The Power of Philanthropy Winter 2020

Promise

The Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation

A Legacy of Giving Back
The Campaign for Summa Health

Realizing a dream years in the making, Summa Health dedicated its historic new Akron Campus patient tower with a grand-opening celebration on May 15, 2019. Soon after, Phase 2 of Summa’s master facility plan began to take shape with a leadership gift from Jim and Vanita Oelschlager.

Cover Story

Read about how members of the Comunale family channeled their grief into the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation — creating a powerful advocate for cancer patients in the Akron region.

A Philanthropic View

Learn about people and organizations whose generous giving advances quality care at Summa Health.

Happenings

Friends and benefactors come together in support of the patients and families served by Summa Health.

On the cover

Trustees of the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation (from left): Stephen Comunale; Monica Comunale Stevens; and Rennick Andreoli. Photograph by Jason Miller.
Dear Friends of Summa Health,

I am pleased to welcome you to this issue of Promise magazine and to thank you for supporting continuing developments at Summa Health. These pages reflect the pace of our progress in stories and photos covering the dedication of the new patient tower and the beginning of the second phase of our investment in the healthcare of the Akron region.

On the front cover are the officers of the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation, which has generously supported Summa Health for decades. Promise shares the inspirational, life-giving story of the foundation and recognizes the extraordinary gift of its principal founder, Steve Comunale.

In a second major feature, Promise highlights the continuing generosity of Jim and Vanita Oelschlager whose total giving to Summa Health now surpasses $7 million. Their extraordinary, lifetime support for the mental wellness of our community complements our planned construction of a 60-bed inpatient and outpatient facility on the Akron Campus dedicated to behavioral health.

We honored these and other donors in many ways in 2019 culminating in the Summa Society Celebration with the induction of three new members in the Thomas W. Cornell Philanthropic Leadership Society, our most generous benefactors; the presentation of the Boniface DeRoo Award for Philanthropy — our highest philanthropic honor — to the Women’s Board of Summa Health and the Women’s Board of St. Thomas; and the presentation of the Distinguished Physician Award — our highest physician honor — to Dr. Jay Williamson.

You’ll find all this and more in this issue of Promise, delivered with our heartfelt gratitude for your enduring support.

Sincerely,

T. Clifford Deveny, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Summa Health

Your giving sparks our growth
On Wednesday, May 15, 2019, exactly two years after breaking ground, Summa Health gathered its most generous supporters and volunteer leaders to dedicate, celebrate and tour the new seven-story patient tower on the Akron Campus.

Festivities began with exclusive pre-dedication ribbon cuttings at five select spaces recognizing generous gifts to the campaign for Summa Health, “Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always.” Namesakes and well-wishers celebrated at the Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Center for Breast Health, the Dee and Rennick Andreoli Courtyard, the FirstEnergy Foundation Patient Floor, the Lehner Family Foundation lobby art honoring Gordon Ewers, and the Dr. Ernest R. and Bonnie L. Estep Labor and Delivery Lobby.

‘The patient tower started as a vision and became a reality because of your commitment to the healthcare of our community,” said Dr. Cliff Deveny, Summa Health president and chief executive officer. [continued on Page 7]
Dee and Rennick Andreoli Courtyard

The courtyard provides a tranquil and beautiful outdoor area for patients and visitors to enjoy. The Andreolis are longtime supporters of Summa Health and the Akron community.

Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Center for Breast Health

Dr. and Mrs. Williams (right) are congratulated by David Custodio, M.D. (left), president, Summa Health System — Akron and St. Thomas Campuses, and Anthony Lockhart, chair, Summa Health Board of Directors. Dr. Williams was a pioneering surgeon and leader in breast care at Summa Health for more than 40 years.

FirstEnergy Foundation Patient Floor

Lorna Wisham (right), president, FirstEnergy Foundation, joined Leila Vespoli, past chair, FirstEnergy Foundation, and others to dedicate the top floor of the new patient tower.
Ribbon cuttings celebrate visionary gifts to Summa

Five donors whose leadership gifts to Summa Health and the Caring For You ... Then, Now, Always campaign were recognized with named spaces inside the new patient tower. Ceremonial ribbons were cut to dedicate these spaces prior to the tower dedication celebration on May 15, 2019.

Dr. Ernest R. and Bonnie L. Estep Labor and Delivery Lobby
The lobby fronts the state-of-the-art maternity unit in the tower. Dr. Estep was a longtime obstetrician and gynecologist at Summa Health.

Lehner Family Foundation Artwork
Gordon Ewers (center), founding board member of the Lehner Family Foundation, helps dedicate “A Way With Words” by artist Diana Al-Hadid. The artwork, the winner of a juried competition by Summa Health, was commissioned with a Lehner Family Foundation gift honoring Ewers.

Naming opportunities available
Leave a lasting legacy for you and your family with a donation to Summa Health. For more information or to schedule a tour of the new patient tower, contact Phylis Ferrara at 234.312.5868.
A plaque outside Room 6101 on the FirstEnergy Foundation Patient Floor in the new patient tower honors a gift to Summa Health from Thelma and Roger Chaffee, M.D. Dr. Chaffee is chair of the Department of Cardiovascular Disease at Summa Health.

**Summa donors honored with plaques in tower**

Ten donors who made generous gifts to Summa Health and the Caring For You... Then, Now, Always campaign have been recognized with plaques in various places within the new patient tower.

- Ginnie Abell, 5th and 6th floor satellite nurses stations  [For more on Mrs. Abell, see Page 14]
- Julia Rea Bianchi, 4th floor mother/baby room
- Thelma and Roger Chaffee, M.D., 6th floor patient room
- Regina Dorman, M.D., recognizing her father, Mark Borovsky, M.D., 5th floor patient room  [For more on Dr. Dorman, see Page 17]
- Molly Kerstetter Ferris, CNM, and Edward M. Ferris, M.D., 2nd floor labor and delivery room
- Ginny and Tom Knoll, 6th floor elevator foyer
- Shelly and Tom Nesbitt, recognizing their daughter, Katie Cooney Nesbitt, 5th floor central nurses station
- Pamela and Patrick O’Neill, 4th floor elevator foyer  [For more on the O’Neills, see Page 16]
- Margaret and Scott Weiner, M.D., 6th floor patient room
- Jane Weingart and family, recognizing Jon L. Weingart, M.D., 6th floor central nurses station

Other spaces for recognition at Summa Health are available. To schedule a tour, call 330.375.3159. To learn more, visit summahealth.org/caring.
“Thank you for helping Summa reach this historic pinnacle in caring for the Akron region,” Dr. Deveny said. He then acknowledged the visionary leadership and foundational support of Ann and the late David Brennan, Vanita and Jim Oelschlager, Dr. and Mrs. Gary B. Williams, Yvonne and Richard Hamlin, and Nancy and Vincent DiGirolamo.

Anthony Lockhart, chair of Summa Health Board of Directors, highlighted the significance of the ceremony, saying, “The future of healthcare begins here today with the opening of our new patient tower, the centerpiece of our $350 million investment in the healthcare of the communities we serve.”

Adding to the excitement, Dr. Deveny announced a new $1 million gift from philanthropist and longtime volunteer leader Steve Comunale, honoring his late wife, Jane. Dr. Deveny also revealed the name of the circular drive leading to the main entrance of the new tower — “Ann Brennan Way” — in honor of Ann Brennan for her lifetime of volunteer leadership at Summa Health.

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, one of the many dignitaries and officials in attendance, said, “The world-class medical care that will happen here is what will truly make this building so remarkable.”

Following the invocation by Rev. Ronald Fowler, senior pastor of the Arlington Church of God, supporters took positions along a 25-foot ribbon. Each represented a Summa Health constituency, including donors, volunteer leaders, board members, executives, physicians and nurses, government officials, architects and contractors, and religious leaders. Leading up to that moment, vocalist Jaron LeGrair captured the Summa Health promise to all patients in a beautiful, a capella rendition of “You’ll Never Walk Alone.”

Ann Brennan Way

The street leading to the patient tower — the new “front door” of the Akron Campus — has been named for the visionary Summa Health benefactor Ann Brennan. Cliff Deveny, M.D., president and chief executive officer, made the surprise announcement at the tower dedication.

Mrs. Brennan and her late husband, David, have touched countless patients’ lives with decades of support and service to Summa Health and the Akron community.

“I love that there’s an Ann Brennan Way leading in here,” Mrs. Brennan said at the tower dedication. “I think that is fantastic! LeBron (James) and I now share something because he has his own street too!”

Ann Brennan Way and the new tower can be accessed off Forge Street, just east of state Route 8.
Winston Churchill once said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

Perhaps no truer words can be uttered when it comes to Akron philanthropists Jim and Vanita Oelschlager.

With a passionate, lifelong commitment to supporting mental health and improving mental wellness, the Oelschlagers’ extraordinary generosity has been, quite simply, remarkable.

The most recent example of the couple’s transformational philanthropy was evidenced with their $2.1 million gift to the Summa Health Behavioral Health Institute, bringing their total giving to the health system now to more than $7.1 million. This gift — and the others that preceded it — is exceptional on several levels: financial, of course, but also for the sheer human empathy it represents.

“No question, the support from Jim and Vanita has helped us provide life-changing care to hundreds of patients,” said Joseph Varley, M.D., chair of the Summa Health Department of Psychiatry and holder of the Jim and Vanita Oelschlager Endowed Chair in Psychiatry and Behavioral Health. “Thanks to their unceasing generosity, we have made significant advances in programs and services that promote mental wellness.”

“Help Your Fellow Man”

When I told Jim I was proud
Of the guts that he had
He corrected me
And I never forgot.
He said “What’s my choice
With a disease I can’t change.
I can give up and feel bad
For the things I can’t do
Or keep going and do
What I can
And provide for my family
And help my fellow man.”

— from Air Mask, by Vanita Oelschlager, a book of poems about her journey through life with Jim, who has multiple sclerosis (MS).
The Oelschlagers’ gift confirmed their commitment to improving access to mental healthcare and their confidence in the leadership of Dr. Varley. Among other priorities supported by the Oelschlagers, Dr. Varley and his team have increased access for treatment of depression, anxiety, and a variety of other concerns, helping them secure the right care at the right time. In addition to integrating behavioral healthcare professionals in primary care offices — where most patients first seek help — treatment options include inpatient admission, partial hospitalization, intensive outpatient programs (IOP) and traditional individual outpatient care.

Through the addiction medicine IOP, the Oelschlagers’ gift will help patients who are dependent on opioids and alcohol, contributing to long-term sobriety. One patient recently described the IOP as his “life support system.” That patient eventually began to help others, giving to them what Summa had given to him — hope.

Another patient struggling with anxiety called the IOP “a circle of trust” that helped him identify his condition, learn about himself and acquire the tools he needed to relax and learn new ways of coping. He now helps others by sharing his story with new members in the group.

The Oelschlagers’ longstanding support of the Summa Health Traumatic Stress Center and Patrick Palmieri, Ph.D., director of the center and holder of the Jim and Vanita Oelschlager Chair in Traumatic Stress, has made a transformational difference of international significance for research, professional education and advanced treatment in the field of traumatic stress.

“The support of Jim and Vanita has been instrumental in strengthening numerous current programs and in developing others that help patients with post-traumatic stress disorder,” said Dr. Palmieri. “We are exploring ways to identify patients who are at greater risk than others of reacting adversely to trauma, facilitating early intervention. Training other professionals in providing trauma-informed care is another way the Oelschlagers’ support has been invaluable.”

On perhaps its most meaningful level, the continuing generosity of the Oelschlagers reflects their conviction that mental and physical health are inextricably linked. For well or ill, one influences the other, compelling compassionate, clinically excellent care for both.

Summa shows its commitment to behavioral health with plan for new, state-of-the-art building

As surrounding health systems limit mental healthcare — or stop providing it altogether — Summa Health remains firm in its commitment to the mental wellness of the Akron region.

The construction of a new, six-story building for the Behavioral Health Institute is moving forward on the Akron Campus, the centerpiece of Phase 2 of Summa’s investment in the healthcare of the community. Phase 1 was highlighted by the new patient tower on the Akron Campus in addition to other projects to enhance the patient experience throughout Summa Health.

“The beginning of Phase 2 of our facility plan not only represents an important next step in how we care for our community as a whole, but also underscores the importance we place on the treatment of those in need of behavioral health services,” said Dr. David Custodio, president of the Summa Health System — Akron and St. Thomas Campuses.

In addition to being a state-of-the-art facility, the new home will feature a spiritual space dedicated to the legacy of Sr. Ignatia and St. Thomas related to the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous and the treatment of addiction.

With help from the Oelschlagers and other generous donors, the investment on the Akron Campus keeps a promise that physical and mental healthcare will continue to be a part of the highest quality, compassionate care at Summa Health.

For more information about supporting behavioral health programs at Summa Health, contact Andra Polasky at 330.375.3873 or polaskya@summahealth.org.
From loss to legacy

Members of the Comunale family channeled profound sorrow into a foundation that is making a significant impact in the lives of cancer patients.
How can you endure the grief of losing your 27-year-old son and namesake to cancer?

For Stephen A. Comunale, the answer was helping others struggling because of a cancer diagnosis. The foundation he established for that purpose, the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation, honors the son he and his late wife, Jane, lost to cancer in 2006.

"We were all in a fog after Stephen died," said Monica Comunale Stevens, aunt to Stephen Jr. and executive director of the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation, "but we had seen clearly how cancer could throw a family into chaos.

"We knew we wanted to provide financial assistance, especially for patients and caregivers who were unable to work and struggling with the cost of treatment."

Rennick Andreoli, a lifelong friend of Steve and godfather to his late son, is a founding trustee of the Comunale Foundation. Rennick is president and CEO of RDA Hotel Management Company and chairs the campaign for Summa Health, "Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always."

"I have known the Comunale family my entire life," Rennick said. "Steve introduced me to Dee, my wife of 45 years. The joys and sorrows of the Comunales are ours, too. I have great admiration for Steve and Monica. They turned a terrible tragedy into a source of hope and healing."

Rennick, Monica and Steve, officers of the Comunale Foundation, are among the closest friends and benefactors of Summa Health. Under their guidance, the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation has eased the cancer journey for hundreds of local families at Summa Health and beyond, providing more than $2.3 million in assistance since 2006.

The Comunale Foundation’s support for the Summa Screens program has helped Summa Health provide free breast imaging services to uninsured and underinsured patients for years, including education on breast self-examination. Spirit-lifting support has included gift cards, gasoline cards and grocery cards, as well as direct relief for mortgage payments, utility bills, home repairs and rent. [continued on Page 12]

The Tree of Hope

Commissioned by the Stephen A. Comunale Jr., Family Cancer Foundation for Summa’s Barberton Campus, the Tree of Hope, adorned with patients’ thumbprints, is both mural and metaphor. "The mural serves as a beacon of hope for those who are coming into the infusion center for the first time, those who are leaving it for the last time and anyone in between," said Christina White, manager of Patient Support Services at Summa Health Cancer Institute.
Other programs and services supported by the Comunale Foundation aim to alleviate the physical hardships and emotional distress of cancer treatment. Among these are the wig salon, wig fittings and wig care supplies; physical and massage therapies and acupuncture; nutrition counseling; support groups and more. In April 2019, the Comunale Foundation made a major commitment to Summa Health to help design and create a larger space in a better location for expanded cancer support services on the Barberton Campus.

While in the early days of planning how to provide all this assistance — and only a month after Stephen Jr.’s death — Amy Comunale, sister to Steve and Monica and youngest of the nine Comunale siblings, was diagnosed with cancer. She died at age 45 on January 20, 2007, leaving behind two daughters, ages 11 and 13.

Then, in 2011, Steve’s wife, Jane, died from cancer.

“Jane’s death certainly challenged our capacity to be tested,” said Monica, who soldiered on with Steve and Rennick, all three strengthened in their resolve to help others.

“I understand how devastating cancer can be,” said Steve, who is a member of Summa Health’s Board of Directors. “Through our programs, as well as evolving products and services, we will do more to provide the financial, emotional and mental relief needed by those navigating cancer — today, tomorrow and always.”

True to his promise, Steve’s recent gift of $1 million to Summa Health in memory of Jane will help Summa Health provide the highest quality, compassionate care for cancer patients and all patients for generations to come.

Where does such expansive generosity originate after such loss? Love of family and community are at the heart of it. As an individual, volunteer leader at Summa Health, business owner and through his family foundation, Steve Comunale, with the full support of Monica, Rennick and the Comunale Foundation board, transformed the loss of Stephen, Jr., Amy and Jane into a life-giving family legacy.

For more information about supporting cancer programs at Summa Health, contact Jessica Hudson at 330.375.4762 or hudsonj@summahealth.org.
Promise: What motivated you to support Summa so soon after you arrived?

Dr. Streeter: I have always supported the foundations where I have worked. It gives me, as a physician, a connection to the community. I get to know those who are supporting our patients by being a donor myself.

Promise: What brought you to Summa Health?

Dr. Streeter: Summa’s reputation for cancer care and Dr. Gil Padula [medical director, Summa Health Cancer Institute and Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo Endowed Chair in Oncology], especially his study of cancer-related fatigue in breast cancer patients.

Promise: Why do you give back?

Dr. Streeter: My mentor and role model during medical school was Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall Jr., who passed away just this May. He was a nationally renowned physician and teacher and the first African-American president of the American Cancer Society and the American College of Surgeons. He stressed the importance of service, a core value of Howard University. His legacy of service and generosity created opportunities for generations of students.

Promise: How does philanthropy help in your area of care?

Dr. Streeter: Support services for cancer patients such as massage and navigation are important, life-regenerating processes that are not covered by insurance. They depend upon philanthropy. Another mentor of mine, Howard graduate Dr. Harold P. Freeman, who pioneered the concept of patient navigation in 1990, showed that this service alone improved breast cancer survival rates by 40 percent.

Promise: Why is employee giving so important?

Dr. Streeter: At Summa, we are in a profession that gives us great opportunities to give comfort to others. We sometimes do that with a piece of art or a beautiful garden or a massage for a cancer patient. I always get more than I give by supporting these wonderful gifts for patients. Giving returns a joy to me that few things can.

For more information about the I Am Summa program, visit summahealth.org/iamsumma or contact Shelley Green at greensh@summahealth.org or 330.375.6891.
Virginia “Ginnie” Abell recently made a second major gift in support of the Summa Health mission to provide the highest quality, compassionate care and contribute to a healthier community. Her generosity continues a remarkable record of support that spans 55 years, reflects her dedication to the health of the Akron region, and parallels an exceptionally dedicated career as a registered nurse. Her generous gift is recognized at nurses stations on two floors of the new patient tower where she honors her colleagues, “Past, Present and Future.”

Ginnie’s professional path affirms nursing as a calling as much as a career. She began her first job as a registered nurse in 1964, immediately after graduating from St. Thomas Hospital School of Nursing. She made her first gift when she received her first paycheck. So began decades of generous support that continued through her 10 years as a supervisor in the Emergency Department, her role in developing an Infection Control Department, and her success in acquiring national certification in infection control in 1983 after completing the first class sponsored by the Association of Professionals in Infection Control.

In 2013, Ginnie was one of 16 nurses across the Akron region to be honored with a Cameo of Caring Award for consistently delivering clinical excellence while treating patients and their families with care, dignity and compassion. In 2015, she joined the Summa Health Circle of Women’s Health Philanthropists and is now recognized at the Patrons level for her consecutive years of membership. Circle members have awarded more than $350,000 collectively since the group was founded in 2014.

Ginnie’s retirement in July 2017 gave her more time to help in other ways, beginning with her participation on Summa Health Seniors Institute Leadership Council, a group of select individuals who serve the health system as strategic advisors, community advocates and philanthropic partners for senior health. In addition to her continuing contributions on the council and as a patroness of the Circle, Ginnie contributes to the community in many ways such as with the Kohl Family YMCA Advisory Board, as an International Institute volunteer, an Oasis tutor for Findley School first-graders and by working with several Neighborhood Network groups.

“My parents, James and Lois Abell, taught me the importance of giving back to the community. I honor them by giving back to Summa, the community that nurtured me throughout my 50-year career.”  Ginnie Abell

For more information about giving to Summa Health, call 330.375.3159 or visit www.summahealth.org/giving.
Giving back is sweet music to Roberta and Stanley Marks

Roberta and Stanley Marks are in harmony about helping others. Now retired, they split their time between Akron and Scottsdale, Arizona, supporting hospitals, schools, musical organizations and other nonprofit entities in both communities.

Their recent major gift to Summa Health strengthens the health system’s ability to enhance the patient experience and advance clinical excellence — goals of the campaign for Summa Health, “Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always.” Daughter-in-law Jeannine Marks serves on the Campaign Executive Committee. Jeannine and her husband, Steve Marks, are familiar to most Akronites as the founders of the Akron Marathon, another initiative promoting community health.

In addition to their recent gift, Roberta and Stanley Marks have made significant gifts to various clinical areas highlighted at the annual Sapphire Balls, most recently for Cancer Institute Patient Support Services. Summa’s hospice and palliative care patients are other beneficiaries who have felt the warmth of their generosity.

Mr. Marks, who had surgery last winter, said, “Summa took really good care of me. They brought in doctors from every department. They pulled me through.”

“We have always had great care at Summa,” said Mrs. Marks.

In addition to their desire to give back, Mr. and Mrs. Marks share a love of music. They met for the first time more than 30 years ago as nonclinical volunteer musicians in the mostly all-clinical Akron Doctors’ Orchestra, now Akron Pops Orchestra.

“The Doctors’ Orchestra was always in need of musicians who could play stringed instruments,” said Mrs. Marks. “Stan and I both play violin.”

As such, the orchestra made an exception for the young lady, a music teacher at the time, and the young gentleman, who worked in his family’s real estate business.

Music and medicine are a natural mix in the Marks family. Son Neal Marks is a podiatrist. Roberta Marks’ father was a doctor; her mother was a nurse.

“My parents always encouraged me to learn more about everything,” said Mrs. Marks. She took their advice to heart. As a student at the University of Michigan, she wrote her master’s thesis on the history of music therapy, a study that was in its infancy at the time. Summa Health and hospitals across the nation now recognize music therapy as an important component of patient care.

For more information about giving to Summa Health, visit www.summahealth.org/giving or call 330.375.3159.
A generous campaign gift from Patrick and Pam O’Neill, longtime supporters of Summa Health and the Akron community, is helping Summa enhance the patient experience and advance clinical excellence system-wide in service to the patients and families of the Akron region.

In a video honoring the couple at the 2019 Summa Health Golf Outing for their longtime support, friends described them as “the salt of the earth” and “firmly rooted in values and things that matter.”

“They make other people feel really special,” said son Pat.

Their loyalty to friends, family and clients is remarkable, said daughter-in-law Elyse. “They will go out of their way for anybody.”

Patrick, who is president and CEO of O’Neill Insurance in Wadsworth, is past president of St. Sebastian Parish Foundation. Pam is an associate member of the Akron Children’s Hospital Women’s Board and a volunteer for Mobile Meals and St. Bernard's Sandwich Program.

Patrick and Pam taught their children, now grown, by example, involving them at St. Bernard’s and other service in the community at a young age. Their son Luke still asks himself, “What would Patrick do? That’s how we try to live our lives.”

In similar manner, Patrick was influenced by his late father, Thomas, who was among the first 100 patients to undergo transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) at Summa Health, a procedure that saved his life at the time.

“My dad was on the Wadsworth Hospital board [now Summa Health Wadsworth-Rittman Medical Center] … and had a pretty significant influence on … me and Pam and where we wanted to serve when we got to this point in our lives,” said Patrick. “Summa was a perfect fit.”

The O’Neills, who have given generously to Summa Health for decades, became personally involved through the golf outing with Patrick serving for six consecutive years on the steering committee, including chair in 2016. Patrick and Pam, who were the honorees of the 2019 golf outing, are members of the Summa Health Primary Care Institute Leadership Council serving as strategic advisors, advocates and philanthropic partners of Summa Health.

For more information about supporting Summa Health, call 330.375.3159 or email foundation@summahealth.org.
Damerow’s gift to Summa honors his late wife, Bonnie

Summa Health benefactor Fred Damerow said he asked a lot of questions during his 30-year career at Goodyear Aerospace. Trained as a mechanical engineer, he wanted to know how things worked, why they were important, and how they helped make things better.

Fred still is asking those questions as a member of the Summa Health Cardiovascular Leadership Council. The answers he received from cardiologist Dr. Michael Hughes, president of Summa Health System — Barberton Campus, and Dr. Peter Bittenbender, Summa Health chief of structural heart disease, inspired Fred, who had no heart problems at the time, to give a generous gift to cardiology.

“I had a blocked artery, and Pete put in a couple stents,” Fred said. “I feel better and stronger. I joke with Pete; I tell him he’s a medical mechanical engineer.” Fred also called that connection a coincidence.

Some things, however, simply are meant to be. Fred met his late wife, Bonnie, to whom he was married for more than 60 years, when he was putting together a team for an impromptu game of sandlot baseball.

“We were just kids,” he said. “We needed a few more players so we had to take the girls who were left. One of those girls was Bonnie. That’s how we met.”

Fred, an octogenarian, calls it a coincidence that he developed a heart problem later. He was accustomed to riding his bike 7-10 miles a day. When he began running out of energy too quickly, he went to see Dr. Bittenbender.

“I realized from Mike and Pete that there was a shortage of physicians who could perform the advanced procedures that Summa docs were doing,” he said. “That need precipitated my gift.”

Fred and Bonnie, who was quite the athlete, turned out to be a great team for sandlot baseball and a great team for life.

Bonnie joined the Women’s Board of Summa Health at the urging of Margaret Clark, the wife of Bob Clark, Goodyear Aerospace president and Fred’s boss, and remained a volunteer for more than 35 years. Bonnie and Fred raised two boys together. After Fred retired from Goodyear Aerospace, he and Bonnie owned and operated an auto and truck leasing business with Bonnie as the vice president and chief financial officer.

It is no coincidence that Fred’s gift to Summa Health cardiology is in memory of his beloved wife and teammate, Bonnie.

For more information about supporting cardiovascular programs at Summa Health, contact Jessica Hudson at 330.375.4762 or hudsonj@summahealth.org.

Physician father honored with gift to Summa

Dr. Mark Borovsky, a Russian Jew, was only 7 at the outbreak of World War II. Despite severe hardships and the deaths of half his family by the Nazis, he became a prominent surgeon and respected professor who was renowned for his encyclopedic mind, surgical skill and compassionate patient care.

His daughter, Dr. Regina Dorman, a family medicine physician and alumna of the Summa Health Family Medicine Residency, honored her father with a gift to Summa Health. A plaque bearing his name stands outside a patient room in the new tower.

For more about Drs. Dorman and Borovsky, visit our website, www.summahealth.org/giving.
Philanthropy has enriched the health of the Akron community ever since Boniface DeRoo’s estate gift enabled the establishment of Akron City Hospital in 1892. That selfless spirit of compassionate giving continues today, helping Summa Health innovate and grow to better serve every patient.

Several recent generous gifts support one of Summa Health’s newest programs — the Pride Clinic, the first primary care office in Akron dedicated to caring for members of the LGBTQ+ community. The clinic opened in September 2019 at 1260 Independence Avenue in Akron, across from Chapel Hill Mall.

“This clinic further demonstrates our commitment to serving every person with the passion and personalized care that is deserved,” said Michael Hughes, M.D., president of Summa Health System — Barberton Campus and executive sponsor of Summa’s A+PLUs employee resource group, which supports LGBTQ+ patients, employees and community members.

Nearly 50,000 people identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community in Summit, Stark, Medina and Portage counties. True to its founding principle to serve all those in need of healthcare, Summa Health is committed to providing respectful, affirming and culturally competent care to this population.

The Summa Health Circle of Women’s Health Philanthropists, a growing group that advocates for better healthcare for women, awarded a $50,000 grant to the Pride Clinic. Other community donors who are committed to the mission of the Pride Clinic include:

- The Gay Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation, which awarded a grant of $5,000.
- The Lisle M. Buckingham Endowment of the Akron Community Foundation, facilitated by Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs partner Patrick J. Weschler, donated $5,000 through a grant.
- Janine Patterson, who hosted a fundraiser at SF Salon that raised more than $4,400.
- Eric Jones of Jones Interior Group, who hosted an informational gathering in his home where friends and colleagues donated $900.
- Wadsworth Brewing Company and Missing Falls Brewery, which collaborated on a craft beer during Pride month called ‘Born This Way.’ A portion of the proceeds, $700, was donated to the Pride Clinic.

Jones, Weschler and Wadsworth Brewery owners Ericha and Ernie Joy and their son, Liam, are among the 28 members of the new Summa Health Pride Clinic Leadership Council, a dynamic group of community leaders invited by Summa Health to serve as strategic advisors, community advocates and philanthropic partners.

For more information about the Pride Clinic or the Pride Clinic Leadership Council, contact Andra Polasky at 330.375.3873 or polaskya@summahealth.org.
PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: DONLEY’S / SHOOK

Building a solid foundation for Summa

The historic partnership of Donley’s Inc. and Shook Construction on the gleaming new patient tower on the Summa Health System — Akron Campus was groundbreaking in every way.

The two leading Northeast Ohio firms joined forces in 2016 to lead the construction of the seven-story, 343,000-square-foot facility that has dramatically changed the face of the 127-year-old Akron Campus. Summa Health patients receive high-quality, compassionate care in a state-of-the-art facility that is home to labor and delivery, same-day surgery, the Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Center for Breast Health, 108 private patient rooms and much more.

The building is complete. The partnership of Donley’s / Shook and Summa Health continues into Phase 2 of the hospital’s investment in the healthcare of the Akron region.

‘Donley’s and Shook Construction have been incredible partners on so much more than bricks and mortar,’ said Cliff Deveny, M.D., Summa Health president and chief executive officer. ‘Their invaluable contributions of resources and talent are helping us build relationships in the community that benefit Summa Health patients in many exciting ways.’

Donley’s / Shook served as presenting sponsor of the Sapphire Ball in 2017 and continues to support the ball and other Summa Health events. Don Dreier, executive vice president of Donley’s, served on the Sapphire Ball fundraising committee in 2017 and 2018. Chris Halapy, president of Shook Construction, was on the ball’s 2019 fundraising committee, helping the health system connect with potential sponsors.

A dedication to Summa Health patients permeates both companies. In 2018, Donley’s and Shook employees participated in a successful drive to support the Summa Health Comfort Cart, which provides patients with free travel-size items for personal care, reading materials and other items to enjoy during their hospital stay.

‘Our employees live here and work here and are proud to support a strong local health system like Summa Health,’ Mr. Halapy said. ‘It was an honor to work on this project, and we are eager to continue to contribute to Summa Health’s mission.’

‘Summa Health is a tremendous asset to Northeast Ohio,’ Mr. Dreier said. ‘We were excited to help revitalize the Akron Campus and look forward to future construction and philanthropic opportunities with such a valued community partner.’

Corporations and foundations can support Summa Health patients in a variety of ways. For more information, contact Nikki Hawk at 330.375.3548 or hawkn@summahealth.org.

Chris Halapy (left), president of Shook Construction, and Don Dreier, executive vice president of Donley’s.
For decades of selfless service, women’s boards earn Summa Health’s top philanthropic honor

The Boniface DeRoo Award for Philanthropy was presented to the Women’s Board of Summa Health and the Women’s Board of St. Thomas Hospital on June 26, 2019, at the annual Summa Society Celebration. Nearly 300 guests filled the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn as Summa thanked its most generous donors.

“The Women’s Board of Summa Health and the Women’s Board of St. Thomas Hospital have touched countless lives in our community,” said Cliff Deveny, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Summa Health. “Summa Health is extremely grateful for these teams of volunteers who have given so selflessly of their time, talent and resources.”

The Women’s Board of Summa Health was founded 97 years ago as the Women’s Auxiliary Board of Akron City Hospital. Since 1922, the group has raised more than $7.5 million and volunteered more than 350,000 hours in fundraising and patient services. For decades, the Women’s Auxiliary Board’s highly anticipated rummage sales drew thousands of people and raised meaningful support for programs and initiatives at Akron City Hospital.

Since forming in 1958, the Women’s Board of St. Thomas Hospital has raised more than $6 million through various fundraisers, including the Gift Shop and Twice as Nice shop, jewelry and uniform sales, and former signature event, A Day at the Races, which helped raise support for programs and services at St. Thomas Hospital for 50 years.

The Boniface DeRoo Award for Philanthropy is named for the Akron blacksmith who bequeathed his estate to form a city hospital for Akron more than 125 years ago, sparking a legacy of giving that is embodied by countless volunteers and donors — like the women’s boards’ members — across Summa Health today. It is Summa Health’s highest philanthropic honor.
Williamson named Distinguished Physician

Summa Health honored Jay Williamson, M.D., for his excellence as a clinician and a beloved mentor with the Distinguished Physician Award at the Summa Society Celebration. A pioneer in the field of family medicine, Dr. Williamson has served at Summa Health for more than 46 years.

The Summa Family Physician of the Year in 1998, he directed the Family Medicine Residency Program from 1988 to 1995 and has chaired Summa’s continuing education committee for the last 40 years.

“Through his achievements as a physician, educator and leader, Dr. Williamson has touched thousands of lives in the Greater Akron community,” said Cliff Deveny, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Summa Health.

Jan Williamson with her husband, Dr. Jay Williamson, honoree of Summa’s highest physician award, at the Summa Society Celebration on June 26, 2019.
The Thomas W. Cornell Philanthropic Leadership Society gained three new members at its June 26, 2019, induction ceremony.

The Cornell Society, named in honor of the first president of Akron City Hospital’s board of trustees and a founding benefactor, recognizes individuals, organizations and corporations for cumulative giving to Summa Health of $1 million or more.

Stephen A. Comunale, the late Verna Hancock and the late Wilfred and Florence Weaver were formally inducted into the Cornell Society during a private event prior to the Summa Society Celebration. To read more about the Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation, see Page 10.

“Summa Health is proud to celebrate these individuals’ extraordinary dedication and generosity,” said Tom Clark, chair of the Summa Health Foundation Board of Directors. “Their gifts have made a significant impact on our caregivers and the patients and families we serve.”

The Cornell Society now includes 28 donors, including couples, foundations and organizations.
Ten years of supporting Summa Health nurses. Ten years of honoring the health system’s treasured philanthropic leaders. Ten years of fun on one of the greatest golf courses in the world.

Summa Health celebrated a decade of the very best in the Akron community at the 10th annual Summa Health Golf Outing on June 18, 2019, on the famed South Course at Firestone Country Club.

The sold-out event, featuring more than 100 golfers, raised more than $240,000 to support programs, services and other resources for more than 2,100 nurses at Summa Health. The outing has raised nearly $2.5 million since its inception.

Patrick and Pam O’Neill, longtime supporters of the golf outing, were celebrated for their enduring commitment to Summa Health and the Akron region. For more on the O’Neills, see Page 16.

The foursome from Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff, LLP won the scramble, and United Glass and Panel won best ball.

House of LaRose is the founding sponsor of the golf outing. Foundations Health Solutions was a gold sponsor for 2019.

Akon attorney Karen Lefton chaired the 2019 outing and also will lead the 2020 Summa Health Golf Outing on June 16 at Firestone’s South Course.

Sponsorships for 2020 are available. Contact Nikki Hawk at 330.375.3548 or hawkn@summahealth.org.
SAPPHIRE BALL

Regina and Bob Cooper, honorary chairs of the 2019 Sapphire Ball.

Ruby sponsors Tony (left) and Sandy Solaro with Harry Wayne Casey — the legendary “KC” of KC and The Sunshine Band.

2019 Sapphire Ball leadership, from left: Sameer Mahesh, M.D., physician chair; Phylis Ferrara, president, Summa Health Foundation and chief development officer, Summa Health; Cliff Deveny, M.D., president and chief executive officer, Summa Health; Regina and Bob Cooper, honorary chairs; and Jim Simon, fundraising committee chair.

Nick and Cindy Browning dance to KC and The Sunshine Band. Nick Browning is a member of the Summa Health Board of Directors and Akron Region President of Huntington Bank, a Diamond sponsor of this year’s Sapphire Ball.
More than 800 sponsors and supporters of Summa Health rocked to one of music’s most iconic bands on September 21, 2019, at the John S. Knight Center during Akron’s premier philanthropic gala.

The 18th annual Sapphire Ball raised nearly $1 million and now has raised more than $12 million in its lifetime. Net proceeds in 2019 benefited Summa Health Cancer Institute Patient Support Services and other key clinical areas.

KC and The Sunshine Band played classics like “That’s The Way (I Like It),” “Get Down Tonight” and “Shake Your Booty.”

Cliff Deveny, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Summa Health, highlighted Patient Support Services and its myriad services — financial support, wig-fittings, psychological and nutritional counseling, and much more, all generously supported by the philanthropy of Summa Health supporters. A video featured Jamie McKinley, a lymphoma survivor, and other Summa Health cancer patients. Bob and Regina Cooper, longtime philanthropic leaders in the Akron community, served as the honorary chairs. Jim Simon led a group of 22 volunteers as the fundraising committee chair. Sameer Mahesh, M.D., one of the leading oncology specialists in Northeast Ohio, served as the physician chair.

Huntington Bank and Regina and Bob Cooper were Diamond sponsors of the 2019 Sapphire Ball. Ruby sponsors were the Akron Beacon Journal, Foundations Health Solutions, Ohio CAT, Sandy and Tony Solaro, and Sandy and Cliff Deveny.

Sara Shookman, WKYC news anchor and Akron native, served as mistress of ceremonies.

SAVE THE DATE!

2020 Sapphire Ball
Saturday, November 7
John S. Knight Center
Benefiting: Emergency Services and other key clinical areas

Sponsorships are available. Contact Nikki Hawk at hawkn@summahealth.org or 330.375.3548.

KC and The Sunshine Band plays Akron’s premier gala

‘That’s the way!’

... to raise nearly $1 million for Summa Health cancer patients
Circle forum focuses on mental health for women

The Circle of Women’s Health Philanthropists, a growing group of more than 70 Summa Health supporters, is helping to advance healthcare for women in a number of ways.

Members advocate for Summa Health in the Akron community while also serving as strategic advisors to health system leaders. They collaborate financially to boost Summa health programs, with more than $515,000 in grants distributed since the group formed in 2014.

The Circle hosts several yearly events that engage current and prospective members in a relaxed and easygoing atmosphere while promoting a healthy lifestyle. On July 30, 2019, the Circle’s third annual Women’s Health Forum featured a panel of experts discussing the prevalence and effects of anxiety and depression. Following a cocktail hour and while enjoying a healthy dinner, physicians and providers spoke with attendees about the many services available at Summa Health that support mental health.

“Our members are proud to support Summa Health and promote the many vitally important services that it provides,” said Ginger Marchetta, chair of the Circle. “We continue to grow, which means we can make a bigger impact on healthcare for women in our community.”

Dr. and Mrs. Williams honored as Outstanding Philanthropists

On November 1, 2019, the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ Northeast Ohio Chapter awarded the Outstanding Philanthropist Award to longtime Akron supporters Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams.

Nominated by Summa Health and the University of Akron, Dr. and Mrs. Williams have made a profound impact with their service and generosity. Their $5 million gift to Summa Health in 2017 was the largest ever by a Summa Health physician and spouse.

The Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Center for Breast Health — where Dr. Williams introduced coordinated, patient-centered, multidisciplinary care for breast health services during his 40-plus years as a surgeon — is named in honor of their gift.
In much the same way, those who include Summa Health in their estate plan are investing in the health and well-being of future generations by living generously today. Each gift commitment also sets an inspirational example for others to follow. Through a bequest in one’s will, a life insurance policy, an IRA, or an income-producing gift, those who live generously in the present establish a family legacy that will help to ensure that Summa Health remains a strong, vibrant healthcare resource for the Akron region today and tomorrow.

Summa Health honors individuals and families who have made future gift commitments with membership in the Charles Deering Legacy Society, recognizing those who have the vision — and nobility — to see beyond their lifetime in support of those whom they may never meet.

Recent new members include:
- Verna J. and Robert Hancock and Florence S. Weaver, who in 2019 were inducted posthumously into the Thomas W. Cornell Philanthropic Leadership Society for cumulative giving of $1 million or more to Summa.
- Beverly Smith, whose estate gift will support cardiology research and education.
- The late Margaret Metzger, whose gift provides significant support for Summa Health nurses.
- Dr. Scott and Margaret Weiner, whose generosity also is recognized on a plaque outside a patient room in the new tower.
- Dr. William E. Moats, for his support of the Sports Medicine Teaching Center.
- Dr. Michael and Casey Hughes, for their support of the Cardiovascular Fellowship program at Summa.

Summa Health is grateful to these and all members of the Charles Deering Legacy Society for living generously today on behalf of future patients and families of the Akron region.

“It takes a noble person to plant a seed for a tree that will one day provide shade to those whom he may never meet.” Anonymous
As chair of the Campaign for Summa Health, “Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always,” I am pleased to report that we have raised nearly $66 million toward a campaign goal of $75 million. Our steady pace toward achieving that goal is a credit to the continuing generosity of our community — a characteristic that has distinguished generations of Summa Health supporters. I am proud to join with today’s benefactors on behalf of the patients and families of our community.

Since the time of the Bartges mansion, the ancestral home of Summa Health, new facilities have dotted the health system’s timeline, each in fulfillment of Summa’s mission to provide our community with the highest quality, compassionate care. These structural milestones now include the new patient tower on the Akron Campus, additions and improvements on the Barberton Campus, and by 2022 will include a second new facility on the Akron Campus dedicated to providing behavioral healthcare for our community.

A continuing stream of generous gifts in support of clinical excellence complements these physical structures. Gifts and endowments for professional education, clinical research and residency programs breathe life into bricks and mortar and work toward fulfilling the two-fold campaign goal to enhance the patient experience and empower clinical excellence.

With your help, we can strengthen the ability of Summa Health to help our families, friends and neighbors achieve the best possible health in an environment that gives them the best possible experience.

I encourage you to visit summahealth.org/caring for information on creating your own family legacy of caring at Summa Health.

Rennick Andreoli
Chair
The Campaign for Summa Health
Dear Friends,

There is an energy in the air at Summa Health as we enter 2020, generated by an abundance of good news across the system. Your generosity is making a powerful difference for our patients and their families across Greater Akron every single day. I am pleased to share some of our 2019 highlights with you.

A steady stream of accolades from different accrediting and rating agencies has accompanied our recent accomplishments and activities at Summa Health, testifying to our clinical excellence in numerous areas of care.

We celebrated the opening of our new patient tower with our closest friends and benefactors on May 15, including ribbon cuttings with the donors recognized in named spaces for exceptional generosity — Dr. Gary B. and Pamela Williams, Dee and Rennick Andreoli, Dr. Ernest and Bonnie Estep, FirstEnergy Foundation and the Lehner Family Foundation. Since then, the names of other generous donors grace plaques outside patient rooms, lobby areas, nurses stations and support areas of care throughout the new tower. We are deeply grateful to all these benefactors.

We announced Phase 2 of our investment in the community. Among other improvements, Summa Health will construct a brand-new, six-story facility on the Akron Campus for behavioral health. I am proud that Summa Health is moving in this direction to care for our community as a whole and to provide treatment for those in need of behavioral health services. Phase 2 will offer new, once-in-a-lifetime ways for benefactors to make a difference in the mental wellness of the Akron region.

We are close to finalizing a partnership with Beaumont, a Michigan-based health system that understands and supports our commitment to the communities we serve and has committed to investing in our future growth. Of particular importance to our community, Summa Health will maintain local leadership, including a local board. In addition, all gifts to Summa Foundation will remain in our community for the benefit of Akron-area patients and families.

Thank you for all the ways you help us care for our community — now and always.

Phylis Ferrara
President, Summa Foundation
Chief Development Officer, Summa Health
Save the Date

Summa Health Golf Outing
Firestone Country Club, South Course
Tuesday, June 16, 2020
Visit SummaHealth.org/golfouting for information about sponsorship opportunities and to learn more about the golf outing.

Summa Health Sapphire Ball
John S. Knight Center
Saturday, November 7, 2020
Visit SummaHealth.org/sapphireball to explore sponsorship opportunities, purchase tickets, view photos of past Sapphire Balls and more.

For more information about Summa Health premier events, contact Nikki Hawk, director of development, at 330.375.3548 or hawkn@summahealth.org