Spring marks a time of renewal for many people and is a time when, at Mercy Medical Center, we reflect on the history of the Sisters of Mercy. Our dedication to providing world class care to those in need originated when the first Sisters of Mercy, led by founder Catherine McAuley, opened the House of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland, as a place to shelter and educate homeless and abused women and girls.

We stay grounded in the roots provided by Catherine in all that we do, and on April 25-27, 2017, celebrated Catherine’s Days at Mercy with the theme, “Walking with Catherine McAuley: Be Kind. Be Mercy.” Catherine’s Days are a special time for Mercy Medical Center, and serve as a reminder of her mission to bring healing love to all people.

Mercy is proud to continue the legacy of Catherine McAuley as we remain focused on her defining quote “In the care of the sick, great tenderness above all things.” Thanks to the generous supporters such as you, we are able to remain loyal to Catherine’s mission, and continue to offer compassionate care to all who come to our doors.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Mullen
President and CEO

“In the care of the sick, great tenderness above all things.”

CATHERINE MCAULEY
SPIRIT  |  SPRING 2017

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On the Cover
Amy Vogla, D.O.
A patient breathes a sigh of relief after receiving medication to manage his asthma. A retired nurse on disability has the prescription she needs to heal and improve her quality of life. A senior battling cancer receives comfort and hope from a specialty drug. These are just a few examples of patients who have experienced promising outcomes at Mercy, thanks to the Prescription for Health Program, an initiative that aims to support ongoing health and wellness and reduce readmission to the hospital. It’s an integral part of Mercy’s healing mission.

The program serves individuals who do not have the financial resources to obtain outpatient prescription medications to manage their conditions. For patients who lack insurance or whose insurance has high deductibles or significant co-pays, the Prescription for Health Program offers a stepping stone on the road to wellness. It can transform lives.

The program made a life-saving difference for Wilma Williams-Baldé, who had volunteered at Mercy, and then unexpectedly became a patient at The Institute for Cancer Care at Mercy after being diagnosed with multiple myeloma. While Medicare paid for Wilma’s hospital bills, the cost of outpatient treatment by specialists and chemotherapy exceeded her resources. Wilma depleted her savings and found herself at a crossroads about how to continue treatments.

Fortunately, Wilma was introduced to Will Bundesen, LCSW-C, a Mercy clinical social worker, who connects patients with resources. Will helped Wilma receive support through the Prescription for Health Program, enabling her to continue on the path to recovery.

“God puts people where he needs them to be and Will was put in my path,” says Wilma.

Small miracles like Wilma’s are realized daily thanks to generous donors who share Mercy’s vision of compassionate care. For the past six years, the Hoffberger Family Philanthropies has provided substantial funding for the Prescription for Health Program, continuing a legacy of service and giving by the Hoffberger family that dates back to the 1940’s.
In recent years, Transamerica has supported Mercy programs and events through its Community Relations Committee and through the AEGON Transamerica Foundation. The company’s generous sponsorship gifts for Mercy Live, a gala benefitting the areas of greatest need at the hospital, have been directed to Mercy’s Prescription for Health Program.

Both the Hoffberger Family Philanthropies and Transamerica share a long-standing commitment to helping the community. Insurance and prescription costs are rising, new specialty medications are expensive, and individual co-pays are often higher.

**Major life events affecting insurance such as unemployment, disability, and job transitions create gaps in insurance coverage resulting in unexpected financial need. The poor, the underserved, and the elderly are most affected.**

“While this program is used to support patients who are unemployed or uninsured, a patient could be anyone—from the self-employed contractor to someone on short-term disability, a retired professional or senior who is on a fixed budget,” explains Sally Ratcliffe, LGSW, Director of Social Work at Mercy.

Through the program’s Pharmacy Charity Care Fund, eligible patients receive the necessary prescriptions to manage chronic conditions such as asthma or infections and heal properly following surgery.

“Sometimes patients are choosing between medication and utilities or food. We want to help them get back on their feet,” says Sally.

The program provides not just a prescription but a lifeline. Whatever the patient’s situation may be, there’s a team ready to help. Mercy clinicians, case managers, and social workers come together to identify needs, educate patients, and guide them to resources for ongoing care.

“Staff choose to work at Mercy because they know Mercy will do whatever is necessary to help patients improve their health and regain their quality of life,” notes Sally. “Our goal is to reduce the number of readmissions by giving patients everything they need to get on the road to recovery.”

For more information on how to support the Prescription for Health Program, please contact Leslie Sporn, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at lsporn@mdmercy.com or 410-332-9817.
RE-IMAGING WOMEN’S HEALTH

Donors Fund Technology
Paving the Way for Better Screening Outcomes

Doctors at The Tyanna O’Brien Center for Women’s Imaging at Mercy: Jean Warner, M.D., Liba Goldblum, M.D., Falguni Patel, D.O., David Sill, M.D., and Amy Vogia, D.O.
Tomosynthesis (3D mammography) is the state-of-the-art method for breast cancer screening and has been routinely provided to all Mercy patients since 2013. This technology allows radiologists to find abnormalities, including up to 30% more breast cancers that could not be detected using conventional 2D mammography. Until recently, some of these abnormalities were very difficult to biopsy, especially if they were only visible on 3D imaging. A patient in this situation might have been subjected to additional imaging tests, multiple attempts to biopsy using ultrasound, stereotactic or MRI guidance or even surgery to obtain the diagnosis.

Determined to provide patients with a more effective, efficient and reliable way to biopsy abnormalities, physicians at The Hoffberger Breast Center sought out new state-of-the-art technology—the 3D Affirm Breast Biopsy System. This has revolutionized the biopsy procedure, allowing for a minimally invasive, quicker and more accurate approach.

“We could not do what we do without our benefactors.”

NEIL B. FRIEDMAN, M.D.
Director of The Hoffberger Breast Center and Medical Director of The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Women’s Health and Medicine at Mercy
Doctors invited donors and patients to help support the purchase of the equipment, and were overwhelmed by the quick and decisive response – 59 donors contributed gifts totaling a remarkable $105,275, the amount needed to purchase the new equipment. Generous individual gifts were bolstered by major gifts and grants from organizations who understand the difference pioneering technology makes in women’s lives.

Now, The Hoffberger Breast Center and The Tyanna O’Brien Center for Women’s Imaging are pleased to offer our patients the Affirm upright 3D stereotactic biopsy which utilizes less radiation, operates faster and enables radiologists to be more precise in the procedure. Mercy is one of the few hospitals in the area to have the biopsy system which easily attaches onto existing 3D mammography units. The system can be utilized for any biopsy which requires mammographic guidance and allows the procedure to be performed with the patient sitting upright, rather than lying on a table. This is very helpful for patients with arthritis, COPD or other health issues. Fewer images are required which means the procedure time is shortened and exposure to radiation is significantly reduced. Since the installation of the 3D system in the fall of 2016, 232 stereotactic biopsies have been performed at Mercy. According to Dr. Jean Warner, Director of The Tyanna O’Brien Center for Women’s Imaging, many patients have spontaneously commented that the procedure is “so easy” and that they “definitely prefer this method to the old biopsy machine.”

Speaking to donors at a recent event, Dr. Neil B. Friedman, Director of The Hoffberger Breast Center and Medical Director of The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center
Breast Imaging Center of Excellence

The Tyanna O’Brien Center for Women’s Imaging at Mercy is fully accredited as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology. Radiologists provide state-of-the-art breast imaging options and breast biopsy options using leading edge breast cancer detection technology:

3D DIGITAL MAMMOGRAMS (TOMOSYNTHESIS)
- Screening
- Diagnostic

BREAST ULTRASOUND

BREAST MRI
- Screening
- Diagnostic

IMAGE GUIDED MINIMALLY INVASIVE BREAST BIOPSY
- Ultrasound-guided Breast Biopsy
- Ultrasound-guided Fine Needle Aspiration
- Stereotactic Breast Biopsy
- MRI-guided Breast Biopsy

IMAGE-GUIDED NEEDLE LOCALIZATION PROCEDURES

for Women’s Health and Medicine at Mercy, explained, “We could not do what we do without you.”

Added Dr. Friedman, “Your generous support makes it possible for us to maintain our leadership role in women’s health and medicine, and enhance our reputation for excellence and compassion.”

Long-standing support has enabled Mercy to play an integral role in the prevention and treatment of breast cancer across the Mid-Atlantic. Among its milestones in women’s health is recognition as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology.

In 2013, Mercy was one of just six breast centers in the country to introduce Intraoperative Radiation Therapy (IORT), which uses a single dose of radiation. It was the second Center in Maryland to adopt the gold standard.

Today, three 3-D mammography units provide tomosynthesis services to all Mercy patients. Those patients include nearly 10,000 women who annually visit The Hoffberger Breast Center and Mercy Personal Physicians at Lutherville for their regular mammograms and screenings.

“My goal as Director is to provide the highest quality of care to the patients we serve,” notes Dr. Jean Warner, Director of The Tyanna O’Brien Center for Women’s Imaging Center at Mercy. “That includes ensuring every woman in our community has access to the most advanced technology available for early detection of breast cancer.”

For more information on how to make a contribution, please call Sandy White at 410-332-9871 or contact sandy.white@mdmercy.com.

“The 3D Affirm Biopsy System is technology that will contribute significantly to saving women’s lives, by allowing reliable and accurate biopsy of breast cancers that are detected at an early stage with 3D screening mammography.”

JEAN WARNER, M.D., Director, The Tyanna O’Brien Center for Women’s Imaging at Mercy
THE McAULEY SOCIETY

CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF CATHERINE McAULEY

MERCY MEDICAL CENTER DEFINES ITSELF WITH A HISTORY OF EXCELLENT SERVICE IN A COMMUNITY OF COMPASSIONATE CARE.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF MERCY’S TRADITIONS, WHICH CAN BE TRACED BACK TO THE FOUNDING OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY, IS PHILANTHROPY.
What inspired the founding of the Sisters of Mercy?
The Sisters of Mercy were founded by Catherine McAuley in 1824. Catherine served as a care-giver to the Callaghan family in Dublin, Ireland. During her service to the family, Catherine also worked to help women and children overcome the cycle of poverty. Seeing her devotion, Mr. Callaghan was inspired to leave his entire estate and all his savings (he was a millionaire by today’s standards) to her so she could continue her work for the disadvantaged.

Through prayerful deliberation and consultation with other women who had joined in her cause, Catherine founded the new religious congregation. The group was the first order to leave cloistered convent life and walk the streets of Ireland, and became known as the “walking nuns.”

What did Catherine McAuley accomplish with her inheritance?
Catherine used the large inheritance to build a refuge for homeless and abused women on Baggot Street in Dublin, Ireland. Catherine built the House of Mercy in 1827 on 22 acres in the middle of an affluent area with the vision that the wealthy would reside side-by-side with those who are poor in order to connect the rich to the poor and the educated to the uneducated. Her goal was to provide women and children with the necessary educational tools to achieve independence.

What is The McAuley Society?
The McAuley Society honors the legacy of Catherine McAuley by acknowledging generous supporters who have chosen to name Mercy Medical Center in their wills. Since its inception, the Society has been joined by 106 foresighted individuals who have supported Mercy in this way based on their desire to continue a mission of caregiving that began in the 19th century. Past members of The McAuley Society have contributed a total of $7.5 million through their estates, with bequests ranging from $500 to over $700,000.

Why contribute to The McAuley Society?
When people observe the quality of care here, it’s easy for them to choose Mercy to continue their legacy. Our planned giving donors know that by following in the footsteps of the Callaghan’s generosity, they are continuing the healing mission of Catherine McAuley for generations to come.

Why is Catherine McAuley’s legacy still important today?
Catherine McAuley’s legacy remains relevant to the challenges of today. She saw the needs of the time, and responded to them while staying true to her values of quality and compassionate care. In keeping with her vision, Mercy remains in the heart of the City and its Personal Physician Centers serve the entire community, just like her “walking nuns” did.

How does Mercy keep that legacy alive?
The mission of Catherine McAuley is embedded into the quality of care provided to every patient at Mercy. Each employee is oriented to Mercy’s values with the goal of sustaining her legacy, and when you enter our doors, you can see that her spirit is very alive and well. Like Catherine, we treat everyone, regardless of race, creed, color or orientation with the same dignity and respect. Every patient is a “VIP” at Mercy and deserves the same compassionate healing and comfort.

Donors who wish to consider continuing the traditions of Mercy Medical Center when planning their estate may contact Sister Fran at 410-332-4949 or fdemarco@mdmercy.com.
PAYING IT FORWARD THROUGH THE MERCY SOCIETY

Having suffered since 1987 with lymphedema, a chronic swelling of the lymph nodes in her lower extremities, Kathy Owens was at a low point in her life physically and financially, when she arrived at The Center for Restorative Therapies.

“Mercy didn’t let me go without and I’m grateful for that.”
Kathy Owens
With the help of the Center, Kathy has managed her condition and found a new lease on life. Mercy’s therapists offered specialized massage and other treatments. They also outfitted her with four different types of custom compression garments, which helped reduce swelling. Special leg wraps with velcro, biker shorts, and toe cap- or toe-less gloves for the feet—became part of her wardrobe, and enabled her to become more active.

Kathy received support for the cost of treatment and garments from The Mercy Society Lymphedema Fund. Established in 1999, The Mercy Society recognizes donors who contribute $1,000 or more to advance Mercy’s work of compassionate care.

“I saw and felt improvement from the treatment and the Mercy staff were wonderful, “recalls Kathy. “The Lymphedema Fund is so worthwhile—it helped pay for my compression garments which were expensive and not covered by insurance.”

When Kathy was on stronger footing both financially and physically, she made the decision to support the Fund and saved money for years to reach The Mercy Society goal.

Many patients like Kathy receive treatment for lower extremities, however most come to the Center for other conditions. Mercy is particularly known for its work with breast cancer patients who experience lymphedema in the arm. More than 200 breast cancer survivors are treated annually by Mercy’s nationally recognized therapists.

A physical therapist at The Center for Restorative Therapies, Chanel Vanderhorst, also a certified lymphedema therapist, sees patients at various stages of treatment—from a pre-op evaluation of function and range of motion measurements to post-surgery. She works to establish a baseline and develop a proactive treatment plan geared to the individual.

Treatment options include Complete Decongestive Therapy, or CDT, the gold standard of care, massage to drain swollen lymph nodes, exercise programs, skin care, and self-management techniques. Compression garments, both specially made of flat knits and off-the-shelf varieties, are daily attire used to reduce swelling.

“I help women meet their goals—whether it’s to reduce the swelling so they can get their wedding rings back on or lift a grandchild or fit into a favorite sweater or walk to a store,” says Chanel. “The end goal is to make the person’s quality of life the best that it can be.”

For Chanel, the work also has a personal mission. “I got into physical therapy because I love sports and wanted to work for The Baltimore Ravens, but then I saw how a therapist helped my mom after she was diagnosed with breast cancer and it made me want to pay it forward,” she notes.

“It’s fulfilling to be a part of someone’s team and lead them on the road to recovery to whom much is given, much is required.” said Chanel.

For Kathy, becoming a donor in The Mercy Society had special meaning since it required saving over time, as her finances allowed. “I saved for four years to donate to The Lymphedema Fund,” notes Kathy. “Now, I’m encouraging family members and others to do the same. It’s important to contribute no matter how much or how fast you can.”

For more information on The Mercy Society, please contact Caroline Killian at ckillian@mdmercy.com or 410-332-9165.
If you would like to help meet the needs of patients served at Mercy Medical Center by hosting a fundraising event or activity, please contact:
Carmel Gambacorta, Director of Special Events & Donor Communications, carmel@mdmercy.com or 410-332-9608.

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants Silent Auction

Benefits Family Violence Program at Mercy

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants chose the Family Violence Response Program at Mercy Medical Center to receive the proceeds from a silent auction which was held at their Annual Conference.

Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants outgoing President, Gwendy McCoy said, "We were compelled to contribute to this Program, based on the great work they perform every day to help those with desperate needs."

Upon receiving the gift, Project Coordinator Tania Araya explained, "This type of compassionate support is a true reflection of Mercy and inspires us. Thanks to such generous gifts, the Family Violence Program was able to provide care to more than 700 people who came to us in need of help last year."

Fourth Annual Bull Roast

Supporting the work of the Forensic Nursing Program at Mercy

More than 350 guests attended Mercy Medical Center’s Forensic Nursing Program Bull Roast on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at Columbus Gardens.

Funds raised at this fourth annual event support the important work of the Forensic Nursing Program at Mercy, which has been providing care for victims of abuse and violence in the Baltimore area for more than 20 years. Mercy was the first hospital in Maryland to develop this specialized program and is the designated site for forensic patients in Baltimore City. Under the leadership of Debra Holbrook, RN, and with her team, Mercy has gained national attention for the excellence of its program.

Sip and Shop

Support for the Department of Radiation Oncology

J. McLaughlin in Ruxton presented “Sip and Shop” a private shopping event to benefit the Department of Radiation Oncology at Mercy Medical Center. Their generous gift from the event provides inspiring support for our team of oncology doctors, nurses, and staff who provide care to Mercy cancer patients. Maria C. E. Jacobs, M.D., Director of Radiation Oncology at Mercy and store manager Sharon Mann hosted the event which featured food, friends, and fashion.

Blankets for Warriors

Raising Funds to Make Blankets for Patients

Blankets for Warriors, a community partnership with the nursing staff at Mercy Medical Center, recently held Butterflies and Martinis, a happy hour fundraiser, and Yoga for Warriors, to raise funds to make blankets for patients in Mercy’s Outpatient Chemotherapy Department.

Blankets for Warriors is organized by family and friends of Janine Tolley, who died in June of 2010 at the age of 51 from uterine cancer. One of Janine’s final wishes was to do something that would give comfort to other patients. During her battle with cancer, her friends often referred to her as their “warrior,” inspiring them to organize Blankets for Warriors to show their love for Janine and pay forward the positive loving path that she walked.

More than 75 volunteers team up twice a year to create over 250 blankets annually.
Tell Us What You Think!

Please help us to better meet your needs by completing our survey.

Thank you for your time.

Did you enjoy reading this issue of Mercy’s Spirit Magazine?
- [ ] Yes  - [ ] No

How much of the content would you say you read? (circle one)
- [ ] MOST OF THE CONTENT
- [ ] 10
- [ ] 9
- [ ] 8
- [ ] 7
- [ ] 6
- [ ] 5
- [ ] 4
- [ ] 3
- [ ] 2
- [ ] VERY LITTLE

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- [ ] VERY INTERESTED
- [ ] 10
- [ ] 9
- [ ] 8
- [ ] 7
- [ ] 6
- [ ] 5
- [ ] 4
- [ ] 3
- [ ] 2
- [ ] NOT INTERESTED

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- [ ] Yes  - [ ] No

Do you feel the magazine strengthens your connection with Mercy?
- [ ] Yes  - [ ] No

What action have you taken as a result of reading the Magazine?
- [ ] Sent a contribution
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Is there other information that you would like to see included?
_________________________________________________________________________________________
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What is your age?
- [ ] Before 1946
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- [ ] Millennial
- [ ] Gen X
- [ ] Generation Y

What is your gender?
- [ ] Male
- [ ] Female

Please feel free to share any other comments you have:
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If you would rather take this survey online, visit
https:// surveymonkey.com/r/mercyspirit
CELEBRATE
Mercy Medical Center’s small town charm and dedication for our community.

Join your neighbors for a sensational summer kick-off at Mercy’s traditional gala to benefit Mercy Medical Center’s mission of healing and service.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2017
7–11:00 PM
The Ballroom at The Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel

FOR TICKETS:
www.mercylive.org
410.332.9290