

# Momentum.

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation Newsletter

Volume 36 / Summer 2025

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 8**

**Thrive Gala**

**Presented by Buist Electric**

*DeVos Place*

*Benefiting Funding Future Front-Liners (Mary Free Bed Nursing Scholarship program)*

## WHAT'S NEW

### BLOOMING WITH GENEROSITY – WITH A MARY HEART KICKOFF

The energy was in full bloom as Mary Free Bed employees gathered for this year's *With a Mary Heart* employee giving campaign kickoff events celebrating the theme "Spring Into Giving." Like the first signs of spring, the events hosted in the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital Café and at Mary Free Bed at Covenant marked a fresh beginning for our collective effort to make a lasting impact in our patient community.

Thus far, more than 240 employees have given over \$120,000 in gifts and pledges to areas such as Patient Assistance Fund, Employee-to-Employee Giving Fund, Recreational Therapy, and Mary Free Bed Kids.

With the campaign in full swing, Mary Free Bed employees have demonstrated their commitment to a culture of giving, whether through their generosity or daily work.

Thank you to Mary Free Bed team members!

A special thank you to Consumers Credit Union and Fifth Third Bank who generously supported the campaign in a multitude of ways.

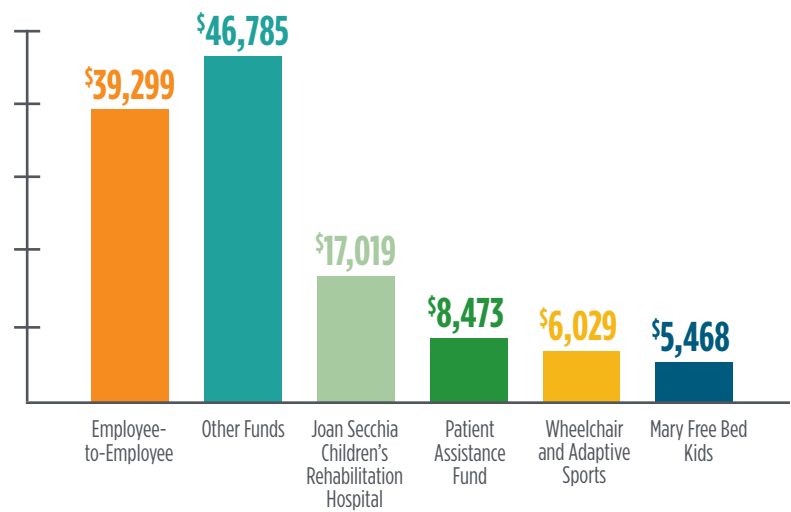




SPRING INTO GIVING: CAPTURING MOMENTS OF GENEROSITY



TOTAL RAISED TO DATE:  
**\$123,073**



REVVING UP SUPPORT FOR MARY FREE BED KIDS



CARS FOR KIDS Gala

The Cars for Kids Gala, presented by Gentex Corporation, was a truly unforgettable evening, bringing together a community of passionate Mary Free Bed supporters and car enthusiasts to support Mary Free Bed Kids. Held at DeVos Place, the charity preview event for the Michigan International Car Show featured the newest technology in the automotive industry, live entertainment, and local restaurants providing delicious bites.

With the generous support of more than 700 attendees, we were able to raise awareness and funding for the thousands of children served annually through Mary Free Bed Kids. A special thank you to our sponsors and volunteers for making this event a success!

PRESENTED BY  
**GENTEX CORPORATION**

TURBO SPONSOR  
**GRNCDA**  
GRAND RAPIDS NEW CAR DEALERS ASSOCIATION

**Supercharged Sponsors**  
Auto-Wares Group of Companies  
The Bouma Corporation  
iHeartMedia  
Lacks Enterprises  
Pure Architects  
Williams Family

**Full Throttle Sponsors**  
Consumers Credit Union  
Horizon Bank

**Nitro Sponsors**  
Life EMS Ambulance  
Dan & Carol Springer



# INSIDE MARY FREE BED

## RESTORING HOPE AND FREEDOM ONE BEAM AT A TIME

We are excited to share that construction has begun on Joan Secchia Children’s Rehabilitation Hospital—a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to helping children achieve their best possible outcomes through compassionate care, innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration. This will be the first hospital of its kind in Michigan.

This transformative project remains on track for completion by the end of 2026. Once complete, Joan Secchia Children’s Rehabilitation Hospital will deliver advanced rehabilitation care for children and

families, doubling inpatient capacity from 12 beds to 24 and expanding outpatient capacity by 20%.

The unique partnership between Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation and Corewell Health Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital brings together our combined expertise, resources, and passion, paving the way for a new and elevated standard of care in pediatric rehabilitation.



## DESIGNING FOR JOY

Our design efforts are advancing quickly! Key phases—concept, schematic, and design development—are complete. All aspects of the building will be infused with sparks of curiosity and play to encourage movement and success at all ability levels. A “Wow Committee” has been formed to incorporate engaging non-clinical features, such as interactive art installations and sensory play zones, ensuring the hospital is a warm, uplifting and inclusive space for children and families.



## INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The hospital will feature cutting-edge technologies, including Smart-Room capabilities, in-ceiling gait systems, and Bioness® Integrated Therapy Systems, enhancing care for both inpatient and outpatient therapy. Expanded services will include:

- Inpatient and outpatient therapy
- Orthotics, prosthetics, and bionics
- Intensive and outpatient feeding programs
- Autism diagnostic services

Together, we are building a legacy of hope and healing for children and families.



To make a gift and be part of this transformative project, visit [maryfreebed.com/JSCRH](https://maryfreebed.com/JSCRH) or scan the QR code.

## RIDE FOR A CAUSE: GRAN FONDO RETURNS TO SUPPORT MARY FREE BED

Cycling enthusiasts are gearing up for an unforgettable ride with a purpose! The Key Bank Gran Fondo is back on Saturday, June 21, offering multiple route options across West Michigan, all starting and finishing in downtown Grand Rapids. No matter your experience level, the Key Bank Gran Fondo has a course for you.

This event is more than just a test of endurance – it’s a meaningful fundraiser for Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation, the official charity partner of Gran Fondo for the second year in a row. One hundred percent of funds raised by participants through community fundraising will directly support our mission of restoring hope and freedom through rehabilitation.

Good luck to all riders and Team Mary!



## PURE ARCHITECTS IS BUILDING HOPE

At Mary Free Bed, we know that healing goes beyond rehabilitation care—it’s about creating spaces that inspire recovery, hope and resilience. That’s why we’re proud to partner with Pure Architects, a Michigan-based firm that not only designs transformative spaces but also invests in the people who use them.

As the architects behind Joan Secchia Children’s Rehabilitation Hospital, Pure Architects played a crucial role in shaping a state-of-the-art facility designed specifically for children and their families.

Beyond their architectural contributions, Pure Architects is an active supporter of Mary Free Bed programs and events. Their commitment to our mission through the sponsorship of the Mary Free Bed Open or Thrive Gala provides resources and opportunities for patients of all ages.

“We believe in using our expertise to make a difference,” said Zach Verhulst, Founder and CEO of Pure Architects. “Mary Free Bed’s work aligns with our values of creating spaces that serve, heal, and empower people. We are grateful to contribute to their life-changing mission.”

Through their generosity and partnership, Pure Architects is helping to shape the future of rehabilitation – one innovative, compassionate design at a time.



Scan the QR code to learn more about amplifying your organization’s impact through Mary Free Bed Foundation’s Community Partnership Program.



# WOMEN LEADING THE WAY:

## HOW THE MARY FREE BED GUILD POWERS REHABILITATION THROUGH PHILANTHROPY

For more than a century, the Mary Free Bed Guild has been the heart of Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation, shaping its mission and ensuring patients receive life-changing care. As the original founders of the hospital, this dedicated group of women continues to drive our work forward through their unwavering support and partnership with the Mary Free Bed Foundation.

The Guild’s commitment to philanthropy is woven into every aspect of Mary Free Bed. Through generous contributions, strategic leadership, and hands-on involvement, the Guild helps fund critical initiatives, expand programs, and enhance rehabilitation services. Its support directly impacts patients, providing access to innovative therapies, adaptive sports, and pediatric rehabilitation.

The Mary Free Bed Guild is deeply committed to supporting not only patients but also the dedicated staff who make rehabilitation possible. Through funding for professional development, scholarships, and resources that enhance patient care, the Guild ensures Mary Free Bed teams have the tools, training, and support needed to continue providing exceptional care.

The Guild’s generosity not only uplifts the Mary Free Bed teams, but extends far beyond our walls into the community. Through sponsorship and support they ensure sustainability for programs that help Mary Free Bed patients long after they graduate.



Guild members volunteer at the Pediatric Trunk-or-Treat event

To learn more about the Mary Free Bed Guild, visit [maryfreebed.com/about-us/mary-free-bed-guild](http://maryfreebed.com/about-us/mary-free-bed-guild)

# GIFTS & GRANTS

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

- Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
- Dan Vos Construction
- Dick and Ethie Haworth
- Don Bustin Kiwanis Memorial Fund at the Muskegon County Community Foundation
- Fusion Medical Supplies
- Gerber Foundation
- Keller Foundation
- Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation
- Lori’s Voice (see article on Page 7)
- Meijer
- Meijer Foundation
- NeuroCare Home Health
- SpartanNash, Inc.
- Sebastian Fund at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- Wege Foundation

## LEAVE A LEGACY: SUPPORT MARY FREE BED THROUGH YOUR WILL

Have you considered leaving a gift to Mary Free Bed in your estate plan?

The Mary Free Bed Foundation’s roots were established in 2012 and have flourished to create a bridge to hope for patients who have experienced a life-changing injury or illness. As we honor our beginning more than a dozen years ago, we’re also looking forward to growing a future to restore hope and freedom through rehabilitation. One way you can join us in that effort is by springing into action with your legacy!

No matter what stage of life you are in, consider remembering Mary Free Bed in your will by including a gift to the hospital. You’ll help restore independence to thousands of people through highly specialized therapy programs, innovative technology, and capital improvements for generations to come.

You can designate your gift to one of our many specialized programs or keep it “undesignated” to be put toward the greatest need. Either way, a gift to Mary Free Bed via your estate will help ensure that we continue to thrive well into the future.

By making this contribution, you will also receive an invitation to join the *1891 Legacy Society* to be a part of a community of individuals who have also made a lasting commitment to giving the gift of independence to countless hopeful patients.

For more information, visit [maryfreebed.giftlegacy.com](http://maryfreebed.giftlegacy.com) to learn about different ways you can make Mary Free Bed a part of your legacy.

# Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports

## LORI’S VOICE FUELS OVERDRIVE POWER SOCCER TEAM’S SUCCESS

Lori’s Voice has made a game-changing impact on the Mary Free Bed Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports (WAS) program by funding two new Strike Force Power Soccer chairs for the Overdrive Power Soccer Team.

As the team continues to grow, these additional chairs were essential to meet evolving regulations and sustain their success. We are incredibly grateful to Rebecca Visser, Executive Director of Lori’s Voice, for her organization’s commitment to empowering athletes with disabilities through wheelchair and adaptive sports.

For families like the Weatherfords, this partnership is especially meaningful. Chris Weatherford, a Board Member for Lori’s Voice, has seen firsthand the impact of WAS programming through his son, Cam, who not only plays for the Overdrive but also participates in Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp each year. His wife, Jane, also serves on the Mary Free Bed Guild.

“Power soccer has given my son an incredible opportunity to compete, build friendships, and gain confidence. The support from Lori’s Voice and Mary Free Bed ensures that more athletes like Cam have access to the equipment and experiences they need to thrive.”— Chris Weatherford, Lori’s Voice board member and parent of a WAS athlete

“Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports is dedicated to creating opportunities for athletes of all abilities, including those who compete in power soccer. The support of organizations like Lori’s

Voice is invaluable in making these opportunities possible. Their generosity ensures that athletes have access to the equipment, resources, and experiences they need to thrive—both on and off the court. We are deeply grateful for their partnership in fostering inclusion and independence through adaptive sports.”  
— Maria Besta, WAS Department Manager



Rebecca Visser, Lori’s Voice Executive Director, and Rachel Ruiz, Lori’s Voice Board Trustee, visit Mary Free Bed’s WAS office



## SLED WINGS SET TO SOAR AT ACTION-PACKED HOME TOURNAMENT

The Grand Rapids Sled Wings and Jr. Sled Wings hosted their home tournament in March. Two junior teams and one adult team from Grand Rapids hit the ice, facing off against competitors from across the nation in an action-packed weekend of sled hockey. With skill, determination, and a love for the game, these athletes continue to inspire us all.

Thanks to the generosity of Community Partners and Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports (WAS) Program Sponsors, 95% of the WAS program is funded by philanthropy—making events like the Griff’s Sled Hockey Classic free to attend and available to the community. Mary Free Bed and our athletes are extremely grateful for your continued investment in restoring hope and freedom through sports and recreation.

Let’s go Sled Wings!

# Mary Free Bed

Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation  
[maryfreebed.com](http://maryfreebed.com)

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Executive Administrative Assistant

**Darrow Goodspeed**

Major Gifts and Donor Relations Director

**Ashley Koop**

Event Planner

**Maggie Smitt**

Annual Fund Director

## WISH LIST

Items on our wish list, like therapy equipment or specialized tools, play a critical role in transforming lives and empowering recovery. Your generosity ensures that our patients continue to receive the care and resources they need to thrive—thank you for making a difference!

### Trivel Azteca Trike

Give the gift of joy and fun. This adult-sized, adaptive tricycle is utilized by our recreational therapy team to help patients improve cardiovascular endurance, build lower body strength, and increase mobility – all while enjoying a fun, confidence-boosting activity. (\$3,850)

### REAL i-Series Virtual Reality System

Bring the outside world to patients during their time at Mary Free Bed. This virtual reality system offers a means of mindfulness, relaxation and an opportunity to see destinations all over the world. (\$1,100)

### Excellerations® Active & Agile Fitness Set

Transform playtime into an active adventure with this versatile fitness course kit! Kids can design their very own obstacle course, encouraging creativity, physical activity, and fun. Whether they're stepping, ducking, or crawling through tunnels, this kit offers endless possibilities for engaging play. (\$350)

### Active Hand Gloves

Get a Grip! These gloves are designed to help people with limited grip strength get active and do things like manage daily tasks (holding utensils, opening containers), hold a fishing pole and use hand-held tools. (\$260)

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).

