



UPCOMING EVENTS

Through Oct. 9

ArtPrize

*Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital
Main entrance lobby*

Oct. 13

Grand Re-opening

*Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital
Main entrance lobby, 10:30 a.m.*

Nov. 5

*Mary Free Bed Foundation Gala
125th Anniversary Celebration
featuring comedian Craig Ferguson
DeVos Place*

Nov. 5-6

Keep Up the Pace

*Jr. Pacers Wheelchair Basketball Tournament
Mary Free Bed YMCA*

WHAT'S NEW

HARD HAT TOUR DRAWS RAVE REVIEWS OF RENOVATIONS; HEALING GARDENS PROJECT TAKES SHAPE

When Kellie Hetler attended the Mary Free Bed Foundation's sneak peek at the newly remodeled main hospital building, she was moved to tears.

Kellie's daughter, Gabby, was born with congenital skeletal dysplasia, an upper extremity limb difference. Little Gabby has been working hard with her therapists at Mary Free Bed since she was just a few months old and has made significant gains in the year since.

"Seeing the new space not only makes us excited for her team that we lovingly know as friends, but it also gives us hope that it will energize everyone around us, giving them the tools they need to help our little lady excel even more," Kellie said.

Kellie organized a fundraiser in June for Mary Free Bed's Center for Limb Differences that included a special screening of Disney Pixar's "Finding Dory" - in the film, Dory's friend, Nemo, was born with a "lucky fin" and is a special character to children with limb differences. The event raised \$2,000.



Paul Farr, left, Dr. Michael Jakubowski, John and Gail Evans, and John Canepa are among those who attended the VIP Hard Hat tour.

Kellie was one of about 150 donors and friends at the foundation's Aug. 18 VIP Hard Hat Tour of the renovated facility, including the new main lobby, Outpatient Services and two new therapy pools. The renovations are part of the hospital's \$66.4 million expansion and renovation project.

"Walking through the newly decorated halls brought tears to my eyes knowing that every inch was considered with families like ours in mind," Kellie said.

The event celebrated the success of Mary Free Bed's "Join the Movement" capital campaign, which exceeded its \$16 million goal by \$1 million. The campaign was generously supported by nearly 500 donors.

A grand re-opening of the space is planned for Oct. 13. The 10:30 a.m. event will be attended by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Visitors will be greeted by a beautiful garden area outside the main entrance, part of the new Therapeutic Healing Gardens project designed to maximize healing.

"A garden is more than just pretty landscaping," said Darrow Goodspeed, the foundation's capital campaign director. "Each element is chosen to positively impact the physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs of patients, family and friends.

"The garden provides a place for patients and families alike to reconnect with the healing power of the natural world. It's a reminder that life awaits, and renewal can happen."

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The foundation's Therapeutic Healing Gardens project encompasses six outdoor spaces around the hospital that will either be newly created or vastly improved with plants, paths and tranquil spaces.

"We are so grateful for the support of our donors and hope they will continue to invest in our mission by considering sponsorship of part or all of one of these Therapeutic Healing Gardens," Darrow said.

Plaque recognition will be available for gifts of \$25,000 or more.



Judy Palmer, Kellie Hetler and her daughter, Gabby, and Ann Debes



John Bickner, Emily and Tim Arter

Therapeutic Healing Gardens

Circle Garden – The main entrance garden makes a powerful statement about the importance of nature in a healing environment. Space will provide respite with some one-on-one therapy. *Estimated cost of completion: \$136,000*

West Courtyard Garden – Tucked between the main entrance and new West Building, this garden creates space for patients and visitors to enjoy. Will provide social and therapeutic benefits with focus on recreation therapy and gardening. *Estimated cost of completion: \$159,000*

Pediatric Therapy Playground – Secure space for our youngest patients to re-engage with the outdoors and step, climb and conquer obstacles. *Committed*

Therapath Garden – The largest garden anchors a prominent corner of campus. Designed for patients and visitors, this space serves as a customized mobility course. It will be garden of hope, a reminder there is life full of meaning and purpose beyond rehabilitation. *Estimated cost of completion: \$145,000*

North Garden – Located between Mercy Health Saint Mary's outdoor cafeteria seating area and Mary Free Bed. New outdoor venue for patient therapy, for visitors and patients to rediscover joy of outdoor recreation. *Estimated cost of completion: \$202,000*

Conference Center Garden – Directly south of the soon-to-be constructed Conference Center inside the Professional Building on Lafayette Street. Will convey Mary Free Bed healing experience to visitors attending events. *Estimated cost of completion: \$165,000*

Lafayette Front Garden – In front of the Professional Building, this garden will expand green space and provide a warm welcome. *Estimated cost of completion: \$175,000*

Please contact Darrow Goodspeed at darrow.goodspeed@maryfreebed.com for further information.

INSIDE MARY FREE BED



NEW PEDIATRIC INPATIENT UNIT OPENS

Mary Free Bed's youngest patients have moved into a new home in the beautifully renovated Pediatric Inpatient unit. The secure unit is staffed with medical, nursing and therapy specialists dedicated to meeting the rehabilitation needs of children and adolescents.

"It is an environment designed to meet the unique needs of this population, including separate treatment, play and social spaces for very young children, school-aged children and adolescents," said Jackie Bultman, director of rehabilitation for the inpatient pediatric program.

"We believe that it makes a tremendous difference in the rehabilitation experience when kids have a peer group of other kids with similar conditions. The peer support opportunities are amazing and can lead to friendships that continue long after returning home."

The unit, housed on the third floor of the main building, has 11 private rooms, a large therapy gym, age-appropriate social spaces, treatment rooms and a procedure room. The specialized areas offer space for physical, occupational, recreational and speech therapy, as well as child life activities.

Five additional rooms for pediatric patients will be completed sometime this winter, Jackie said.

Access to the pediatric unit is granted only to specific staff and parents for safety purposes. Visitors are instructed to check in at the West Building Information Desk for access.

The new unit is part of Mary Free Bed's transformative renovation project that targets nearly 200,000 square feet in the existing main and professional buildings. The pediatric unit moved from its temporary location in the adjacent West Building in August.

Families will continue to have access to the solarium, terrace, vending and laundry spaces in the West Building.



WHEELCHAIR & ADAPTIVE SPORTS

Jr. Wheelchair Sports Camp gives campers ‘that time to grow’

More than 50 campers with disabilities participated in Mary Free Bed’s Jr. Wheelchair Sports Camp July 25-29 at Grand Valley State University in Allendale. The free annual event offers kids of all ability levels and ages the opportunity to share in the camaraderie and competition of sports.

Organized by Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports, the event is staffed by dozens of volunteers and instructors.

“When I was a camper, they were here for me,” said Charles McDonald, a former camper who served as an instructor this year. “I’m here for them now, to show them that love, show them that respect, give them that patience, give them that time to grow.”

The program, which also included a water fight with the Allendale Fire Department and a dance, was attended by campers ages 7 to 18 from across Michigan, Indiana and Illinois.

“The whole point of camp is to let kids know they can participate in the same sports and go to the same kind of camps that all of their able-bodied friends can,” said Maria Besta, manager of Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

STEELE AND MARY TAYLOR

Steele and Mary Taylor are long-time advocates of Mary Free Bed and have made substantial contributions over the years that have helped thousands of patients achieve independence.

Steele served as a member of the first community Mary Free Bed Board of Trustees when it was formed in 1965 and led fundraising efforts for construction of the new hospital building that opened in 1976. He also was the first male chairperson of the Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Trustees (formerly the Brace Shop) from 1989 to 1992.

In recognition of his efforts, Steele was named an Honorary Member of the Mary Free Bed Guild – the only man to ever receive the honor.



Steele and Mary Taylor, with Darrow Goodspeed, the foundation's capital campaign director

The Taylors, strong supporters of several community organizations, generously donated to Mary Free Bed's "Join the Movement" capital campaign. Their contribution is being recognized with a plaque to be installed in the Orthotics & Prosthetics department.

"In filling such a need in our community," Steele and Mary said in a statement, "Mary Free Bed's expertise in rehabilitation benefits so many people who otherwise couldn't experience this process."

STORIES THAT MOVE YOU

HAMZAH AL-DAENI: 'I WANT TO HELP ... OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEED'

On April 28, 2008, just before his fifth birthday, Hamzah Al-Daeni was playing in his yard in Baghdad, Iraq, when a U.S. missile struck nearby. He was hit by shrapnel and injured so severely that he lost part of his stomach, and his right leg and hip joint had to be amputated.

Two years later, traveling with his father, Hamzah came to Grand Rapids for medical treatment and was fitted with a prosthetic leg. Healing Children of Conflict, a local nonprofit organization, arranged each of the trips and worked with Mary Free Bed to provide Hamzah with expert care.

Hamzah has returned to Grand Rapids twice since then, most recently in June, to be fitted for a new prosthetic to better support his growing body. He once again worked with prosthetist Mark Bennett, who fit Hamzah with his third prosthetic design.

"It has been my pleasure to work with this young man and his father, learning about their culture and daily life," Mark said. "During their visits, they appear to have



such a positive outlook. Hopefully, I will continue to work with Hamzah when he returns next."

Hamzah said he and his family are thankful for the help they have received in Grand Rapids and are hopeful for the future.

"I hope that I will be able to go to college and finish my education," Hamzah said through a translator. "I want to repay ... to help in the future other people who are in need."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

BRYAN BARTEN

REPRESENTING U.S. AT PARALYMPICS AN 'UNBELIEVEABLE EXPERIENCE'

Bryan Barten is one of the best wheelchair tennis players in the world, but he doesn't remember holding a racket before being injured in an April 1995 car accident. He was a passenger in a vehicle that crashed, injuring his spinal cord.

Following the accident, Bryan, now 42, spent two weeks in intensive care before going to Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital. Entering very weak, Bryan spent four months working with therapists to regain strength, both physically and mentally.



"It takes a lot of people behind you, in every area," said Bryan, a Hart, Mich., native.

By August, Bryan was ready to return to Michigan State University, where he was a student. He used to pass the time playing sports, so he tried a few adaptive sports, including tennis.

"I never really played tennis, so that's what made it so fun," he said. "It made a huge difference for me, because I could identify myself as an athlete. I see myself as an athlete."

With this newfound love, Bryan decided to change his path and focus on collegiate-level tennis, transferring to the University of Arizona in Tucson. "That's where I played a lot, so much that I got really good at it."

So good, in fact, that Bryan represented the United States in the 2016 Paralympic Games,

recently returning from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He also participated in the 2012 Paralympics in London. While he didn't medal, Bryan called the experience "unbelievable."

"It's just amazing to be able to represent your country," said Bryan, who lives in Tucson. He coaches the wheelchair tennis and rugby teams at the University of Arizona as part of its Adaptive Athletic Program, the same program that helped him hone his skills.

IN BRIEF



Julie Ridenour honored for support of Mary Free Bed Foundation

The room was packed at Thousand Oaks on June 16 for the seventh annual Charity Healthcare Gala hosted by John and Marie Canepa, and Dave and Linda Mehney. Longtime Mary Free Bed Guild member Julie Ridenour was honored for her outstanding service and dedication to Mary Free Bed. The Mary Free Bed Foundation was chosen to receive proceeds from the event. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and attendees, the event raised more than \$30,000 to help restore hope and freedom to patients and their families.

Mary Free Bed earns PProof award

The Mary Free Bed Foundation's newsletter, "Momentum," was honored with a Silver PProof Award by the West Michigan Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. The organization recognizes public relations professionals, agencies and corporate communications teams each year.



Entertainer Craig Ferguson to headline ReHA!Bilitation Gala

The Mary Free Bed Foundation is celebrating 125 years of Mary on Nov. 5 at the ReHA!bilitation Gala featuring entertainer Craig Ferguson at DeVos Place in downtown Grand Rapids. Tickets are on sale now.

Ferguson, who was born in Glasgow, Scotland, boasts a diverse and eclectic career that encompasses film, television and stage. He was nominated for an Emmy Award during his 10-year run as host of CBS's "The Late Late Show" and won an Emmy for Outstanding Game Show Host for "Celebrity Name Game." He's well-known for playing Nigel Wick on "The Drew Carey Show" from 1996 to 2003. In 2015, his stand-up comedy special "Craig Ferguson: Just Being Honest" was nominated for a Grammy for Best Comedy Album.

The foundation is celebrating the third anniversary of the benefit gala, which helps support Mary Free Bed's mission to restore hope and freedom through rehabilitation. The Gala is the foundation's premiere fundraising event. Proceeds support program expansion as well as the Charitable Care Fund.

The "ties and heels" event begins at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., followed by the program at 8 p.m.

Individual tickets are \$250 per person; event sponsorship also is available. To purchase tickets, reserve a sponsorship or for additional information, please contact Sydne Di Cesare at 616.840.3137 or foundation@maryfreebed.com, or visit www.maryfreebed.com/gala. The deadline to purchase tickets is Oct. 22.

GUILD HIGHLIGHTS

For 125 years, the women of the Mary Free Bed Guild have maintained the hospital's nurturing culture of restoring hope and freedom through rehabilitation.

To mark the significant anniversary of its unique history and vision, the Guild is celebrating with events throughout the year, including its "Zoobilation" party at John Ball Zoo, which also is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, and a Grand Rapids Symphony Picnic Pops concert for employees. The Guild also sponsored the annual Fourth of July celebration in East Grand Rapids - the city also is marking its 125th anniversary.



Mary Free Bed employees and friends participated in East Grand Rapids' Fourth of July parade, which featured continuum patient Pam Buschle as grand marshal.



To celebrate its 125th anniversary, the Mary Free Bed Guild hosted a "Zoobilation" party at John Ball Zoo for employees to celebrate its 125th anniversary (top images), as well as the Beach Boys-themed Grand Rapids Symphony Picnic Pops concert.

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To be removed from our mailing list,
please call 616.840.8137.

A MARY TOUR

UPCOMING TOUR DATES

Tuesday, Oct. 1111 a.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 158:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 1811 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 1411 a.m.

Join us for a tour of Mary Free Bed, including our West Building
and renovations. Space is limited, and reservations are required. Please contact
Sydne Di Cesare at 616.840.3137 or foundation@maryfreebed.com.