



*Sustaining the Vision. Supporting the mission*

**Lourdes Hospital Foundation**  
**news** Spring 2020

## **Empty Halls and Empty Spaces**

These are strange times. There is an interview that runs on television; a one hundred year old woman states that she was born during a pandemic quarantine. She says that we have gone through situations like this before and we will come through this one.

Remember when you were little and you were told “don’t touch that”? Now it is don’t touch anything, and if you do touch something, sanitize your hands afterwards. No groups, no parties, no shopping, no hugging, wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart. Schools are closed. Businesses are closed. **HOWEVER**, due to a decline in positive cases, we are in phase II. Things are slowly opening up again.

Hospitals are open and tending to those who are suffering from the COVID-19 virus.

**The Akel Family Donates \$50,000 to the COVID-19 Caregiver Assistance Fund and our community follows along as donations in support of our caregivers pour in.**

A special COVID-19 Caregiver Assistance Fund has been set up at Lourdes Hospital to assist our caregivers and support staff who are on the frontlines in the fight against this global pandemic. The Akel Family recently made a generous gift of \$50,000 in support of this effort and we are most grateful to them and to our community for the donations that have poured in in support of this important effort.

The Fund is available to help our caregivers who might struggle with challenges associated with having one income at this time and thus find it difficult to pay bills associated with the basic necessities of life with such things as rent, car payments, utility bills, etc.

**These are some of those assisted through this fund:**

- ◆ Your significant other is out of work because of work closings due to the COVID- 19 pandemic and of course your muffler falls off your car.
- ◆ You missed 7 days of work due to the COVID-19 screening process. That was seven days of lost pay, your rent for the month and now you struggle to decide what bills to pay.
- ◆ You hit a pothole a few weeks ago and cannot afford to replace the broken wheel bearing. You are down to one income as you lost your 2<sup>nd</sup> income as a hairdresser due to the pandemic.
- ◆ You are a member of a family of three and your significant other is out of work due to COVID-19. With only one income, help is needed to keep up with water and electric bills.
- ◆ Your husband has a small business and the flow of customers has decreased substantially due to COVID-19. Your children are at home and the food bills have sky rocketed. You work full time at Lourdes but your income isn't enough to cover the loss of income and increase in household expenses.

**These are trying times, but there is always hope for the future. The generosity of the Akels and the community at large has truly given hope to our brave heroes who put their lives on the line in the service of those in need.**

# COVID-19\_Notes from Lab

— Since the identification of the first positive COVID-19 case on March 13th, laboratory personnel have been in "*a race where the finish line keeps moving*".



Providing the tests needed to prevent the spread of Covid19 has been a challenge and staff worked 7 days a week as we tried to stay ahead of the curve and help our communities return to normal.

While our phlebotomists were on the front-lines drawing patients in all types of settings, our laboratory personnel were testing samples and providing results to governmental agencies to allow for tracing and prevention of the spread.

By completing a research protocol validation, Lourdes laboratory went live on May 13th on an expanded testing platform, the Hologic Panther, that will allow the Hospital to process 250 - 500 tests per day, with test results within 4 hours. This is in addition to two other PCR testing platforms, the Abbott IDNow and the BioFire, that allow for rapid testing results ranging from 15 minutes to 45 minutes, used mainly to triage patients who present to our Emergency Department.

## **The Decker Foundation's Generous Gift in Support of COVID-19 Testing**

A \$125,000 grant from the Dr. G. Clifford & Florence B. Decker Foundation made it possible for Lourdes to purchase 2 additional modules for the Biofire system. This grant will also fund a supply of the reagent and supplies to carry out the testing.

These capabilities allow for testing to be completed in our hospital lab rather than sending to a state facility for processing, decreasing the wait-time for results. Laboratory staff have been working tirelessly to manage the constraints of collection and testing supplies.

Tests will primarily be for hospitalized or severely ill patients. Older people (over 60) and individuals with underlying medical conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, cancer, which are conditions that put them at much higher risk from COVID-19, will also be a priority for testing. Future availability of more test supplies and methods will make testing available for a wider range of people and may be increased as part of a public health response to control COVID-19.

While testing is the main role of the lab, our Blood Bank also participated in obtaining "convalescent plasma" under the expanded access protocol through the Mayo Clinic to provide another way to treat patients with Covid19.

**Our Laboratory mission is to serve our patients and provide the results they need no matter what the circumstances are!!**

# The new Childcare Center opens!



Msgr. John Putano & Fr. James Tomey bless the hands of the  
Childcare Center Staff

## A Note from Director Sheila Fetterman

I must say we are very excited to be in our new space and to be able to have this opportunity to assist the community with their childcare needs.

We have begun to settle in very nicely. The children have adjusted well and they are most excited about our indoor full size gymnasium! The ability to be able to offer them a space that allows for them to run, jump and exert their abundant amount of energy has been wonderful! They are learning many new indoor large motor games and activities, while working on their large motor development skills. Our new larger sized classrooms have allowed the children to have more personal space, which gives them the ability to explore a little bit more freely.

Since moving into the facility, we have slowly begun to grow our center. We have had four new kids join our center and have many others ready to join as soon as we finish hiring and training more teachers for the classrooms. We are happy that we already have three new teachers on board who joined our Team in the middle of March.

We are very excited and proud to call this new location our home! We look forward to making many new friends and creating new memories!

We are thankful for the Foundation's contribution in making this dream become a reality for the children in our care. Without your support and help, we would not have the many opportunities that have become available to the young children in our care.

Thank you so much!

Gratefully yours, Sheila Fetterman, Director

**Lourdes Hospital  
Foundation  
pledges \$900,000  
in support of this project.**

# Help Sock Out Cancer®

Cancer creates an enormous strain on a family—both emotionally and financially.

The mission of Sock Out Cancer® is two-pronged.

- ◆ To raise public awareness of the challenges facing families who are afflicted by cancer.
- ◆ To aid those families so they can put all of their energy into fighting cancer.



## Buy a pair of socks!

Purchasing a pair of socks is about a lot more than just some fancy, fun footwear. The money benefits financially distressed families who are battling cancer.

Get a pair of socks here and join our mission:

<https://www.sockoutcancer.org/>

## Attend a concert!

Sock Out Cancer proudly presents

“A Musical Tribute to Elton John and Billy Joel

an evening honoring the two most successful pianists /singer songwriters of all time.

We all know the music and we have all sung the songs.

This high energy show features a seven-piece band, fronted by Philip Myers (Elton John) and Matt Cusson (Billy Joel). They will have the crowd on its feet singing and clapping along to timeless classics including *Piano Man*, *Only the Good Die Young*, *Bennie and the Jets*, *My Life*, *Rocket Man*, *Movin' Out*, *It's Still Rock and Roll to Me* and many more incredible hits. (see poster insert)

Mark your calendars, Saturday the 17th of October,  
for a great night out in support of a great cause!

**A virtual concert, a taste of what is to come**, was held on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of May at 7:00pm on WBNG. As of 5/18/2020 over \$5,600 has been raised through Concert and Giving Tuesday donations and Sock Out Cancer® sock purchases.

Sock Out Cancer®,  
an entity wholly owned by  
Security Mutual Life Foundation,  
is a labor of love  
and is so much appreciated  
by those struggling with cancer.



# How We Help

*The Lourdes Hospital Foundation raises and distributes funds in support of Lourdes Hospital and the patients and community that Lourdes serves.*

- ◆ Some of the funds are dedicated to specific large projects like the new Childcare Center, the Mobile Dental Van or new medical equipment.
- ◆ Some of the funds are distributed in support of the individual needs of Lourdes patients.

*Here are some examples of assistance the Foundation has been able to provide due to the gracious gifts from those in our community.*

☀ A relatively young Hospice patient had to be moved to the hospital for end of life care. The mother lived a distance away, so instead of traveling back and forth from home every day, she would come to town and stay in a hotel for a few days at a time. This was a financial burden for her. Friends and relatives took it upon themselves to pay for her hotel stays. Lourdes Hospice contacted the Foundation, explaining the situation and the Foundation reached out to those who paid for the hotel bills and repaid their generosity.

☀ A cancer patient, going through intensive treatment requiring many office visits had to repair the exhaust system of the car used to get to and from those appointments. The needed repairs were expensive and the patient was already struggling trying to pay regular bills. The nurse navigator working with the patient reached out to the Foundation. We at the Foundation contacted the auto repair business and arranged payment for the necessary repairs.

☀ The Breast Care Center is in the habit of lending out the book "Be A Survivor" to their breast care patients. Some of the patients were finding the book valuable and asking if they could keep it. The Breast Care Center reached out to the Foundation and the Foundation paid the bill for 100 of the "Be A Survivor" books so that the patients who wish to keep a copy can do so.

☀ A palliative care patient had to move from her home to a senior care facility. She has a limited income due to years of chronic health issues. The social worker at palliative care reached out to the Foundation for assistance in paying the cost of the move. The Foundation paid the requested 50% of the moving costs.

☀ The Hospice Lourdes at Home program provides emergency buttons for their patients to ensure that the patients can connect to emergency services if they have that need. This is a service that helps those in Hospice care stay safely in their homes. At any given time there are anywhere from 10 to 15 patients receiving this service. Each month the invoices for the buttons are sent to the Foundation to be paid.

*Everything that the Lourdes Hospital Foundation does to help relieve suffering in our community is due to you, our donors.*

**Thank you!**

# Many thanks to all of our donors

Accounting for donations received  
between 11/01/2018 and 04/30/2020

Through out the year, the Lourdes Hospital Foundation receives donations. Some of those donations go to support specific programs or campaigns. Others are given to be used where the need is greatest.

Sometimes the donations go to large endeavors that require hundreds of thousands of dollars. And sometimes the donations are used to fund the small things that loom so large for those suffering from illness; gas to get to and from appointments, a gift card that helps put adequate and nutritious food on the table, an emergency alert button to enable those suffering to stay in their home.

The need is great and thanks to your generosity, when the requests come in, the Lourdes Hospital Foundation can say "Yes! We can help."

## ***\$100,000 and Up Lourdes Heroes***

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