

Mercy Hospital Foundation Connections

News and announcements for donors, patients, and their families.

Winter 2018



It's That Special Mercy Touch!



James McDuffie of EVS is one of many associates referenced in Amy Dickinson's Tweets.

Our Mercy Family was paid quite a compliment this year from the famous columnist Amy Dickinson, "Ask Amy", when she expressed gratitude about her experience during her father's hospital stay. Though her father sadly passed away, she was impressed with the care she witnessed.

She wrote, "During the week I spent with him there, I was overcome—and overwhelmed—by the gentle and compassionate care he received at every turn. I truly have no words, except to say thank you all, sincerely, for your professionalism and loving-kindness...Every single one of you applied the concept of 'mercy' to your well-named hospital."

Dickinson also shared the series of Tweets from @askingamy that she wrote and posted:

"God bless the orderlies and the nurses and the army of people who provide care in our hospitals. (I'm with my dad in the ICU).

Because there are at least 30 people providing various levels of care to my old man. Including Martin, a 6'5" orderly.

God bless the night shift of hospital workers who administer the meds and change the beds and attend to the beeping machines.

God bless the early morning orderlies and the PT lovelies and the social worker half my age who wants to bring me coffee.

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Pictured above is an empty Modernized Operating Room and the same room with patient care equipment.

Philanthropic Priority Projects Operating Room Modernization

Founded over 100 years ago by the Sister of Mercy, Mercy Hospital of Buffalo continues to be recognized as one of the nation's top-performing hospitals for quality and value. Mercy is committed to implementing leading edge diagnostic and surgical treatment and to providing the best possible care for the over 322,000 patients we proudly care for at our hospital and relating care ministries.

It is expected that the delivery of surgical care will be safe, patient-centered, efficient, and effective. To this end, modern Operating Rooms are critical to meeting our patients' quality and safety goals. Capital investment in Operating Room (OR) modernization will greatly benefit thousands of patients at Mercy, a tertiary care facility and home of Catholic Health's Head and Heart Centers.

In 2017, with strong leadership from **Drs. Kenneth Eckhart, III, Medical Director of OR Efficiency**, and **Timothy Gabryel, VP of Medical Affairs**, the Mercy Hospital Foundation secured a \$100,000 grant from the **James H. Cummings Foundation** to support OR Modernization. Additionally, several other gifts received by the Mercy Hospital Foundation for this project have enabled the Foundation to support renovations and to date 3 of the hospital's 14 Operating Rooms have been upgraded.

How can you help?

The OR Modernization efforts will continue into 2018. Please join us by giving a gift to support the Operating Room Modernization Campaign. It takes strong financial support to ensure that the outstanding care provided at Mercy is reinforced by state-of-the-art facilities, advanced clinical education, and technology. That is where you and the Mercy Hospital Foundation serve as partners in care.

To learn more or make a gift to this important patient-centered project, please contact **Kathy Swenson, Mercy Hospital Foundation Executive Director**, by calling 716-828-2120, emailing kswenson@chsbuffalo.org, or visiting www.chsbuffalo.org/FCH/Mercy/Gift. Thank you for your support.

Sweet Mercy!

People In The News



Dr. Henry Meltzer was interviewed by Spectrum News for a story about how Mercy Hospital physicians collaborated with Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY to save the life of a young mother, Jennifer Bardrof, who was suffering from heart and lung failure in May 2016. A year later, this 33-year-old woman is back running races.



John Forman, MD

John Forman, MD, recently joined the cardiothoracic surgery team at the Catholic Health Heart Center. He previously served as the Director of Cardiothoracic Surgical Services at the Carondelet Heart and

Vascular Institute at St. Joseph Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri. With over 30 years of experience, he was selected as one of Kansas City 435 Magazine's Top Doctors in 2017.

Salvior Mok, MD, recently joined the cardiothoracic surgery team at the Catholic Health Heart Center. She previously served as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Mok completed her residency in cardiothoracic surgery at Montefiore Medical Center/ Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, NY and a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at Yale-New Haven Hospital in Connecticut.



Salvior Mok, MD

Dr. Zachary Lill, MD, a cardiologist specializing in electrophysiology, has joined the Heart Center team. Board certified in Cardiovascular Disease and Internal Medicine, Dr. Lill recently completed his Electrophysiology Fellowship and Cardiovascular Disease

Fellowship at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in Rochester, NY, where he also earned his medical degree.

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"Extraordinary" Nurses Presented Daisy Awards

Mercy Hospital was pleased to present its 3rd Quarter Daisy Awards to **Hoda Saeed, RN, (7W)**; **Jill Cory-Humphrey, RN, (L&D)**; and **Donna McCourt, RN, BSN (Case Mgmt)**.

The DAISY Award, which recognizes extraordinary nurses, was established by the National DAISY Foundation in memory of J. Patrick Barnes who died at 33 of ITP, an auto-immune disease. DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System. Today, over 2300 hospitals across the county participate in the program.

Anybody, including patients and



Heidi Kirsch presents Daisy winner Donna McCourt with a tray of cinnamon buns, a traditional part of the award ceremony.

families, can nominate a nurse for the award. Nomination forms can be found in the lobby Daisy display table, surgical waiting room, nurses stations, and cafeteria.

Scrub Run Finishes Strong Once Again!

The Mercy Hospital Foundation's Scrub Run 5K keeps getting bigger and better! This year, 270 runners and walkers put their best foot forward at the charity run raising over \$52,000 for the Catholic Health Heart Center at Mercy.

Joe Silliman, age 42, finished first in 18:33 and 39-year-old **Mary Lawrence** was the top female finisher with a time of 19:05.



Pictured above are some members of Mercy's Green Wing Warriors team who won an award along with Mercy's Sleep Walkers team.

For the second year, the Scrub Run proudly recognized two *Running with Heart* participants who have overcome and persevered through life threatening challenges—**Scott Swenson**, a heart attack survivor,

and **Mark Messinger**, a traumatic fall survivor. Special thanks to Run Chair **Nancy Sheehan**, **Catholic Health Senior VP & Chief Legal Officer**, and the many generous sponsors and volunteers.

9th Annual Autumn Ball Is Dazzling Success

This year's 9th Annual Mercy Hospital Autumn Ball was a wonderful celebration, raising \$171,000 towards the Heart Smart for Life program, a free community wellness program based at the Mercy Comprehensive Care Center (MCCC) in Buffalo's Old First Ward.

Honored at the event were **Kathryn Kuchenbeisser, BSN, RN, CWCN**, as the 2017 Nurse of Distinction and **Kevin Buck, RN**, as the 2017 Outstanding Staff Nurse.

Special thanks are extended to **Chairs Rick and Diane Serra** and **Vice Chairs Marty and Amy Jo Griffith**, Mercy Hospital



Kevin Buck, RN, accepts his award.

Foundation Board of Directors, many sponsors and contributors, and the Special Events Planning Committee for making this year's premier fund raising event a great success.

9th Annual Grzybowski Golf Event Supports Mercy.



Pictured in the front row is Christopher Grzybowski, far left, Brian Grzybowski, second in from the left, and Christina (Grzybowski) Smith, third in from the right, surrounded by associates from the Mercy Diagnostic Treatment Center's Rehab Unit and Mercy Hospital Foundation.

Charleen Grzybowski's legacy lives on through the generosity of her family. The Grzybowski family presented Mercy Hospital Foundation with an \$8,000 check from the 9th Annual Golf For Charleen event. Since 2009, the Grzybowski family has generously donated \$71,500 to support Mercy's stroke patients.

This year's gift will enable Mercy's Partners in Rehab team at the Mercy Diagnostic and Treatment Center in West Seneca to purchase

a much needed Dynavision care unit. This device is utilized during rehabilitation sessions with patients to strengthen their visual-perceptual deficits following a stroke or as a result of a neurological disease.

Charleen is survived by her husband **Christopher**, and their 5 children, **Christina, Jessica, Brian, Jacob, Stacy** and six grandchildren. The Mercy Hospital Foundation wishes to thank and congratulate the Grzybowski family for being a hero to the ill and injured.

Family BirthPlace Offers Milk Bank Depot

Earlier this year, Catholic Health began participating in the New York Milk Bank Program that offers safe, pasteurized donor breast milk to infants in need when their mothers' own milk is unavailable or insufficient.

"Milk Bank Depots" established at Mercy, Sisters of Charity and Mount St. Mary's Hospitals give mothers an opportunity to donate breast milk to help improve the health of premature babies.

"When I heard I could donate excess breast milk to help preemies, I wanted to assist," said



Liza Gutierrez donates breast milk to Tammy Kowalik, RN, as part of the milk bank program.

Liza Gutierrez, Mercy Hospital's first milk bank donor.

For more program details, visit www.chsbuffalo.org/milkdepot.

Patient Turns 90 With a Surprise Birthday Party

Ray Hein turned 90 years old on October 4 and had just received a hip replacement, a "gift" as he describes it, from **Mercy Hospital Orthopedic Surgeon David Bevilacqua, MD**. He said he had difficulty in finding a physician who could help him and was very grateful.

Dr. Bevilacqua and 6 West staff organized a birthday party for Ray and wished him a speedy recovery.



Ray Hein, center, celebrates a special 90th birthday with 6 West staff.

Sweet Mercy! People In The News



In conjunction with National Lung Cancer Awareness Month in November, Thoracic Surgeon Dr. Mark Jajkowski is interviewed by AM Buffalo Reporter Courtney Corbetta about minimally invasive surgery for lung cancer using the daVinci robotic system that can lead to faster recoveries.

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Here's to the floor sweeper and the sleepy security guard and the hospice volunteer who will all shepherd you into the good night.

Here's to the hospital weekend staff. They took the tough shifts, missing ball games, picnics, and prom pics – just like their patients.

Here's to the nurse Christine, at the end of her shift, who talks to my dad as she treats him, and then asks what she can do for me.

God bless John, who cleans the room, and Jake, overnight orderly, who says, "Tonight, I'm your guy. Anything you need, you find me."

Here's to the hospitalist, who prescribed a Tim Horton Boston Creme donut, for me. (I filled the prescription. Twice.)

Here's to Shannon, I think she's a PA. She's wearing scrubs and a smile and her pony tail swings as she walks down the hall.

God bless the hospital chaplain, who pops her head in, now and again. My old man was not the praying type, but I might.

God bless the charge nurse, who wordlessly brought in coffee and a tray of cookies, set them by the window, and waved his way out.

Here's to Dr. Jen, who showed me my old man's CT scan and then said, "Cute jacket! Where'd you get it?"

Here's to the family visiting the man in the next room. They look like 'Sons of Anarchy,' but their talk is funny, kind, and tender.

I have no words – only tears – for the hospice worker who helped my family – and my father, have a good death, surrounded by compassion.

RIP to my father. He led a hair-raising life, but was granted a very gentle death. **Bless the army of caregivers at Mercy in Buffalo, N.Y.**



Mission Corner



Mercy associates and veterans are: l.-r., Brandon McClain, OR; Bob Roman, Facilities; Joe Kross, OR; Heidi Kirsch, BSN, Director, Emergency Services; and Khalifa Glover, RN, BSN.

The Mission Integration Department organized a special Veterans Day Mass to honor the veterans and active military who work at Mercy Hospital.

Special thanks to Mount Mercy Academy choir members who sang the *Star Spangled Banner* and *America the Beautiful* for the service. Participants enjoyed cake and refreshments following the Mass.

Save the Dates



6th Annual Scrub Run 5K
September 12, 2018
Cazenovia Park, Buffalo

Race Start time - 6:45 p.m.
Register today at
scrubrun5K.itsyourrace.com

We are excited to announce
Nancy Sheehan, Catholic Health's Senior Vice President & Chief Legal Officer, will Chair the Scrub Run along with her Co-Chair **Aravind Herle, MD, Trinity Medical Cardiology**.

New this year!

*Fastest Elite Male and Female
will win \$200 Cash Prize!*

*Fastest Male and Female Catholic Health
Associate will win \$100 Cash Prize!*

Register as a team for fun prizes & compete against other departments [minimum of 4 people].

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10th Annual Autumn Ball
Friday, November 2, 2018
The Atrium @ Rich's
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

We are pleased to have
Bank on Buffalo President Martin T. Griffith
and his wife **Amy Jo** lead the way as
Chairs for this year's event, along with
Vice Chair **Maureen K. Athoe, President,
Space and Defense Group, Moog, Inc.**

For sponsorship and event information,
please contact **Christina Lapsley,**
Special Events Coordinator
by calling **716-706-2104,**
emailing clapsley@chsbuffalo.org
or visiting
www.chsbuffalo.org/giving/foundation/mercy.