Jan Houser. Their donation led to the expansion of a non-oncology infusion suite, which now serves patients in Columbus and the entire region. The suite, designed with patient comfort in mind, features relaxing heated massage chairs in a newly renovated space, allowing Mercy Columbus to serve three times more patients. This expansion provides essential infusion treatments for conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, Crohn's disease, COPD and MS.



L to R: Mercy SWMO/KS Communities Board Chair, Chris Glauber; Mercy Health Foundation Board Chair, Renee Motazed; Wes and Jan Houser.

At a special recognition event, we celebrated the Housers' incredible generosity and highlighted the profound impact their contribution will have on the hospital's ability to provide timely and essential services for patients in Southeast Kansas and throughout the region. "From the start, it was clear [the Housers] were committed to making a difference, and they did," said Angie Saporito, Mercy Columbus administrator.

The Housers truly embody the spirit of generosity. Even as we celebrated their

infusion suite gift, the couple began thinking about how they could further support patients and families in our community. Their hearts led them to become presenting sponsors of Mercy Health Foundation's annual Stick It to Cancer event, touching the lives of patients undergoing treatment at Mercy Cancer Center.

Thanks to the Housers' inspiring gift, this year's event was record-breaking, helping fund a third 3D mammography machine and providing additional support for the cancer program.

Thanks to the generosity of the Housers and donors like you, Mercy can continue to provide exceptional care for all those we serve.



Whorlow Entertainment (Jason Whorlow and Pamela Hopkins) provided lively entertainment on their dueling pianos.

## Stick It to Cancer Soaring to New Heights

For the third consecutive year, Stick It to Cancer shattered fundraising goals. Proceeds from the annual event support Mercy Cancer Center by providing advanced technology and critical support for all aspects of patient care. This year, our committee set the bar high with a goal of raising \$300,000 toward the purchase of a third 3D mammography unit with stereotactic biopsy capabilities. Not only did sponsors and donors help us reach that goal, they opened their hearts and raised an unprecedented \$499,000! This additional funding will further support the growth of Mercy Cancer Center, allowing us to extend our services to even more patients.

Stick it to Cancer was proudly presented by Wes and Jan Houser and TAMKO Building Products, and hosted by media sponsor KOAM News Now's Dowe Quick. More than 200 guests enjoyed local cuisine from the area's top restaurants,



Members of Mercy Auxiliary, \$20,000 Matching Gift Sponsor, enjoyed the VIP event in Spiva Center for the Arts.

an exciting live auction, and entertainment by dueling pianos artists Jason Whorlow and Pamela Hopkins.

The event's success was largely driven by Mercy Health Foundation's event committee, led by Kristie Crossland. Their collective efforts engaged 65 sponsors and ignited a renewed passion for supporting Mercy Cancer Center. Reflecting on the

event, Crossland said, "The Committee's enthusiasm was contagious. It's a special group, and I'm proud to lead it. Their energy sparked excitement among donors and took the event to new heights."

While Stick It to Cancer is a lighthearted evening filled with fun and fellowship, its true purpose lies in its impact on cancer care in our community. Every dollar raised is a step towards a cure. Your generosity provides advanced technologies, treatment options and support so that patients can receive high quality cancer care close to home. Together, we are providing restoration, healing, and most importantly, hope.



### Cancer Care:

From diagnosis to survivorship, Mercy Cancer Center provides patients compassionate, comprehensive care regardless of their ability to pay. Donor support allows every patient access to critical therapies, leading-edge diagnostics and life-saving treatments right here at home.

### Women's Health and Mercy Kids:

From its founding, the care for women and children has been at the heart of Mercy. Comprehensively including women's health services such as mammograms and preventive care, to our NICU and Mercy Kids departments, your investment allows Mercy to continue that legacy today. Donor dollars are an integral part of funding innovative technology like 3D Mammography as well as the expansion of our birthing center.

### Critical Access:

The impact of Mercy stretches much farther than our city limits. With an understanding that everyone deserves access to health care regardless of location, crucial dollars are needed to provide advanced technology and services. Your investment ensures Mercy's ability to deliver high quality care and treatment to every corner of our communities.

### Area of Greatest Need:

In the ever-changing environment of health care, these funds allow us to meet the immediate needs of our hospital and departments. This support enables us to expand programs and services, improve facilities and ultimately enhance the experience of each and every one of our patients.

# 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.

 **Cancer Care** \$594,787

 **Program and Service Line Enhancements Carthage** \$394,778

 **Program and Service Line Enhancements Joplin** \$225,591

 **Program and Service Line Enhancements Columbus** \$140,000

 **Women's Services** \$124,668

 **Patient Assistance** \$97,318

 **Children's Services** \$85,831

 **Cardiac Care** \$72,776

 **Hospice and Home Care** \$16,159

 **Education** \$18,600

 **Catherine's Cupboard** \$8,1101



Women with a Mission present a \$113,000 check to Mercy leadership for the 2024 allocated projects.

## Women with a Mission Empowering Change Through Generosity

Inspired by the legacy of Mercy's foundress Catherine McAuley, the Women with a Mission giving society embodies a shared commitment to enhancing health care within our community. More than just a philanthropic group, these women are driving real change and making a tangible difference in the lives of others.

Since its inception in 2016, Women with a Mission has been a catalyst for transformation, raising an impressive \$559,000 to support critical projects across Joplin, Carthage, Columbus and Galena. Over half of this amount has been raised in just the last three years, a testament to the growing momentum and unwavering dedication of our members.

What sets Women with a Mission apart is not just the amount of money raised, but the direct impact it has on the community. From funding NICU equipment to breast cancer detection

technology, the projects supported by this society have changed lives, bringing comfort and hope to families in need.

Beyond the financial contributions, Women with a Mission fosters a spirit of camaraderie and empowerment among its 124 members. This year they reached a record-breaking goal of \$113,000 in funds to allocate. During their annual Allocation meeting, they voted to fund essential equipment, including an ultrasound for Mercy Carthage Emergency Department, surgical leg holder equipment for Mercy Galena, a portable ultrasound for Mercy Joplin Cath Lab and critical equipment for cardiac services.

Women with a Mission members are an inspiration to us all, and their generosity will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our friends, families and neighbors for years to come.



Kim Shriver, director of development, accepts the donation of noise-cancelling headphones from Ben Rogers. Photo Credit: Roger Nomer | The Joplin Globe

## Legacy of Comfort Eagle Scout's Gift to Mercy Cancer Center

After losing his father to cancer, Ben Rogers honored his dad's memory by helping others undergoing chemotherapy. As part of his Eagle Scout project, Ben raised \$3,700 to provide 71 pairs of noise-cancelling headphones to Mercy Cancer Center in Joplin.

Ben's gift was inspired by his father Sam's experience. Noise cancelling headphones

were a necessity for Sam during his cancer treatments. The technology allowed him to tune out distracting noises and focus on sounds and music that helped him relax. Ben wanted to ensure that other patients could experience the same joy and comfort the headphones gave his dad.

"It's amazing to give away these headphones and know that I can help someone in their fight with cancer," Ben said. His thoughtful gift to Mercy Cancer Center ensures that his father's legacy of compassion lives on. Through his generosity, Ben is making a meaningful difference in the lives of patients facing cancer.

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

### Mercy Health Foundation Southwest Missouri/Kansas Board of Directors

- Reneé Motazed, Chair
- Lane Clevenger
- Kristie Crossland
- Chris Dumm
- Kelley Foust
- Russell Kennedy, DO
- Don LaFerla
- Laurie Lowery
- Ryan Stanley
- Daniel R. Stengel
- Todd Stout
- Amy Teeter
- Jeremy Drinkwitz, Ex Officio
- Mathew Janssens, Ex Officio
- Miranda Lewis, Ex Officio

### 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<sup>+</sup> Health Foundation

Mercy Health Foundation  
Southwest Missouri/Kansas  
100 Mercy Way  
Joplin, MO 64804



For more information or to view a full donor list, scan the QR code or visit us online at [mercyhealthfoundation.net/SWMO-SEK](https://mercyhealthfoundation.net/SWMO-SEK)