



MARY FREE BED HISTORY OVER 130 YEARS OF RECOVERY

In 1891, a small group of Grand Rapids women recognized the need to help patients with limited financial means to pay for health care. They passed a little black purse, asking anyone named Mary—or who knew a woman named Mary—to donate 10 cents. Mary was the most popular female name at the time, so the women quickly raised enough money to endow a single hospital bed. And so, the storied legacy of the “Mary free bed” began.

With an increasing need for support and services, the growing group of women formed the Mary Free Bed Guild in 1911. They’ve been responding to community needs ever since.

- The Mary Free Bed Guild brought the first physical therapist to Grand Rapids.
- Working with Grand Rapids Public Schools officials, educational services were developed for children with disabilities.
- The Brace Shop, a precursor to Orthotics & Prosthetics, was established in 1938.
- Developed in 1946, the Juvenile Amputee Training Program became a national model and was featured in *Life* magazine.
- In 1953, Mary Free Bed began providing adult rehabilitation.
- Mary Free Bed continues to experience rapid growth, expanding into five states and beyond since 2019.

STATISTICAL PORTRAIT

From one humble bed in the late 1800s, Mary Free Bed is now Michigan’s most comprehensive rehabilitation provider and one of the largest non-profit rehabilitation systems in the nation. Kent Riddle became CEO of Mary Free Bed in 2011.

Here’s a synopsis of our system’s track record. The Mary Free Bed System includes the Grand Rapids Campus plus 11 hospitals where we jointly operate or manage inpatient rehabilitation programs:

- There are 2,550 system-wide employees.
- We have more than 45 board-certified psychiatrists and over 108 providers in total.
- The number of inpatient beds on the Grand Rapids Campus has more than doubled from 80 to 215.



- Since its establishment in 2011, the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation System has offered 554 beds and growing. Our deep partnerships span Michigan, Indiana, Virginia, West Virginia and Illinois.
- Established in 2012, the Mary Free Bed Foundation has raised more than \$124 million.
- We're home to a fully accredited Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency Program.
- But clearly the most important accomplishment is the dramatic increase in the number of patients served. In fiscal year 2025, Mary Free Bed served more than 102,124 patients.

Mary Free Bed is a not-for-profit hospital accredited by the Joint Commission and holds multiple accreditations from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

MISSION

Restore hope and freedom through rehabilitation.

VISION

To be the national leader in high-value rehabilitation and post-acute care, and to develop an integrated system of care.

VALUES

In order to restore hope and freedom, we'll:

- **W**ork collaboratively.
- **I**nnovate to offer unique possibilities.
- Be **T**ruthful and respectful.
- **H**eal with our hands and treat with our hearts.
- Approach our work with **J**OY.



SCOPE OF SERVICES

Mary Free Bed focuses exclusively on rehabilitation, enabling us to hone our expertise and program offerings. These include:

- Acute and sub-acute inpatient treatment
- Specialized outpatient programs and services
- Home care services
- Orthotics & Prosthetics + Bionics
- Assistive technology
- Sports rehabilitation
- Motion analysis
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports

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