

Momentum.

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation Newsletter

Volume 20 / Fall 2019

Mary Free Bed[®]
Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation



UPCOMING EVENTS



Oct. 26
Halloween Heroes Parade
Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital

Nov. 23-24
Keep Up the Pace Junior Pacers Wheelchair Basketball Tournament
Mary Free Bed YMCA, 5500 Burton St. SE

Dec. 7-8
Mary Free Bed Invitational Adult Wheelchair Basketball Tournament
Mary Free Bed YMCA, 5500 Burton St. SE

WHAT'S NEW

CELEBRATE REHABILITATION AND THRIVE AT MARY FREE BED GALA

The Mary Free Bed Foundation will host Thrive, A Rehabilitation Celebration on Nov. 2 at DeVos Place. The sixth annual gala will raise funds to help restore as much independence as possible to patients recovering from traumatic brain injuries.

Traumatic brain injury is a leading cause of death and disability among adults and children in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Survivors experience an array of cognitive, physical and emotional challenges that necessitate specialized rehabilitative care.

"Mary Free Bed is a leader in brain injury rehabilitation, and our patients make remarkable progress," said Jocelyn Dettloff, Annual Fund director. "Such extraordinary gains require significant resources to remain on the forefront of innovative therapy and technology to best serve our patients. Thrive is an incredible

opportunity to support this life-changing program."

During the 2019 Fiscal Year (ending March 31), the Mary Free Bed system of care treated more than 975 people through its inpatient Brain Injury Rehabilitation programs. More of our patients return to their home or community settings after treatment compared to regional and national averages.

The highly specialized program is endorsed by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International. The voluntary but rigorous accreditation process is based on a comprehensive set of standards for quality care and patient satisfaction.

A team of experienced doctors, nurses, therapists and other clinicians exclusively treat patients with traumatic

THRIVE, A REHABILITATION CELEBRATION

When: Nov. 2
6 p.m. cocktail reception
7 p.m. dinner
8 p.m. program

Where: DeVos Place,
303 Monroe Ave. NW

Tickets: \$200 per person; event sponsorships available. To purchase tickets or reserve a sponsorship, visit maryfreebed.com/gala. Deadline is Oct. 21.

More info: Contact Jocelyn Dettloff, 616.840.8204 or jocelyn.dettloff@maryfreebed.com.

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MARY FREE BED TOURS

Join us for a tour of Mary Free Bed! Tours begin at 11 a.m. Oct. 16, Nov. 12, Dec. 17 and Jan. 15.

Reservations are required; email foundation@maryfreebed.com or call 616.840.8137.

INSIDE MARY FREE BED



ORTHOSEAT MOBILE UNIT BRINGS CUSTOM SEATING SERVICES TO PATIENTS

Technology that enhances the lives of patients is a direct extension of Mary Free Bed's mission to restore hope and freedom. OrthoSEAT is a specialized service for people who need wheelchairs to support their health and to empower them to do what they want to, when they want to do it.

OrthoSEAT's mobile unit brings those customized services directly to patients who can't travel to Mary Free Bed's Grand Rapids campus or who need on-site assistance at home, work or in school.

"Our mobile unit serves as an extension of our strategic objective to serve more people," said Matthew Scholtens, manager of Custom Seating and Assistive Technology. "We understand that patients with mobility and positioning limitations often have difficulty traveling longer distances to receive excellent care. The mobile unit provides untethered access to patients closer to home."

Three days a week, the unit travels to locations within a 90-minute radius of downtown Grand Rapids. An experienced therapist and technician provide therapeutic mobility evaluations, seating fabrication and construction, final fittings, modifications and education.

More than 1,000 patients with a variety of diagnoses utilized the OrthoSEAT mobile unit within the past six months alone. About 20 percent live outside the Grand Rapids area.

"About 450 are pediatric patients," Matthew said. "But they range in age from one to 94."

Matching mobility technologies to patients with a broad spectrum of needs is essential for comfort and function, and to support the highest level of independence possible.

Continued from cover

brain injuries. Many nurses and therapists are Certified Brain Injury Specialists, and some registered nurses have additional certification in rehabilitation nursing.

Mary Free Bed's continuum of care includes a comprehensive follow-up brain injury clinic, outpatient program, home and community program, and an array of services.

The gala is an evening filled with friends, fun and phenomenal stories highlighting Mary Free Bed's mission to restore hope and

A MARY MOMENT

STAFF MEMBERS PLAN 'MARVEL-OUS' MOVIE NIGHT FOR PATIENT INJURED IN CRASH

The aroma of buttery popcorn filled the room, while Jacob Veeder settled in with some superhero friends to watch "Captain Marvel."

It was a special night for the Marvel fanatic, who was seriously injured in a November car crash near his Flint-area home. He spent several weeks at Hurley Medical Center in Flint before transferring to Mary Free Bed in March for rehabilitation.

Jacob's recovery has been slow. He sustained severe burns and traumatic injuries in the horrific crash, and his legs were later amputated below the knee. When he arrived at Mary Free Bed, the 20-year-old was unable to eat on his own or speak. With intensive therapy, he began to make small gains.

Disappointed he missed the spring premieres of "Captain Marvel" and "Avengers: Endgame" in movie theaters, his team of therapists decided to arrange for a special showing of "Captain Marvel" in the main lobby of Mary Free Bed.

The June 30 event was a celebration of how far Jacob has come in therapy, said occupational therapist Kate Aeschlimann.

"Jake was the motivation," Kate said. "He's a big fan of Marvel Universe movies ... and, due to his injuries, taking him out for a movie wasn't possible."

Jacob's Mary Free Bed team worked hard to make the event possible, inviting family and friends to enjoy the "Marvel-ous" evening. Even Spider Man and his superhero friends from Cosplay Crusaders stopped by to see Jacob, who graduated from Mary Free Bed in September.

"Everything turned out amazing," Kate said. "This event showed that, from the housekeepers to the CEO, everyone supports our patients however they can. There is always enthusiastic support for thinking outside of the box to meet a patient's needs and goals."



freedom through rehabilitation. Featured guests are world-class entertainers Kevin Cole and Heidi Kettnering.

Cole, known as "America's pianist," is recognized as the country's top performer of works by George Gershwin and American classics. The award-winning musical director, arranger, composer and vocalist. Heidi is an award-winning vocalist and actress with numerous stage, film and television credits.

The "ties and heels" event once again will be emceed by speaker, author and funnyman Tim Cusack. Adrian "AB" Butler will provide a cool mix of music to entice guests to dance the night away. It promises to be an evening of celebration and fun.

For ticket and sponsorship information, visit www.maryfreebed.com/gala, or contact Jocelyn Dettloff at 616.840.8204 or jocelyn.dettloff@maryfreebed.com.

Deadline to purchase tickets is Oct. 21.

STORIES THAT MOVE YOU



BECKY BATTLES GUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME WITH SUPPORT FROM MARY FREE BED

On Dec. 23, Becky Ray was preparing for her family's Christmas celebration when she felt tingling and numbness in her toes and fingers.

Alarmed, she went to the emergency room at Mercy Health Muskegon's Hackley campus. Test results were inconclusive, and her symptoms were attributed to anxiety.

"I'm a super busy mom-on-the-go," said Becky, 44. "I was working full time and balancing a full calendar of my kids' sports, family life and activities with friends. I was healthy."

But the following day, on Christmas Eve, the tingling and numbness had spread to her hands and feet, and her knee buckled when she walked. "It didn't hurt, but it was alarming," Becky said.

She returned to the ER, where a spinal tap detected abnormalities.

"The doctor said he believed I had Guillain-Barre Syndrome and that I would need to be admitted and start IVIg treatment right away," Becky said. IVIg is high-dose immunoglobulin therapy, which is an infusion of antibodies that lessens the attack on the nervous system and can shorten recovery time.

"The amount of encouragement, support and love I've experienced has been astronomical."

-Becky Ray

Guillain-Barre Syndrome is a rare disorder in which the body's own immune system damages nerves and causes muscle weakness. In some severe cases, it results in paralysis.

That's what happened to Becky. Her symptoms began to worsen and within a week of being admitted to the Intensive Care Unit, Becky was paralyzed from her neck to her toes. She also couldn't close her eyes completely and her ability to swallow was impaired.

"I had to be placed on a special diet for a while, eating only pureed foods and thickened liquids," she said. "My breathing was closely monitored, and the ICU nurses were preparing me in case I needed to be placed on a ventilator, as GBS can affect the diaphragm and lungs. Luckily my symptoms started to plateau, and I avoided the ventilator. But the idea of this was terrifying to me."

By mid-January, Becky was stable enough to be transferred to Mary Free Bed's acute rehabilitation unit at Hackley. She worked with physical and occupational therapists as well as speech-language pathologists, slowly regaining function from the ravaging effects of GBS.

"We celebrated every success," Becky said. "Those were some of my darkest days, and I can never repay their kindness."

After months of intensive therapy, she could stand with assistance and maneuver the halls in a wheelchair. Because she needed continued care and therapy, Becky chose Mary Free Bed's Sub-Acute Rehabilitation Program, which provides customized rehabilitation and skilled nursing.

She arrived on April 1, 14 weeks after being diagnosed.

"When I first came to Mary Free Bed, I could barely stand without lots of assistance," Becky said. "I needed help with the most basic living skills, such as showering and getting myself dressed."

For the next two months, Becky continued weekly IVIg infusions and participated in vigorous physical and occupational therapy to build strength and stamina.

"My therapists helped restore confidence in my abilities and encouraged me to work hard toward my therapy goals," said Becky, who progressed to walking with a walker, using stairs and transferring in and out of a car.

Since she graduated on May 31, Becky has continued outpatient therapy and looks forward to what the future holds. She's most thankful to be home in Muskegon with her husband and two sons, and she's anxious to get back to playing beach volleyball, going to concerts, traveling and returning to work. A social worker for the Muskegon County Department of Health and Human Services, Becky licenses foster care homes.

"I hope to overcome GBS and return to my normal life at some point," she said. "I know the recovery process can be very slow and that not all patients recover completely, but it's my goal to be patient."

Patience is a reluctant expertise Becky developed during her more than three-month hospital stay. She also learned how much people care about her.

"I'm passionate about my friends and family – I wouldn't have made it without them," she said. "The amount of encouragement, support and love I've experienced has been astronomical. I had old friends, co-workers and staff from my children's school come to visit me and send cards. And I made new friends along the way that I will share a bond with forever."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

'LIMIT' NOT IN AMPUTEE NATHAN WOLFORD'S VOCABULARY

On a sunny September morning in 2017, Nathan Wolford was cleaning up brush left by Fremont residents on monthly pickup day as part of his seasonal job with the city where he lives. As he was feeding it into a wood chipper, Nathan was struck from behind by a car and pinned. Trapped for more than an hour, emergency crews freed Nathan, and he was flown by helicopter to Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital.

During the next several weeks, Nathan underwent 18 surgeries to repair damaged tissue and broken bones, and faced complications that included a blood clot in his lungs and fast-growing infections in his legs. Despite aggressive treatment, it became necessary to amputate both of Nathan's legs above his knees.

When he was ready to begin rehabilitation, he chose Mary Free Bed.

"When I first lost my legs, all I could think about were all the things I was never going to be able to do again ... like play drums, go to a concert and hang out with my friends," Nathan said. "So, when I started doing therapy, I thought 'I can do this.'"

He spent a little over three weeks in the inpatient Amputee program, graduating in November 2017. It wasn't long before Nathan began outpatient therapy. A few weeks later, he was fit for prosthetics.

Physical therapist Janna Pittman has been working with Nathan throughout his recovery, progressing from "stubbies," or foreshortened prostheses, to full-length prosthetics with knee components. With each new prosthetic, Nathan learned to walk with a walker, then a cane, then without assistance. He hasn't used his wheelchair for mobility since September 2018.

"Along the way, we've worked on stretching and leg-strengthening, transferring from chairs and cars, stepping over objects and mastering ramps, curbs, stairs and hills," Janna said. "He pursues every opportunity and never complains. It takes super strength and determination to achieve everything he's accomplished."

That includes running. Nathan received running blades and plans to run in a 5K event next summer. He trained with a harness system for three sessions and quickly progressed to running outdoors. His next goal is to build endurance in preparation for the 5K.

His rehabilitation plan also included recreational therapy to get back to activities he enjoyed before the accident.

"When Rachel (Morse) asked what I like to do, I said 'I like to go to concerts,'" Nathan said. "I was worried - it's a lot of standing for four or five hours in tightly packed groups of people. I was so afraid to have a problem."

Rachel found out one of Nathan's favorite bands, Memphis May Fire, was playing a November show at the Majestic in Detroit. She got tickets and even arranged for Nathan to meet the band backstage.

"Going to that concert gave me confidence in my abilities and made me realize I'm going to be able to do stuff I enjoy," Nathan said. "I'm not scared anymore. I know I can do it."

Nathan's recovery has been "incredible," said Dr. Benjamin Bruinsma, director of Mary Free Bed's Amputee Program.



"He has a fantastic attitude that, in combination with our therapists' expertise, has helped his outcome significantly," Bruinsma said. "He's taking a very difficult situation and making it a positive one by living his life to the fullest and helping others with limb differences."

Nathan has served as a mentor at Camp No Limits, first traveling to Texas in April. He was in Maine and Connecticut in July as a role model at the camps for kids affected by limb loss and differences. He also serves as a mentor to new amputees and their families "to encourage them," he said.

It's not surprising, considering his career plan is to become a youth pastor.

Nathan began classes this fall at Cornerstone University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Ministry. In addition to training for the 5K, Nathan also plans to kayak and play drums for his church in Fremont.

"My progress is the result of the combined efforts of many people," he said. "I can't begin to think who or where I would be if it weren't for their support, and I'll never stop being grateful for it."

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



GOING FOR GOLD AND GIVING BACK

An energetic and driven 17-year-old, Stephanie Reid did not expect to become a patient at Mary Free Bed. However, with the sudden onset of Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a condition in which the immune system attacks the nerves, she spent a month here in 2017.

Stephanie came to Mary Free Bed after a stay at Bronson Hospital in Kalamazoo. She began intense therapy to regain muscle function and strength. A Girl Scout since second grade, Stephanie was no stranger to dedication and determination, and she fully recovered.

Stephanie decided to work toward a Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve. Wanting to give back to the places that helped her recover, Stephanie's project focuses on the pediatric departments at Bronson Hospital and Mary Free Bed.

For Mary Free Bed, she collected toys and activity supplies, and made banners that can be tied to a child's wheelchair or walker. Stephanie also included additional supplies for use in occupational therapy so young patients can work on hand function and dexterity with a fun activity.

Stephanie, who started her freshman year in college, earned her Girl Scout Gold Award this fall.

COMMUNITY PARTNER: AIRWAY OXYGEN

Equipment is a key component on the road to restoring hope and freedom. Airway Oxygen is a valuable partner to Mary Free Bed in helping patients achieve their highest level of independence and function.

"The care that Mary Free Bed provides is in a class of its own," says Karol Belk, director of Rehab Development for Airway Oxygen. "It has been fun to watch Mary Free Bed's growth and expansion. There is always something new."

The family owned business, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, rebranded its rehab division as Airway Mobility & Rehab and remodeled its Madison Avenue location in Grand Rapids. It supports the foundation's Let Freedom Spring luncheon, Thrive Rehabilitation Celebration gala and the Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports program. Airway Oxygen also exhibits at Mary Free Bed conferences, hosts an annual ice cream social for our staff members and volunteers at Mary Free Bed WAS events.

"Airway Mobility & Rehab, like Mary Free Bed, has a positive impact on those we serve," Karol said. "We feel privileged to be one of the many community partners of Mary Free Bed."

The foundation's Community Partnership Program offers businesses the opportunity to support Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital at a significant level and gain greater visibility in the community and among its network members. To learn more about becoming a Community Partner, contact Laura Dulay at laura.dulay@maryfreebed.com or 616.840.8729.



DONATIONS HELP FUND CENTER FOR LIMB DIFFERENCES PICNIC

Kids celebrated their differences and their similarities during the Center for Limb Differences' picnic on Aug. 10. Thirteen families totaling about 50 people joined Mary Free Bed volunteers at Johnson Park in Grand Rapids for food, fun and games.

"The picnic gives children with limb differences the chance to interact with children like them," said Alisha Thompson, an orthotist with Mary Free Bed's Orthotics, Prosthetics & Bionics department. "Some children can feel isolated, and we hope the picnic helps with confidence and shows them they're not alone."

When it was established in 1946, the Center for Limb Differences was the nation's first program to focus exclusively on the needs of children with limb differences. The team helps young patients born with a limb difference or who underwent an amputation due to a disease or an accident become as independent as possible.

Events to bring kids and their families together were held annually for several years until lack of funding prevented them. In 2018, Mary Free Bed's O&P+B department organized a picnic, thanks in part to a donation from College Park Industries to help resurrect the gatherings. Earlier this year, patient Devyn Whitney raised money by selling bracelets to create awareness and donated it to the Center for Limb Differences to help fund such events.

"One of our goals is to have more activities that bring children and families together," Alisha said.

If you'd like to donate, please visit maryfreebed.com/foundation.



WISHLIST

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.

Step2 Heart of the Home Kitchen Playset (\$128) – Making therapy fun for children through physical and cognitive activities to advance their recovery.

Free Standing Grab Bar (\$200) – Used for balance in therapy.

TheraGym Sling Swing (\$233) – Provides stimulation in a prone or seated position for children with autism.

Kaufmann Kit 1 & 2 (\$315) – Speech therapy card kits that help develop vocal skills for children who struggle to speak.

Tumble Form Bolster Rolls (\$443, 12-inch roll; \$465, 14-inch roll) – Adaptive positioning shapes are used to create postural challenges during therapy.

Pediatric Tilt Benches (\$700, set of 3) – Kaya Products Adjustable Tilt benches in small, medium and large to be used for therapy services at the Holland Pediatric Clinic.

Pediatric Feeding Program Education materials (\$1,500) – Nutrition information guides, specialty nutrition plates, placemats, feeding cups and totes are tools needed to help patients and their families maintain proper nutrition and healthy eating habits at home.

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.

THANK YOU

The Mary Free Bed Foundation also is thankful for the generous support from the following organizations:

- Albemarle Foundation
- Rhoades McKee Reeds Lake Triathlon
- Sebastian Foundation
- Sligh Memorial Fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- Stuart and Barbara Hoffius Family Fund at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- William F. O'Connor Foundation, Joanne Unkovskoy, Trustee Fund, of the Grand Haven Community Foundation

PLANNED GIVING

SEEING 20/20

As 2019 draws to a close, why not start planning something new for 2020? Add income to your vision of the new year and support a great organization like Mary Free Bed.

Charitable Gift Annuity – Fixed payments to you for life at favorably high rates.

Charitable Remainder Trust – Payments to you at a rate you choose that vary with the trust's investments.

Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust – Payments to you at a fixed amount you choose for the life of the trust.

As a bonus, these gifts can provide tax savings this year. In addition, if you fund any gifts by transferring (never selling) an appreciated asset—like stock—you also lower or eliminate your capital gains taxes. Each method also helps you give more to charity.

There are a multitude of opportunities available to you with a little end-of-year planning. Call or email us (or your tax professional) to learn all the ways you can increase your income, save taxes and benefit the people and causes important to you.

TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR IRA

An IRA rollover allows you to transfer money from your IRA to a qualified charity. If you must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), consider transferring it to Mary Free Bed instead. Just because you're forced to distribute money from your IRA doesn't mean you have to pay tax on it, depending on how you distribute it. You won't get a tax deduction, but you also pay no income tax on the transfer.

FINE TUNE YOUR 2020 PHILANTHROPIC VISION

There are many ways to leave a legacy gift to Mary Free Bed through your estate plan that will support our valuable work. We can help walk you through the process and work with you to develop just the right methods that benefit you, your family and Mary Free Bed. Contact Brad Kaufmann, director of Planned Giving, at 616.840.8898 or brad.kaufmann@maryfreebed.com, or visit maryfreebed.giftlegacy.com.

GUILD HIGHLIGHTS



MARY FREE BED GUILD AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO 'INSPIRING AND DEDICATED' STUDENTS

Twenty-one outstanding college students have been recognized for their academic achievements with scholarships awarded by the Mary Free Bed Guild.

The Guild has awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships since it established the Minority Scholarship Program in 2006 and the Disability Scholarship Program in 2013. This year, the guild accepted applications from throughout Michigan to support the hospital's growing statewide network.

The Minority Scholarship Program helps students pursuing degrees in neuropsychology, nursing, orthotics, prosthetics and rehabilitation therapy programs. The Disability Scholarship is for students with physical disabilities related to a brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, limb difference or an acquired or congenital neurological condition treatable through rehabilitation.

In both cases, the goal is to reward high-achieving students and hope they will consider Mary Free Bed when they're ready to join a workforce dedicated to restoring hope and freedom.

"The Guild is thrilled to help relieve the financial burdens of these inspiring and dedicated students as they pursue their educational and career goals," said guild member Shelley Mishler.

2019 MARY FREE BED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Disability Scholarship:

Ismael Aguirre, Human Resources Management, Davenport University
Garrett Bazany, Physician Assistant, Western Michigan University (former recipient)
Irina Bird, Social Work, Spring Arbor University (former recipient)
Brandon Buxton, Business Information Systems, Western Michigan University (former recipient)
Alexandra Hanlon, Biomedical Science, Grand Valley State University (former recipient)
Lauren Hudson, Special Education, Western Michigan University
Daniel Ostanowski, Cinematic Arts, Compass College of Cinematic Arts
Trenton Timmer, Physician Assistant, Campbell University (former recipient)
Lauren Ziegler, Allied Health Sciences, Grand Valley State University

Minority Scholarship:

Christian Aquilar-Quiroz, Occupational Therapy, Grand Valley State University (former recipient)
Maria Garnica, Nursing, University of Michigan - Flint
Rebecca Garza, Nursing, Lansing Community College
Azalia Gonzalez, Occupational Therapy, Davenport University (former recipient)
Tanasia Lovett, Nursing, Grand Rapids Community College
Clifford Lyons Jr., Occupational Therapy, Wayne State University
Jonathan Miguel, Nursing, Grand Valley State University
Jocelyn Mora, Nursing, Grand Rapids Community College
Chris Paclibar, Occupational Therapy, Grand Valley State University
Diana Riley, Nursing, Grand Rapids Community College
Mario Suarez, Physical Therapy, Wayne State University
Josue Vasquez, Nursing, Calvin College (former recipient)

WHEELCHAIR & ADAPTIVE SPORTS

JUNIOR WHEELCHAIR SPORTS CAMP: 'YOU FEEL LIKE YOU BELONG'

When Sule Christiansen arrived for the fourth time at Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp, she once again felt welcomed.

"Everyone is so nice, and it's a lot of fun," said Sule, 18, who traveled from Plymouth to Grand Valley State University in Allendale. "You feel like you belong, because there are so many kids just like you and you don't feel so different."

Sule is among 50 campers with physical disabilities who swam and swung, danced and dodged, paddled, pedaled and laughed their way through Mary Free Bed's Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp. The 35th annual event, held July 22-26 at GVSU, welcomed campers from across Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.

The event offers kids of all ability levels the chance to try a dozen adaptive sports at no cost. It's offered by Mary Free Bed Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports, one of the largest programs of its kind in the U.S.

"The opportunities our Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp offers to kids with disabilities is immeasurable," said Maria Besta, manager of WAS and Mary Free Bed's recreational therapy program.

Staffed by dozens of volunteers and instructors, the Mary Free Bed Guild members also contributed by providing and serving lunch to campers. Other highlights included a dance party, dodgeball tournament and the always popular water fight with the Allendale Fire Department.

Wheelchair Sports Camp is made possible with support from donors, including Airway Oxygen, Bill and Paul's Sporthaus, CareLinc, Family Fair, Fusion Medical, Kentwood Parks and Recreation, Mobility Sports, Per4Max, Saladin Shriners and SpartanNash.



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US Postage
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Grand Rapids, MI
Permit No. 1034

Momentum.

Published by Mary Free Bed
Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation.

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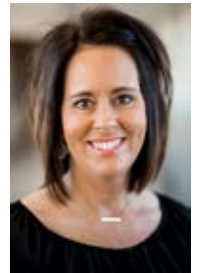
WELCOME, KELLY!

Kelly Fitzgerald joined the Mary Free Bed Foundation team in July as administrative assistant. She’s responsible for database administration, event coordination and staff support.

Kelly is no stranger to Mary Free Bed. She was a Support Services assistant for two years, overseeing several departments’ processes and procedures. She brings a wealth of existing staff relationships and Mary Free Bed knowledge to the team.

“I’m looking forward to serving the Mary Free Bed Foundation constituency and building meaningful relationships with our donors,” Kelly said.

Please join us in welcoming Kelly to the Mary Free Bed Foundation family.



TWO NEW MEMBERS JOIN FOUNDATION BOARD

The Rev. Katherine Lee Baker and Lorissa MacAllister are the two newest members of the Mary Free Bed Foundation Board.

Katherine is chaplain and coordinator of Spiritual Care at Mercy Health Saint Mary’s, where she works primarily in the neonatology, gerontology and medical education departments. With an extensive background in community development, faith formation and pastoral care, Katherine has served in various academic, clinical, non-profit and parish ministry contexts along the East Coast as well as in West Michigan. She also is a community trustee at the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce for Leadership Grand Rapids. Ordained by the Reformed Church in America, she is a graduate of Hope College and Princeton Theological Seminary. She is most passionate about feminist and womanist theology, ecumenical and interfaith collaboration, and the adoptive faith.



Lorissa is the founder and president of Envia, a consulting and research firm that focuses on unique health care environments. She’s a researcher and architect dedicated to helping organizations align operational processes and the environment to improve culture, business performance and user experience. Using evidence-based design and other research, she promotes an approach that enhances the built environment as a tool for occupants. Lorissa, who earned a Ph.D. from Georgia Institute of Technology and a master’s degree from the University of Michigan, is a long-time supporter of the Mary Free Bed Foundation.

