

Momentum.

Stories of Hope and Freedom, Powered by You.

Volume 37 / Fall 2025

Mary Free Bed[®]
Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 8
Mary Free Bed Thrive Gala
Presented by Buist
DeVos Place
Benefitting Nursing
Scholarship Program

December 6 & 7
**Mary Free Bed Invitational
Adult Wheelchair Basketball
Tournament**
*Presented by CareLinc Medical
Equipment & Supply*
Mary Free Bed YMCA

WHAT'S NEW

A CROWNING MOMENT IN KID'S REHABILITATION

Earlier in May, Mary Free Bed celebrated a significant milestone in construction with the crowning of Joan Secchia Children's Rehabilitation Hospital. The final steel beam was placed to complete the steel framework of Michigan's first children's rehabilitation hospital.

"This topping off ceremony is really an opportunity to celebrate all of you," said Kent Riddle, president and CEO of Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation at the event. "This amazing community has come together to make kids' dreams a reality."

In addition to Kent Riddle, several speakers shared words of inspiration and gratitude for the community's support of the project:

- Rosalynn Bliss, Former Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids and Capital Campaign Cabinet Member

- Zachary Verhulst, Founder & CEO of Pure Architects
- Tina Freese Decker, President & CEO of Corewell Health
- Joan Secchia, Capital Campaign Co-Chair

The event also featured special performances by Grand Valley State University's Trumpet Ensemble, as well as Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center's youth choir.

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation's Joan Secchia Children's Rehabilitation Hospital is expected to be completed in fall 2026 and will serve as a beacon of innovation and care for children and their families nationwide.



Scan to see project updates and how you can get involved.

thrive
MAKING WAVES IN HEALTH CARE

JOIN US!

NOVEMBER 8 | 6:00 P.M.
DEVOS PLACE

Tickets are on sale.
Sponsorships available.

For more information:
maryfreebed.com/thrive

presented by  **BUIST**
Raising The Standard

FORE THE LOVE OF REHABILITATION

This spring, the community showed up in a big way for Mary Free Bed – coming together for two signature events that support the kids and adults who turn to us for hope and freedom. In April, we hosted *Let Freedom Spring*, a luncheon focused on connection, storytelling, and impact. Presented by Trace3, this gathering gave guests the opportunity to hear from Ariyana James. Ariyana is a young athlete who was a patient at Mary Free Bed following a stroke at the age of 17. She shared her remarkable journey of recovery, resilience, and returning to the sports she loves with the help of Mary Free Bed.

Over \$83,000 was raised through *Let Freedom Spring* for Mary’s Mission, a flexible source of support that allows us to help patients and families wherever they need it most.

Then in June, we teed off for the annual *Mary Free Bed Open*, presented by Kent Quality Foods. Held at Thousand Oaks Golf Club, golfers enjoyed a beautiful day of friendly competition while raising funds for our Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports program. This year’s outing raised nearly \$160,000, helping provide equipment, coaching, and opportunities for athletes of all ages and abilities to thrive.

Save the date for next year’s *Mary Free Bed Open*, taking place on Monday, June 1, 2026. Sponsorships are now available. Please reach out to Laura Dulay, development director, to learn more at laura.dulay@maryfreebed.com.

We are so grateful to everyone who made these events a success whether you attended, hosted, donated, or volunteered. Your support helps restore hope and freedom for every person we serve.

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

Let Freedom Spring:

Presented by



Granger Construction
Merrill Lynch
A Bank of America Company
The 13 Fund

Mary Free Bed Open:

Presented by



Jenny M. Peterson Foundation

MOMENTS THAT MOVED US



YOUR GIFTS IN MOTION

LAURA'S GOING HOME ERA

After undergoing brain surgery to remove a tumor, Laura faced an uphill journey relearning how to walk and navigate everyday life. At Mary Free Bed at Covenant, she found more than expert care. She found a team that believed in her every step of the way.

With the support of her care team, and donor generosity that makes this level of care possible, Laura defied the odds in ways she never thought possible. Today, she's back to doing the things she loves, living with strength, hope, and renewed independence.



Scan the QR code to watch Laura's full story and see the difference your support makes.



FROM EQUIPMENT TO EMPOWERMENT

For decades, Mary Free Bed has been fortunate to call CareLinc Medical Equipment and Supply a trusted community partner. Their continued generosity has supported countless patients, programs, and events that promote healing, independence, and inclusion. One area especially impacted by their support is our nationally recognized Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports (WAS) Program.

But CareLinc's dedication extends well beyond financial contributions. Their team consistently shows up—volunteering their time and energy to cheer on athletes at tournaments, lend a hand at events, and support our patients in truly meaningful ways across the Mary Free Bed system, including at our annual Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp.

Each year, CareLinc donates a brand-new sports chair to a camper, helping equip young athletes with the tools they need to thrive. This year's young recipient was a returning camper with a passion for basketball and a supportive local family cheering him on. Derek Damstra, CareLinc's President, first met him at camp last year and was inspired by his enthusiasm and dedication. As a member of a junior wheelchair basketball team, he now has the right equipment to continue his athletic journey—and CareLinc is proud to play a part in that.

"We're proud to support Mary Free Bed and their mission to help people regain their independence," said Damstra. "To play a part in helping someone get back to the activities that bring them joy has been incredibly meaningful to our entire team."



Scan the QR code to learn more about amplifying your organization's impact through our Community Partnership program.



FILLING THE GAPS SO PATIENTS CAN HEAL

FILLING THE GAPS SO PATIENTS CAN HEAL

Going home after an inpatient rehabilitation stay is a moment full of hope and possibility. It's a milestone our patients work hard to reach and one we celebrate right alongside them.

Sometimes a few practical hurdles remain. Maybe it's a piece of equipment insurance won't fully cover, a ramp that needs to be installed, or accessible transportation to outpatient therapy. The Patient Assistance Fund helps ensure those final steps toward independence aren't out of reach.

Thanks to generous donor support, this fund provides patients with the resources they need to return home safely, confidently, and be ready for what's next.

Here's how the fund made an impact of over \$88,000 last year:

- \$25,500 for accessible transportation assistance to get patients to and from Mary Free Bed
- \$19,400 for temporary lodging during care transitions when home is miles away
- \$14,400 towards care experience enhancements, such as equipment to improve treatment efficiency and a blanket warmer to provide added comfort for patients
- \$12,100 in medication support when essential prescriptions cannot be reimbursed in time for discharge

- \$11,400 for medical equipment not fully covered by insurance, such as walkers, wheelchairs, or shower chairs
- \$5,500 for other patient needs including copays, care baskets, and clothing when needed

Generous support from our community helps fill in the gaps to remove financial barriers so that independence is not just possible, but full of promise.



Scan the QR code to make a gift to the Patient Assistance Fund.



WHEELCHAIR & ADAPTIVE SPORTS

41ST JUNIOR WHEELCHAIR SPORTS CAMP TO EMPOWER ATHLETES AND INSPIRE COMMUNITY

In July, we celebrated the 41st anniversary of Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp at Grand Valley State University, where over 50 campers, ages 7-18, participated in 11 adaptive sports, including wheelchair basketball, tennis, cycling, kayaking, sled hockey, and lacrosse. Campers built confidence, developed new skills, and formed lasting friendships in a truly inclusive and empowering environment.

Every camper comes with a different story and reason they use a wheelchair. Diagnoses include spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and amputation. This program gives youth an opportunity to discover new interests without the financial commitment of purchasing their own equipment.

Camp is made possible by the generosity of the Saladin Shriners, with support from other foundations and individuals, including The James & Kimberly Currie Foundation, The Gerber Foundation, and the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council. Camp would also not be possible without the help of several dozen volunteers, nurses, and instructors – many of whom use wheelchairs – who offer their time and energy to make this a memorable and fun experience for every participant. Many volunteers return year after year, including members of the Mary Free Bed Guild who provide and serve lunch daily.



MARY FREE BED OVERDRIVE TAKES HOME NATIONAL TITLE

The Mary Free Bed Overdrive, Mary Free Bed's power soccer team, won the Founders Conference National Championship in Fort Wayne, Indiana earlier this summer! Entering the tournament as a top seed, they dominated pool play with three shutout victories and went undefeated in bracket play.

Coached by Pete Kaiser with assistant coaches Jason Boersma and Livvie Berger, the Overdrive had a standout season, traveling to tournaments in Ft. Wayne, Virginia Beach, and Wooster, and finishing the regular season in first place with a 13-7-1 record.

Behind every practice, travel day, and game-winning goal is the support of generous donors who believe in what adaptive sports can do. Gifts to Mary Free Bed's WAS program help remove financial barriers that would otherwise prevent athletes from participating – from accessible equipment and travel expenses to facility access and coaching. This championship was made possible by that support!



WELCOME OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING

We're excited to share that Timothy Tuthill has been named Director of Planned Giving at Mary Free Bed Foundation. In this role, he will help donors leave a lasting legacy through charitable estate planning and other long-term giving strategies.

Tim has been part of the Mary Free Bed team for the past three years, serving in several roles that reflect his deep commitment to our mission of restoring hope and freedom. We're thrilled to see him step into this next chapter and continue helping donors make an enduring impact.

You can connect with Tim at tim.tuthill@maryfreebed.com or 616.840.7177.



MARY MOMENTS

RIDING FOR A REASON

Over 1,000 cyclists hit the road this June for the 2025 KeyBank Gran Fondo, pedaling for purpose in one of Michigan's most beloved cycling events. Riders of all ages and abilities took on routes ranging from 10 to 85 miles, all in support of Mary Free Bed Kids and Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports.

Thanks to the support of cyclists, donors, generous sponsors, and volunteers, the event raised more than \$60,000 for our mission of restoring hope and freedom through rehabilitation!



MORE THAN MEDICINE: MOMENTS OF JOY AT THE CARNIVAL

Earlier this summer, the Margaret G. Bertsch Courtyard Therapy Garden was transformed into a vibrant carnival for more than 150 patients and families. From classic games and crafts to special visits with scaly and furry friends from the John Ball Traveling Zoo, the day was packed with moments that brought laughter and joy.

At Mary Free Bed, we believe healing goes beyond clinical care. It's also about creating positive, meaningful experiences for every patient. Events, like this carnival, offer a chance for patients and families to go outside of their routines, connect with others going through similar journeys, and simply enjoy being together.

We're grateful to Buist and Lori's Voice for their philanthropic support of the event, as well as the incredible team and volunteers who helped make the day memorable.



Mary Free Bed

Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation
maryfreebed.com

235 Wealthy St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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US Postage
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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

Email: foundation@maryfreebed.com

STAFF

Jocelyn Dettloff

Major Gifts Director

Laura Dulay

Development Director

Kelly Fitzgerald

Executive Administrative Assistant

Darrow Goodspeed

Major Gifts and Donor Relations Director

Ashley Koop

Event Planner

Maggie Smitt

Annual Fund Director

Timothy Tuthill

Director of Planned Giving

WISH LIST

If you'd like to fulfill a wish, please contact Darrow Goodspeed at 616.840.8196 or darrow.goodspeed@maryfreebed.com.

Lycra Sensory Swing

This swing will expand our therapy options for children with sensory processing challenges. Its stretchy, cocoon-like design provides calming input and is a vital tool in helping young patients regulate and engage more fully in treatment. *(\$200)*

Traveling Zoo Visits from John Ball Zoo

Enable both adult and pediatric patients to enjoy up-close encounters with live animals from John Ball Zoo during their stay at Mary Free Bed. These visits provide joy and positive interaction to our patients at a time when they need it the most. *(\$850 covers four visits)*

Adjustable Wooden Benches

These versatile benches are used every day by our pediatric therapy team to support a wide range of treatments. With constant use, having durable and appropriately sized options is essential. We're seeking one large and one extra-large set to ensure kids of all ages continue receiving the highest level of care. *(\$1,500 for two sets)*

Tennis Ball Machine

To help athletes train independently and on their own schedule, the Mary Free Bed Wheelchair Tennis program is seeking a new Lobster Ball Hopper. This accessible machine is lower to the ground, easy to maneuver, and perfect for players in wheelchairs to practice returns and sharpen their skills. *(\$2,000)*

