

Momentum.

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation Newsletter

Volume 12 / Winter 2017

Mary Free Bed
Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1, 6-9 p.m.

A Mary Evening at Olive's
Fundraiser to support Mary Free Bed Betty Bloomer Ford Cancer Rehabilitation Program
Olive's Restaurant and Bar, East Grand Rapids

April 30-June 27

Fine Arts Exhibition

Sponsored by Mary Free Bed Guild

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital main lobby

May 9

Let Freedom Spring Luncheon

Table-hosted event

Proceeds benefit Mary Free Bed Annual Fund

Watermark Country Club

May 13

Fifth Third River Bank Run

25K Wheelchair and Handcycle Divisions

Sponsored by Mary Free Bed Guild and

Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports

Downtown Grand Rapids

June 3, 7 p.m.

Mid-Life Crisis Album Release Party

Proceeds benefit Mary Free Bed Pediatric Program

20 Monroe Live

June 5

2017 Golf Outing

Proceeds benefit Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports

Thousand Oaks Golf Club

WHAT'S NEW

MARY FREE BED CELEBRATES RE-OPENING OF HOSPITAL DESIGNED 'TO LIFT PATIENTS UP'

The grand re-opening of Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital was a "coming out party of sorts," said CEO Kent Riddle.

"This is a regeneration, a restorative renewal of the institution," Riddle said.

The October 13 celebration marked completion of the second phase of the hospital's \$66.4 million expansion and renovation project. The East Grand Rapids Drumline kicked off the event. It was attended by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, senators Peter MacGregor and Dave Hildenbrand, representatives Chris Afendoulis and Lisa Posthumus Lyons, Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss and Mary Free Bed Guild members, trustees, staff, patients and friends.

"For more than a century, Mary Free Bed has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the West Michigan community," Snyder said. "The outstanding doctors, nurses and therapists who work here have always provided outstanding service to their patients."

The event was marked by the unveiling of the new six-story addition's name: The Bernedine Keller & Barbara Hoffius Center. Bernedine, who served as president of the Mary Free Bed Guild from 1970 to 1973, passed away in 2011. Barbara was president of the Guild from 1973 to 1977; she died in 1996.

"During their tenures, Bernie Keller and Babs Hoffius made pivotal decisions that set the stage for our success today," Riddle said. "As we improve the futures of patients from Michigan and beyond, it's marvelous that it occurs in this specially designed building that bears their names."

Family members Dirk and Steve Hoffius as well as Fred Keller and his sister, Kathy Laidlaw, were there to see the unveiling of the building's name, complete with streamers shot from the rooftop.

Dirk Hoffius said his mother would be "overwhelmed, humbled and excited" to see the new campus.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony also included dedication of a time capsule celebrating Mary Free Bed's 125th anniversary of restoring hope and freedom through rehabilitation.

"When people enter our doors, I hope they sense immediately that this facility was designed to lift patients up – to inspire them and their families to positive action," Riddle said.

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The final phase of the project is under way and includes renovations that will house the new Meijer Conference Center and catering kitchen, hospital administration and other hospital support services. The Inn at Mary Free Bed will be enlarged from six to 22 rooms.



INSIDE MARY FREE BED

VANDY MOTIVATES, ENCOURAGES PATIENTS TO REACH THERAPY GOALS

Mary Free Bed has a (furry) new member of its therapy team.

Vandy is a two-year-old black Labrador retriever who will work directly with patients during therapy sessions. She is an Animal Assisted Intervention (AAI) Dog acquired by Mary Free Bed from Paws with a Cause, a national non-profit organization based in Wayland that trains assistance dogs.

Vandy is on the Recreational Therapy team managed by Maria Besta. Five members of that team are Vandy's handlers and will work in collaboration with other therapists for physical, occupational and speech therapy to meet specific treatment goals.

"Her sweet disposition will encourage patients to maximize their potential for functional outcomes," Besta said.

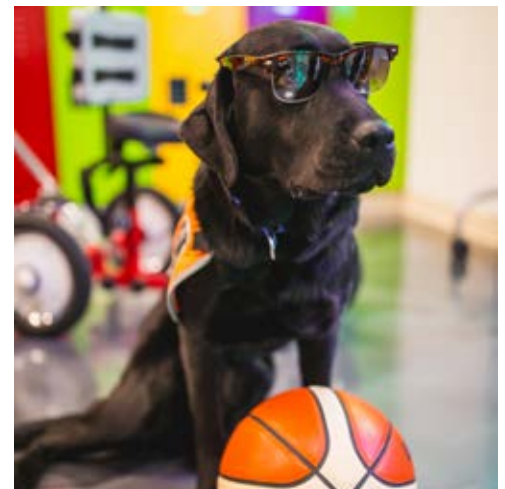
Paws field representatives have continued to provide support since Vandy arrived in November, reinforcing the training Vandy received to become an AAI dog and educating her Mary Free Bed team of handlers. Intensive training sessions have included dog handling, behavioral skills – Including specific commands – and how to appropriately utilize Vandy with patients.

She has been acclimating to her new role and recently began working with patients.

During evenings and weekends, Vandy goes home with her primary handler, Mike Burkhardt, and spends time going for walks in the neighborhood, relaxing, playing in the yard and spending time with Mike's wife, Megan.

As hard as her sweet face is to resist, Mary Free Bed employees and visitors are asked not to pet Vandy. She is working when she is on campus and should not be distracted.

"Sometimes her presence alone can lift the spirits of patients who need support to keep going," Besta said. "She plays cards with patients and motivates children to walk or to sit up independently. She's been a wonderful addition to our team."





WHEELCHAIR & ADAPTIVE SPORTS

New teams tap into growing interests

ADAPTIVE CHEERLEADING TEAM RALLIES FANS

The Mary Free Bed All Stars Adaptive Cheerleading team has passion and spirit in spades. The newest team organized by Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports (WAS) is made up of enthusiastic young athletes with physical or cognitive challenges that prevent participation in traditional cheer.

“A cheerleading team was a missing piece of our program, and it has fit in so well,” said coordinator Alicia Hass. “It is a program that is going to thrive and complement our other programs.”

The growing team began weekly practices in October and cheers at local WAS games and tournaments as well as some high school events.

Girls or boys 10 to 18 years old are welcome to join. During a typical practice, led by coach Kensey Heys and volunteer Kaitlyn Tindall, the team works to improve motor skills, develop cheer knowledge and work together as a team.

Fourteen-year-old Cheyenne Compton, who developed spastic diplegic cerebral palsy after being born prematurely, said she enjoys being part of the team: “It is fun and I have met new friends, too!”



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM JOINS PROGRAM ROSTER

Inspired by the popularity of the sport among female participants, WAS introduced its first all-women's wheelchair basketball team. Many of the seven active members also play for one of WAS' co-ed wheelchair basketball teams — the Junior and Adult Pacers or the Rollin' Drive.

“We've always had co-ed teams. This is our first season for a women's team, and we're eager to grow,” said Christy VanHaver, team coordinator.

The team is the 10th women's-only team to be rostered with the Wheelchair Basketball Association, a national organization that includes more than 200 teams. The rarity of all-women's organizations means that Mary Free Bed's team sometimes must compete in co-ed games.

The team played in the second annual Mary Free Bed Invitational basketball tournament in December at the Mary Free Bed YMCA. Players practice at the Y on Monday nights and frequently travel out-of-state to compete.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

GERBER FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS VISIT OUTPATIENT PEDIATRIC GYM

Members of the Gerber Foundation Board of Trustees visited Mary Free Bed for a first-hand look at its new and renovated facilities, including the Pediatric Therapy Gym, where a plaque is displayed in recognition of the foundation's generous \$250,000 gift to the "Join the Movement" capital campaign.

"We have the great fortune as a foundation to determine how we can impact our community, particularly to enhance the lives of the children who live here," said trustee Dr. Bill Bush, pediatrician-in-chief at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, who was instrumental in securing the donation from the Fremont-based foundation. "This is one of the rare capital campaigns we have donated to."

The Gerber Foundation typically focuses on initiatives in Lake, Muskegon, Newaygo and Oceana counties, he said. During Mary Free Bed's 2016 fiscal year, 463 pediatric patients from that four-county area were treated in either the inpatient or outpatient programs or in Orthotics & Prosthetics.



Gerber Foundation trustees who toured Mary Free Bed include, from left, Randy Puff, Barbara Ivens, Dr. Bill Bush, Nancy Nevin-Folino, Randall Dyk and Steve Poole.

"What Mary Free Bed can do for kids is so impactful," said Bush, noting he refers many patients from his Forest Hills Pediatrics practice as well as from Helen DeVos Children's Hospital to Mary Free Bed for rehabilitation.

Bush was joined by fellow trustees Randall Dyk, Nancy Nevin-Folino, Steve Poole, Randy Puff and President Barbara Ivens on the tour. The full board later held its quarterly meeting on campus.

MARY FREE BED MOMENT

'HALLOWEEN FOR THE REST OF US' A TREAT FOR YOUNG PATIENTS

Chris and Jane Weatherford have transformed their 9-year-old son Cam's wheelchair into a spaceship, race car, fire engine, school bus and a tank for Halloween. They've been touched by Cam's joy when he feels "just like the other kids in costumes." In October, the Weatherfords led a team of volunteers who made the same thing happen for young Mary Free Bed patients who use wheelchairs with the inaugural "Halloween for the Rest of Us."

"So many individuals came together to be inspired by each other and kids they had never met," said Jane Weatherford, whose friend, Molly Krauss, is a Mary Free Bed Guild member who helped spearhead the event.

Mary Free Bed and the Weatherfords teamed with Grand Valley State University engineering students, Owen-Ames-Kimball commercial construction company, the Grand Rapids Police Department and various community volunteers to organize the October 29 parade.

Dozens of children in decorated wheelchairs were accompanied by volunteers, family and friends as they paraded around the Mary Free Bed campus on a sunny and warm fall afternoon. The parade was led by the Forest Hills Central High School pep band and included a friendly dragon, a pony, Aladdin and his lamp, a dinosaur, two Batmen and Chase from PAW Patrol.

Cam, who has cerebral palsy and uses a power wheelchair, was dressed as a GRPD SWAT officer, and his "car" was complete with lights and sirens. He served as parade grand marshal. The GRPD stationed its armed response vehicle at the Mary Free Bed entrance as a surprise for Cam and the children when they returned from the parade route.

"It was the best day," Cam said.



Cam Weatherford, flanked by his parents, dressed as a Grand Rapids Police Department officer and served as grand marshal of the Halloween for the Rest of Us parade.

STORIES THAT MOVE YOU

O'TOOLE'S LEGACY LIVES ON IN ARTWORK DONATED TO MARY FREE BED

Pat Seanor met Larry O'Toole in 1969, when they were students at Grand Rapids Junior College. The young, aspiring artists struck up a friendship that continued until Larry's death in 1986 following a lifelong struggle with rheumatoid arthritis. Larry was just 34 when he died, but his legacy is preserved in his large scope of work, much of which now graces the hallways of Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital where he once was a patient.

"His artwork was very intellectual – he studied the concepts he was trying to present," said Seanor, who often helped O'Toole with tasks such as stretching canvases. "He was highly skilled at applying paint – there was no random application. Everything was intentional."

His work, almost exclusively acrylic on paper or canvas, was regularly displayed at local art



Pat Seanor, second from left, donated his collection of artwork by Larry O'Toole.

galleries and exhibitions, including Festival of the Arts.

Seanor helped O'Toole's mother, Lois Whitmore, catalog the collection of works and "in doing so, we became even closer." After her death in 2010, Seanor discovered she had willed his prolific art collection to him for which she hoped he would find a home. He worked with Guild members

Susan Bloss and Sue Stekettee to donate the nearly 200 works to Mary Free Bed.

"I wanted to keep the body of work together," Seanor said. "This is the kind of thing Larry deserves."

Darrow Goodspeed, Major Gifts and Donor Relations director, called the gift very generous: "We are thrilled to have this collection and the ability to display the work of Mr. O'Toole at Mary Free Bed, continuing his legacy in this community."



GUILD HIGHLIGHTS

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME INDUCTS GUILD

The Mary Free Bed Guild has been inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, which promotes women's equality by honoring their history and celebrating their accomplishments. The honor capped the Guild's 125th anniversary celebration.

The inspiring induction ceremony on October 19 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing was attended by 18 members of the Guild as well as hospital administrators there to celebrate the occasion.

"We are humbled by this honor and inspired by the stories of our fellow inductees," said Guild President Carol Springer. "With heartfelt vision, the 120 women of our Guild will continue to provide leading-edge rehabilitation services and create a community where children and adults, regardless of their abilities, enjoy activities and camaraderie."



Each year, the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame inducts five contemporary and five historical nominees into the Hall. The Guild was selected for its work to help those in need of health care. The Guild was founded in 1891 when a small group of Grand Rapids women established an endowed bed to help those with limited resources pay for health care. They passed a purse and asked anyone named Mary, or anyone who knew someone named Mary, to donate a dime. It was the most common female name then, and donations supported the first "Mary free bed" at a local hospital.

Today, the Guild governs the fifth-largest independent rehabilitation hospital in the country.



REHA!BILITATION GALA GARNERS LAUGHTER



Bruce and Candace Matthews Family



Bob and Cyndi Kamps with her parents, Nita Anne and Quentin Luidens



Michael and Glynn Ann Ruggeri

More than 850 people donned ties or heels to help Mary Free Bed celebrate its 125th anniversary at the ReHA!bilitation Gala November 5 at DeVos Place in downtown Grand Rapids. The third annual event raised \$113,000 for the Mary Free Bed Foundation to support the Charitable Care Fund, as well as numerous specialized hospital programs, including pediatric, spinal cord injury, brain injury and cancer rehabilitation.

Guests feasted on delectable dishes, had their picture taken in a fun photo booth, met special patients Josie Hull and Jerrensia Kroll, and enjoyed a comedy performance by Emmy Award-winning entertainer Craig Ferguson.





Jerrensia Kroll



Betsy Ehmann, Valerie Wallace and Vicky Schmidt with Craig Ferguson



David and Leah Muir, Patrick and Cheri Reid



Kate Pew Wolters, Lisa and Adam Harris



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A Mary Evening at Olive's

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 | 6-9 P.M.

Please join us for an evening of
eating and drinking with
celebrity bartenders Kent Riddle
and Mary Free Bed Foundation
staff at Olive's.

**Olive's will donate 20 percent
of its sales to support
Mary Free Bed's
Betty Bloomer Ford
Cancer Rehabilitation
Program.**



A MARY TOUR

UPCOMING TOUR DATES

Join us for a tour of Mary Free Bed
Rehabilitation Hospital!

8:30 a.m. March 14, May 16, July 11

11 a.m. April 11, June 13, Aug. 16

Space is limited, and reservations
are required. Please contact
Sydne Di Cesare at 616.840.8137
or foundation@maryfreebed.com.