

Momentum.

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation Newsletter

Volume 27 / Spring 2022

Mary Free Bed[®]
Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation



Natalie Wren and Joe Carroll perform at the "Thrive" gala.

WHAT'S NEW

MARY FREE BED 'THRIVE' GALA RAISES \$324,000 TO SUPPORT CANCER REHABILITATION

What a night! The Mary Free Bed Foundation's eighth annual "Thrive" gala was a celebration in every sense. After a two-year hiatus from in-person gatherings, it was wonderful to see friends, share laughter and experience the joy surrounding Mary Free Bed's mission of restoring hope and freedom during the March 12 event.

Emcee Donovan Long of WOOD-TV hosted the evening at the JW Marriott, which included a message from Mary Free Bed CEO Kent Riddle and musical entertainment by East Grand Rapids native and Broadway performer Joe Carroll.

Most importantly, friends and supporters of Mary Free Bed came together to raise funds

for the Betty Bloomer Ford Cancer Rehabilitation Program.

When Kyle Bianco and Linda DeKock talked about their battles with cancer and their hopes for the future, there wasn't a dry eye in the room. The cancer program graduates shared their stories of rehabilitation in a video viewed by 600 supporters at the event. And they responded, helping to raise over \$324,000 for the program.

Named to honor former First Lady Betty Ford and her groundbreaking cancer efforts, the program helps patients fight the debilitating effects of the disease and its treatment. Funds raised will support those ongoing efforts.

"Our role in cancer rehabilitation is, not only do we want our patients – our loved ones – to survive, how do we get them to go from surviving to thriving?" said Dr. Meagan Smith, who cared for Kyle. "I want him to be able to see his kids graduate from high school. I want him to be there if his daughter decides to get married and be able to walk her down the aisle. That's surviving cancer, but then thriving."

Kyle, a L'anse resident who was diagnosed with a tumor in his lung and faced related complications, came to Mary Free Bed for inpatient rehabilitation. Linda, of Grand Rapids, participated in the

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 23

Bikes for the Rest of Us

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, West Entry parking ramp

April 28-June 17

Mary Free Bed Fine Arts Exhibition

Sponsored by Mary Free Bed Guild
Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, Main Lobby

Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, this event will be for the enjoyment of patients and their visitors, and employees. It does not include public viewing hours.

May 11

Let Freedom Spring Luncheon

Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park

May 22

Amway River Bank Run 25K Wheelchair & Handcycle Divisions

Sponsored by Mary Free Bed Guild
Downtown Grand Rapids

June 6

Mary Free Bed Open

Thousand Oaks Golf Club
SOLD OUT

outpatient program under the care of Dr. Naomi Kaplan after chemotherapy for her breast cancer diagnosis caused neuropathy and some leg paralysis.

"I know I wouldn't have my life back if it weren't for their help," Linda said.

Watch the video here:

<https://bit.ly/3LA2sZa>

To learn more about the program, visit us online maryfreebed.com/cancer

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGN RAISES \$115,000

Once again, the With a Mary Heart Employee Giving Campaign was a tremendous success, thanks to our dedicated, generous employees.

The “Heart to Heart”-themed campaign, which kicked off Feb. 17 with a fun event in the Kitchen & Cafe, raised \$115,000 through gifts and pledges. Over 350 employees gave to support important funds, such as the Patient Assistance Fund and Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports, as well as for Music Therapy, this year’s featured fund. This marked the fourth and most successful year of the campaign.

	Other Funds \$21,887. ²⁷
	Mary’s Mission \$18,525. ⁶⁶
	Pediatric Growth Initiative \$14,485. ³¹
	Employee-To-Employee Fund \$13,575. ⁷²
	Patient Assistance Fund \$13,359. ⁹⁶
	Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports \$12,891. ⁹¹
	Music Therapy \$12,815. ¹⁷
	Matthew Fitzpatrick Scholarship \$7,262. ⁵⁸
	Covenant Patient Assistance Fund \$4,015. ⁸⁴

STORIES THAT MOVE YOU



BROTHERS’ BOND STRONGER THAN EVER A YEAR AFTER SLEDDING ACCIDENT

On a beautiful winter’s day in January 2021, Jaden and Jurian Shaffer were excited by the new fallen snow, eager to go sledding with friends. But a tragic twist of fate changed their lives forever.

The boys were being pulled behind a snowmobile when their sled struck a tree. Jurian, 13 at the time, broke his leg. Jaden, then 10, sustained a traumatic brain injury and broken pelvis.

“It was awful,” said Tenneil Shaffer, the boys’ mother, said of arriving at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo. “We were taken into a room with a police officer and a chaplain. I knew it wasn’t good.”

Mary Free Bed pediatric physiatrist Dr. Victoria Dufour understands.

“It’s very difficult to have not only one, but two, children in the hospital after an accident,” said Dufour, who cared for Jaden when he transferred to Mary Free Bed. “Everybody needs to pull together as a team.”

After eight days in the hospital, Jurian was able to return home, but with a long recovery ahead. Jaden spent two weeks at Bronson before coming to Mary Free Bed to begin rehabilitation. At first, Jaden couldn’t walk, talk or even hold his head up. But he worked hard, motivated by lots of FaceTime calls with Jurian.

After 11 weeks of intensive therapy with Mary Free Bed Kids, Jaden was able to graduate and return home. With continued outpatient therapy, Jaden can walk without assistance and is getting stronger every day.

The family is grateful to the Otsego community for its support during the past year, including their North Point Church and Otsego Public Schools families. Both boys are back in school full-time – Jurian in ninth grade and Jaden in fifth.

The boys’ amazing recovery and how their faith, friends and Mary Free Bed family helped them along the way is featured in a video. Watch it here: <https://bit.ly/3qTPlow>

THANK YOU, THRIVE SPONSORS

EXCLUSIVE LEVELS

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Lee and Alexandra Perez

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WOW MOMENT

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WOOD-TV 8

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thrive

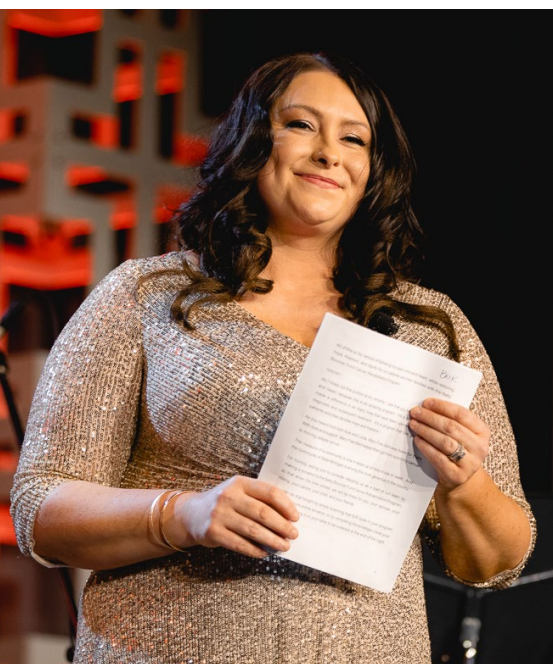
Rehabilitation Celebration

MARY FREE BED FOUNDATION

If you missed the fun, our eighth annual Mary Free Bed Foundation "Thrive" gala was held on March 12 at the JW Marriott in downtown Grand Rapids. The celebration is the Foundation's premier fundraiser of the year, and proceeds from the event went to Mary Free Bed's Betty Bloomer Ford Cancer Rehabilitation Program.

Enjoy these photos of the celebratory event. For more information about the Foundation, visit maryfreebed.com/foundation.

Save the date for "Thrive" 2022. The gala is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 5 at DeVos Place.





Inside Mary Free Bed

MARY FREE BED, COVENANT LEADERS CUT RIBBON FOR \$41 MILLION HOSPITAL

In a virtual ceremony, leaders from Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation and Covenant HealthCare dedicated a new hospital on Dec. 1. The three-story building, located on the main Covenant HealthCare campus in Saginaw, is specially designed for rehabilitation. It houses 60 private inpatient rooms, outpatient therapy spaces, offices for seven board-certified rehabilitation physicians as well as treatment and fabrication space for patients who require braces and prosthetic limbs.

"This beautiful and sophisticated new space is the product of the solid relationship between Mary Free Bed and Covenant HealthCare," said Beth Charlton, president and CEO of Covenant HealthCare. "Together we've dreamed of elevating rehabilitative medicine in the Great Lakes Bay Region, and determination has pushed us through everything from supply chain shortages to global pandemics."

In March 2018, a joint venture between the two health care providers became operational. The pairing has been positive, and the number of people needing rehabilitation has been growing, fueling the decision to move forward with the new hospital.



Kent Riddle, president and CEO of Mary Free Bed, came to know rehabilitation when his wife suffered a traumatic brain injury in a car crash.

"I can personally attest that miracles can happen when hopeful and motivated patients connect with rehabilitation experts who love their profession and the patients they serve," he said, predicting the future of Mary Free Bed at Covenant will include new programs, additional technology and helping more patients regain hope and freedom.

Visit maryfreebedatcovenant.com to learn more about the new hospital and joint partnership.

MARY MOMENTS

BROOKLYN CHOOSES MARY FREE BED KIDS FOR 'PROJECT GIVE'

Brooklyn Zylstra loves gift-giving and making the holidays brighter for hospitalized children. A few years ago, she started "Project Give," selecting an item to produce and sell, then using the proceeds to purchase gifts for hospitalized children. Last year, the 12-year-old spent time as a patient at Mary Free Bed and decided to buy games and toys with the money she raised designing and selling socks. In December, Brooklyn delivered the gifts and some special socks to her Mary Free Bed Kids therapists, Penny Adams, Deb Brewer and Joe Winegar.



MARY AND BRITE SPREADS HOLIDAY JOY

Mary Free Bed's recreational therapy team once again put together a spectacular display of holiday lights and decorations for patients and visitors to enjoy.

Thanks to sponsors Eastbrook Homes and John R. Bertsch and Georgia Scott, Mary and Brite spread some holiday cheer. The East Grand Rapids Public Schools Madrigal Singers provided musical entertainment and West Michigan Therapy Dogs brought along some furry friends.



WHEELCHAIR & ADAPTIVE SPORTS



POWER SOCCER TEAM HEADING INTO OVERDRIVE

It's been start-stop-start for the Overdrive, Mary Free Bed's power soccer team. About four years ago, Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports fielded interest about adding a team and received a generous donation of 10 used power chairs from Turnstone, a wheelchair and adaptive sports facility in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Players signed up and began practicing, only to be forced to stop due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The team recently began practicing again and earlier this year traveled to its first tournament in Fort Wayne.

One of the team's newest players, 12-year-old Zoey Harrison wrote a thank you note: "Thank you so much for power soccer, I have NEVER been with many people like me! I have joined local sports here in my small town, but never felt like I fit in. Plus, I'm the one doing it! It's not me trying to fit in, we all just fit in. ANDDDD I get to be with my new friends in wheelchairs, too! I hope that it never goes away!"

Power soccer is played on a regulation-sized basketball court. Two teams of four players maneuver an oversized soccer ball with the front of their power chairs to score points on a goal. Some players use their own power chair, while others use one of the donated chairs. The team's season runs from October through April.

Despite efforts to refurbish the 20-year-old chairs, they're not comparable to equipment used by other teams. Thankfully, generous donations have helped purchase three new chairs – at a cost of \$10,000 each. During the off-season, Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports is working to secure funding to purchase three more.

If you're interested in purchasing a chair or donating toward one, please contact Laura Dulay, the Foundation's development director, at laura.dulay@maryfreebed.com or 616.840.8729.

GIFTS & GRANTS

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

- Autism Speaks: Norma and Malcolm Baker Recreation Grant
- Baldwin Foundation
- Campbell Foundation
- Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
- College Park Industries
- Dick and Betsy DeVos Foundation
- Diekema Hamann Architecture & Engineering
- Doornink Foundation
- Faith Marie Losee Fund of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
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- John W. and Margaret G. Bertsch Charitable Foundation
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- Korff Foundation
- Kutsche Charitable Trust
- Linn Maxwell Keller Fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- Lori's Voice
- Mary Free Bed Guild
- MD Lieberman Foundation
- Michigan Arts and Culture Council
- Mike Utley Foundation
- Old Trail Foundation
- Perrigo Charitable Foundation
- Saginaw Community Foundation – Hemlock Semiconductor CARES grant
- SpartanNash
- The Charles Foundation
- The Steve & Amy Van Andel Foundation
- United States Tennis Association, Inc.
- Victory Automotive Group
- Wege Foundation
- William R. Lathers Trust

Mary Free Bed

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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.

3D Anatomical Scoliosis Model The flexible model that simulates motion of the spine and ribcage will be used by Mary Free Bed Kids to better educate patients and their parents about the causes and therapies for their spinal conditions. (\$350)

Adaptive Aquatic Therapy Equipment Aquatic therapy is a beneficial form of therapy that uses the physical properties of water to assist in patient healing and exercise performance. Patients work on strength-building, swim-skill refinement and relaxation techniques in the pool. (\$450)

Margaret G. Bertsch Therapy Garden Live Wall This feature would allow the Recreational Therapy team to work on a variety of activities and interventions with patients that focus on a return to gardening, adaptive gardening equipment use or learning a completely new skill. The live wall will create a more intimate and healing therapy garden area for inpatients, outpatients and visitors. (\$3,000)

Strike Force Power Soccer Chair Specifically designed for power soccer, this chair moves with agility and has the most powerful spin kick. The Mary Free Bed Overdrive is currently using 20-year-old chairs. Three new chairs have been secured, but the team needs three more (see article on page 7). (\$10,000 each; three requested)

