



The Power of Philanthropy ■ Summer 2024

Promise



Dr. Massood and Simin Babai:
A family legacy of hope and healing



From left: Mojgan Babai Cline, Dr. Massood and Simin Babai, Dr. Sarah Babai and Dora Babai.

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Esteemed community members Dr. Massood and Simin Babai demonstrated their dedication to the field of behavioral health with a \$1 million gift to Summa Health that will significantly enhance psychiatry resident education and behavioral health services – two causes very close to their hearts.

6 The Campaign for Summa Health

Thanks to the generosity of our friends and benefactors, Summa Health surpassed the fundraising goal of \$125 million for the “Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always” campaign, the largest and most comprehensive fundraising effort in the health system’s history.

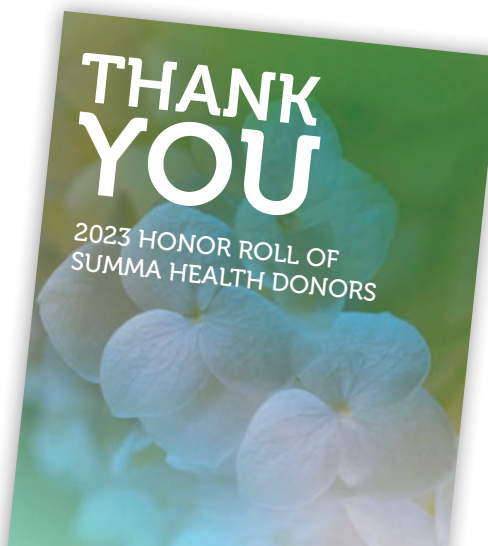
13 Wagner Family Foundation: Grateful for life-saving trauma care



Ryan Wagner says he owes his life to the surgical excellence of Dr. Laura Crankshaw. His family generously responded with a meaningful gift in her honor.

Also inside: Honor Roll of Summa Health Donors

Our annual listing of the many benefactors who gave so generously to Summa Health in 2023.



Promise

SUMMER 2024 | VOLUME 11 | ISSUE 1

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PROMISE is published for friends and benefactors of Summa Health. PROMISE focuses on the impact of philanthropy and provides information on programs and services at Summa Health.

Summa Health is an integrated healthcare delivery system that provides coordinated, value-based services across the continuum of care. Its mission: *To provide the highest quality, compassionate care to our patients and members and to contribute to a healthier community. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit summahealth.org.*

Through Summa Foundation, friends and benefactors provide vital support for patient care, medical education and research initiatives at Summa Health. Staff members are available to answer questions regarding types of gifts and how to make a meaningful contribution.

You have the right to request that we do not send you any future fundraising materials. You may make the request by emailing Summa Foundation at foundation@summahealth.org, calling 330.375.3159, or by sending your name and address, together with your request to be removed from one or more of our fundraising mailing lists, to:

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Please read an exciting announcement about the future of Summa Health at summahealth.org/future.



**"As we look
to the future,
we see a
horizon filled
with promise."**

**Jessica Hudson and
Cliff Deveny, M.D.**

Dear Friends of Summa Health,

As we turn the pages of Promise magazine, we are reminded of the extraordinary individuals who are the cornerstone of our Summa Health community. It is with profound gratitude that we honor Dr. Massood and Simin Babai on our cover, whose generosity is a beacon of hope for those touched by our Behavioral Health Institute and Psychiatry Residency Program.

Since 2019, we have opened the Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Tower, the new front door to the Akron Campus, and the Juve Family Behavioral Health Pavilion, a sanctuary where healing is embraced with a holistic approach. We are grateful for

all those who have contributed and celebrate the enduring legacy we have built together.

Your steadfast commitment is the catalyst for transformative change within our community. It is your dedication that has propelled us beyond our aspirations, surpassing the \$125 million mark in The Campaign for Summa Health, "Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always." We extend our deepest appreciation to the late Ann Brennan, Rennick Andreoli, and Tom and Ginny Knoll for leading this monumental effort.

In this issue, we also shine a light on the stories that embody our mission – stories made possible by your spirit of philanthropy. Your contributions, regardless of size, are pivotal in sustaining excellence in patient care by enhancing our facilities and innovative programs and attracting the finest minds in healthcare.

As we look to the future, we see a horizon filled with promise. Your

unwavering support has illuminated our path for more than 130 years.

Thank you for being an integral part of our Summa Health family. Your belief in our mission elevates our standard of care and enriches the lives of those we serve.

With heartfelt thanks,

T. Clifford Deveny, M.D.
President and CEO
Summa Health

Jessica Hudson
President, Summa Foundation
Chief Development Officer,
Summa Health



Dr. Massood and Simin Babai: A reflection on their remarkable journey and a family legacy filled with hope and healing

Esteemed members of the community Dr. Massood and Simin Babai recently made a leadership gift of \$1 million to Summa Health that will significantly enhance behavioral health services and psychiatry resident education — two causes very close to their hearts.

Their generosity underscores the couple's long-standing history of support and a family legacy marked by Dr. Babai's dedication to the field of behavioral health.

Born in the small town of Zahedan near the Iran-Pakistan border, Dr. Babai overcame the odds to fulfill his dream of a career helping others through hope and healing. It was a passion sparked during his medical school rounds, despite his father's wishes for his son to become a businessman.

A chance meeting between Dr. Babai and Simin beneath a tree, while he was studying in Tehran and she was in town visiting with her aunt, has led to 60-plus years of marriage and a lifetime together on another side of the world.

With his devoted wife and cherished family by his side, Dr. Babai's journey has been nothing short of extraordinary, from his origins in Iran to becoming deeply ingrained in the behavioral health care community.

"What a life," Dr. Babai often says with a smile. What a life, indeed.



Simin and Dr. Massood Babai married in 1963.

[Continued on Page 4]

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In 1967, Dr. Babai departed for the United States ahead of Simin and their three-year-old daughter, Mojgan. Simin remembers those eight months apart as “incredibly difficult.” Even after the family reunited in New York City, they faced the challenges of living in a new country and learning a different language.

Dr. Babai interned at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, and then he completed his psychiatry residency at Rollman Psychiatric Institute in Cincinnati before the family moved to Northeast Ohio. At Fallsview Psychiatric Hospital in Cuyahoga Falls, and later St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, Dr. Babai’s reputation for excellence in patient care and education flourished.

He also was among the first professors to teach at Northeast Ohio Medical University, when it opened its doors in 1973.

Two lifetimes of dedication

Dr. Babai’s commitment is well known and highly regarded – not only by his patients, residents and community – but also by friends, neighbors and family members.

“The most rewarding feeling is to know you are helping people during some of the most difficult and vulnerable times in their lives.” Dr. Babai

Mojgan said her father was often called upon day and night to help anyone in need.

To stay connected with him while he worked, Mojgan and her sisters – Sarah and Dora – would join him at St. Thomas Hospital. “All three of us kids were dropped off at the doctors’ lounge where we would sneak snacks,” she recalled with a smile.

Dr. Babai’s dedication to his patients continued long into his career until he retired in 2017.

Simin’s involvement with the Women’s Board of Summa Health further exemplifies the couple’s commitment to patients and their families. She made baskets for delivery to new mothers every Monday, volunteered in the St. Thomas gift shop and organized large-scale rummage sales twice a year with proceeds supporting philanthropic efforts of the health system.

Dr. Babai and Simin’s journey has been as rewarding as it has been impactful.

“The most rewarding feeling is to know you are helping people during some of the most difficult and vulnerable times in their lives. To see patients turn their lives around and become successful and happy is truly remarkable,” said Dr. Babai.

Summa Health connection

Dr. Babai’s connection to Summa Health became deeply rooted in the merger of Akron City Hospital and St. Thomas Hospital in 1989. Over the next 25 years, he served as the chair of Psychiatry, training hundreds of psychiatrists and behavioral health professionals and impacting thousands of patients and their families.

His two former colleagues and friends, Dr. Joseph Varley, chair of Summa Health’s Department of Psychiatry, and the Jim and Vanita Oelschlager Endowed Chair in Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, and Dr. David Deckert, director of Summa Health’s Inpatient Psychiatry and Psychiatry



The Babai Family in Ireland for granddaughter Courtney’s wedding.

Dr. Babai and Simin with their grandchildren Connor, Courtney and Lydia.

Residency Training Program, continue his legacy of compassionate care at Summa Health today.

Dr. Babai recently reconnected with Dr. Varley and Dr. Deckert for a tour of the Juve Family Behavioral Health Pavilion.

"Our family was all so impressed with the new pavilion. The architecture, the brightness and the calming décor really foster an environment of healing and serenity," he said.

Dr. Babai was profoundly moved by the pavilion's homage to the history of St. Thomas and Alcoholics Anonymous, especially in the wake of losing his dear friend, the late Dr. Robert Liebelt, a close affiliate of AA and a venerated figure in Akron's medical community.

The couple's admiration for the pavilion is a testament to the enduring legacy of St. Thomas and Summa Health's vital role in behavioral health care.

"Summa has always been at the forefront of psychiatric care in Akron. Having St. Thomas as a dedicated site for Summa's Psychiatry Department helped foster this reputation and now having the incredible Juve Family Behavioral Health Pavilion will only grow and enhance the excellent care Summa provides," said Dr. Babai.

Shaping the future of behavioral health care

The Babai family's legacy is one of commitment to each other and the betterment of our community through healthcare and education.

The couple's generosity is designated to strengthen the Psychiatry Residency Program, an especially meaningful gesture with Dr. Babai's role as an educator and mentor to many in the medical community.

Their support of this program is instrumental in cultivating the next generation of mental health professionals and reinforces the vital role



that residency programs, such as those experienced by their daughter Dr. Sarah Babai and son-in-law Dr. Costas Kefalas, both Summa Health physicians, play in developing skilled and compassionate caregivers.

Leaving a family legacy

The Babais believe that philanthropy extends beyond financial contributions, encompassing the giving of time and talent.

"Philanthropy and legacy can mean so many things. It can mean financial giving but it can also mean giving of your time or talent. Studies show that helping others correlates with greater happiness and lower rates of depression and anxiety. When our community as a whole is doing better,

we all do better," said Dr. Babai.

In recognition of their legacy and commitment to the field of behavioral health care, the main lobby within the Juve Family Behavioral Health Pavilion on the Summa Health System – Akron Campus is named The Dr. Massood and Simin Babai Lobby.

"I'm so proud of my parents for all that they have done," said Mojgan. "They are leaving a family legacy that will continue at Summa Health and make the world a better place for years to come."

For more information, contact Jessica Hudson at 330.375.4762 or hudsonj@summahealth.org.



Thank you!

"Caring for You" campaign surpasses \$125 million goal

In November 2023, Summa Health announced it had surpassed the goal of raising \$125 million for the "Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always" campaign, the largest and most comprehensive fundraising effort in the health system's history. This extraordinary accomplishment is a testament to the enduring commitment of the community to advance health and wellness for all.

Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always

In 2019, Summa Health joined with leaders across the community to announce a comprehensive campaign, on behalf of the patients served today – and tomorrow. Initially led by Honorary Chairs the late Ann Brennan and Rennick Andreoli, the campaign aligned with an investment in a physical transformation across the Akron and Barberton Campuses, ushering in a new era of healthcare for Summa Health.

The landmark state-of-the-art Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Tower provided a new front door to the Akron

Campus where patients experience comfort in spacious, private inpatient rooms designed to promote healing. The Williams Tower is home to labor and delivery, the Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Center for Breast Health and modern nursing units and offers expanded surgical capabilities.

Building on Our Legacy: Caring for the Whole You

The public phase of the campaign, led by Campaign Chairs Tom and Ginny Knoll, aligned with the construction of the Juve Family Behavioral Health Pavilion, signaling a new chapter in behavioral health care for the community. Within its seven stories, the 64-private room, inpatient and outpatient facility serves as a home to all levels of behavioral health care and integrates these services with medical care on the Akron Campus.

The campaign has facilitated physical enhancements and fueled advancements in research, education and clinical excellence.

For more information, contact Summa Foundation at 330.375.3159 or foundation@summahealth.org.



"The extraordinary success of the 'Caring for You' campaign is a tribute to the tradition of community support that has benefited Summa Health for more than 130 years. Every gift has supported our ability to enhance patient care and empower clinical excellence."

Cliff Deveny, M.D.,
Summa Health President
and CEO

A message from our chairs



Gratitude for your role in Summa Health's historic campaign

Dear Summa Health Supporters,

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for your unwavering support and commitment to the Campaign for Summa Health, "Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always." Your generosity has helped build a legacy that will resonate for generations to come.

Together, we embarked on the most ambitious philanthropic journey in Summa Health's history. Thanks to your collective spirit, we have exceeded our fundraising goal of \$125 million. This monumental achievement is a testament to the shared belief that healthcare should be compassionate, accessible and of the highest quality for our community.

Your support has been instrumental in bringing to life vital projects such as the Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Tower and the Juve Family Behavioral Health Pavilion – beacons of hope and healing for countless individuals and families. Your generosity also has supported enhancements on the Barberton Campus, the expansion of outpatient services, and the establishment of programmatic gifts that support our physicians and shape the future of healthcare.

As Campaign Chairs, we have had the distinct honor of witnessing the transformation your contributions have made. You have enabled us to extend Summa's reach, innovate patient care, and most importantly, touch the lives of those we serve in profound and lasting ways.

As we look to the future, your continued engagement with Summa will ensure that it remains a sanctuary of wellness and care, embodying our promise of "Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always."

With deep gratitude,

Tom and Ginny Knoll
Chairs, The Campaign for Summa Health

Jackie and Evan Williams:

Transforming lives through the gift of family

Jackie and Evan Williams are making a profound impact on couples throughout the community who dream of starting a family. Established in honor of their own experiences and challenges with fertility, the Jaclyn and Evan Williams Fertility Fund has become a beacon of hope, providing financial assistance to those facing the often-prohibitive costs of fertility treatments.

Understanding firsthand the emotional and financial stresses of infertility, Jackie and Evan sought to alleviate the burden for others by supporting in vitro fertilization (IVF) and genetic testing expenses by establishing the fund named in honor of their children – Henry, Charlotte and Eleanor. The fund provides grants of up to \$25,000 to qualified individuals and couples.

The impact of the Williams' heartfelt generosity is evident in the stories of the families that have been helped. Among them are Nicole and Michael Hawks, whose lives were transformed by the fund with the help of their IVF specialist, Dr. Priya Maseelall.

In gratitude to Jackie and Evan, the couple said: "We are eternally grateful to the Williams family. Without the Williams Fertility Fund, our IVF journey would not have been possible. IVF is emotionally, physically and financially challenging. Being awarded this grant helped alleviate much of the financial burden so we could focus on our mental and physical well-being throughout the process."

Jackie and Evan had the privilege of meeting Emmitt Julius Hawks who

was born with the help of the fund, a moment that encapsulates the tangible difference their philanthropy has made.

"We were thankful we were able to meet the Williams family in person," said Nicole Hawks. "It would be a lie to say that no tears were shed. Jackie and Evan will always hold a special place in our hearts."

With their continued generosity and the gifts of family and friends, the Williams Fertility Fund continues to grow, enabling more families to turn their dreams of parenthood into reality.

**For more information, contact
Summa Foundation at 330.375.3159
or foundation@summahealth.org.**



"We are eternally grateful to the Williams family. Without the Williams Fertility Fund, our IVF journey would not have been possible."

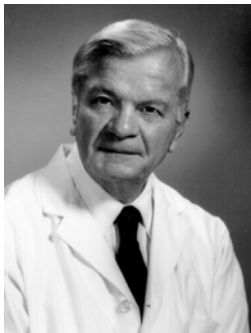
Nicole and Michael Hawks

From left, Evan and Jackie Williams with their children Eleanor, Henry and Charlotte; Priya Maseelall, M.D., who facilitated the IVF process; and Michael and Nicole Hawks with baby Emmitt.

Gift of gratitude strengthens the backbone of orthopedic care

In the early 1970s, James G. Robertson, an officer at Firestone Tire and Rubber Company and founder of Firestone Bank, came to Akron City Hospital seeking care from Dr. Walter Hoyt, a renowned orthopedic surgeon.

Their partnership would culminate in a lasting legacy of generosity through Akron Community Foundation. Following Robertson's passing, his wife, Helen, established the Robertson-Hoyt Orthopaedic Research and Education Fund to honor the life-changing care her husband received.



The late Walter Hoyt, M.D., a renowned Summa Health orthopedic surgeon.

Today, the enduring generosity of the fund continues to fuel innovation and educational excellence at the Summa Health Orthopedic Institute, which is renowned for its comprehensive approach to care, from nonsurgical treatments and sports medicine to innovative joint replacement surgeries.

Dr. Scott Weiner, chair of the Department of Orthopedics and medical director of the Summa Health Orthopedic Institute, had the privilege of meeting Dr. Hoyt when he first came to Summa Health as a new physician.

"Dr. Hoyt was a worldwide name and very well respected," said Dr. Weiner. "His legacy meant a lot to me as I started my career."

Dr. J. Patrick Flanagan followed as department chair after Dr. Hoyt retired.

"Both were mentors to generations of residents who took full advantage of the Robertson-Hoyt Fund. Their collective work helped to create the excellent department we currently have," he added.

The institute owes much of its progress to the fund. From bolstering the Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program to the acquisition of an advanced arthroscopic simulator, these contributions have been pivotal in advancing patient care and professional development.

"Using the arthroscopic simulator's virtual reality technology is very similar to operating on a patient for resident trainees and produces better surgeons," said Dr. Weiner.

The longtime generosity of



Scott Weiner, M.D., chair, Department of Orthopedics and medical director, Summa Health Orthopedic Institute.

the fund also provides research opportunities and continuing education for orthopedic staff and residents.

"When our research studies are published and presented at conferences, it enhances our institute's national reputation," Dr. Weiner explained. "Research is an exceptional tool for recruiting. Medical students seek out scholarly activity and take note of our productivity."

The legacy of James and Helen Robertson, carried forth through the Robertson-Hoyt Orthopaedic Research and Education Fund, exemplifies the profound

impact that grateful patients and philanthropic partnerships can have on patient care.

"This fund is part of the lifeblood of Orthopedics at Summa and even advances our internal culture of giving," Dr. Weiner noted. "We remain grateful to Akron Community Foundation for facilitating this generosity over so many years."

For more information, contact Summa Foundation at 330.375.3159 or foundation@summahealth.org.

Source: akroncf.org

Walter W. Born Foundation:

Transforming cancer care in Stow-Kent and beyond

Earlier this year, Summa Health opened the Summa Health Stow-Kent Oncology Infusion Center, a beacon of hope and excellence in cancer care, offering the highest quality oncology services and infusion therapy.

This state-of-the-art facility was generously supported by the Walter W. Born Foundation, continuing its legacy of philanthropic investments in Summa Health initiatives since 2007. The Born Foundation is the result of the thoughtful end-of-life planning of Walter W. Born, who passed away in 1989.

The first of its kind in the area, the center offers chemotherapy, immunotherapy, clinical consulting, port maintenance, dressing changes and more. In a welcoming and relaxing environment, patients have access to private cubicles and reclining chairs in the infusion suite. Residents of Stow-Kent and the surrounding areas appreciate having an alternative at this convenient location and enjoy the shorter wait times.

Such generosity is just one example of the Born Foundation's enduring partnership with Summa Health, sharing in its mission to make a transformational impact for all patients in need of care.



In recent years, the Born Foundation generously provided support for the construction of the new Joint Replacement Center of Excellence, the Summa Health Medical Group Cardiology Clinic and the High-Intensity Cardiac Unit on the Barberton Campus.

The foundation also helped support the purchase of a da Vinci Xi robotic surgical system that promotes quicker recovery times and an earlier return to daily

activities leading to an overall improved patient experience.

A strong advocate for Summa Health nurses, the Born Foundation has made several significant gifts to support professional development and educational opportunities for Summa Health's frontline care providers.

For more information, contact Summa Foundation at 330.375.3159 or foundation@summahealth.org.



Sameer Mahesh, M.D.

"Thanks to the generosity of the Born Foundation, the Stow-Kent Oncology Infusion Center stands as a testament to what can be achieved when compassion meets innovation. Our patients can now receive the highest standard of care, close to home, in a facility that embodies the spirit of healing and progress."

Sameer Mahesh, M.D., Medical Director, Summa Health Cancer Institute and The Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo Endowed Chair in Oncology

Propelling Summa Health to the forefront of cardiovascular care



The Wildflower Foundation

Thanks to the continued generosity of The Wildflower Foundation, the Cardiovascular Institute Fellowship Program received a welcomed boost in support of training new physicians to provide cutting-edge cardiology care with the utmost compassion and excellence.



Roger B. Chaffee, M.D.

Since the inception of the Fellowship Program in 2014, the foundation has played a pivotal role in its growth and development. Achieving full certification and reaching full enrollment in 2016, the program has flourished, expanding its capacity to 12 fellows per year by 2018.

"The longtime support of The Wildflower Foundation strengthens these advanced training opportunities. With their generosity, our comprehensive cardiovascular program is highly sought after nationally and recognized for rigorous, clinically excellent training," said Roger B. Chaffee, M.D., medical director of the Summa Health Heart and Vascular Institute, and chair of the Summa Health Department of Cardiovascular Disease.

The support from The Wildflower Foundation cultivates a rich learning environment for fellows and ensures that Summa Health remains at the forefront of cardiovascular medicine, providing the community with exceptional care.

Fred Damerow

As a committed ambassador of the Summa Health Cardiovascular Leadership Council, Fred Damerow takes the council's mission of philanthropic partnership to heart. His most recent generosity is a testament to his unwavering support of the advancement of cardiology services and education.

After experiencing first-hand the exceptional care provided by Summa Health when he underwent a life-saving procedure to receive stents, Fred was compelled to support cardiology research and education.



Peter Bittenbender, M.D.

Fred's passion for heart health was first inspired by a meeting with Dr. Peter Bittenbender, chief of Structural Heart Disease at Summa Health. Recognizing the urgent need for more physicians capable of performing advanced cardiac procedures, Fred wanted to ensure that the future of cardiovascular care remained robust and bright.

"Thanks to the championing efforts of supporters like The Wildflower Foundation and Fred Damerow, Summa Health remains at the forefront of cardiovascular care," said Dr. Chaffee. "Their generosity and vision have been instrumental in propelling our program forward, improving patient outcomes and nurturing the next generation of heart care professionals."

"Thanks to the championing efforts of supporters like The Wildflower Foundation and Fred Damerow, Summa Health remains at the forefront of cardiovascular care."

Roger B. Chaffee, M.D.,
Medical Director,
Summa Health Heart
and Vascular Institute,
and Chair, Summa Health
Department of
Cardiovascular Disease

For more information, contact
Summa Foundation at 330.375.3159 or
foundation@summahealth.org.

"Being part of the team that helped start the Pride Clinic – having that as part of my legacy at Summa – we want to see it grow. We want to ensure that LGBTQ+ patients have the highest quality care."

Hollie Kozak, Division Director,
Summa Health Medical Group
(shown on the right)



Hollie Kozak and Nan Mayer:

Champions for the Summa Health Pride Clinic

When Hollie Kozak and her wife, Nan Mayer, sat down to talk about philanthropy, they agreed that giving to the Summa Health Pride Clinic resonated with them emotionally.

Hollie, division director for the Summa Health Medical Group, was instrumental in helping to open the Pride Clinic in 2019 and has been a champion and faithful supporter ever since.

"We were discussing what's important to us," said Hollie. "Summa Health was at the top of the list because we

believe in the mission that we are the safety net for the community. I think it is important that we provide for those services and for the healthcare needs of the community as a whole."

Narrowing the focus of their giving was easy.

"The LGBTQ+ community faces so many healthcare disparities and barriers when attempting to receive appropriate healthcare for their needs that we wanted to make sure to support those patients in the Akron region."

On a more personal level,

Hollie explained, "Being part of the team that helped start the Pride Clinic – having that as part of my legacy at Summa – we want to see it grow. We want to ensure that LGBTQ+ patients have the highest quality care."

"The Pride Clinic is a place for people who don't have the means to go elsewhere," she added.

"Many of our patients have been turned away by other providers. Or a physician may have refused to call them by their preferred name or pronouns. The Pride Clinic is a place where people can be themselves, be safe,

be honest. That's why we are there."

Nan added, "I am incredibly proud of Hollie and all her efforts with the clinic. Through the years, I have learned how important both generosity and day-to-day support are for people who work there now, for the community, and for the people who have stood strong for this project since the beginning."

For more information, contact Nancy McCann, senior director of Development, at 330.375.7485 or mccannn@summahealth.org.

Wagner Family Foundation:

Grateful for life-saving trauma care

When a near-fatal car accident threatened his life, Ryan Wagner unexpectedly found himself in the caring and highly skilled hands of Dr. Laura Crankshaw, a fellowship-trained surgeon on Summa Health's Trauma Center team.

In gratitude for the life-saving care Ryan received from Dr. Crankshaw, his parents, Lisa and Brian Wagner, gave an impactful gift to Summa Health to shine a light on her work in surgical trauma and help meet the needs of the entire surgical critical care team.

"Before the accident, we knew nothing about Summa Health," said Brian. "We didn't realize that Summa is a Level 1 Trauma Center. To go from being concerned that your son is on death's door and is at a hospital you don't know to getting the treatment that we did from Dr. Crankshaw, that's why we wanted to support Summa."

"It was a blessing that the paramedics decided to bring Ryan to Summa Health," said Lisa. "When I look back, it truly was one miracle after another. Everyone was so caring, so gentle, so compassionate. Every experience with each team was like that. Our gift is an expression of our gratitude and a recognition of the vital work these healthcare heroes perform every day."

Brian added words of appreciation for Dr. Crankshaw's caring nature. "She went above and beyond. She even came in on her day off to see how Ryan was doing."

Since being released from the hospital, Ryan's health is beginning to rebound. He has returned to work and college classes and has started working out again.

Ryan expressed his own gratitude in a heartfelt letter to Dr. Crankshaw: "Thank you for keeping me alive so I can be here with the people I love. My words cannot



Ryan Wager expressed his gratitude to Laura Crankshaw, M.D.

"Thank you for keeping me alive so I can be here with the people I love. My words cannot express how grateful I am to you and to all the nurses in the ICU who cared for me."

Ryan Wagner

express how grateful I am to you and to all the nurses in the ICU who cared for me."

"We are deeply honored by the Wagner family's decision to support our mission," said Dr. Crankshaw. "Their gift will have a far-reaching impact, enhancing our trauma services and ensuring that we remain at the forefront of surgical critical care."

With the generous support from the Wagner Family Foundation, surgical trauma care is strengthened when lives hang in the balance, providing another example of the profound power of grateful patients.

**For more information, contact
Summa Foundation at 330.375.3159
or foundation@summahealth.org.**

Community partners increase access to healthcare

Linking women with mammograms and the community with life-saving heart care

Summa Health's partnership with the Kent Area (OH) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated provides free mammograms to women with low incomes who are uninsured or underinsured through the Summa Screens program.

Members are instrumental in empowering women through increased access to early detection measures, which significantly improve breast cancer survival rates.

Members of the Kent Area (OH) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated also have provided support for the installation of automated external defibrillator units (AEDs) at the Akron Urban League and Fellowship Baptist Church in Medina (pictured above).



On April 6, a plaque was dedicated in the Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Center for Breast Health that recognizes the longtime generosity of the Kent Area (OH) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated.

Supporting inclusion for everyone

The Gay Community Endowment Fund (GCEF) of Akron Community Foundation is a shining example of how members of our community support a goal of "full inclusion for everyone." Thank you to the GCEF for supporting Summa Health's 2024 LGBTQ+ Healthcare Summit, planned for August. The annual summit is a vital educational platform that equips healthcare professionals with the knowledge to address the unique health concerns of LGBTQ+ patients.

Decreasing infant mortality

United Way of Summit and Medina has made a profound impact by supporting Summa Health's CenteringPregnancy® Program. The program, which addresses maternal and infant mortality rates, was bolstered in 2023 through the generous support of blood pressure monitors to expectant mothers. This tool facilitates the monitoring of maternal health and underscores the importance of community involvement in tackling health disparities.

Wadsworth-Rittman Hospital Auxiliary:

Celebrating 65 years of supporting community health

The dedication of the Wadsworth-Rittman Hospital Auxiliary has been instrumental in supporting community health services for the last 65 years. Since its inception in 1959, the auxiliary has been at the forefront of community efforts, providing vital funds for medical equipment and services through the operation of a volunteer-staffed snack bar.

From the days of organizing follies for fundraising to today's operation of the snack bar, the mission of this steadfast volunteer group has remained the same: to support the Summa Health Wadsworth-Rittman Medical Center in delivering exceptional care.

The auxiliary's roots trace back to three pioneering women who gathered in the basement of a local Methodist church to lay the foundation of what would become a vital support system for the Wadsworth Municipal Hospital.

Through decades of transformation, the auxiliary has contributed significantly, including an \$8,000 donation in the 1960s that was crucial to the facility's relocation and expansion.

Today, the auxiliary's dedication continues to make a profound impact on Summa Health's mission to provide accessible, high-quality medical care.

Their most recent generous gift has enabled the center to expand its wound care services, offering a comprehensive approach to healing with advanced dressings, compression therapy, advanced biologicals and hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

Timely wound care is important to prevent complications, reduce healing time and maintain good overall health. Summa Health Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Centers, like the one at Wadsworth-Rittman, consistently have better than a 90 percent healing success rate.

"We are immensely grateful to the Wadsworth-Rittman Hospital Auxiliary for this gift that allows us to provide a supportive, patient-centered and team-based approach to wound care therapy to our surrounding communities."

**Lucas Smith, Director,
Ambulatory Services,
Summa Health**

"We are immensely grateful to the Wadsworth-Rittman Hospital Auxiliary for this gift that allows us to provide a supportive, patient-centered and team-based approach to wound care therapy to our surrounding communities," said Lucas Smith, director of Ambulatory Services.

"We applaud them for their 65 years of unwavering support, which has been instrumental in ensuring the residents of this area have access to the best specialized services, close to home," he said.

**For more information, contact
Summa Foundation at 330.375.3159
or foundation@summahealth.org.**

Source: thepostnewspapers.com



Members of the Wadsworth-Rittman Hospital Auxiliary are shown here volunteering at the snack bar.

Comunale Cancer Foundation

Bringing holiday cheer to cancer patients and their families

The holiday season, a time of togetherness and joy, also can bring challenges for those experiencing cancer treatment.

For 15 years, the collaboration between Summa Health and the Comunale Cancer Foundation has lightened this burden by distributing meals to hundreds of families, ensuring that the spirit of the season remains bright for those in need.

“The support from the Comunale Cancer Foundation has been nothing short of miraculous. Their contributions bring comfort and relief to our patients during some of the most vulnerable times. We are deeply grateful for their partnership.”

Christina White, Director,
Supportive and Integrative
Services, Summa Health
Cancer Institute

The impact of the Comunale Cancer Foundation extends beyond the holiday cheer. Their support has been instrumental in the success of the Taste of Health program, which offers an innovative approach to health education by combining interactive discussions with a take-home meal kit for families.

Additionally, the foundation has been instrumental in providing groceries and toiletries.

Their dedication to patient comfort is evident through the Sunshine Bags initiative, where reusable totes filled with items to provide solace and support are given to those undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

The Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation Supportive Care Fund for Oncology also has been a beacon of hope, granting patients access to services and amenities that ease the burden of treatment. These include a wig salon, physical and massage therapies at the Renewal Nook, support groups and art workshops, to name a few.

Since 2006, the impact of the Comunale Cancer Foundation has been profound with over \$4.5 million in assistance enhancing the lives of countless individuals at Summa Health and many other health systems throughout our community. Their generosity has been a cornerstone in the Summa Health Cancer Institute's mission to provide the highest quality, compassionate care.

For more information, contact
Summa Foundation at 330.375.3159
or foundation@summahealth.org.



Summa Health staff and volunteers brighten the holidays.

Partners in good health



Summit Construction

Megan Smith, director of Marketing, and the entire team at Summit Construction joined the ranks of community heroes at Summa Health last year. Their Comfort Cart Drive donations are more than gifts. They are gestures of hope and healing for our patients.



Turner Construction

Turner Construction continues to build on its partnership with Summa Health by teeing off and selecting Summa as a recipient of the proceeds from its golf outing in honor of the 2023 Sapphire Ball. Shown here are Ed Paparone (left) and Taurean Spratt (right) from Turner Construction with Nikki Hawk accepting the check on behalf of Summa Foundation.



Wadsworth Police Department and Wadsworth Fire and EMS Department

The Wadsworth Police Department and Wadsworth Fire and EMS Department donated \$1,440 to the Summa Health Barberton Parkview Cancer Center. Funds were raised at the Andy Hontert Memorial Softball Game in honor of Andy, who was a member of the Wadsworth Fire Department for 40 years. He received care at Summa Health's Barberton Parkview Cancer Center. Dr. Andrew Haas, who treated Andy, as well as oncology nurse navigator Cindy Jones, are shown here receiving the check.



Lou Ciraldo

Lou Ciraldo, founder of Summit Construction Company, received the prestigious Outstanding Volunteer Fundraising Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Northeast Ohio Chapter on November 9, 2023. He is joined by Dr. Cliff Deveny, president and CEO of Summa Health, and Jessica Hudson, president of Summa Foundation and chief development officer at Summa Health.

For more information, contact Nikki Hawk, at hawkn@summahealth.org or 330.375.3548.



The Women's Board of Summa Health:

Continuing a legacy of enduring generosity

The dedication of The Women's Board of Summa Health has significantly impacted the lives of community members and the development of healthcare professionals since 1892. Members have contributed more than \$8.1 million and provided over 350,000 hours of volunteer service to the health system, exemplifying a commitment to healthcare excellence and community well-being.

The Women's Board has consistently been at the forefront of supporting vital programs at Summa Health, most recently the innovative Smart Start Program. This initiative is a cornerstone in Summa Health's mission to foster the growth of healthcare professionals and ensure a robust workforce for the future. Through Smart Start, Summa Health employees can expand their

knowledge and clinical expertise in partnership with local colleges, aspiring to roles such as associate registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and other vital healthcare positions.

"We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of The Women's Board of Summa Health. Their contributions have been instrumental in advancing our mission and directly enhancing the quality of care we provide," said Dr. Cliff Deveny, Summa Health president and CEO.

"Their recent support of the Smart Start Program is a testament to their commitment to nurturing talent and ensuring that Summa Health remains a beacon of hope and excellence in healthcare," he said.

The Women's Board also has played a significant role in advancing nursing education, contributing annually to Summa Health's scholarship fund for nurses. Their enduring support has been pivotal in Summa Health achieving Magnet status, recognized nationally as the gold standard of nursing excellence.

Summa Health leaders with members of The Women's Board of Summa Health, one of the 2019 honorees of the Boniface DeRoo Award for Philanthropy — Summa's highest award for benefactors.

Other compassionate initiatives extend to patient care, providing comfort items such as bereavement baskets, soft robes, snacks, holiday tray favors and multicultural books. These thoughtful gestures have brought solace and dignity to patients during their most vulnerable times.

The Boniface DeRoo Award for Philanthropy, which the members of The Women's Board received in 2019, is a reflection of the profound impact of their philanthropy and volunteerism. This prestigious award, Summa Health's highest philanthropic honor, recognizes individuals and groups that demonstrate the spirit of selfless giving and service.

For more information, contact Summa Foundation at 330.375.3159 or foundation@summahealth.org.



I Am Summa

Shining a light on employee philanthropy

The commitment and generosity of Summa Health employees and physicians radiates through every aspect of the health system's mission, touching the lives of countless patients and families. This philanthropic spirit has been a cornerstone of Summa Health since its inception in 1892 and remains a driving force today through the *I Am Summa* giving program.

Working hard behind the scenes, members of the *I Am Summa* Employee Champion Committee advocate, educate and rally support for Summa Health by raising awareness around the importance of philanthropy.



Tina Holmes

Employee Champion co-chair Tina Holmes said she gives back because Summa Health is like her second home and her family. "I want Summa Health to thrive, patients to heal and to fill the system with hope with my philanthropic support. I love that I can

designate where I want my donation to make an impact," she said.

"Every year I give to a different area within the system such as to hospice in memory of my grandparents, the Williams Center for Breast Health to honor special friends and loved ones, and WAGtime. Who doesn't love to cuddle with a dog when you are sick?"

For more information, contact Ashley Manning, development specialist at Summa Foundation, at 330.375.7524 or manningas@summahealth.org.

Promise asked these *I Am Summa* supporters why they give back to Summa Health:



Shannon Blower

Director, Pastoral Care Services and Education

"I remember seeing a poster when I began my Chaplain Residency in 2012. The title was simply, 'You are Summa.' My sense of belonging and responsibility was immediate. I am glad to give annually to behavioral sciences research and education to further the sacred work of restoring the sense of belonging to a fragmented community."



Renee Brinker

System Director, Complex Care Institute

"As a leader, I experience firsthand how philanthropy can make a difference in the care we provide to our patients and community, and in the education and training we can provide our employees. I give to enhance the funding for the incredibly impactful programs that I see at work every day."



Tiffany Dillon

Director, Nursing Operations, Hospitals

"I give because I believe in the culture at Summa Health. I designate my contributions to promote higher education, nursing professional practice, and to expand the knowledge and implementation of evidence-based practice. The nurses I work with throughout the organization are amazing and care for the health of our community."



The Circle of Women's Health Philanthropists:



Celebrating a decade of dedication to women's healthcare, \$1 million in collective giving

In 2024, the Summa Foundation Circle of Women's Health Philanthropists celebrates its 10-year anniversary, a significant milestone that embodies a decade of commitment and collective generosity in support of women's healthcare. The Circle also reached an extraordinary \$1 million in cumulative giving, a testament to the power of unity and shared vision.

Since 2014, The Circle has grown into a formidable force for good, championing the healthcare needs of women and their families. The annual Holiday Celebration, hosted by Founding Chair Julia Rea Bianchi at Portage Country Club, on December 5, 2023, provided an opportunity for members to revel in the joy of the season and marked



From left, 2023 grant recipients Angela Smith, Sarah Youssef, Circle Chair Ginnie Abell, Anna Caldwell and Rebecca Teagarden, D.O.



"Together, we are doing more than raising funds;
we are raising standards of excellence in healthcare,
raising awareness and raising hope for all women."

Ginnie Abell, Circle Chair

the culmination of a year filled with achievements.

Circle Chair Ginnie Abell presented grants totaling \$98,287 to four deserving recipients. These grants will bolster vital Summa Health programs, including the Summa Health Complex Care Clinic, the Senior Health Program at the Summa Health Complex Care Institute, the Women Deserve to Smile Program and the Smart Start Medical Assistant Education Program.

"Our collective efforts over the last decade underscore the remarkable impact we can have when we harness our passion for the greater good," said Ginnie. "Together, we are doing more than raising funds;

we are raising standards of excellence in healthcare, raising awareness and raising hope for all women."

A committee of Marie Lawson Society members has begun planning a celebration event to commemorate The Circle's 10th anniversary later this year. This event will honor past achievements, share stories of impact and celebrate past and present Circle members.

**For more information, contact
Ashley Manning, development
specialist at Summa Foundation, at
manningas@summahealth.org
or 330.375.7524.**

Two new Summa Health leadership councils formed

Tom Gedelian honored with prestigious award

Summa Health's leadership councils bring together over 300 volunteer leaders who provide strategic advice, advocacy and philanthropic support to the health system. Members serve as ambassadors within the community and contribute to shaping the future of healthcare in the region.

In 2023, two new leadership councils were formed: the Summa Health Neuroscience Institute and Surgical Services

Leadership Councils. These councils represent the ongoing commitment of Summa Health to engage the community's expertise in achieving excellence in patient care and clinical innovation.

The Neuroscience Institute Leadership Council, led by volunteer chair Kathy Geier and physician chair Dr. Susana Bowling, supports Summa Health's mission of providing compassionate and high-quality neuroscience

care. The Surgical Services Leadership Council, under the guidance of volunteer chair Norm Detrick and physician chair Dr. Eric Espinal, is focused on advancing surgical excellence within Summa Health.

In 2023, Summa Health also recognized Tom Gedelian with the Charles Deering Legacy Advisor Leadership Award. A dedicated member of the Charles Deering Legacy Advisor Leadership Council since 2014, Tom's

outstanding contributions to Summa Health through advocacy, philanthropy and leadership have been invaluable.

"Tom's dedication and generous spirit have profoundly impacted the healthcare landscape in Akron. His leadership and advocacy have been instrumental in inspiring major gifts and advancing the mission of Summa Health," said Dr. Cliff Deveny, Summa Health president and CEO.



Tom Gedelian is presented with the 2023 Charles Deering Legacy Advisor Leadership Award. From left, Julia Rea Bianchi, Summa Foundation Board chair; Tom Gedelian; Jessica Hudson, Summa Foundation president and Summa Health chief development officer; and Naomi Ganoe, Summa Health Charles Deering Legacy Advisor Leadership Council chair.

**For more information, contact
Summa Foundation at 330.375.3159
or foundation@summahealth.org.**



At the spring 2023 meeting of the Surgical Services Leadership Council, members enjoyed a compelling demonstration of the latest advancements in robotic surgery. Shown here is Norm Detrick, volunteer chair.

Honoring a legacy of commitment to medical excellence and education

The enduring philanthropy of the Summa Health Medical Staff has been instrumental in the advancement of medical education and training. This legacy of support has been vital in maintaining the



Dean M. Frate, M.D.

Summa Health Medical Library and Continuing Medical Education (CME) at the pinnacle of healthcare excellence.

Dean M. Frate, M.D., chief medical officer of Hospitals and president of

Summa Health System Medical Staff, reflects on this tradition, "For as long as I can see in our history, medical staff leaders supported these areas to help guarantee that each physician and physician-in-training at Summa has access to a top-tier educational infrastructure in our own system."

This testament to the commitment of Summa Health's medical professionals ensures that both current and future generations of physicians have the necessary resources at their fingertips to provide the highest quality of patient care.

For more information, contact Summa Foundation at 330.375.3159 or foundation@summahealth.org.

"Offering clear, evidence-based education and timely access to information is a central tenet of our culture as a medical staff. It's necessary for providing quality care. We see it as our responsibility and at the very heart of our values."

Dean M. Frate, M.D.,
Chief Medical Officer,
Hospitals and President,
Summa Health System
Medical Staff

Soothing the soul with the sound of music Healing Arts Program

Summa Health's Healing Arts Program continued another year of artistic expression and therapeutic innovation, offering a symphony of sights and sounds to soothe the soul. The program is a testament to the transformative power of art in healthcare settings.

The Healing Arts Leadership Council, composed of strategic advisors and community ambassadors, plays an important role in orchestrating these musical encounters by collaborating with local arts organizations.

The musical journey over the past year included festive holiday concerts, thanks to the coordination of Paul Jarrett, a Healing Arts Music Committee member and the executive director of the Akron Symphony Orchestra. The

series delivered joy and solace to many during the holiday season.

Bonnie Panlasigui, administrative chair of the Summa Health Healing Arts Leadership Council, and president of Summa Health System Hospitals, holds a special connection to the program as a violinist.

"I'm especially proud of our most recent winter holiday music series, where Erica Snowden-Rodríguez played such lovely music, including my favorite cello piece, 'The Swan' by Camille Saint-Saëns," she said.

Bonnie's dual role as a board trustee for the Akron Symphony Orchestra further bridges the musical collaboration, "Together, we look forward to continuing our healing arts partnership."



From left, Erica Snowden-Rodríguez, Bonnie Panlasigui and Ivana Medukic.

For more information, contact Summa Foundation at 330.375.3159 or foundation@summahealth.org.



Courtyard dedication honors Comunale family legacy

In a touching ceremony, on July 18, 2023, Summa Health honored the legacy of Jane Fawcett Comunale with the dedication of a serene outdoor sanctuary in the heart of the Akron Campus. The Jane Fawcett Comunale Courtyard, named in remembrance of a life remarkably lived, stands as a testament to Steve

Comunale's extraordinary generosity and his family's enduring commitment to the well-being of cancer patients.

The Comunale family, through the Comunale Cancer Foundation, has been pivotal in providing essential support and resources aimed at elevating patient care at the Summa Health Cancer Institute.

From left, Sameer Mahesh, M.D., medical director, Summa Health Cancer Institute and the Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo Endowed Chair in Oncology; Jessica Hudson, president, Summa Foundation and chief development officer, Summa Health; Amanda Comunale; Stephen A. Comunale; Julie Deane; Monica Comunale Stevens; Bonnie Panlasigui, president, Summa Health System Hospitals; and Cliff Deveny, M.D., president and CEO, Summa Health.

The Comunale Cancer Foundation honors the memory of Steve's late wife and son, both of whom were lost to cancer.

"Thank you, Steve, and the entire Comunale family, for your remarkable commitment and support. You have greatly enhanced our patient-centered care and support services initiatives," said Dr. Cliff Deveny, president and CEO of Summa Health.

"We are grateful for the partnership of the Comunale Cancer Foundation that helps us provide the highest quality, compassionate care

to our cancer patients who are experiencing a stressful and difficult time. Thank you for helping us bring comfort and hope to our patients at the Summa Health Cancer Institute."

The courtyard is a place of respite and a symbol of hope and strength for those dealing with daily challenges and routines. It is designed to offer peace and solace, allowing patients, families, and staff to experience the healing power of nature.

For more information, contact Summa Foundation at 330.375.3159 or foundation@summahealth.org.



A rainy day, a ray of hope for Summa Health nurses

Regina and Bob Cooper honored

In a remarkable display of community spirit and dedication, 128 golf enthusiasts braved the elements to support the 13th annual Summa Health Golf Outing, which took place on a rainy Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at the prestigious Firestone Country Club's South Course.

Despite the steady downpour, spirits were high as the event successfully raised more than \$250,000 to enhance patient care by supporting Summa Health nurses. Nearly \$3 million in support has been raised over the history of the golf outing, all devoted to education and resources for Summa Health's exceptional 2,000 nurses—the very heartbeat of the health system.

In a touching tribute, Regina and Bob Cooper, esteemed for their legacy of generosity, invaluable leadership and dedicated service to Summa Health and the Greater Akron community, were fittingly recognized as the 2023 Golf Outing Honorees at the awards dinner. Their longstanding commitment to Summa Health has left an indelible mark on the community they serve. After the dinner, the Coopers announced a generous gift in support of Summa Health nurses.

The Walter W. Born Foundation, represented by Lorrie Shaffer, presented a check to Penny Gorsuch, Summa Health's senior vice president and chief nurse executive, for the update of cardiac monitoring systems in the Critical Care Unit and Emergency Department.

On the links earlier that day, SeibertKeck Insurance Agency



From left, Lou Ciraldo, chair, 2023 Summa Health Golf Outing Committee; Jessica Hudson, president, Summa Foundation, and chief development officer, Summa Health; Regina and Bob Cooper, 2023 Summa Health Golf Outing Honorees; and Cliff Deveny, M.D., president and CEO, Summa Health.



From left, Penny Gorsuch, Summa Health senior vice president and chief nurse executive, and Lorrie Shaffer, representing the Walter W. Born Foundation.

won first place for the second consecutive year. Dan Inks and Brian Bidlingmyer were recognized for closest to the pin, and Stephanie Mihelic and Nathan Sargent for longest drive.

Lou Ciraldo led the 2023 Golf Outing Committee as chair for the second year. Looking ahead, Chris Martin, president



SeibertKeck Insurance Agency won first place for the second consecutive year.

and owner of The K Company, will chair the 2024 Golf Outing, which is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, at the historic Firestone Country Club.

For more information about the annual event, contact Nikki Hawk at 330.375.3548 or hawkn@summahealth.org.

Esteemed supporters recognized for extraordinary generosity and excellence in medicine

The 2023 Summa Society Celebration at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn united nearly 350 distinguished guests on May 24 in an evening that both honored philanthropy and recognized medical dedication.

In a moving ceremony, Dr. Thomas “Tom” File was bestowed with Summa Health’s Distinguished Physician Award, the health system’s most prestigious medical accolade. Dr. File, with 44 years of exemplary service, has distinguished himself as a beacon of leadership, education and compassionate care in the field

of infectious diseases. His role as the chair of the Summa Health Infectious Disease division and his pioneering co-directorship of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program were among the many contributions celebrated.

“If I were to describe Tom File, it would be in the truest sense of the word ‘philanthropist,’ somebody who genuinely loves humanity. And that is Tom. He truly loves his family, his colleagues, his students and his patients – and giving back to Summa Health,” said Dr. Cliff Deveny, president and CEO of Summa Health, as he presented the award.

Dr. Thomas File, with 44 years of exemplary service, has distinguished himself as a beacon of leadership, education and compassionate care in the field of infectious diseases.

From left, Cliff Deveny, M.D., president and CEO, Summa Health; George Strickler, chair, Summa Health Board of Directors; Mary File, M.D., and Thomas “Tom” File, M.D., 2023 Summa Health Distinguished Physician Award recipient; Julia Rea Bianchi, chair, Summa Foundation Board of Directors; and Jessica Hudson, president, Summa Foundation, and chief development officer, Summa Health.





New Cornell Society inductees Jim, Marianne and Mark LaRose pictured with Julia Rea Bianchi, Jessica Hudson and Cliff Deveny, M.D.



Rick and Sharon Juve pictured with Julia Rea Bianchi, Jessica Hudson and Cliff Deveny, M.D.

Members of the Thomas W. Cornell Philanthropic Leadership Society gathered May 24 at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn for the annual induction ceremony. The Cornell Society is reserved for Summa Health's most esteemed friends and benefactors.

The evening also saw the induction of esteemed new members into the Thomas W. Cornell Philanthropic Leadership Society. This honorable group, named after Akron City Hospital's first board president and founding benefactor, recognizes the unparalleled generosity of those who have donated \$1 million or more to Summa Health. The late Marjorie B. and John J. Hartz, the Sharon and Richard Juve Family, the Thomas A. and Jeanne L. LaRose Family and the late Dr. Juan M. and Angelina P. Perdomo were celebrated for their enduring legacies and transformative contributions.

Cornell Society inductees receive a silver-plated cow as a gift of gratitude. The cow symbolizes the generosity of the staff of Buckeye Mower and Reaper Works, who pooled their resources in 1898 to purchase a dairy cow to provide milk and ice cream for patients.

2023 *Sapphire Ball* "Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now"

20 years of community commitment to healthcare

2023 marked a 20-year milestone for the Summa Health Sapphire Ball, a signature event that has contributed over \$14 million, demonstrating the community's commitment to enhancing healthcare services in the region.

Held at the John S. Knight Center on September 23, the evening also marked a triumphant fundraising endeavor, generating more than \$867,000 to advance the award-winning, life-saving care of the Summa Health Neuroscience Institute among other vital clinical programs.

Before guests rocked out to the iconic sounds of Starship, the evening showcased the powerful stories of patients whose lives were profoundly impacted by the exceptional care they received at the Neuroscience Institute.

Dr. Cliff Deveny, Summa Health president and CEO, shared an inspiring video highlighting the experiences of grateful patients like Alvaro Marroquin, who overcame a major brain aneurysm, and Kathy Geier, who received critical treatment following a severe subarachnoid hemorrhage.

"Caring for patients like Kathy and Alvaro is our why," said Susana Bowling, M.D., physician chair of the ball and medical

director of the institute. Alvaro and his wife, Juana, were among the guests attending the gala.

Honorary Chairs Gary and Rhonda Didado shared their personal connection with Dr. Bowling, whom they met for the first time in 2010, when she treated Gary's father for a stroke. "It was a very difficult time for our family, but Dr. Bowling being there really helped us through it. We felt confident that we were in the right place," said Gary.

The gala also witnessed generous donations, including a meaningful gift from Jane Weingart and family in honor of her late husband, Dr. John Weingart, Summa Health's first chair of Neurology and Akron's first board-certified neurologist.

Huntington Bank was the Diamond Sponsor of the gala. Ruby sponsors were the Akron Beacon Journal, Sandy and Cliff Deveny, Gary and Rhonda Didado, The Lehner Family Foundation, Tony Solaro and Thomarios.



On the right, Julie Pasternak, representing The Women's Board of Summa Health, announced a special gift in honor of the Sapphire Ball's 20-year legacy.



Diamond Sponsors Huntington Bank.



Scan the QR code to watch the inspiring stories of Alvaro Marroquin and Kathy Geier.



Above, from left, Don Rife, Fundraising Committee chair; Jessica Hudson, Summa Foundation president and Summa Health chief development officer; Gary and Rhonda Didado, 2023 honorary chairs; Cliff Deveny, M.D., Summa Health president and CEO; and Dr. Susana Bowling, physician chair and Summa Health Neuroscience Institute medical director.

At right, guests were treated to a spectacular, star-studded night of glitz, glamour and light made possible by Honorary Chairs Rhonda and Gary Didado (center).



Honor and memorial giving



Summa Foundation is here to help you honor a friend, memorialize a relative, or recognize a caregiver through a meaningful gift to Summa Health. Through your contribution, you will make an unforgettable difference in the lives of our patients.

Meaningful opportunities to honor and memorialize:

- Palliative Care Tribute Wall
- Tribute Bench Program
- Honor your caregiver
- Memorial donations and contributions

Summa Health is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Questions? Call Summa Foundation at **330.375.3159** or visit summahealth.org/honor-memorial.



Scan the QR code to make your gift or contribution.

Make checks payable to:

Summa Foundation
141 N Forge St, Akron, OH 44304