

# Momentum.

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation Newsletter

Volume 29 / Winter 2023

Mary Free Bed<sup>®</sup>  
Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 3 | 12 p.m.**  
**Let Freedom Spring Luncheon**  
**Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park**  
*Benefitting Mary's Mission*

**May 13**  
**Amway River Bank Run 25k**  
**Wheelchair & Handcycle Divisions**  
*Sponsored by the Mary Free Bed Guild Downtown Grand Rapids*

**June 5**  
**Mary Free Bed Open**  
**Thousand Oaks Golf Club**  
*Benefitting Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports*

## WHAT'S NEW

### MARY FREE BED THRIVE GALA RAISES \$240,000 TO SUPPORT ORTHOTICS & PROSTHETICS + BIONICS

The Mary Free Bed Foundation's ninth annual Thrive gala was held on November 5. The Roaring 20s-themed celebration kept Mary Free Bed friends, volunteers and supporters doing the Charleston well into the night.

This year, Thrive benefited the Mary Free Bed Orthotics & Prosthetics + Bionics (O&P+B) program which serves hundreds of patients at eight locations across the state of Michigan.

Jordan Carson, WOOD TV8, eightWest co-host and Live Local-Give Local director, emceed the event. Mary Free Bed's CEO, Kent Riddle, showcased some of Mary Free Bed's O&P+B successes and expressed gratitude for community leaders and healthcare organizations that wholeheartedly provide care throughout West Michigan.

In a moving introduction, Mary Free Bed O&P+B patient, Pam Buschle, shared her story. Nine years ago, Pam developed sepsis and, as a result, had all four limbs amputated to save her life.

Pam thanked her Mary Free Bed care team for believing that she would be able to live life to the fullest again, saying, "Their work gives people freedom and independence that once seemed impossible."

At the end of the night, guests answered the call by exceeding the \$40,000 challenge match supported by CareLinc, Dave and Carol Burgess, and an anonymous donor.



Scan the QR code to hear Pam's story.

To make a gift in support of Mary Free Bed's Orthotics & Prosthetics + Bionics program, visit [maryfreebed.com/foundation](https://maryfreebed.com/foundation).



# THANK YOU, THRIVE SPONSORS!



## EXCLUSIVE LEVELS

### AFTERGLOW PARTY

The Steve & Amy Van Anandel Foundation

### BAR

Pet Supplies Plus

### ENTERTAINMENT

Merrill Lynch – a Bank of America Company

### PHOTO BOOTH

CareLinc

### ELITE SPONSOR RECEPTION

Buist Electric

### TECHNOLOGY

Trace 3

### WOW MOMENT

Bradley and Jennifer Taylor

### THE CAT'S MEOW

Miller Johnson Attorneys

### THE BEE'S KNEES

Dave and Carol Burgess

Spectrum Health

Take His Hand Foundation

Kate Pew Wolters

### THE BERRIES

Anonymous

Ken Betz and Pat Brewer

Carter Products Company

Covenant Healthcare

Custer & Steelcase

Fifth Third Bank

Growtrust Partners

Hy & Greta Berkowitz Foundation

Interphase Interiors/Haworth

Mike and Sue Jandernoa

Lighthouse, an Alera Group Co.

Mary Free Bed Guild

Meijer

MFB Friends in Douglas

Kent and Susan Riddle

Trane

The 13 Fund

Trinity Health - Saint Mary's

University of Michigan Health - West

USI

Varnum, LLP

### THE CHARLESTON

Pam and Marty Buschle

Ingrid and Don Cheslek

Christman Company

Dan Vos Construction

Diekema Hamann Architecture & Engineering

Ellis Parking Company

Enviah

Happy Fox Family

Grand Valley State University

Granger Construction

Nate and Valerie Guzman & Ryan and Jessica Podvin

J.C. & Tammy Huizenga

Lake Michigan Credit Union

Life EMS Ambulance

Ossur Prosthetics

Paylocity

Vic and Delene Reister

Scott and Liz Riddle

Sinas Dramis Law Firm

SPS

Wendy Stock

WOOD TV8

### SPEAKEASY

Cascade Engineering

Commerce Bank

Gregory and Amy Conway

Coverys Community Healthcare Foundation

Robert and Lois De Boer

Dickinson Wright

Extra Credit Projects

Bill and Kay Farr

Green with NV

Win and Kyle Irwin

Jim and Amy Keane

Fred Keller and Katharine Conover-Keller

Kennari Consulting

Kmotion Design, Inc.

Labeltape, Inc.

Tim and Ping Liang

OPIE Software

Orthomerica

Ottobock

Plante Moran

PrestoTech

Spence Brothers

## PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

### BANDING TOGETHER TO RESTORE HOPE AND FREEDOM

Mary Free Bed has a long-standing partnership with Lake Michigan Credit Union. LMCU's contributions have supported numerous critical programs such as Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports, Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and Mary's Mission.

November marked the return of the credit union's Band Together fundraising campaign. LMCU members, staff and communities donated to pediatric programs in 17 hospitals across Michigan and Florida. Following this year's campaign, LMCU supported Mary Free Bed with a gift of \$6,500.

**"LMCU has longstanding partnerships with several health care organizations that provide critical care for children in the communities we serve. We are grateful to Mary Free Bed for the special role they play in restoring hope and freedom on kids' rehabilitation journeys. Along with our employees and members, we are excited to support their work through Band Together!"**

- Matt Cook, LMCU Vice President of Community Relations.

Lake Michigan Credit Union is a home-grown business. Started in 1933 in the depression-era home of Lloyd F. Hutt, it began as Grand Rapids Teacher's Credit Union with just 13 teachers. Today, LMCU has nearly 550,000 members throughout Michigan and Florida.

## Inside Mary Free Bed



### MATTHEW FITZPATRICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND AWARDS SECOND YEAR OF SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2020, Matt Fitzpatrick's family established the Matthew Fitzpatrick Memorial Scholarship Fund. Matt, a beloved former employee of Mary Free Bed, passed away in 2019. The fund provides financial support to Mary Free Bed employees to further their educational goals.

This year, the fund awarded a scholarship to two outstanding Mary Free Bed team members. The 2022 scholarship recipients are Katherine Arraut, RN, who currently serves on our Resource Team, and Alicia Meylan, who is a physical therapist assistant with Mary Free Bed at Covenant HealthCare. Both Katherine and Alicia are furthering their education at Michigan universities.

Every one of this year's applicants were outstanding candidates, and it was a difficult decision for the selection committee to make. Katherine and Alicia truly exemplify Matt's personal values of service above self, support of diversity and inclusion, high academic standards and work ethic.

# MARY MOMENTS



## MARY FREE BED BRINGS HALLOWEEN TO THE HOSPITAL FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

This year's Halloween event at Mary Free Bed was an eerie-sistable success! The Mary Free Bed Kids inpatient team transformed the hospital's outdoor therapy garden into the "Mary Cemetery." The haunted "scare-apy" garden was filled with smiles and screams to those who dared to enter.

In true trunk-or-treat style, staff and community members 'dressed up' over 30 cars — filling them with decorations and treats for both the kids and "kids at heart." This event was made possible with support from the Mary Free Bed Guild and the Mary Free Bed Foundation. A special note of thanks goes to SpartanNash for generously donating the donut and coffee bar for patients and their families.

## MARY & BRITE LIFTS HEARTS AND SPIRITS

The holidays were once again Mary & Brite on the Main Campus thanks to Mary Free Bed staff and community. This treasured annual event brings the holiday magic to the hospital. Patients and loved ones walk or wheel through impressive light displays in the Margaret G. Bertsch Therapy Garden. Mary Free Bed's recreational therapy team made sure it was a night full of smiles and wonder with holiday music and hot cocoa.

Thank you to our generous Mary & Brite sponsors, Eastbrook Homes, John R. Bertsch and Georgia Scott. Their generosity helped ensure Mary Free Bed could provide a truly special event this season.



## PATIENTS AND STAFF RECEIVE VISIT FROM USS GERALD R. FORD SAILORS

In September, Mary Free Bed welcomed 11 U.S. Navy sailors who are assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78). The active service men and women paid their respects to veteran staff and patients while getting to know more about their ship's namesake and his hometown.

The connection between the Ford family and Mary Free Bed goes beyond their visit. The Mary Free Bed Betty Bloomer Ford Cancer Rehabilitation Program was named in honor of President Ford's wife, recognizing her courageous battle with cancer. The former First Lady and her mother, Hortense Neahr Bloomer, both held leadership positions on the Mary Free Bed Guild.



## MARY FREE BED FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW ANNUAL FUND DIRECTOR



Maggie Smitt joined the Mary Free Bed Foundation team in October as the annual fund director. In this position, Maggie helps inspire our

community and creates opportunities for others to support our mission — including Let Freedom Spring, Thrive and the publication of *Momentum*.

Maggie joins the team with over five years of development and donor relations experience from her previous roles at John Ball Zoo and Cherry Health Foundation.

Maggie looks forward to building relationships with the steadfast supporters of Mary Free Bed and working together to provide resources to our patients and their families at every point of their rehabilitation journey.

A special congratulations to Jocelyn Dettloff who transitioned into the major gifts director role in August. She previously served eight transformational years as the Foundation's annual fund director.



## BREAKFAST WITH THE CEO

On October 19, over 100 supporters and community leaders started their day with Mary Free Bed's CEO, Kent Riddle. Guests joined both virtually and in person as Kent shared his vision for the future of rehabilitation services, opportunities for growth and exciting news about upcoming projects.

## START THE YEAR OFF CONFIDENTLY WITH FREEWILL

One smart and simple way to get 2023 started with peace of mind is by creating a will with our partner, FreeWill. Having a legally-valid will in place helps to:

- **Ensure your family, friends and pets are provided for.**
- **Exercise agency over the important decisions in your life.**
- **Restore hope and freedom through rehabilitation in 2023 and beyond.**

Whether you choose to leave a planned gift to Mary Free Bed or not, FreeWill is free and easy to use. And we're thrilled to share it with you either way. You can also use the tools to start planning your will before visiting an attorney if you have more complex needs. Get started on your legacy today at [FreeWill.com/maryfreebed](https://FreeWill.com/maryfreebed).

If you are one of our generous supporters who has already included a gift to Mary Free Bed in your estate plans, please

let us know so we can share our appreciation and update our records.

For questions or more information, contact Brad Kaufmann, director of planned giving, at [brad.kaufmann@maryfreebed.com](mailto:brad.kaufmann@maryfreebed.com).

## WHEELCHAIR & ADAPTIVE SPORTS



### PICKLEBALL LEGEND VISITS

Pickleball, the fastest growing sport in the world, has made its way to wheelchair and adaptive sports athletes in Grand Rapids.

On October 10, World Pickleball Day, a sports legend paid a visit to Grand Rapids to lead an adaptive pickleball clinic with Mary Free Bed for athletes with disabilities. Seymour

Rifkind, or just 'Rif,' is president and founder of the International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association and president of the Pickleball Hall of Fame. He surprised the Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports team with 40 paddles and 100 pickleballs generously donated by Michigan-based business, Paddletek, a premier paddle manufacturer. Court time for the adaptive pickleball clinic was donated by MVP Crahen.

In partnership with the Grand Rapids Pickleball Club, Mary Free Bed WAS currently hosts a wheelchair pickleball series. The program welcomes new and seasoned players alike. Participants ages 15 and up with a physical and or cognitive disability can join free of charge. For more information, contact sports coordinator, Molly McKinney, at [molly.mckinney@maryfreebed.com](mailto:molly.mckinney@maryfreebed.com) or 616.840.8538.



### PICKLEBALL FOR ALL

The Mary Free Bed Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports program is seeking funds to help launch a competitive wheelchair pickleball team that would require hiring a paid coach and traveling nationally for competition. To learn how you can make a difference, please contact development director, Laura Dulay at [laura.dulay@maryfreebed.com](mailto:laura.dulay@maryfreebed.com) or by phone at 616.840.8729.

## AMONG THE NATION'S BEST



### MARY FREE BED RECOGNIZED BY NEWSWEEK AND U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

For the third straight year, Mary Free bed has been recognized as one of America's Best Physical Rehabilitation Centers by *Newsweek* health care analysts. Mary Free Bed ranked 1st among Michigan rehabilitation facilities and 11th nationally.



Additionally, *U.S. News & World Report* released its annual list of Best Hospitals for Rehabilitation, and Mary Free Bed was again rated one of the nation's top providers for the second year in a row. Of the 799 rehabilitation organizations evaluated by U.S. News health care analysts, Mary Free Bed is #17 in the United States.

**Scan the QR code to read more.**

### A DECADE OF SUCCESS

The Mary Free Bed Foundation celebrated its 10th anniversary in October and couldn't be more grateful to our donors for their support of our mission.

When the Foundation was created in 2012, Mary Free Bed had just 46 beds in 23 "double" rooms. While our teams and services were top notch, we knew we had the ability to do so much more — which would only be possible through philanthropic support.

Together we've...

- Secured millions of dollars to create new programs and services, build and improve facilities, and bring top clinicians and providers to our teams.
- Given hundreds of thousands of dollars in charitable care and support.
- Established a network of care across Michigan and into other Midwestern states.
- Expanded our inpatient capacity to 167 beds – each in their own private room.
- Expanded the Inn at Mary Ives Hunting Center so more patients and families visiting from outside Grand Rapids have a comforting, affordable and safe place to stay.
- Created Mary Free Bed at Covenant in Saginaw, complete with a new state-of-the-art facility to care for patients on the east side of the state.

Thank you for making our mission of restoring hope and freedom a reality. Here's to the next ten years and beyond!

## GIFTS & GRANTS

The Mary Free Bed Foundation is grateful for the significant support from the following generous donors and organizations.

- Alden and Vada Dow Family Foundation
- Baldwin Foundation
- Comstock Park Rotary
- Craig H. Neilsen Foundation
- Eastbrook Homes, Inc.
- Frey Foundation
- The Gerber Foundation
- Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- Linn Maxwell Keller Fund
- Sligh Memorial Fund
- Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation
- Michigan Arts and Culture Council
- National Endowment for the Arts
- National Garden Bureau
- United States Tennis Association Midwest
- West Michigan Works

# Mary Free Bed

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maryfreebed.com

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**Kelly Fitzgerald**

Senior Administrative Assistant

**Darrow Goodspeed**

Major Gifts and Donor Relations Director

**Brad Kaufmann**

Director of Planned Giving

**Ashley Koop**

Event Planner

**Maggie Smitt**

Annual Fund Director

## WISH LIST

The Mary Free Bed Foundation often receives requests for specialized equipment and technology to help patients during their rehabilitation journey. If you'd like to fulfill a wish, please contact Darrow Goodspeed at 616.840.8196 or [darrow.goodspeed@maryfreebed.com](mailto:darrow.goodspeed@maryfreebed.com).

### MobileMat Platform with FootMat Software

Used in the Mary Free Bed Motion Analysis Lab, this advanced pressure-mapping system will help us analyze and treat patients diagnosed with cerebral palsy, brain injury, stroke, multi-trauma and spina bifida. *(\$8,700)*

### Freedom Concepts Adaptive Bike

Adaptive bikes help patients get back into the familiar feeling of being independent and mobile while ensuring a stable, safe cycling experience. As part of recreational therapy, biking is a low-stress activity that reduces joint pain, improves hand-eye coordination and provides beneficial cardiovascular exercise in and around the hospital. *(\$4,400)*

### Ocutech Image Minifiers

The Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ABVI) supports people with visual field constriction, but currently has no viable field expanders. These devices can be held up to the eye or mounted to eyeglasses – effectively doubling the field of vision for people with constricted vision. *(\$225)*

### Lee Montgomery Athlete Assistance Fund (LMAAF)

In the spirit and honor of Coach Lee, the goal of this fund is to give all individuals an opportunity to become the best athletes they can be, both on and off the field of play. A gift to support the LMAAF enables new athletes to explore the world of wheelchair and adaptive sports. It can also help seasoned athletes achieve next-level sports opportunities.

Athletes can request up to \$1,000 in assistance. Funds can help alleviate the costs of joining a Mary Free Bed WAS team, participating in Paralympic or junior national sports team tryouts, or attending the Mary Free Bed Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp.

*(Any amount is appreciated.)*

