

# 2024

**OKLAHOMA CITY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

# Dear Friends of Mercy,

It's my privilege to thank you for your generous support of Mercy's charitable mission. Nearly 200 years ago, Catherine McAuley founded the House of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland. Today, like the Sisters of Mercy before us, we continue Mercy's mission to bring to life the healing ministry of Jesus through compassionate care and exceptional service.

Your gifts enable us to answer new calls of service within our community. Philanthropy multiplies our ability to impact the lives of others by delivering life-enhancing health care to all who need it.

This year was incredibly rewarding as we celebrated the dedication of the Love Family Women's Center in April. Our community made this dream possible by donating \$44 million to bring this project to life. It was truly a labor of love led by two beloved community leaders, Judy Love and Cathy Keating. Thanks to you, Mercy can continue to provide innovative women's health services for generations to come.

Looking to the future, I'm pleased to introduce Todd Essary as the new executive director of Mercy Health Foundation Oklahoma City. Todd's servant's heart and 15 years of experience and dedication to Mercy's mission will be an asset to those we serve in the OKC community.

On behalf of our board of directors, community volunteers, hospital leaders, physicians and co-workers, thank you for helping sustain our ministry. I hope the information shared in this report demonstrates the incredible impact of your giving and inspires you to continue making a difference.

In humble gratitude,



**Lori Cummins**  
Vice President Philanthropy  
Mercy Oklahoma



Dr. Lance Watson and Dr. Richard V. Smith with members of the ER care team

## Mercy Opens \$2.6 Million ER Expansion

On Valentine's Day, we celebrated the completion of the Emergency Room expansion at Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City. The \$2.6 million project was fully funded by local philanthropists Herman and LaDonna Meinders. The expansion includes a dedicated CT scanner to help ER physicians make quicker diagnoses.

*(continued on the last page)*



The Neon Moon Saloon with live entertainment was created for thirsty guests

## Blazing Trails for Coletta Cancer Services

The Trail Blazing Mercy Gala took place on Friday, April 5, at the Omni Hotel, recognizing the 50 years since Sister Coletta blazed a trail to build a hospital in an empty pasture on the outskirts of Oklahoma City.



More than  
**\$560,000**  
was raised to help  
patients battling  
cancer

The Gala took guests on an adventure through the Wild West. They were treated to culinary experiences and entertainment options from dueling pianos, singer/songwriter Tanner Fields, and DJ LITEBRITE.

The event was chaired by Drs. Natalie and Carla Kurkjian and Joseph and Chloe Krenger.

The event was our most successful to date, raising over \$560,000 to improve care and treatment options for patients battling cancer.

# 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.



**Digestive Health Institute** \$6,226,307



**Cancer Care** \$554,174



**Area of Greatest Need** \$180,028



**Co-worker Crisis Fund** \$51,834



**Facilities & Equipment Enhancements** \$47,272



**Hospice** \$46,505



**Children's Services** \$30,386



**Charity Care** \$8,833

## Our Funding Priorities



### Kathryn Ann Meinders Digestive Health Institute

Ongoing campaign for an advanced facility bringing together the top gastroenterologists, GI specialists, GI services and programs under one roof. It will be the first and only comprehensive center for GI health serving all Oklahomans.

### Charitable Care

Provides ongoing support for the Good Samaritan Clinic, Co-worker Crisis Fund, Mercy Shield and Oncology Pharmacy Benefit programs, and helps meet patient transportation needs.

### Patient Support Services

Continued fund-raising for wrap around services for patients in Love Family Women's Center and Coletta Cancer Center.



Bob Meinders, Cathy Leichter Bardeguez and Lemuel Bardeguez view the Crystal Wall for the first time.

## Love Family Women's Center Celebrates Grand Opening

The Love Family Women's Center officially opened on Sunday, April 7, offering a host of new services for women of all ages. Celebrations, blessings and tours occurred the week prior to the center's opening. Mercy Health Foundation hosted a Grand Reveal on March 26, honoring those who generously donated to the campaign.

The new women's center was made possible by a long list of donors who supported the fundraising campaign – the largest in Mercy's history. Including the lead donation from the Tom and Judy Love family, campaign co-chairs Judy Love and Cathy Keating led the fundraising efforts, bringing in \$44 million to make the project a reality.

"This campaign was led by women, for generations of women to come and there could be no better campaign co-chairs than Judy Love and Cathy Keating," said Lori Cummins, vice president of philanthropy, Mercy Health Foundation. "We could not be more grateful."

Jean and Holly Smith were two of the many guests who attended the Grand Reveal. Jean Smith is a past board member and long-time donor to the Foundation, and Holly is Jean's daughter-in-law. Holly and her husband Jared recently welcomed third child, Monica Noelle, in a labor and delivery room named in recognition of Jean and Bill Smith for their contributions to the women's center. Baby Monica is Bill and Jean's 15th grandbaby!

## ER Expansion *(continued from the previous page)*

More than 50,000 patients seek care at Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City ER annually, with nearly half requiring at least one CT scan during their visit.

"Our ER team provides incredible care, and having a CT scanner in the ER makes that care more streamlined for our patients and co-workers," said Dr. Lance Watson, Medical Director of the emergency department. "For stroke patients, getting a CT scan quickly is critical for providing lifesaving care and reducing the possibility of long-term disabilities."

The Meinders made the donation in honor of Dr. Vertrees Smith, Medical Director Emeritus Meinders Neuroscience Institute, in recognition of his decades of service to the community.

Dr. Smith joined the medical staff as a neurosurgeon in 1974 and was one of the founding providers of the Meinders NeuroScience Institute. He led the creation

of Oklahoma's first comprehensive stroke center, Mercy's gamma knife radiosurgery center, and the Meinders Center for Movement Disorders.

"Dr. Smith's visionary leadership and compassion have had a direct impact on my life and countless others," said Herman Meinders. "His skill and dedication have advanced neurological care in Oklahoma for 50 years, saving thousands of lives."

The Meinders have also made a significant impact through their generosity. Since 2019, their total donations have earned them the honor of being Mercy Health Foundation Oklahoma City's largest contributors.

"Their compassion and selfless generosity has been transformational for Mercy and will impact the lives of countless Oklahomans for generations to come," Lori Cummins, VP of philanthropy.

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

### Mercy Health Foundation Oklahoma City Board of Directors

Nicole Dell'Osso, Chair  
Tallie Valentine, Vice Chair  
Terri Cooper, Secretary  
Chris Hahne, Treasurer  
Nicole Dobbins Blad, Past Chair

Lori Bowman	Chele Gatewood
Barbara Brou	Jane Jayroe Gamble
Kathy P. Brown	Jim Gebhart
Gina Buendia	Caroline Ikard
Jesse Campbell, MD	Cathy Leichter
Joe Cardenas	Imari Moore, MD
Jason Clark	Marisa Records
Lori Cummins	Michael Romero
Susan Drake	Becky R. Roten
Linda Drumm	Lois Salmeron
Robert Duncan	Mike Sanders
Bennett Fuller, MD	Daniel Smith
Doug Fuller	Sister Claudia Ward

### 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 Oklahoma City**  
13321 N. Meridian | Suite 206  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120



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