

CONNECTION

News, announcements, and vital information for associates, their families, and friends of Mercy Hospital of Buffalo

Winter 2015



Left: When the storms finally ended, affected areas had been socked with more snow in 3 days than is typically recorded for the entire winter. Hamburg reached 79.5 inches of snow, while Cowlesville recorded the most at 88 inches. Pictured above, nurse assistant Kaitlin Coyle makes her way to work on Friday.

Right: Roads became impassable to Mercy Hospital on Tuesday. Firefighters, in above photo, made their way on foot and snowmobiles to help stranded motorists and others trapped in their homes needing assistance.

Hearts Changed & Lives Transformed – Mercy Hospital Foundation 2015 Funding Focus

Catholic Health has long been a leader in cardiology. Catholic Health's cardiovascular physicians treat thousands of patients for cardiac illness annually at our hospitals, perform more than 15,600 cardiac procedures yearly, with the majority of those patients served at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo. The Mercy Hospital Foundation is proud to support this important care initiative in 2015. We are gratefully accepting gifts to support - **Hearts Changed & Lives Transformed**.

Why Give?

According to the Erie County Health Assessment, cardiovascular disease has long been the number one cause of death in Erie County, accounting for 32% of all deaths. The need for cardiac care in this region is estimated to increase, not decrease. Rates of risk factors that contribute to heart disease such as smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and obesity are significantly higher in Erie County than the rest of the state. At Mercy, our plan is to be ready to treat, save and educate our patients and provide them with the best possible quality of life.

How Can I Help?

To learn more about how you can give a gift to support the **Hearts Changed & Lives Transformed** effort at Mercy Hospital, please contact Kathy Swenson, Mercy Hospital Foundation Executive Director, at kswenson@chsbuffalo.org or call (716) 828-2120, today.

Mercy Hospital Awards and Recognition:

- HealthGrades- Top 50 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Surgery (2015)
- HealthGrades - Top 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Surgery (2014)
- HeathGrades – Cardiac Surgery Excellence Award (2014, 2015)
- HealthGrades – Top 5% in the Nation for Cardiac Surgery (2014, 2015)
- HealthGrades – Top 10% in the Nation for Cardiac Surgery (2014, 2015)
- HealthGrades – Five-Star rating for Valve Surgery (2015)
- HealthGrades- Five-Star rating for Coronary Bypass Surgery (2011-2015)
- HealthGrades – Five-Star rating for Defibrillator Procedures (2015)

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Mercy Hospital Foundation 2014 Funded Items

Total amount of Foundation funds raised and released to support relating ministry = **\$425,268**
As of 12/31/14

Projects

Nursing Station & Patient Floor Enhancements – Stroke Center – 2014 Mercy Foundation Funding Focus **\$300,000**



5West Stroke Center Nursing Station before renovations at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo.

Programs

Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN) Certification Educational Initiative - Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Cardiac Care Unit (CCU), and Open Heart Unit (OHU) nurses

\$10,000 grant

Empowering Buffalo One Neighborhood at a Time – Mercy Comprehensive Care Center (MCCC), Brigid's Closet, Mission on the Move, & Reach Out and Read –

The William G. McGowan Charitable Fund \$52,000 Grant

Midwifery care for Underserved Women in WNY – Maternal Child – Health Foundation of Western and Central NY
\$50,000 Grant

Education

American Association of Critical Care Nurses – 3 nurse attendees - Nursing Education & Patient Care Services

ANA Quality Conference – 1 nurse attendee - Nursing Education & Patient Care Services

AORN Surgical Conference – 1 nurse attendee - Nursing Education & Patient Care Services

Blood Bank Association New York State Conference – 1 attendee - Pathology & Lab

Northeast Cerebrovascular Association (NECC) Conference – 3 nurse attendees – Stroke

OB Critical Care in Obstetrics Conference – 4 nurse attendees - Maternal Child

10 Continuing Medical Education “Saturday CMEs” events – Medical Affairs Department

20th Annual NRC Picker Patient-Centered Care Symposium – 1 nurse attendee – Mercy Hospital

1,000 Women’s Monthly Planners & Stylus Pen Gift Set for October Breast Cancer Awareness Month – Radiology

Equipment

Bioness Interactive Therapy Systems – Medical Rehab Unit - **Charleen Grzybowski Golf Event \$15,000 gift**

GE Panda iRes Warmer – NICU – **Ronald McDonald House Charities \$11,400 grant**



GE Panda iRes Warmer

Mutiheaded Microscope Conference Room equipment – Pathology & Lab

Votive Candle Stand – Spiritual Care

2 Mercy Crosses – Margaret L. Wendt Family Center – Spiritual Care

5 Double Sleeper Sofas – Labor & Delivery

28 Patient Room Flat Screen Televisions – Labor & Delivery

1,000 Halo Infant Safe Sleep Sacks – Labor & Delivery

Autumn Ball benefits nursing unit renovations

Mercy Hospital Foundation's 6th Annual Autumn Ball raised over \$100,000 for patient care unit renovations at the hospital.

Dr. Stephen W. Downing, MD, FACC, FACS, associate chairman of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Department, was recognized with the Physician of Distinction Award, and **Kathleen Guarino, RN, MS, NP**, Mercy's VP of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer received the Nurse of Distinction Award.

More than 250 guests attended the event that was held on November 7 at the Orchard Park Country Club. Chairing this premier fundraising event for the hospital were Arthur and Audrey Russ. They were joined by Celebrity Event Emcees Lou



Mercy President & CEO C.J. Urlaub and his wife Susan, left, enjoy the Autumn Ball with Event Chairs Arthur and Audrey Russ.

Raguse and Emily Guggenmos of WIVB-TV News 4.

Proceeds from the Autumn Ball, which raised \$119,651 gross with a net of \$100,335, will fund renovations to the Mercy Stroke Center nursing station and patient rooms.

Mercy Nursing Facility ranked in top 10% of nation

The Mercy Nursing Facility (MNF) at OLV has been ranked in the top 10% of the nation for customer service among long term care facilities by My InnerView—the long term care arm of the National Research Corporation (NRC) Picker. The MNF received the Excellence in Action Award for the third year in a row and this distinction places the facility in the 97th percentile nationally.



Celebrating the award are, from left: Sally Smith, Director of Nursing; Kathy Dyson, RCC; Dionne Davis; Chris Trost, LPN; Beth Gould, RCC; Colleen Graham, Director of Social Work; Nicole Merkel, CNA; and Pat O'Connor, Executive Director.

Mercy welcomes first baby of the New Year

With a January 6th due date, Beth and Jeff Walkowicz of Alden were thinking they had at least another week to prepare for the arrival of their first baby. However, Kate Elizabeth, decided to come a little earlier and with a much grander entrance as Erie County's first baby of the New Year—arriving at Mercy Hospital at 4:16 am on January 1, 2015 and weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces.

"We were definitely surprised," said Beth, "and we didn't know whether it would be a boy or a girl."

When the Buffalo News reporter arrived 10 hours after the birth to cover their story, they had not yet decided on the name. But after a quick game of rock, paper, scissors,



Jeff and Beth Walkowicz with baby Kate and Mercy nurse Lorie Gunderman.

they decided on Kate Elizabeth. Kate is named after a friend from Alfred College where she met Jeff, and Elizabeth is her grandmother's name.

What a great way to ring in the New Year! Best wishes to the new family.

Mercy Foundation at Work



The Grzybowski family presented a \$15,000 check to the Mercy Foundation. Pictured from left are: Cathy Milo; Foundation Executive Director Kathy Swenson; Brian Grzybowski; Chris Grzybowski; Jake Grzybowski; and Christina Grzybowski Smith.

Grzybowski family donates \$15,000 toward stroke care

Charleen Grzybowski's legacy lives on through the generosity of her family. This year the family donated \$15,000, the largest gift to date, from the proceeds of their annual golf tournament held in honor and memory of Charleen. Since 2009, the Grzybowski family has donated \$39,500 to support Stroke and Rehab patients cared for at Mercy Hospital.

This year's funds will enable Mercy's Medical Rehab Unit (MRU) to purchase a much needed Bioness Interactive Therapy System (BITS) to assist post-stroke patients who have limited functional use of their hand or arm. In 2013, their donation helped purchase a Dynavision unit to help patients with visual-perceptual deficits following stroke. The family's contributions also established the Charleen Grzybowski Stroke Education Room at Mercy.

Charleen Grzybowski died at the age of 49 from a massive aneurysm in her brain. Her family was so grateful for the compassionate care she received at Mercy Hospital that they started a golf event and fund in her memory to support stroke care at Mercy Hospital.

Leave A Legacy

Won't you remember the Mercy Hospital Foundation as your charity of choice in your Will, Trust, or Estate or name us as a beneficiary of your IRA or Insurance plan? For more information on Planned Giving options, or to inform us that you've selected our ministry as your charity of choice, please contact the Mercy Hospital Foundation at (716) 828-2120 or email kswenson@chsbuffalo.org. Please show our patients, residents and families that they are blessed, loved, and supported by informing us of your decision to give a Planned Gift, today.

3rd Annual



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015

Registration / Check-in
starts at 8:00 am

5K Run begins at 9:30 am

Post Awards to Follow Event

First 400 pre-registered
runners will receive
a Scrub Shirt

New This Year!

- Live Entertainment Provided
by Crikwater
- Licensed Massage Therapists
onsite to provide Complimentary
Sports Massages
- Physical Therapists onsite to
discuss runner related injuries

SOUTH BUFFALO'S CAZENOVIA PARK

Cazenovia Street, Buffalo, New York
14220

2015 Run Chairs

Dan & Julie Joyce



In 2014, 300 runners and walkers
put their best foot forward.

Don't miss out & sign up today!

ScrubRun5k.itsyourrace.com

Catholic Health
Mercy Hospital of Buffalo
565 Abbott Road,
Buffalo, New York 14220

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7th Annual Autumn Ball

'A Harvest of Hope for Mercy Hospital'

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2015

Chair's Reception at 6:00 pm

Cocktails and Gourmet Dinner

Presentations & Entertainment followed by Coffee and Dessert

Orchard Park Country Club

4777 South Buffalo Street,

Orchard Park, NY 14127

Visit [www.FOUNDATIONSofCatholicHealth.org](http://wwwFOUNDATIONSofCatholicHealth.org)
or call (716) 706-2104 for more information.

Proceeds to benefit:

A portion of the special event proceeds will support
a multi-year cardio vascular enhancement effort at
Mercy Hospital - Hearts Changed & Lives Transformed.
Catholic Health has long been a leader in cardiology.
Catholic Health's cardiologists treat more than 7,000
patients for cardiac illness annually at our hospitals, with
45% of cardiac patients in Western New York cared for at
Mercy Hospital of Buffalo.