

# Momentum.

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation Newsletter

Volume 32 / Winter 2024

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 1**  
**Let Freedom Spring Luncheon**  
Frederik Meijer Gardens  
& Sculpture Park  
*Benefiting Mary's Mission*

**May 11**  
**Amway River Bank Run 25K  
Wheelchair &  
Handcycle Divisions**  
Downtown Grand Rapids  
*Sponsored by the  
Mary Free Bed Guild*

**June 3**  
**Mary Free Bed Open  
Presented by Kent Quality Foods**  
Thousand Oaks Golf Club  
*Benefiting Wheelchair and  
Adaptive Sports*

## WHAT'S NEW

### SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS FOR MARY FREE BED KIDS

Nearly 800 friends and supporters joined the 10th annual Mary Free Bed Foundation Thrive Gala, presented by Buist Electric. This year's event raised \$230,000 for the Mary Free Bed Center for Autism programs. The evening at DeVos Place was filled with glitz, glamour and a shared commitment to our mission.

Jordan Carson, the event emcee, kicked off the night with gratitude for our generous sponsors and shared her personal commitment to supporting noble West Michigan causes like the Mary Free Bed mission. A special moment was the invocation by 8-year-old Mary Free Bed Kids graduate, A'Mour Shipp, who inspired the

audience with her strength and encouraged everyone to serve as a source of strength and love for those who need it.

An evening highlight was the story of the Sytsma family, of Byron Center, and the significant progress of their children with the help of the Center for Autism. Mary Free Bed Psychologist, Dr. Robyn Weston's remarks and a touching video showcased the direct benefits of our supporters' generosity.

Mary Free Bed CEO Kent Riddle shared moving stories about the impact on young patients, celebrating the organization's ranking among the top ten Rehabilitation Hospitals nationally by U.S. News &

World Report. He emphasized Mary Free Bed's growth to becoming the largest not-for-profit rehabilitation provider in the nation—remarkable achievements we can all take pride in!

The night buzzed with energy, laughter, music and dancing, reflecting our gratitude towards everyone who contributes to making a positive impact in our community.

To make a gift in support of Mary Free Bed pediatric programs, visit [maryfreebed.com/give](https://maryfreebed.com/give).

#### SAVE THE DATE!

**2024 Thrive Gala**  
**Saturday, November 9**  
**DeVos Place, Grand Rapids, MI**



# THANK YOU, THRIVE SPONSORS!

## EXCLUSIVE

### AFTERGLOW

The Steve & Amy Van Andel Foundation

### BAR



### Elite Sponsor Reception

The Currie Foundation

### Entertainment



### Photo Booth



### Technology



### Welcome



### WOW Moment

Bradley and Jennifer Taylor

### Prosper Sponsor



### Dessert



### Lounge



## FLOURISH

Dave and Carol Burgess



Take His Hand Foundation

## EXCEL

Anonymous

Hy & Greta Berkowitz Foundation

Carter Products Company

Consumers Credit Union

Covenant HealthCare

Fifth Third Bank

Granger Construction

Growtrust Partners

Interphase Interiors/Haworth

Jandernoa Foundation

Mary Free Bed Guild

Meijer, Inc.

Ottobock

Kent and Susan Riddle

SecurAlarm

Sparrow Health System

Trinity Health Saint Mary's

Unidine

USI/Hartford

Varnum LLP

Eileen Vaughan

## GROW

Matt and Kelly Armstrong & Pat Brewer

Emily Babson

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Bruce and Cathie Brasser

Commonwealth Senior Living

Dan Vos Construction

Diekema Hamann Architecture & Engineering

Discount Home Improvement

Tom and Nancy Doyal

Michael and Lynette Ellis

Enviah

Epic Systems Corporation

Happy Fox

Grand Valley State University

Nate and Valerie Guzman and Ryan and Jessica Podvin

J.C. and Tammy Huizenga

Life EMS Ambulance

Lake Michigan Credit Union

Prolink

Vic and Delene Reister

Larry and Sally Robson

Joan Secchia

Sinas Dramis Law Firm

SPS

Wendy Stock

Trane Technologies

University of Michigan Health-West

## PROGRESS

Cascade Engineering

Greg and Amy Conway

DMC Real Estate Services

Bill and Kay Farr

Kennari Consulting

Kmotion Design, Inc.

Tim and Ping Liang

Lighthouse Insurance Group, Inc.

MSU College of Human Medicine

Dan and Carol Springer

TM Group, Inc.

Witte Lawn Maintenance



# MICHIGAN MILESTONE



## A NEW ERA FOR PEDIATRIC REHABILITATION

The medical square mile in Grand Rapids is about to get a little bigger. Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation and Helen DeVos Children's Hospital are collaborating to build Joan Secchia Children's Rehabilitation Hospital. This unique partnership brings together our combined expertise, resources, and passion, paving the way for a new facility that will set new standards of care in pediatric rehabilitation. This groundbreaking project is set to redefine healthcare for young patients, providing them with specialized care to create their brightest futures.

We are humbled and grateful for Joan Secchia's generous lead gift for the hospital. Commitment to family and community have been hallmarks of the

Secchia family for years. Their ongoing, significant support for community projects through the Secchia Family Foundation, UFP, SIBSCO and personal gifts have fostered new ideas and established programs that benefit West Michigan in many ways. This project is another example of their commitment to family, the community and the benefits they help bring to Michigan.

Today, Mary Free Bed cares for 57% of all children in Michigan who need inpatient rehabilitation and serves 6,500 – 7,000 children receiving inpatient and outpatient care each year.



SCAN THE QR CODE here to learn more about the impactful, \$60 million project.

## BRIDGE FOR KIDS

In September, community members Marty Campbell, Sharron Reynolds, Iva Tol and Laurie Webster raised crucial funds for Joan Secchia Children's Rehabilitation Hospital by hosting Bridge for Kids at Kent Country Club, with lunch generously sponsored by Honor Credit Union. With the participation of approximately 100 community members spanning 25 card tables, the bridge "marathon" was a resounding success. We are grateful to the hostesses and attendees for their support and for creating a bridge of hope that will lead to a brighter, healthier future for children in our community.

## BREAKFAST WITH THE CEO: A MORNING OF INSIGHT AND CONNECTION

Earlier this fall, Mary Free Bed Foundation donors, leaders and friends gathered for the annual Breakfast with the CEO. Following an energizing meal and fellowship, event guests heard from Mary Free Bed CEO, Kent Riddle, on inspiring moments from the previous year, as well as exciting happenings on the horizon.



# WHEELCHAIR AND ADAPTIVE SPORTS



## MARY FREE BED HOSTS MICHIGAN'S FIRST POWER SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Presented by Lake Michigan Credit Union, Mary Free Bed Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports (WAS) hosted the state of Michigan's first Overdrive Power Soccer Invitational Tournament.

Power soccer is a game played by individuals who use power chairs for daily mobility. However, instead of playing on a soccer field, players play on a basketball court with a larger ball. Featuring nearly 50 athletes and coaches, the tournament came just five years after Mary Free Bed launched its own power soccer program in 2018.

Starting with a small clinic, the program progressed over the years and eventually turned into a full team consisting of thirteen players ranging in age from 7 to 39 years old.

"This tournament is made possible thanks to the generosity of our sponsors like Lake Michigan Credit Union," said Thomas Flynn, sports coordinator at Mary Free Bed Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports. "Having a home tournament allows family and friends of the athletes to watch them play—often for the first time."

## ROLLING TO THE HOOP: YOUTH WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL GLIDES INTO GRAND RAPIDS

In early November, young athletes hit the courts for the 24th annual Keep Up the Pace basketball tournament. The home tournament for the Mary Free Bed junior wheelchair basketball team featured more than 50 athletes, ages 7-18, with various physical disabilities.

"It's wonderful seeing our community come together to support these athletes at a hometown tournament," said Molly McKinney, sports coordinator for Mary Free Bed Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports. "Competing in sports is fun, and it also teaches kids important skills for life—both on and off the court."

Once again, the tournament was generously presented by Dan Vos Construction. Beginning in 2020, Dan Vos Construction has given over \$20,000 to various Mary Free Bed programs including Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports, Orthotics & Prosthetics + Bionics, and the Betty Bloomer Ford Cancer Rehabilitation Program.



As our community partner supporting these programs, Dan Vos Construction improves lives impacted by accidents, illnesses, or disabilities. With strong organizational values of integrity and excellence, their commitment mirrors the Mary Free Bed mission. Our collaboration extends the Dan Vos Construction influence beyond construction, enriching the West Michigan community as a whole.



**SCAN THE QR CODE** here to learn more about the Mary Free Bed Foundation Community Partnership Program.

Through meaningful partnerships, sponsors gain recognition and exposure while helping to fund important programs across the hospital.

# MARY MOMENT

## COMING TOGETHER FOR HISTORY, HOPE AND FREEDOM

Mason Jones, a locally owned business located in Breton Village, hosted a fundraising event in June. Guests were treated to a conversation with former WOOD TV8 anchor Suzanne Geha and award-winning author and historian Richard Norton Smith. The discussion focused on Smith's recently released book *An Ordinary Man—The Surprising Life and Historic Presidency of Gerald R. Ford*—a 2023 top ten book according to the Wall Street Journal. Proceeds from the

successful event were used to purchase care packets for patients of the Mary Free Bed Betty Bloomer Ford Cancer Rehabilitation Program.

Thank you to all that contributed, as well as the event organizers, Guild members and store owners Margy Jones, PK Mason and Katie Asante, along with Pamela Pietryga and Kathleen Schiefeler.



2023 Matthew Fitzpatrick Memorial Scholarship winners: Sena Tadesse (left) and Kali Hall (right)

## MATTHEW FITZPATRICK SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

In 2020, the family of former Mary Free Bed nurse, Matt Fitzpatrick, established the Matthew Fitzpatrick Memorial Scholarship. It provides financial support to current Mary Free Bed employees so that they may further their educational goals.

The 2023 scholarship was awarded to two outstanding Grand Rapids-based employees. Congratulations to Kali Hall, rehabilitation technician, Inpatient Support, and Sena Tadesse, nurse technician, 4S Nursing.

Among a record number of applications, Kali and Sena truly exemplify Matt's personal values of service above self, support of diversity and inclusion, and high academic standards and work ethic. Congratulations!

Matt Fitzpatrick was deeply admired and respected in the Mary Free Bed community. Renowned for his exceptional nursing skills, he consistently infused joy into the lives of both patients and colleagues. In December 2019, we experienced a profound loss with the passing of our esteemed friend and colleague, Matt.

We look forward to honoring his legacy with the 2024 scholarship. Applications will open to employees in the spring.

## NEW YEAR, NEW CHAPTER, NEW LEGACY

As we welcome 2024, we take a moment to reflect on a year of innovative therapy programs, groundbreaking technology and capital improvements—allowing Mary Free Bed to set the gold standard for healing and transformation.

We're looking ahead to a new chapter of restoring hope and freedom. In that spirit, you can write a legacy of compassion into your life story with a gift to Mary Free Bed.

What is a legacy gift? A legacy gift, sometimes known as a 'planned gift' or 'bequest,' is a donation designated in your will or trust. These gifts change lives and help secure a long future for Mary Free Bed.

Your contribution gives the gift of independence to countless hopeful patients—not just from our local community, but from far and wide for generations to come.

The transition to a new year serves as a powerful reminder that legacies are built every day through the choices we make and the commitments we honor. 2024 is your new chapter — make it a chapter of hope.

To learn more about planned giving opportunities with Mary Free Bed, visit [maryfreebed.giftlegacy.com](http://maryfreebed.giftlegacy.com) or contact Brad Kaufmann, director of planned giving, at [brad.kaufmann@maryfreebed.com](mailto:brad.kaufmann@maryfreebed.com).

# Inside Mary Free Bed



## HALLOWEEN HEROES TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Combining the magical powers of the Mary Free Bed Inpatient Rehabilitation team and the Mary Free Bed Guild, we brought a sprinkle of Halloween magic right to the hospital! Our Margaret G. Bertsch Therapy Garden transformed into a realm of wonder, and we welcomed a caravan of cars filled with treats (and a few tricks!).

Our annual Halloween Heroes Trunk-or-Treat isn't just an event – it's a cherished tradition. It ensures a safe, spellbinding trick-or-treat experience for our youngest patients and their loved ones.

West Michigan-based commercial contractor, Newco Design Build LLC, joined in on the fun this year by generously building a grand entrance structure to the "Mary Cemetery." Thank you, Newco!



## DECK THE HALLS WITH HOPE AND FREEDOM



This year's Deck the Halls event at Mary Free Bed offered a welcome, cheerful escape during the festive season. The event was brilliantly orchestrated by the Recreational Therapy team, with generous sponsorship from Eastbrook Homes and the Mary Free Bed Junior Guild. Patients and their families were treated to a warm and cozy celebration alive with various activities such as caroling, hot chocolate, music therapy, and a joyful visit from West Michigan Therapy Dogs.

## REVITALIZING RECOVERY: THE HEALING TOUCH OF A SALON EXPERIENCE

The Salon at Mary Free Bed is an uplifting sanctuary for self-care and independence during rehabilitation. Serving patients with mobility, dexterity, or sensory challenges, our skilled stylists ensure a rejuvenating experience for everyone. From shaves to haircuts and styles, patients get more than a style boost – they leave with a boost to their well-being and confidence.

We are grateful to Mary Free Bed Foundation supporters for funding salon equipment and supplies.



# PARTNERS IN HEALING

## GRANGER BUILDS HOSPITALS WITH HEART

Meet the incredible team at Granger Construction—a company with a heart as sturdy as its structures. As they've laid the foundations for several projects at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, it's not just bricks and mortar they're putting in place. Granger Construction is all about building hope and freedom, which is why they've chosen to support Mary Free Bed Foundation as a community partner.

As a family-owned company, Granger Construction's decision to invest in Mary Free Bed stems from a genuine desire to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need of healing. The entire team believes in giving back to the community that has supported them throughout the years.

Most recently, Granger Construction helped take the Mary Free Bed mission to a whole new level. They led the construction on the recent 25,000+ square foot build-out on the 6th floor of



*James Maier, the "mayor" of the 6th floor, was the first patient on our 6th floor. James recently graduated from Mary Free Bed after experiencing a spinal cord injury.*

Mary Free Bed's west addition on our Grand Rapids Campus. Completed within nine months, the expansion added 20 private inpatient bedrooms with room for more. In recent years, the hospital's occupancy and daily census rates have seen upward trajectories as more and more patients have Asked for Mary for their inpatient rehabilitation needs.

In just the past two years, Granger Construction has generously donated nearly \$20,000 to crucial programs at Mary Free Bed, including Orthotics & Prosthetics + Bionics and Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports through our Community Partnership Program. Thank you, Granger Construction!



SCAN THE QR CODE here to learn more about Mary Free Bed Foundation's Community Partnership Program.



## 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 Foundations
- Amway
- Carls Foundation
- Commerce Bancshares Foundation
- Doornink Foundation
- Fremont Area Community Foundation
- Frey Foundation
- Gerber Foundation
- Henry A. Fox Jr. & Kathleen O'Brien Fox Charitable Foundation
- James and Jane Welch Foundation
- James and Kimberly Currie Foundation
- John and Judy Spoelhof Foundation
- John Dykema and Michele Maly-Dykema Family Foundation
- Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation
- Korff Foundation
- Kutsche Charitable Trust
- Lake Michigan Credit Union
- Meijer Corporation
- Michigan Arts and Culture Council
- Monreau and Peter Stewart in memory of Champ McCahill
- River City Foundation
- Sligh Memorial Fund at the GR Community Foundation
- Wege Foundation

# Mary Free Bed

Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation  
maryfreebed.com

235 Wealthy St. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Grand Rapids, MI  
Permit No. 1034

## Momentum.

Published by the Mary Free Bed  
Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation

### CONTACT

Phone: 616.840.8137

Web: [maryfreebed.com/foundation](http://maryfreebed.com/foundation)

Email: [foundation@maryfreebed.com](mailto:foundation@maryfreebed.com)

### STAFF

**Timothy J. Pietryga**

Vice President, Advancement

**Jocelyn Dettloff**

Major Gifts Director

**Laura Dulay**

Development Director  
WAS and Association for the Blind  
and Visually Impaired

**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

This year, thanks to our generous donors, we've raised almost \$20,000 to buy specialized equipment and technology. This funding has made it possible to acquire items our clinicians recommend for rehabilitation—like communication tablets for kids, a basketball hoop, and more. We're grateful to everyone who has generously contributed to the wish list.

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).

### Patient Assistance Fund

The Patient Assistance Fund offers patients charitable care to help them achieve the best possible outcome. Gifts directed to this fund provide adaptive equipment, ramps for home accessibility, extended services, caregiver training, travel arrangements, interpretation services and support to meet transitional financial emergencies. *(Any amount is appreciated)*

### 3D Anatomical Scoliosis Model

Made with 3D printing technology, this flexible model simulates the actual motion of the spine and ribcage. It will be used in the Mary Free Bed Kids program to better educate patients and their parents about the causes, effects and therapies for spinal conditions. *(\$350)*

### KHS Sport Tandem Bicycle

A tandem bicycle further opens the world of cycling to patients. Participants with disabilities such as visual impairments will be able to bike to their heart's content with a sighted partner at the helm of this two-person bike. The Sport model can be adjusted for both children and adults. *(\$2,400)*