



2024

SOUTH
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Dear Friends of Mercy,

Thank you for your support of Mercy Health Foundation. Your generosity helps us achieve our mission to deliver compassionate care and exceptional service. Your commitment and dedication play a vital role in improving quality of life and making health care accessible for all.

Thanks to you:

- The Fern and Russell de Greeff Hospice House is celebrating our 25th year of providing bereavement and support services to our community.
- Mercy remains on the front line of addressing the community's need for all levels of mental health at the Hyland Behavioral Health Center.
- The David M. Sindelar Cancer Center is meeting the growing need for cancer care through advanced technologies and personalized care, including nurse navigation, 3-D mammography and integrative medicine.
- The Clinical Pastoral Care Education (CPE) program is providing educational support for chaplains who enhance patient care at Mercy Hospital South.
- We are ensuring our community is prepared to meet the future demand for skilled nurses through the Win from Within tuition assistance program. Generous donor support is allowing us to expand this program for other health care fields in the 2024-2025 school year.

As we look to the future, we're filled with optimism and gratitude knowing that we're working with you and walking in the footsteps of our foundress, Catherine McAuley, to serve the health needs of our community.

With sincere gratitude,

Valerie Stricker
Mercy Health Foundation
Vice President

Sean Hogan
Mercy Hospital South
President

Darin Basler
Mercy Health Foundation
Board Chair

An Angel without Wings

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Fern and Russell de Greeff Hospice House, we honor the ways in which hospice care provides peace, comfort and dignity to patients and their families.

Bill and Linda Giese feel blessed to bring Fred, an assistance dog, to the house weekly to visit patients. Recently, Fred was introduced to a patient who had difficulty speaking, but his perfect height allowed him to lay his chin on the bed so the patient could pet him. Bill told the patient that Fred really liked her and she replied clearly that she loved Fred.

Later, a young woman walked past Bill and Fred sobbing. She immediately went to Fred, dropped to her knees, wrapped her arms around him and sobbed into his fur. She stood up a short time later and said that Fred was just what she needed at that moment.

After witnessing the connections formed between Fred and our patients, Bill and Linda are certain that dogs are truly angels without wings.



Fred, the service dog



Alaska and her great-grandmother, Julie

Creating a lasting memory - Is that awesome or what?

When Julie joined the Mercy Hospice South program, her sense of humor, spark and commitment to her great-granddaughter, Alaska, were immediately evident to her caregivers. Alaska's bright, spunky personality was an ever-present part of her visits with Julie, and our Hospice caregivers wanted to create a special way to honor their relationship. Lisa, one of the bereavement coordinators, planned a meaningful surprise for Alaska's upcoming birthday.

Julie worked with our Hospice chaplain to record a heartfelt message for her great-granddaughter. In her message, Julie reminded Alaska that she would always be with her and included Alaska's favorite phrase: Is that awesome or what?

"I'm proud to be part of a remarkable team and work in a field where I know I can bring comfort and joy to families when they need it most."

- Haley, a social worker at the Hospice House

The day of Alaska's birthday party finally arrived and she eagerly opened her gift from Julie. Hospice caregivers showed Alaska how to press a button in her brand new teddy bear's paw to hear the message Julie recorded for her. Now,

Alaska will always have a part of Julie with her, even after her great-grandmother is no longer by her side.

This project is a beautiful reflection of the hospice spirit and was a work of the heart from the entire team at the Fern and Russell de Greeff Hospice House. "I'm proud to be part of a remarkable team and work in a field where I know I can bring comfort and joy to families when they need it most," said Haley, a social worker at the Hospice House.

Julie and Alaska would agree: Is that awesome or what?



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.

Behavioral Health:

Hyland Behavioral Health integrates care of the mind, body and spirit. Your contributions help to expand our services and invest in quality programs. Hyland provides a pathway to standardizing effective mental health and addiction care.

Cancer Care:

The most sophisticated cancer treatment will never replace the touch of another person's hand at the David M. Sindelar Cancer Center. Your gifts address the mental and emotional sides of the cancer journey by providing art, horticulture, yoga, and cardio and strength training programs for patients. Studies show the measurable benefits of various therapies to patients, especially in terms of stress relief, inner healing and affirmation. Your gifts ensure patients and their loved ones have access to compassionate, innovative care.

Hospice:

Your gifts help us maintain the Fern & Russell de Greeff Hospice House to provide a spiritual and calming place for our patients. The de Greeff Hospice House has provided unmatched end-of-life care and bereavement services for more than 20 years. Our gifted co-workers are honored to offer care in the patient's home, hospital, long-term care facility, or our freestanding 18-bed Hospice House.

 **Cancer Care** \$2,119,945

 **Cardiology** \$1,003,350

 **Patient Assistance** \$189,802

 **Hospice** \$165,741

 **Area of Greatest Need** \$67,214

 **Women with a Mission** \$34,200

 **Other Services** \$28,262

 **Coworker Crisis Fund** \$22,613



Event co-chairs (back row) with "The Queen." Back row from left to right: Dr. Stephen and Jackie Sanders, Joseph and Mary Stieven, Sara Sindelar, and Dr. Peter and Annie DiPasco

19th Annual Mercy Masquerade Raises Over \$1M!

Over 750 guests put on their most regal attire and were transported to the romantic and charming Regency era of London as they attended the 19th Annual Mercy Masquerade on Saturday, March 9, at St. Louis Union Station.

Guests were welcomed by the Queen as they entered her most esteemed Ball. A world of opulence and sophistication was on display as attendees explored the mission of Mercy through a reimagined and captivating experience.

This is the fourth year that Mercy Hospital St. Louis and Mercy Hospital South have partnered together to bring one annual gala to the St. Louis community. The event raised over \$1 million for uninsured and underinsured patients. Event co-chairs were Dr. Peter and Annie DiPasco, Dr. Stephen and Jackie Sanders, Sara Sindelar, and Joseph and Mary Stieven.

Guests enjoyed a cocktail reception and seated dinner followed by an exciting After Party in the Gentry Gaming Hall and dancing in the Regency Rave. All funds raised from this event will help Mercy Hospital St. Louis and Mercy Hospital South provide access to high-quality medical care for nearly 50,000 uninsured and underinsured families in our community.

Mercy Masquerade has raised more than \$12 million throughout its history.



Over **750**
guests attended

Over **\$1 million**
was raised

Nearly **50,000**
uninsured and
underinsured families
will have better access
to medical care

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

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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 South
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For more information or to
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