Promise

The Power of Philanthropy

Spring 2017

Jim and Vanita Oelschlager: Bringing Hope and Healing to Behavioral Health
Cover Story
Akron couple strengthens support for behavioral health at Summa Health through the establishment of a chair in traumatic stress.

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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. Our mission: To provide the highest quality, compassionate care to our patients and to contribute to a healthier community.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit summahealth.org.

Through Summa Health 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.

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Dear Friends of Summa Health,

It is wonderful to be home.

During the past several weeks, I have received an extraordinarily warm welcome back to Akron. I am grateful to be part of the Summa Health family once again and to have the opportunity to serve our patients and our community.

Since my return to Summa Health, I have continued to be impressed by the giving spirit of our community. In this issue of PROMISE magazine, we are pleased to honor Jim and Vanita Oelschlager’s sustained, multi-year commitment to the behavioral health program at Summa Health. Their latest gift to establish the Jim and Vanita Oelschlager Chair in Traumatic Stress is strengthening our ability to provide life-changing care to those suffering from the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder.

We are also pleased to present our 2016 Annual Honor Roll of Summa Health Donors. Each of these individuals represents the tradition of philanthropy that has shaped Summa Health for the past 125 years. Generous gifts from Kay Franks, the Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation, Fran and Harry Donovan, Therese and Charles Peter, MD, and many more in this issue demonstrate how philanthropic gifts can assist the health system in providing the highest quality care for our community. We thank them and all who are highlighted in this issue for their continued support.

As we pause at this moment in our history to reflect on the past 125 years of caring for the patients and families of Akron and our surrounding communities, we look forward to breaking ground on our new West Tower on the Akron Campus in May. The start of construction for this tower marks a new era in healthcare at Summa Health and a celebration of the beginning of a new chapter in Summa Health history. Together, we will build a healthier future for generations of Summa Health patients.

Sincerely,

Cliff Deveny, MD
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer
Summa Health
On May 15, Summa Health will break ground on phase one of its master facility plan. The plan represents an investment of up to $350 million in facility improvements across the system over the next five years that will position Summa Health as the leading healthcare provider in the region.

The plan underscores the vision at Summa Health for the future of healthcare — a vision grounded in our mission-driven principles of keeping people well and improving the overall health of the communities we serve. It also supports the health system’s coordinated care model. Clinical programs and services will be thoughtfully located to facilitate collaboration among caregivers and provide a seamless experience for patients as they move from one area to another to receive care.

“An investment of this scale is an important milestone for Summa Health, the city of Akron and its residents,” said Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan. “As we work to improve the state of our city, the health and wellness of our communities will be a critical measure of success.”

This new phase in the history of Summa Health provides an extraordinary opportunity for the philanthropic community. Philanthropic investments help to accelerate the timeline of large-scale construction initiatives and support the financial stability of the health system into the future. Benefactors will be honored for their generosity and can leave a lasting legacy for the community by enhancing care for the patients and families served at Summa Health today and for generations to come.

“As we break ground on the new tower at the Akron Campus this spring, we look forward to a new era at Summa Health,” said James McIlvaine, chair, Summa Health board of directors. “The West Tower will serve as the new front door to the health system. More importantly, the new facility will enable us to continue implementation of our coordinated care model to best serve the needs of all those in our care.”

The Ann and David Brennan Pavilion opens at Summa Health System – Akron Campus, establishing a state-of-the-art facility dedicated solely to the delivery of critical care for the Akron region. Ann and David Brennan committed a lead gift to support the construction of the critical care pavilion, inspiring numerous members of the philanthropic community to come together.

The first endowed chairs at Summa Health are established by Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo and Jim and Vanita Oelschlager. The Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo Endowed Chair in Oncology is held by Gilbert Padula, MD, medical director of Summa Health Cancer Institute. The Jim and Vanita Oelschlager Chair in Psychiatry and Behavioral Health is held by Joseph Varley, MD, chair of the Department of Psychiatry.

Summa Health opens the Jean and Milton Cooper Pavilion as a convenient, single location for comprehensive cancer care. Philanthropic giving helped to support the construction of the $28 million pavilion, with a lead gift from Milton Cooper, DDS, in honor of his late wife, Jean, who passed away in 2001 after a battle with lymphoma. A generous $4 million commitment from Richard M. and Yvonne Hamlin funds the construction of a hybrid operating room suite. The Richard M. and Yvonne Hamlin Hybrid Operating Room Suite at Summa Health System – Akron Campus enables Summa Health surgeons to offer new services to cardiovascular patients.
Key elements of the facility plan include:

- A landmark 300,000 square-foot, six-story patient tower that provides a new “front door” to Summa Health System – Akron Campus. The tower will house facilities for women’s health, inpatient care, nursing units and surgery.

- Increased availability of private rooms to approximately 80 percent of beds at Summa Health System – Akron Campus.

- A 50,000 square-foot outpatient medical office building on East Market Street that will integrate new design concepts to promote team-based, patient-centered care.

- Modernized areas across Summa Health System – Barberton Campus to better meet the needs of the community, such as constructing a new imaging and diagnostic center and enhancing surgical services.

Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo add to their remarkable history of giving with a $2 million commitment to Summa Health Cancer Institute. Their gift strengthens the ability of Summa Health caregivers to deliver the highest quality, compassionate care for cancer patients, advances research toward a cure and further supports the endowed chair in oncology established by the couple in 2007.

Ann and David Brennan strengthen their commitment to Summa Health with an historic $6 million gift, bringing their total giving to Summa Health to more than $10 million. The Brennans’ latest contribution helps to further the vision of Summa Health to become the region’s leader in population health management and improve the well-being of all the lives in its care.

Jim and Vanita Oelschlager reinforce their longstanding support of Summa Health with a new commitment to establish the Jim and Vanita Oelschlager Chair in Traumatic Stress. Patrick Palmieri, PhD, director of the Summa Health Traumatic Stress Center, has been selected to serve as the inaugural chair holder. (Read more about the Oelschlagers’ latest gift to Summa Health on pages 6 and 7.)
By GILBERT PADULA, MD

Dr. Padula was named medical director of the Summa Health Cancer Institute in January 2017, where he also holds the Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo Endowed Chair in Oncology. Prior to joining Summa Health, Dr. Padula was president of Grand Rapids Radiation Oncology at the Mercy Health Lacks Cancer Center since 2002. For the past three years, he also served as medical director for technology and innovation at Lacks Cancer Center. While in Michigan, he was the principal investigator for the Cancer Research Consortium of West Michigan, which brought in, over five years, nearly $10 million to the community for cancer research. Dr. Padula is widely published and has been an invited lecturer and speaker for many organizations across the state of Michigan.

“As a physician leader, my passion for driving cancer care forward led me to Summa Health and the philanthropically minded community of Akron.” - Gilbert Padula, MD
Over the course of my career, I have seen firsthand the valuable role of philanthropy in ensuring the patients and families in my care receive the very best treatment throughout the continuum of their cancer journeys.

As a radiation oncologist in Grand Rapids, Michigan – a community remarkably similar to my new home here in Akron – I learned what could be achieved through the philanthropic commitment of a collaborative and engaged community. Philanthropy has enabled health systems to build new state-of-the-art facilities, facilitate research and clinical trials typically exclusive to large academic medical centers, and lay the foundation for securing highly competitive national funding to improve patient care, such as from the National Cancer Institute.

As a physician leader, my passion for driving cancer care forward led me to Summa Health and the philanthropically minded community of Akron. In the first few months of my new role as medical director of the Summa Health Cancer Institute, it has become evident that philanthropic support is integral to the success of our institute, beginning with the example set by the Cooper family’s visionary gift to establish the Jean and Milton Cooper Pavilion, where all cancer care services are available in one convenient location. By partnering with our many friends and advocates across Greater Akron through community engagement programs, volunteer leadership opportunities and philanthropic initiatives that advance our common mission, we are able to ensure Summa Health Cancer Institute remains at the forefront of our field.

Summa Health community engagement programs provide physician leaders like me with ongoing opportunities to strengthen our relationships with individuals throughout our region. Summa Health Leadership Councils are one way in which we bring health system and physician leaders together with members of the community to advance our strategic priorities – such as fundraising efforts, new research endeavors and medical education – in key clinical areas.

As physician chair of the Summa Health Cancer Institute Leadership Council, the first leadership council established at Summa Health in 2014, I am honored to work closely with our dedicated council members to shape the future of cancer treatment and enhance the integrated model of care delivered at our facilities in Akron, Barberton and Medina. With our members’ contributions and expertise, we are furthering the institute’s strategic goals to increase patient accessibility to convenient cancer care, recruit talented cancer specialists to our team, design new spaces that reflect the principles of patient-centered cancer care and build a robust cancer research enterprise.

Across the nation, endowed chairs established by dedicated benefactors give hospitals and health systems a competitive advantage in attracting accomplished physicians and specialists. These prestigious positions oversee the allocation of protected funding generated by the donor’s endowment year after year, which is essential to the work of hospitals and helps to sustain vital programs as directed by the chair holder. There are currently three endowed chairs at Summa Health, and I am honored to hold one of them.

As chair holder of the Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo Endowed Chair in Oncology, I have the privilege of partnering with Mr. and Mrs. DiGirolamo to carry out our shared vision for the Summa Health Cancer Institute. The DiGirolamos have long recognized the exceptional quality of our cancer specialists and caregivers at Summa Health. Their instrumental support empowers me to explore and implement innovations in cancer care that otherwise would not be possible for our patients, while elevating the stature of the Summa Health Cancer Institute through increased research and an enhanced national presence among our peers.

In addition, the DiGirolamos’ endowment funds the annual Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo Oncology Symposium, which has brought numerous cancer experts from around the world to Summa Health to share their skills and knowledge on a range of topics – from new surgical techniques to fertility options for cancer patients, cancer genetics and palliative care. We are excited to mark the 10th anniversary of the symposium this year with a multi-day program highlighting the latest advancements in our field.

As Summa Health prepares to lead our region into the next era of healthcare, I proudly join my colleagues in recognizing and celebrating the important role the Greater Akron community has played in the continued success of our health system. With their advocacy and support, Summa Health has remained the leading provider of locally controlled healthcare and delivers exceptional care to patients, where and when they need it most. I look forward to working with the devoted members of my new community to ensure this tradition of excellence continues for the next 125 years.
Jim and Vanita Oelschlager:

Focused on the joy of helping others

In “We Can,” a poem Vanita Oelschlager wrote about her husband, who has multiple sclerosis, she gives words to the uplifting outlook that has shaped their life together.

“Just as I felt sad for the things we won’t do,
He reminded me of all we can do.”

Through their remarkable generosity, the Oelschlagers have been saying “We can” to Summa Health for more than three decades. Establishing the Jim and Vanita Oelschlager Chair in Traumatic Stress, a gift that brought their total giving to Summa Health to nearly $4 million, is the most recent example.

The commitment from the Oelschlagers’ family foundation provides a minimum of $75,000 annually in perpetuity to advance the work and clinical research of the chair holder. Patrick Palmieri, PhD, who has directed the Summa Health Traumatic Stress Center since 2008, is the inaugural honoree.

The Oelschlagers’ generosity, in turn, strengthens Dr. Palmieri’s ability to say “We can” to trauma survivors seeking hope and healing at Summa Health. Many struggled for years with unrecognized trauma-induced symptoms before coming to Summa Health, a reality that prevented them from getting the care they needed.

As the Oelschlager chair holder, Dr. Palmieri can continue his mission to create a new reality for trauma survivors at the Traumatic Stress Center, one of only a few of its kind in the country. He and his team already provide patients with the most advanced evidence-based treatment, train frontline clinicians in recognizing the symptoms of traumatic stress, lead research and share findings at regional, national and international conferences. Through that multi-level approach, Dr. Palmieri and his team are helping growing numbers of trauma patients at home and around the world be accurately identified as needing care and connected with trauma-relevant services.

Recognized as a leading expert in the study of traumatic stress, Dr. Palmieri co-authored the current version of the assessment instrument most commonly used to measure the severity of post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms. He also has authored or co-authored over 50 professional articles and 100 conference presentations on the needs of traumatized adults in Northeast Ohio, risk and resilience factors related to traumatic stress, chronic mental health problems in military personnel and safety forces, and the impact of trauma-informed practices on health outcomes.

“Most people will experience at least one traumatic event during their lifetime,” said Dr. Palmieri. “Military combat, interpersonal violence, acts of terrorism, transportation accidents and chronic neglect in childhood are just a few examples of traumatic experiences that can result in persistent mental

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“Most people will experience at least one traumatic event during their lifetime,” said Dr. Palmieri. “Military combat, interpersonal violence, acts of terrorism, transportation accidents and chronic neglect in childhood are just a few examples of traumatic experiences that can result in persistent mental
health problems,” he said. “With the Oelschangers’ help, we can cast an even wider safety net to better identify people with trauma-related problems and to provide the clinical services to help them in their recovery process. We are deeply grateful to Jim and Vanita Oelschlager for their generosity.”

The mindset that led to such remarkable levels of support from the Oelschangers began forming in 1973 when Mr. Oelschlager was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) at the age of 31. He accepted the diagnosis, once calling it a “speed bump, an inconvenience” that still allowed him to do all the things he deemed important— to take care of his family and his friends and to make a contribution to society.

In 1985 and confined to a wheelchair, he started his own company, Oak Associates. The phenomenal success of that venture enabled Mr. and Mrs. Oelschlager to open Oak Clinic in 2000, a facility where patients with MS could get help for all aspects of the disease. Dedicated to whole-person healing, Oak Clinic mirrors the conviction at work in the Traumatic Stress Center in the Summa Health Department of Psychiatry, namely that physical and mental wellness are equally important to whole-person healing.

“We are grateful for the extraordinary support the Oelschangers have provided to Summa Health,” said Joseph Varley, MD, holder of the Jim and Vanita Oelschlager Chair in Psychiatry and Behavioral Health established in 2007, who heads the Department of Psychiatry. “Their willingness to give such a significant gift to our department helps to dispel the stigma many patients feel when seeking psychiatric and behavioral healthcare. Their support sends a strong message of affirmation to those patients and the community. When someone of their character leads the way, it inspires others to follow.”

For all the ways the Oelschagers say “We can” to Summa Health and the greater community, there is only one reason. In their words, “There really is a great joy and satisfaction to being able to help other people.”


“The Oelschangers’ support sends a strong message of affirmation to those patients seeking psychiatric and behavioral healthcare. When someone of their character leads the way, it inspires others to follow.”

- Joseph Varley, MD

Left to right: Vanita and Jim Oelschlager with Patrick Palmieri, PhD, and Joseph Varley, MD
In November 2016, patients, physicians and staff of Summa Health Heart and Vascular Institute gathered to mark a milestone in the health system’s history.

A few weeks earlier, the 100th transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) procedure had been performed in the Richard M. and Yvonne Hamlin Hybrid Operating Room Suite at Summa Health System – Akron Campus. Another 50 individuals have undergone a TAVR procedure at Summa Health since then, enabling these patients and their families to continue celebrating milestones of their own.

A minimally invasive procedure for aortic stenosis, or a narrowing of the aortic heart valve that can be fatal when left untreated, TAVR helps to make treatment more accessible to affected individuals – especially those who are high risk, such as older adults who may not be able to tolerate a more invasive surgical approach.

The O’Neill family of Wadsworth knows the lifesaving benefits of TAVR firsthand. On September 10, 2015, Patrick O’Neill received a text message from his wife that his 90-year-old father, Thomas, was in cardiac arrest. He was transported from his lake house in southern Ohio to Summa Health System – Akron Campus to be evaluated for heart failure treatment.

Though the elder Mr. O’Neill was in good health, he was not a candidate for open-heart surgery due to his age. “TAVR was my father’s only hope,” Mr. O’Neill recalled.

Peter Bittenbender, MD, interventional cardiologist and director of the structural heart disease program at Summa Health, cleared Mr. O’Neill for the TAVR procedure and led the multidisciplinary team that replaced his failing aortic valve.

“Theyir expert medical care saved Dad’s life,” Mr. O’Neill said.

Today, Mr. O’Neill has a clean bill of health. In the many months that have passed since his surgery, he has celebrated numerous milestones including his 91st birthday, many family holidays, his 62nd wedding anniversary, the weddings of two grandsons and the birth of his great-grandson.

The experience has further strengthened the commitment of both Patrick O’Neill and his wife, Pam, to advancing care at Summa Health. The longtime volunteers serve as advocates for the health system in the community as members of the Summa Health Primary Care Leadership Council. In addition, Mr. O’Neill has served on the Summa Health Golf Outing steering committee, most recently serving as the 2016 committee chair.

“Our family’s story is just one of many that reflect the real difference Summa Health has made in all our lives,” he said. “It’s made us realize how important it is to serve and inspires us to do more.”

The O’Neill family shared their story at the 100th TAVR procedure celebration. Left to right: Michael Hughes, MD, Patrick O’Neill, TAVR patient Thomas O’Neill, Peter Bittenbender, MD, and Roger Chaffee, MD
It feels like I have a ton of bricks on my chest.”

Eleven years ago, when Kay Franks heard these words from her 27-year-old daughter, Ellen, she knew she had to get her to Summa Health immediately.

Ellen Franks had no history of heart disease at the time. The fifth-year teacher attributed her first symptoms of nausea and vomiting to something she had picked up from one of her students. Her self-diagnosis was wrong.

A heart catheterization at Summa Health System – Akron Campus revealed myocarditis and pericarditis, serious inflammations of the heart muscle and its surrounding sac that can lead to heart failure and sudden death. At one point for Ellen, it led to heart failure, necessitating an emergency “code blue” call for the resuscitation team.

After eight days in the coronary care unit, Ellen recovered, an outcome she and her mother attribute to God and the diagnostic skills and compassionate care of Roger Chaffee, MD, chair, Department of Cardiology.

‘He saved my daughter’s life,” said Kay. “He was always calm and reassuring. He was never in a hurry. He prayed with us every time – and still does. That religious aspect made it very special.’

Dr. Chaffee later told Kay that he only sees a handful of cases like Ellen’s in a year, and some patients don’t survive. In appreciation for the lifesaving care he provided, Kay established the Ellen M. Franks Endowed Cardiology Fund Honoring Roger B. Chaffee, MD.

To that end, the first funds awarded through the endowment support a program developed by Emily George, MD, a Summa Health resident who volunteers at OPEN M with Dr. Chaffee, medical director of the organization’s free clinic. Dr. George stepped forward with a plan to develop a manual for volunteer physicians, ensuring the delivery of consistent, cost-effective, medically advanced care at OPEN M, all provided at no cost to patients living in poverty.
When the owners of Pleasant Valley Construction Company, Barbara and Gino Faciana, learned about a volunteer-staffed program called the Comfort Cart, they knew that they and their generous staff could make a meaningful impact in the lives of Summa Health patients. The Comfort Cart provides patients and visitors at Summa Health with free personal care and other travel-size items. Mrs. Faciana, a member of the Summa Health board of directors, worked with the construction company’s office administrator to give employees the chance to contribute.

“Small items can offer an emotional lift during a stressful time,” Mrs. Faciana said about their involvement. “Our staff was happy to be able to give patients and their families some normalcy and enjoyment during their hospital stay.”

For more information about making a difference at Summa Health, please contact Summa Health Volunteer Services at volunteer@summahealth.org or 330.375.3247.

Summa Health volunteer Kajal Madan offers Comfort Cart items to patients and visitors during her volunteer shift at Summa Health System – Akron Campus.

“Small items can offer an emotional lift during a stressful time.”

- Barbara Faciana
Harry Donovan has dedicated his life to helping veterans in Northeast Ohio and across the nation. When the World War II veteran and his wife, Fran, established the Donovan Family Fund for Veteran Care at Summa Health in 2014, he saw one more way to help those in need who have served our country.

With the Donovans’ support, the Summa Health Traumatic Stress Center established a collaborative, on-site program to deliver behavioral health services at Valor Home of Summit County, one of several projects led by Mr. Donovan that serve veterans. The 30-bed Valor Home facility in South Akron provides transitional housing for homeless veterans who also may struggle with alcohol, drug or mental health disorders.

Under the leadership of Director Patrick Palmieri, PhD, clinicians from the Summa Health Traumatic Stress Center implemented a weekly psychoeducation group program to help Valor Home veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other trauma-related conditions. In group sessions, participants explore various aspects of trauma – such as anxiety and stress management – and also have a “fast-track” route to more intensive behavioral healthcare at Summa Health System – St. Thomas Campus when needed.

“Many of our residents suffer from diagnosed PTSD, but see their VA provider for 20 to 30 minutes every one to two months,” said Michael Semon, program manager at Valor Home. “Since the Summa Health Traumatic Stress Center team has accepted Valor Home residents as clients, we’ve seen a marked improvement in those who require more attention to their diagnoses. They’ve become more involved in the community of Valor Home and the entire Valor Home program process.”

Mr. Donovan saw the impact of the partnership between Summa Health and Valor Home firsthand during his monthly visits to the facility. The discernible difference in those residents touched by trauma inspired him to strengthen his commitment to the Donovan Family Fund for Veteran Care in 2016.

"Most of our residents don’t have a family. They need someone to care about them and help them get their lives back," he said. “We brought in Summa Health, and the difference is night and day. They’ve given them new hope.”

“God has been so good to me. The best way to show my gratitude is to give back to my fellow veterans.”

- Harry Donovan
Peter Family Fund helps to shape future of ophthalmology at Summa Health

Charles Peter, MD, a former president of the medical staff and former chair of the Summa Health Department of Ophthalmology, and his wife of 47 years, Therese, have been generous supporters of Summa Health for more than 40 years. Their motivation: “To whom much is given, much is expected,” said Dr. Peter, referring to the Gospel of Luke.

“We like to help where there’s a need the government cannot support,” he said, noting that much of that need falls in the educational sphere.

At Summa Health, Dr. and Mrs. Peter established the Peter Family Ophthalmology Education and Research Fund in 1999. Their gift has supported key initiatives related to resident education, including opportunities to attend professional conferences featuring leading experts in the field of ophthalmology. As a teaching physician and, later, department chair and residency program director, Dr. Peter helped the residency program grow to cover virtually every subspecialty in ophthalmic care, training and mentoring more than 65 ophthalmologists.

Dr. Peter was instrumental in bringing the laser and diagnostic ultrasound to the Department of Ophthalmology at Summa Health System – Akron Campus in 1972 and was the first in the area to use the laser for retinal procedures. “I have been very fortunate to see phenomenal advances in the treatment of previously blinding conditions during my career,” he said. “We at Summa Health are truly at the forefront of care.”

As a result, today’s residency program is highly competitive, attracting 250-300 applicants annually. Only two are selected. Most residents go on to fellowships, Dr. Peter said, and many return to the Akron area to practice.

An Eagle Scout at 15, Dr. Peter is one of only 11 local recipients of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (DESA) since it was established in 1969. Less than 2,000 have been awarded nationally. The DESA honors adult Eagle Scouts who have distinguished themselves in their profession and in service to their community for at least 25 years.

Dr. Peter takes the scouting oath to heart, particularly the promise, “To help other people at all times.” He made himself available to patients 24 hours a day, often leaving family gatherings to provide emergency eye care. He frequently made house calls and saw patients after hours.

“He knew his patients as friends,” said Mrs. Peter.

Dr. Peter chose to practice in his hometown of Akron in part because of his late father, A. L. Peter, MD, who served as president of the medical staff of St. Thomas Hospital and Akron Children’s Hospital in the 1950s.

Dr. Peter also chose Akron because he valued – and shared – the commitment of Summa Health to take care of all those in need.

“The most rewarding part of being a physician is taking care of people and seeing them do well.”

- Charles Peter, MD
Circle members’ gift of ultrasound technology enhances care of high-risk pregnant women

This past June, members of The Circle of Women’s Health Philanthropists gathered at the home of fellow member Dianne Newman to celebrate the group’s purchase of a portable ultrasound machine for the Summa Health Maternal-Fetal Medicine Center. Circle members combined their annual gifts of $2,500 each to purchase the equipment for Summa Health Women’s Institute.

One of only a few high-risk pregnancy clinics in the region, Summa Health Maternal-Fetal Medicine Center provides care for pregnant women carrying multiples, coping with chronic illness or battling addiction, regardless of their ability to pay.

“Because many of our women have significant issues in pregnancy, we needed an ultrasound machine that was easier to take to them, no matter where they are in the hospital,” said Angela Silber, MD, director of maternal-fetal medicine at Summa Health.

Circle member and Summa Health Chief Medical Officer Vivian von Grunigen, MD, praised the group, saying, “You are helping our most challenged ladies during pregnancy in a way that will lead to a better life for them and their babies.”

Members of The Circle of Women’s Health Philanthropists share a commitment to improve the overall health and well-being of women in the Greater Akron community through their support of Summa Health. Founded in 2013, the group votes to fund a specific need of the Summa Health Women’s Institute each year.

For other ways Circle members have helped to enhance patient care and to learn more about membership, visit summahealth.org/thecircle.
Gifts from the Corbin Foundation help to advance care, medical research at Summa Health

For more than three decades, the Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation has helped Summa Health apply the latest advances in diagnosing and treating heart disease, stroke and musculoskeletal disorders. Of equal and prime importance, the foundation has provided major support for the work of Marc Penn, MD, PhD, of Summa Health Heart and Vascular Institute. His research into heart repair using the patient’s own stem cells shows great promise for restoring quality of life in patients with heart failure.

“When Mr. and Mrs. Corbin established their foundation, their intent was to enrich the lives of the people of Akron and Summit County,” said Robert Bonchack, president of the Corbin Foundation board of trustees. “In advancing the health of our community, Summa Health consistently reflects the goals of this benevolent couple.”

True to its founding principles, the Corbin Foundation has touched virtually every aspect of local life – from arts and culture to healthcare and medical research. The foundation’s generosity to Summa Health has helped the health system put the most advanced tools in the hands of expert physicians.

Most recently, the foundation granted major funds to upgrade existing magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment, adding enhancements that produce the highest quality, detailed images of the heart and major blood vessels. The upgraded equipment, which also is used for breast imaging at Summa Health System – Akron Campus, serves as a recruitment and training tool for outstanding resident physicians and improves the effectiveness and efficiency of advanced MRI technology.

“We are grateful to the Corbin Foundation for supporting our progress toward a new treatment for chronic heart failure in patients living with its most severe symptoms.”

- Marc Penn, MD, PhD
Longtime Summa Health physician and surgeon Gary Williams, MD, and his wife, Pamela Williams, both 70, share a passion for helping others. Now semi-retired, Dr. Williams, chief of the Division of General Surgery and former medical director of Summa Health Breast Center, still sees patients, performs surgery and moderates weekly conferences about patient care with Summa Health clinicians. A member and official of the Masonic Fraternity for 48 years, he currently is active in the Shrine, a branch of the organization that helps disabled children and burn victims.

**Promise:** How did you and Mrs. Williams meet?

**Dr. Williams:** We both graduated from the University of Akron. When we first met at a fraternity party, I was dating one of her sorority sisters. My wife likes to say, “Her loss, my gain.” We have been married for 47 years.

**Promise:** How do you and your wife make decisions about philanthropy?

**Dr. Williams:** We support organizations we know about, organizations that use funds wisely. We like to see what is actually done with the money we give.

**Promise:** What are your criteria for giving?

**Dr. Williams:** We both believe that education is the best means to improve society. I designate most of my gifts for resident education and teaching at Summa Health, and I teach surgery at Northeast Ohio Medical University and at The Ohio State University. My wife spent her entire career in education, and we support the University of Akron, where she is very active on the President’s Advisory Council and other boards and councils at the university and in the community.

**Promise:** How important is philanthropy to healthcare?

**Dr. Williams:** The money available from the federal government is always being ratcheted down. Philanthropy is vital if we are to continue at the level we are on now.

**Promise:** Why did you choose to be a surgeon?

**Dr. Williams:** I wanted to actively participate in patient care, to see the results of my care, to know that what I did made a difference.

**Promise:** What changes have you seen over your 40-year career in medicine?

**Dr. Williams:** A lot has changed in medicine, but it’s still a rewarding career. When I first started medical school, there were very few women. More than half of the classes today are women. The same was true for general surgery. We almost never saw any women until the last 10 years. Now, they are predominant. That’s a good thing.

**Promise:** What plans are in the future for you and Mrs. Williams?

**Dr. Williams:** We are very community-oriented. We enjoy helping. In fact, Pam is a 10-year volunteer veteran of the American Red Cross. I’m so proud of the work she does. We hope to continue helping where we can. (When Promise magazine was interviewing Dr. Williams, Mrs. Williams was in Charleston, S.C., helping in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.)

Dr. Gary Williams will be presented with the Summa Health Distinguished Physician Award at the annual Summa Society Celebration on May 24, 2017.
Celebrating Summa Health donors

On June 9, 2016, Summa Health celebrated the donors and volunteers whose generosity impacts the lives of thousands of patients and their families. At the Summa Society Celebration, attendees heard about the exciting changes underway throughout the health system, including the master facility plan that will break ground this spring, and were surprised by a heartwarming video tribute honoring their generosity and support.

A highlight of the evening came when Robert Liebelt, PhD, MD, was presented with the 2016 Summa Health Distinguished Physician Award, the most prestigious honor awarded to a Summa Health physician. He was honored for his years of service at Summa Health System – St. Thomas Campus in addiction medicine at Ignatia Hall.

The Summa Society Celebration dinner and awards program is held annually to recognize and honor the health system’s most generous friends and benefactors. Prior to the celebration, a private ceremony was held to induct members into the Thomas W. Cornell Philanthropic Leadership Society. The Cornell Society recognizes individuals, organizations and corporations for cumulative giving to Summa Health of $1 million or more. In 2016, the Walter W. Born Foundation was inducted, as well as the late Basil Smith, MD, who was posthumously inducted. The 2017 Summa Society Celebration will be held on May 24.
“It was a great privilege to lead addiction treatment at Summa Health Ignatia Hall for so many years.” – Robert Liebelt, PhD, MD
Getting back to life with Summa Health Primary Care

After her husband, George Conkle, suffered a debilitating stroke at the age of 53, Ann Conkle did not think of herself as the patient. But when the traumatic event took its toll on her health and that of her daughters, Summa Health Primary Care became a critical source of support for her family.

Ann and her family bravely shared their personal story with an audience of more than 1,000 people at the 2016 Summa Health Sapphire Ball. Their moving story was told through a video tribute to Summa Health Primary Care just prior to the Text to Give portion of the event. Text to Give, a call to action for those in attendance to support Summa Health Primary Care, raised more than $125,000.

To view the Summa Health Primary Care video from the 2016 Summa Health Sapphire Ball, visit summahealth.org/sapphireball.

Jay Leno helps spotlight primary care at Summa Health

The 2016 Summa Health Sapphire Ball, presented by Saber Healthcare Group, raised more than $1.2 million to support Summa Health Primary Care and other important programs and services throughout Summa Health. The 15th annual event attracted nearly 1,000 guests to the sold-out John S. Knight Center in downtown Akron.

The event was led by chairs Kathie and Paul Testa, corporate committee chair Bob Cooper and physician chair John DiSabato, MD, FAAFP, chair, Department of Family Medicine.

The evening’s presentation highlighted the work of Summa Health Primary Care through a video about the Conkle family’s coordinated care experience at Summa Health.

Summa Health Sapphire Ball entertainment was comedy legend Jay Leno. Guests enjoyed a 60-minute performance by the celebrity followed by a live auction with a single item: a tour of his personal car collection in Burbank, California. During the auction, Leno generously offered three tours to the highest bidders. All proceeds from the auction directly benefit Summa Health Primary Care.

The 2016 Summa Health Sapphire Ball was supported by presenting sponsor Saber Healthcare Group, as well as Huntington, FirstEnergy Foundation, Akron Beacon Journal, Biltmore Foundation, CommuniCare, Regina and Bob Cooper and Milton Cooper, The Lehner Family Foundation, Testa Companies and many more friends and benefactors of Summa Health.

Since its inception, the Sapphire Ball has generated more than $9 million in support for Summa Health. The 16th annual Summa Health Sapphire Ball is scheduled for October 21, 2017, at the John S. Knight Center. Dee and Rennick Andreoli will serve as chairs.

Visit summahealth.org/sapphireball for photos and videos.
“We are touched by the generous support of our community for the primary care Summa Health provides to so many.” - Kathie and Paul Testa
Guests at the Summa Health Annual Dinner in Florida on February 15 enjoyed a special visit from Shannon Sansom, a patient who credits the coordinated care her Summa Health team provided with saving her life after suffering a life-threatening heart attack. Shannon was introduced by one of her caregivers, Peter Bittenbender, MD, interventional cardiologist and director of the structural heart disease program at Summa Health. He delivered the featured presentation, *Your Heart Health – In Your Own Hands: The Power of Coordinated Care at Summa Health*. The dinner program was sponsored by Saber Healthcare Group.

The evening included the celebration of a new chair at Summa Health, the Jim and Vanita Oelschlager Chair in Traumatic Stress. The chair was made possible by the Oelschlagers and represents their deep commitment to behavioral health. Their latest gift was announced in Florida and Patrick Palmieri, PhD, was named as the inaugural chairholder. (Read more about their generous support of behavioral health on pages 6-7.)

Earlier in the week, a number of friends gathered at Tiburon Golf Club for the Summa Health Women’s Luncheon and to hear an engaging presentation on genetics and women’s health by Susan Shondel, MD, medical director of the Summa Health Women’s Health Center.

To see photos from the Summa Health in Florida programs, visit [summahealth.org/summainflorida](http://summahealth.org/summainflorida).

“Because of the Summa Health team of caregivers, my son has a wife and my grandchildren have a mother.” - Linda Sansom

Shannon Sansom bravely shared her story of survival and determination at the Summa Health Annual Dinner in Florida. To view Shannon’s incredible story, visit [summahealth.org/summainflorida](http://summahealth.org/summainflorida).

Linda Sansom (left) with her daughter-in-law Shannon Sansom
Summa Health Women’s Luncheon host Mary Ann Jackson (center) with (left to right) Colleen Wernig, Julie Pulk, Deborah Bauman, Ann Towell, Bonnie Johnson and Phylis Ferrara
Summa Health benefactors honored on National Philanthropy Day

Akron’s philanthropic community gathered at the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ annual National Philanthropy Day celebration on November 18 to honor those who dedicate themselves to advancing our region. Summa Health Foundation was privileged to nominate Walter W. Born Foundation, which won the Foundation Leadership Award. With giving to Summa Health at more than $1 million, the foundation was recently inducted into the health system’s Thomas W. Cornell Philanthropic Leadership Society. Summa Health Foundation also congratulates Rennick Andreoli, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, for his well-deserved honor. Several other Summa Health advocates were recognized for their commitment to our community, including Dianne Newman, JD, who received the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award; Rubber City Radio Group/WQMX, which received the Small Business Leadership Award; and PNC Bank, which received the Corporate Leadership Award.

SAVE THE DATE!

Summa Health Golf Outing
June 20, 2017

Visit summahealth.org/golfouting to purchase foursomes and learn more.
Kachig Miktarian:
A humble man with an American Dream

Giving back to the community is part of the fabric of the Miktarian family.

When Kachig “Joe” Miktarian came from Armenia to the United States at the age of 17, he was a driven young man who knew in America with hard work you could achieve anything. After establishing himself in Akron, Ohio, Mr. Miktarian sent to Armenia for his sweetheart, Dicranuhi (Dick-ran-ew-ee), who became his wife. Together they put down roots in Akron.

Mr. Miktarian founded his first store in 1920, a confectionary store on East Market Street near Adolph Street. In 1933, following the end of Prohibition, Mr. Miktarian opened Joe’s All Star Café in the same general vicinity. When the Route 8 expressway was being constructed, the café relocated to its final location on East Market Street between Arch and Adams streets near the Summa Health System – Akron Campus. He and his wife had four children, daughter Margaret and three sons, Mike, Paul and Zobby. The sons would later join their father in operating the family business.

“The café was really one of the area’s original sports bars,” said Patty Miktarian Spencer, daughter of Zobby Miktarian. Joe’s All Star Café was frequented for decades by factory workers from Akron’s rubber companies and Akron City Hospital employees.

“My grandfather had an entrepreneurial spirit and an incredible work ethic that has been passed on to his children and grandchildren,” said Ms. Spencer.

The Miktarians are well-known philanthropists, raising more than $200,000 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and sponsoring youth and championship softball, baseball and basketball teams under the Joe’s All Star banner for over 70 years. Affectionately known as ‘Akron’s Angel,’ Mr. Miktarian was honored by the sporting community for his endless contributions to amateur sports. He received the Andy Palich Service Award during the Summit County Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremonies and was inducted into the Greater Akron Softball Hall of Fame.

In 2000, when the Miktarians sold Joe’s All Star Café to Summa Health, their legacy of giving continued with a generous estate gift to support the mission of the health system to provide the highest quality, compassionate care to Akron area patients and their families.

On January 27, a plaque dedication was held honoring Kachig “Joe” Miktarian and the Miktarian family. The plaque, located at the Summa Rehab Hospital on Adams Street (adjacent to the former Joe’s All Star Café), is a fitting tribute to the family’s longstanding generosity to Summa Health and the Akron community.

“My grandfather loved Akron, and Akron was good to him,” said Ms. Spencer. “I think he would be proud today to know that our family’s gift to Summa Health in his memory is helping so many.”
Tips for smart giving

*Gifts that provide benefits at tax time and beyond*

For donors to Summa Health, making a difference for the patients and families in the community is the most important aspect of a gift. Many donors consider adding Summa Health to their will or estate plan as an easy way to make a difference and set an example for family with a future gift commitment. These gifts can have tax benefits, serve as a source of income during the donor’s life or as a way to minimize taxes for the donor and their heirs. Below are a few options to consider:

**Tax benefits**
Gift options can include stocks, bonds, real estate, retirement assets or cash. Speak to your tax professional to find out how a gift this year could benefit you and your family.

**Consider a life income gift**
Your financial advisor can help you plan a gift that can provide income to you during your lifetime while still providing valuable support for Summa Health. Charitable gift annuities or charitable trusts are often ideal options for many donors.

**Wills and bequests**
A bequest or estate gift to Summa Health can be another way to create a lasting gift and has the possibility of helping your heirs to minimize taxes on the estate. Visit summahealth.org/giftplanning to get your free Wills Planning Guide to learn more.

If you are considering including Summa Health in any of these or other gift planning strategies, contact Summa Health Foundation at 330.375.6356 to learn about membership in the Charles Deering Legacy Society.

Philip Kaufmann is a partner at Stark & Knoll and chair of the Summa Health Charles Deering Legacy Advisor Leadership Council, a group comprised of the region’s leading legal, financial and wealth planning professionals. Council members assist Summa Health benefactors in structuring their estate or planned gifts to help leave a legacy for donors and their families as well as impact Summa Health patients.
Structures for a new era in healthcare

When Summa Health started on the journey to focus on keeping patients well as vigorously as we treat their illnesses and injuries, we knew our success lay in improving the health of each individual. Our foray into the future of healthcare delivery demands that we return to a best practice of the past – the personal, long-term relationship between patients and care providers.

Our plan called for a corresponding physical transformation of space. The $350 million master facility plan announced in April 2016 addresses that challenge and presents another – the need for philanthropy to support our mission to deliver coordinated, lifelong care.

The philanthropic opportunities inherent in a transformation of this magnitude have occurred only a few times during the 125 years of Summa Health history. Existing examples bear the names of benefactors such as Ann and David Brennan, Jean and Milton Cooper, and Richard M. and Yvonne Hamlin, whose gifts have accelerated enhancements to how we deliver care.

Transcending bricks and mortar, these named structures represent hope – supporting the people, programs, services and equipment necessary to keep each patient in the best possible health. They represent possibility – supporting professionals who pursue the latest advances in cancer treatment, conduct sophisticated cardiovascular procedures, save lives in intensive care and educate the next generation of physicians. They represent a promise we continue to keep – to provide the highest quality, compassionate care to patients and their families.

The physical manifestations of our mission, called for in our master facility plan, represent all these ideas and more, creating spaces that will facilitate coordinated care for each patient and foster lifelong doctor-patient relationships. They will create spaces that accommodate seamless care, easing access to specialists and elevating each patient’s Summa Health experience. They will give patients a “medical home” where teams of health professionals act a lot like family – helping each patient get healthy and stay healthy.

Thank you for sharing and supporting our commitment to contribute to the health and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Phylis Ferrara
President
Summa Health Foundation
Chief Development Officer
Summa Health

“The future of healthcare delivery demands that we return to a best practice of the past – the personal, long-term relationship between patients and care providers.”

- Phylis Ferrara
Edward Fink honors his wife, Carol, a dedicated Summa Health volunteer

One of the most moving expressions of philanthropy is a gift made in memory of a loved one to a cause that was meaningful to that person in life. Summa Health recently received such a gift from the estate of Edward Fink, who passed away in February 2016. A successful business executive, Mr. Fink had set up a trust a few years earlier in memory of his wife, Carol, who passed away in March 2006 after 56 years of marriage. The couple had four children and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Fink chose Summa Health as the beneficiary of the trust in recognition of his wife’s 22 years of dedicated volunteer service in the emergency department at the health system’s Akron Campus. Mrs. Fink also was a sustaining member of the Women’s Board of Summa Health System. In addition to his estate gift, Mr. Fink gave generously to the health system following his wife’s death, supporting volunteer programs at Summa Health and serving as a volunteer himself.

Summa Health is grateful for the service and generosity of Edward and Carol Fink, whose legacy will benefit patients in our community for generations to come.

LEARN ABOUT GIFT PLANNING

Gift plans allow you to participate in the rich tradition of philanthropy at Summa Health, often while maintaining – or even enhancing – your current financial circumstances and the inheritance planned for family and loved ones. Visit summahealth.org/giftplanning to learn about the many simple and creative ways you can establish your own legacy of giving that will impact lives at Summa Health for generations to come. View videos, compare gift options, develop a personalized estate plan or create sample gift illustrations to review with your family and advisor to help plan a gift that works best for you. Contact Barbara Boyce at 330.375.6356 or boyceb@summahealth.org to learn more.