

A close-up photograph of a newborn baby crying, held gently by a healthcare professional wearing blue scrubs and red-rimmed glasses. The baby's mouth is wide open in a cry, and its eyes are closed. The healthcare professional's hands are visible, supporting the baby's head and neck. The background is softly blurred, suggesting a clinical setting. The image is split diagonally by a white line, with the top-left portion being white and the bottom-right portion being a teal color.

2024

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

Dear Friends of Mercy,

This past year has been a time of remarkable rebirth and renewal in the Washington/Four Rivers community. Our donors, volunteers, patients and co-workers have all contributed to a newfound sense of excitement and hope, leading to unprecedented growth.

Events like Mercy Gala and Catherine's Closet Fashion Show resumed in-person with tremendous success. Mercy Gala netted over \$260,000 to refurbish and renovate the newborn nursery at Mercy Hospital Washington. The Auxiliary's Fashion Show raised over \$15,000, which will help purchase new furnishings and safety equipment for our hospital and clinics.

We welcomed a record number of volunteers to the Foundation, Auxiliary and Volunteer Services. These new faces brought fresh ideas and helping hands to our dedicated core team, which includes long-standing volunteer Joyce Mentz. Joyce was honored for 44 years of faithful service at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in April.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we purchased 17 new infusion chairs and installed more accessible doors in our Cancer Center. Patients in Cardiac Rehab also received new treadmills and a stepping machine, thanks to a gift from the members of our Women with a Mission giving society. These enhancements will provide greater access to care, comfort and safety for many deserving patients.

Thank you for helping us grow and renew. We look forward to sharing new ideas and opportunities for your support so that, together, we can continue to improve the health of our community.

Gratefully,

Lesli von Seelen
Director
Mercy Health Foundation

Craig Mueller
Board Chair
Mercy Health Foundation

Eric Eoloff
Community President
Mercy Washington



New infusion chairs, donated by two grateful families, are providing more comfort for patients undergoing chemotherapy.

Donors Give Comfort, Safety to Cancer Patients

Patients will notice some big improvements on their next visit to Mercy Washington Cancer Center, thanks to two grateful families whose lives have been affected by cancer. Their generous gifts have made it possible to purchase 17 new infusion chairs and an automatic entry door for the Cancer Center.

The new reclining chairs provide patients with options to help them relax and unwind during treatment, including soothing heat and a foldaway table.

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2023 Mercy Gala Co-Chairs (L - R): Jon Ballmann, Julie Ballmann, Dr. Christy Bleckman, Jason Kessler

Oh Baby! Mercy Gala Delivers Big Results for Our Tiniest Patients

It was a celebration of babies at the 2023 Mercy Gala in October, which raised over \$260,000 to renovate and refurbish the newborn nursery at Mercy Hospital Washington. The nursery project holds special significance for Gala co-chairs and grateful family, Jon and Julie Ballmann and Julie's sister, Dr. Christy Bleckman.

In 2013, lifelong community residents, Jon and Julie Ballmann lost their first babies, twins Anthony and Margaret, who were born at just

20 weeks. The Gala offered them the opportunity to share their story and honor the caregivers at Mercy Hospital Washington who lovingly brought their precious babies into the world and helped the couple through their grief. The Ballmanns were later blessed with four more healthy babies. "Our family's story began at Mercy. The hospital has been with us through our highest highs and lowest lows", said Jon. "We are passionate about

the nursery renovation project because we want other families to receive the same compassionate care Mercy has given us with all six of our children," Julie added.

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More than
\$260,000
was raised to
renovate and
refurbish the
newborn nursery



Our Funding Priorities

Area of Greatest Need

Your gifts provide unrestricted support to Mercy Hospital Washington and Mercy Clinic Four Rivers for high priority needs, such as advanced technology and equipment, patient assistance, blanket warmers for heart center patients, a sports medicine ultrasound machine, and innovative patient programs.

Children's Services

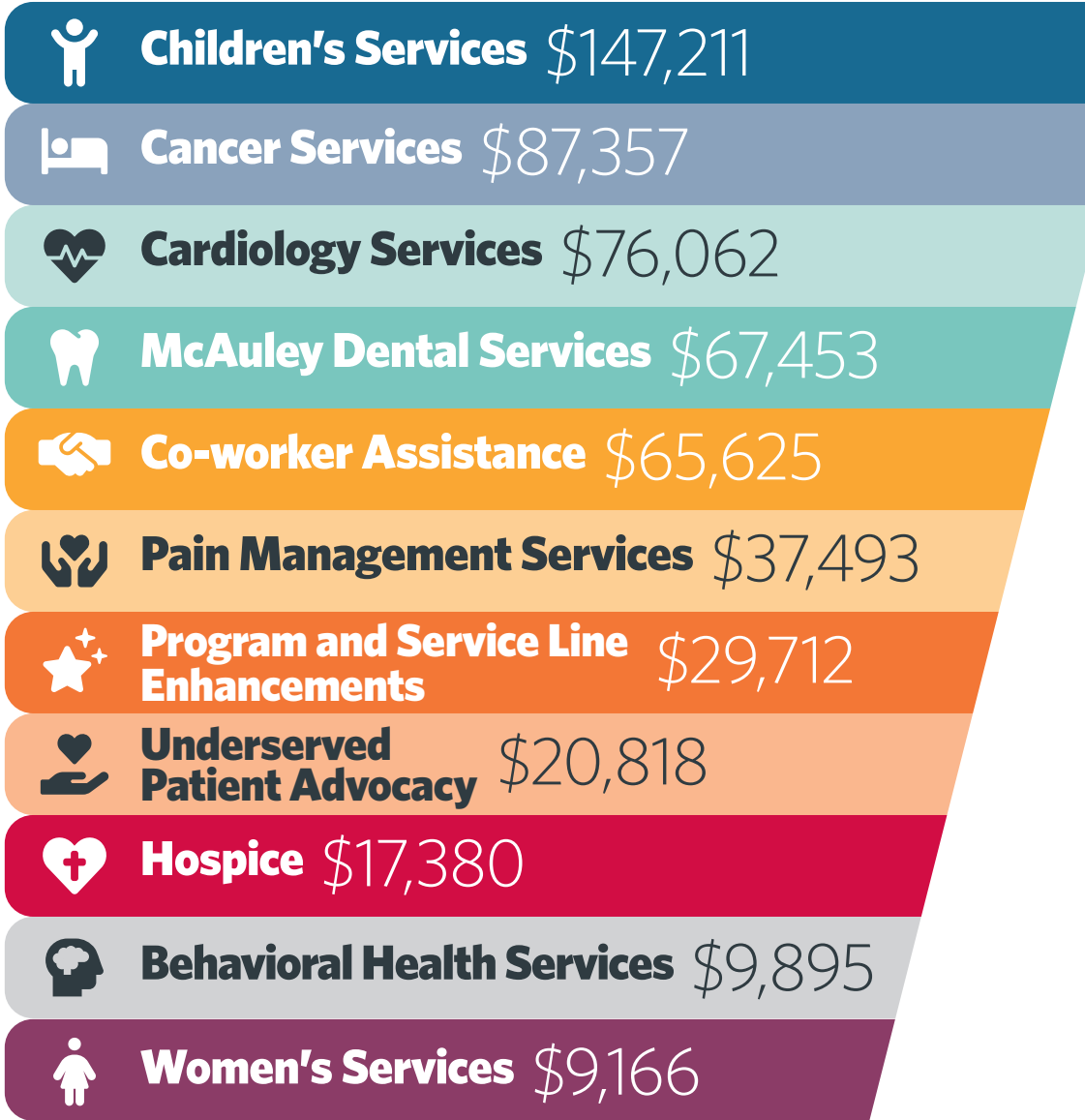
Your support of Children's Services helps ensure that every mother and child have the best possible care by providing upgraded equipment and the latest technology to care for over 800 babies born at Mercy Hospital Washington each year. Funds have been used to provide patient assistance, car seats for underserved children, new equipment, and the renovation of our newborn nursery.

McAuley Clinic and Underserved Patient Advocacy

Your support of the McAuley Clinic and Underserved Patient Advocacy will help Mercy continue to meet the needs of the 21,000 underserved patients in our community who seek primary care, behavioral health services, women's health, and dental care at the McAuley Clinic. It will also aid those who experience barriers to receiving care in our community

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.



17,064
volunteer
hours
served!

Thank you, Joyce Mentz!

Rain, snow or sunshine, we can always count on volunteer Joyce Mentz to work in the hospital gift shop every Friday and assist Pastoral Care with communion and special masses. She often comes in early, stays late, and works extra shifts. We are grateful for Joyce's dedication to our hospital where she has served 17,064 volunteer hours over 44 years.



A stepping machine and treadmills donated by Women with a Mission will improve the lives of cardiac rehab patients, like Brent Mischke.

Stepping Up for Cardiac Care

Heart patients in Washington are stepping up their recoveries, thanks to a leader's bias for action coupled with a generous donation from the Women with a Mission giving society.

Cardiopulmonary Rehab Supervisor Lisa Hahne saw a need to replace aging equipment and add new technologies to improve patient care in her department. She reached out to the members of Women with a Mission for help. The ladies responded by providing funding for a bariatric stepping machine and two treadmills. The new equipment will aid in the recovery of heart patients like Brent Mischke, who says the new stepping machine is easier to use. "I really like how easy it is to get on, and the foot pedals are much larger, which allows me to keep my feet on them," said Mischke.

Hahne said the stepping machine will accommodate larger patients and its seat can be removed for patients in wheelchairs. "We are so grateful for the support from Women with a Mission. Now, we can serve even more patients who need cardiac rehabilitation."

Comfort, Safety to Cancer Patients *(continued from page 2)*

The former infusion chairs were original to the Cancer Center when it opened in 2008. "This type of equipment has a normal life expectancy of 15 years, and the repairs were becoming costly. These chairs are a blessing to our oncology patients and care team," said Andrea Muser, infusion nurse manager.

And, for more convenient access to the Cancer Center, patients can now wave their hand in front of a sensor to open the doors. The new automatic doors make it easier for those with limited mobility to enter the building.

These improvements were made possible by a long-time anonymous donor who made a legacy gift to Mercy when they passed away in 2021, as well as the Voelkerding Charitable Trust. "These families have experienced the pain and discomfort that often comes with cancer treatments. To entrust us to use their gifts to make someone else's cancer journey a little easier is really a beautiful and Godly gesture," said Connie Stelzer, oncology practice manager, who shares a friendship with both donor families.



A digital scale made possible by Gala donors, will touch the lives of all babies at Mercy Hospital Washington.

Oh Baby! *(continued from page 2)*

Dr. Christy Bleckman's life has come full circle. She was born at Mercy Hospital Washington, where she has dedicated the last 15 years delivering babies as an OB/GYN physician. She and her husband have four children. Dr. Bleckman shared, "It was always my dream to practice medicine and raise my family in the same area where my husband and I grew up. This project will make a difference in the lives of the people in my community."

The nursery renovation will add new equipment and improved surroundings for the 800 babies born at the hospital each year. It is slated for completion in fall 2024.

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

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**Special thanks to these board members for nine years of service! (2014 - 2023)

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 Washington
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Washington, MO 63090



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