



2023

**SOUTHEAST
ANNUAL REPORT**

JANUARY 1, 2023 - DECEMBER 31, 2023

Dear Friends of Mercy,

The past year has been a journey of change, renewal, enlightenment and deep gratitude. Although our name has changed, our commitment to the people of Southeast Missouri remains stronger than ever. The generosity of our donors is at the core of everything we do. Now, as part Mercy, we're more dedicated than ever to improving health care in Southeast Missouri, together.

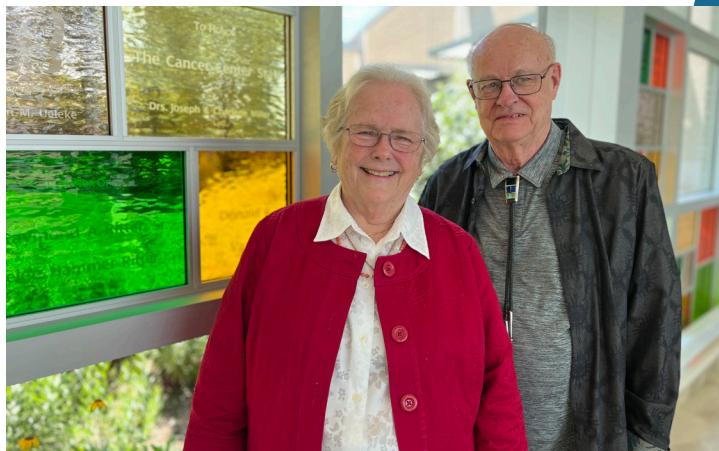
Every gift we receive supports the health care initiatives and programs that matter most to our donors. More importantly, all donations remain local, ensuring that your contributions have a lasting impact on our community.

Mercy Hospital Southeast has seen significant physical changes, including a nearly completed renovation of our Emergency Department. Exciting plans are underway that will continue to improve the services and care we provide. Since joining Mercy, we've expanded our reach and upgraded our technology. This fall, we'll further improve the patient experience by enhancing our Electronic Health Record (EHR) capabilities. These upgrades have filled us with even more excitement for our future.

We can't thank you enough for your steadfast support. Your donations allow us to care for our most vulnerable patients and provide essential equipment and services that directly improve patient outcomes. We're thrilled about the future and would love to show you around our campus and share our exciting upcoming plans.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Darah Jirkovsky
Executive Director
Mercy Health Foundation Southeast



Robert and Dr. Adelaide Parsons

Donor Spotlight

A Letter of Gratitude from Robert & Dr. Adelaide Parsons:

Supporting local health care, especially hospitals, is crucial to the growth and development of a community. People choose to live in communities that offer access to quality health care, committed health care professionals, and service orientation towards its patients. Health care systems that plan and look toward the future are a positive asset to a community and its development.

Mercy, formerly SoutheastHEALTH, has been a driving force in the growth of the Cape-Jackson area and all points north and south, east and west.

(continued on the last page)



Lori Bronenkant, Experience Manager, Mercy Cancer Center Southeast

A Personal Journey and a Community's Strength

For the past 13 years, I've had the privilege of working alongside the exceptional team at Mercy Cancer Center as the experience manager. In April 2022, my life took an unexpected turn when I was diagnosed with cancer.

I was fortunate to have resources and a strong support system during my cancer journey. However, many of the thousands of patients we treat each year are not as fortunate. Increasingly, we see patients who struggle to afford the necessities of daily living. The funds generated through the Cancer Care Fund are used to help real people with real needs right here in Southeast Missouri.

"I've witnessed firsthand the dedication and expertise of the cancer care team."

- Lori Bronenkant

My journey began with a diagnosis of Microcystic Adnexal Carcinoma. Due to the complexity of this cancer, I was referred to St. Louis for tumor removal and ear reconstruction. After three surgeries, I returned home to Mercy Cancer Center, where I was treated by Dr. Joseph Miller, a specialist in radiation oncology. Dr. Miller candidly

discussed my best chances for a positive prognosis, given my high risk for recurrence.

I completed 30 radiation treatments on January 19, 2023. Although I was offered a referral to a radiation oncology center in St. Louis because of the rarity of my cancer, I chose to stay at home for my care. Since the Cancer Center opened in 2011, I've witnessed firsthand the dedication and expertise of the cancer care team. I knew I could trust them with my life.

I'm deeply grateful for the support I received and for the opportunity to continue working with such incredible co-workers. Our goal is to ensure that every patient has the resources and care they need to fight their battle with cancer, and your contributions to the Cancer Care Fund make this possible. Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of our patients and our community.



Our Funding Priorities

Cancer Care

Your support can provide moments of normalcy and joy in each patient's cancer journey. The Cancer Care fund provides for the special needs of patients who are battling cancer, right here, close to home. With your help, Mercy Health Foundation Southeast can continue to invest in bringing the latest technologies, treatments and programs to improve cancer care in our community. This fund also provides essential services for patients in need, including transportation, lodging, nutritional supplements and medication assistance.

HeartStrong











Mercy Health Foundation's HeartStrong Fund provides advanced technologies and services that enhance cardiovascular care in our region. Mercy Southeast's top-ranked team of cardiologists diagnoses and treats many heart conditions, including rare and complex disorders. In addition to providing funds for innovative treatment options and advanced diagnostic equipment, the HeartStrong Fund provides scales and pedometers for low-income congestive heart failure patients to better monitor their treatment during cardiac rehabilitation.

Area of Greatest Need

Your contribution to the Area of Greatest Need fund supports the unique health care needs of your community whenever they arise. This fund enables Mercy to respond swiftly to emerging needs. Whether it's funding vital medical equipment, supporting patient assistance programs, or advancing health care initiatives, your contribution makes a tangible difference where it's needed most.

Your Gifts at Work

Because of generous donations and continued support from donors like you, many programs and services were funded in 2023.

-  **Dexter Infusion (Capital Project)** \$200,000
-  **Cancer Care** \$57,700
-  **Co-worker Assistance** \$35,099
-  **Scholarships** \$33,500
-  **Patient Transportation** \$21,248
-  **HeartStrong** \$20,741
-  **Children's Wellness** \$15,992
-  **Patient Pantry** \$14,800
-  **Hospice Care** \$4,877
-  **Diabetes Care** \$3,389



Ambassador Group Awards AEDs

Mercy Health Foundation Ambassadors will host an annual Wine and Chocolate Pairing event to raise funds for the Heart Strong Fund. The Heart Strong Fund provides assistance for patients with congestive heart failure. Thanks to our donors, we have been able to provide essential equipment including scales, pedometers and pulse oximeters to patients in need. The Heart Strong Fund also provides Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for local non-profit organizations. The goal is to have as many AEDs as possible in our community to help reduce the number of cardiac-related deaths. Thanks to the hard work of our Foundation Ambassadors, 12 AEDs were awarded to local non-profit organizations in 2023.

From L to R: Mercy Health Foundation Southeast Executive Director Darah Jirkovsky, along with Mikaela Blissett and Johnathan Wright from The Wright Group, present an AED to North Cape County Fire Chief Jon Taylor



L to R: Keenan and Sarah Keenan, APRN; Chris Wright, RN, and Angela Wright, APRN; Drs. Brent and Brenna Keller; Todd Bursmeyer, MD, and Peggy Bursmeyer

Journey Gala A Magical Evening in Kyoto

Mercy Health Foundation Southeast's Journey Gala whisked supporters away on a captivating tour of Kyoto, Japan. Each year, the Gala explores an exciting new destination, and this year was no exception. Over 325 attendees immersed themselves in the sights, sounds and flavors of Kyoto, thanks to the dedication of the Gala committee and the leadership of co-chairs Sara Crocker and Victoria Moon.

The evening was filled with laughter and entertainment, featuring the hilariously funny comedian Kevin Bozeman, talented impressionist Noah Ryan, and the lively band Trixie Delight. Together, they created an unforgettable experience for all who attended.

The event raised nearly \$225,000 for the Cancer Care Fund, which provides crucial assistance for transportation, lodging,



From L to R: Tom Matukewicz, Lenna Matukewicz, Kristin Korn and Brad Korn

prescription support, nutritional supplements and other support services. "We couldn't do what we do without the support of our generous donors. Each dollar makes a big impact on the lives of our patients. We are deeply grateful for their continued support," said Darah Jirkovsky, Executive Director.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to making this year's Journey Gala a phenomenal success.

Donor Spotlight *(continued from page 2)*

Through personal and family connections, we have experience with cancer, cardiology, hospice and diabetes. In each contact, we have experienced positivity, patience, kindness and spiritual support.

There are never too many adjectives to tell how wonderful they are. We have never been disappointed with the treatment we have received or the treatment our family members have received.

Over the years, we have found various ways to provide support, whether that be through the donation of talents and skills. Robert donated his talents to design and construct the stained-glass windows at the Mercy Cancer Center; he also volunteered at the hospital gift shop and served on the former Auxiliary Board. Adelaide serves as a member of the Mercy Health Foundation Board and volunteers weekly in the Foundation office. We also have a philosophy of giving and it is

best defined by the following scripture from Luke 12:48: "To those who have been given much, much will be demanded. To the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be asked."

Our families, through careful living, hard work and their commitment to God, have been able to live comfortable lives. The resources we share at this time in our lives are resources that came from the community members who supported our families' businesses and other investments. We give to Mercy Health Foundation and Mercy Hospital Southeast as a way of recognizing all they have done to improve the quality of health care over the years and to say "thank you" for providing services and support that continues to provide for quality care. We are so fortunate to be a part of this system. As part of our legacy to the local community, we have named Mercy Health Foundation Southeast in our estate planning.

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

Mercy Health Foundation Southeast Board of Directors

Curt Buchheit, Board Chair	Jennifer Icaza-Gast
Tom Kiefner, Vice Chair	Dr. Joseph Miller
Kyle Thompson, Treasurer	Mike Ochs
Patty Schaefer, Finance Committee	Dr. Adelaide Parsons
Rick Blattner	Terri Penrod
Paul Findlay	Pete Poe
	Joe Uzoaru

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Amanda Baert, President	Rheanna Greer
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Mikaela Blissett	Holly Knudtson
Lauren Crawford	Courtland Kohlfeld
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Marissa Dirnberger	Dana Latham
Jill Frey	Tonya Moore
Hailey Gleason	Holly Seyer
Rachel Gray	Danielle Torbet
	Christin Yamnitz-Whitener

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 Southeast
1849 Broadway
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701



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