UnityPoint Health
St. Luke's Foundation

FALL 2025 ST. LUKE'S FOUNDATION IMPACT REPORT

MISSION

The mission of UnityPoint Health® – St. Luke's Foundation is to support UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids in giving the health care we'd like our loved ones to receive.

News and Information

- AbbeCenter for Community Mental Health is now open in its new location, with more room and more services than ever before! Hear from some of the donors who helped make our $4.4 million capital campaign a success.
- See how one family's generosity has made a difference for some special kids. Thanks to the Dr. Azeemuddin and Faaiza Z. Ahmed Family Endowed Fund for Brachial Plexus Care, Witwer Children's Therapy will add equipment and training to help babies and children with these injuries reach their potential.

Welcome

Celebrating a New Beginning

For more than 75 years, Abbe Center for Community Mental Health has provided Eastern Iowa with vital mental health care services. Now we're proud to announce Abbe Center has a new home with more room, more services and more support than ever before. Generous supporters like you have made it possible.

Thanks to our friends and neighbors, **the Campaign for Abbe Center has raised more than $4.4 million!** Together we're making it easier for individuals to seek help for depression, anxiety, substance use disorders, mental health crises and more.

At UnityPoint Health, we are committed to delivering an Exceptional Experience for patients, team members and the communities we serve. Helping people with mental health issues maintain jobs, stabilize their families and stay in school is one more way we're strengthening our community for all of us.

With gratitude for all you do,

Casey Greene, President
UnityPoint Health - Cedar Rapids

Mary Klinger, President
UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Foundation

GUARDIAN ANGEL PROGRAM

Thanking Paula's Guardian Angels

St. Luke's Hospice team members proudly display their Guardian Angel awards.

After four decades running the pharmacy at UnityPoint Health – St. Luke's Hospital, Jim Willett has a wealth of clinical knowledge and expertise. When his wife, Paula, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of pancreatic cancer, Jim realized he was going to have to provide a level of care unlike anything he had experienced.

"I'd never cared for someone in such an intense, personal manner," admits Jim. "But St. Luke's Hospice helped me tremendously. I learned a lot from them, and Paula felt so encouraged by her Hospice team's visits and spiritual discussions with Chaplain Jeff."

For several months, Paula fought a courageous and, at times miraculous, battle with cancer. Jim says he viewed every extra day with her as a bonus. In March 2025, Paula passed away with her loving husband at her side. Since then, Hospice has continued to be there for Jim.

"Hospice taught me you can't hide from grief," Jim explains. "They also helped me learn to accept grief and reconcile with it, so healing can begin."

Because Hospice meant so much to Paula and Jim, he made a Guardian Angel donation to her care team through St. Luke's Foundation. The Guardian Angel program is a way to honor caregivers who make a difference for patients and families.

The donations in Paula's name also meant Jim could select a photograph from St. Luke's Healing Power of Art program as a memorial to her. The stunning image of a sunset in all its glory is now on display in the hospital's main hallway.

"Hospice has a very difficult job to do, but they were there for us with the right words and the right care," adds Jim. "Hospice helped us, so I wanted to help them."

Guardian Angel gifts can be of any size, and a ceremony honors those who went above and beyond for you or a loved one. For more information, call Jennifer Sweeney, annual giving director, at ***(319) 369-7807.***

WITWER CHILDREN'S THERAPY

Making a Lasting Difference for Children

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation director Jaclyn Hall and UnityPoint Health - Cedar Rapids president Casey Greene joined the Ahmed family in presenting a Guardian Angel award to Witwer Children's Therapy.

One family's generosity will make a difference for some special kids receiving care at UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Witwer Children's Therapy – now and in the future. The Dr. Azeemuddin and Faaiza Z. Ahmed Family Endowed Fund for Brachial Plexus Care will serve children of all ages who are impacted by these specialized injuries.

The brachial plexus is a group of nerves that sends signals to the shoulder, arm and hand. Injury to these nerves can cause weakness, loss of feeling, even paralysis. While there are many ways a brachial plexus injury can occur, most kids receiving care for it at Witwer Children's Therapy experienced the injury at birth or through early trauma.

"As these children grow, their goals and abilities change right along with them," explains Kelli Johnson, Witwer Children's Therapy manager. "That's why our relationship with a patient often continues over time. This endowment will help us continue to serve patients who need brachial plexus care."

Uses for the endowment funds may include specialized equipment to help children achieve their best outcomes as they grow and change, as well as advanced education for team members to enhance the care they provide.

"All of us at Witwer are honored by the Ahmed family's trust in us," says Kelli. "Their decision to create this fund reflects both their deep compassion, and their vision for making a lasting difference in the lives of children and families. With their support, we can continue to provide excellence, empathy and hope."

"Children with brachial plexus injuries have unlimited potential!" adds Dr. Ahmed. "The endowment is part of our family's commitment to help them reach that potential."

Witwer Children's Therapy cares for kids from birth to age 21 who have a wide variety of special needs. You can make a difference with your gift on behalf of children in our community. Call St. Luke's Foundation at ***(319) 369-7716*** *for more information.*

KIRKPATRICK ENDOWMENT

Helping People Help Themselves

Minnie May "Mickey" Nading was a student at St. Luke's School of Nursing when she caught the eye of a medical student at Washington University in St. Louis. Wendell Kirkpatrick said he knew after just two dates that Mickey was "the one." Theirs was a love story that would last for more than 73 years. Now their legacy will live on for decades to come.

Dr. Kirkpatrick passed away in 2023 and Mickey followed him less than a year later. Their daughter, Nan Dodson, recalls, "They were wonderful, kind, loving people, and they were always in service to others. They lived their beliefs–the Ten Commandments and The Golden Rule–by always giving to others. My mom liked to say that money is only as good as what you do with it."

Before their passing, Mickey and Wendell designated part of their estate for charitable giving, setting aside funds for 12 organizations including their alma maters. The money donated to St. Luke's and Washington University is being used to endow scholarships in Mickey and Wendell's names.

The Kirkpatrick Endowment at St. Luke's will help individuals who are pursuing a career in nursing. The scholarships can be used towards an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).

That emphasis on education reflects Wendell and Mickey's commitment to investing in people for a brighter future. "Education always came first for my parents," explains Nan. "Mom felt she got a really good education at St. Luke's. She knew education could help other families live a better life."

Nan adds, "Mom and Dad were very generous throughout their lifetimes, but they also believed in helping people help themselves. I know they would be very happy their donations are being used in this way. And my siblings and I are happy that the memory of our parents will live on through their endowment."

Mickey and Wendell Kirkpatrick

Mickey at St. Luke's School of Nursing - Class of 1950

You can leave a legacy like the Kirkpatricks when you include UnityPoint Health – St. Luke's Foundation in your estate plans. For more information on ways to give, call us at ***(319) 369-7716.***

IGRANT PROGRAM

Team Giving Helps Patient Care in Many Ways

Associates for Behavioral Healthcare proudly display their first-ever iGrant.

Severe depression can derail a person's life. While treatment is available, some patients do not respond to traditional antidepressants.

"These individuals may have tried multiple medications without success," explains Tom Kremer, director of clinic operations for AbbeHealth Services – Associates for Behavioral Healthcare. "Spravato® is a new antidepressant designed to help medication-resistant patients, but no one in our area was providing it. Since our office is known for offering innovative mental health treatments, we decided to establish a Spravato clinic."

To help create the new clinic, Tom applied to St. Luke's Foundation for an iGrant. St. Luke's iGrant program is funded by donations from UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids team members through the annual Team Member Giving Campaign.

"This was the first time our clinic had applied for a grant, but the Foundation was so helpful," Tom explains. "They guided me through the process."

Spravato is an FDA-approved nasal spray that is self-administered by patients themselves. Afterwards, patients remain in the clinic for two hours for monitoring by the staff. The iGrant dollars enabled Associates for Behavioral Healthcare to create a dedicated space with comfortable chairs, TVs, headphones and other amenities.

Already, four out of five patients have shown measurable improvement following Spravato treatment, after having tried everything else without success. Tom says the clinic plans to treat 50 people a year, but as word circulates about the medication, he expects to have many more. The clinic is already receiving referrals from other mental health providers in the area.

He adds, "Our clinic has seen firsthand how iGrant dollars can improve the lives of people in our community. Now we have a commitment from 100 percent of our team members to support the Team Giving Campaign in the future."

The iGrant program is also improving patient care by increasing efficiency for St. Luke's Hospital's Environmental Services (EVS) team.

"Our team members have been relying on old-style pagers to alert them when a patient is discharged so we can clean the room for the next patient, but the pagers kept breaking," explains Brandie Dolter, manager of Support Services. "They also used outdated technology so they couldn't connect to the hospital's EPIC system. Not being able to get the information in a timely fashion was delaying room turnovers and impacting patient care."

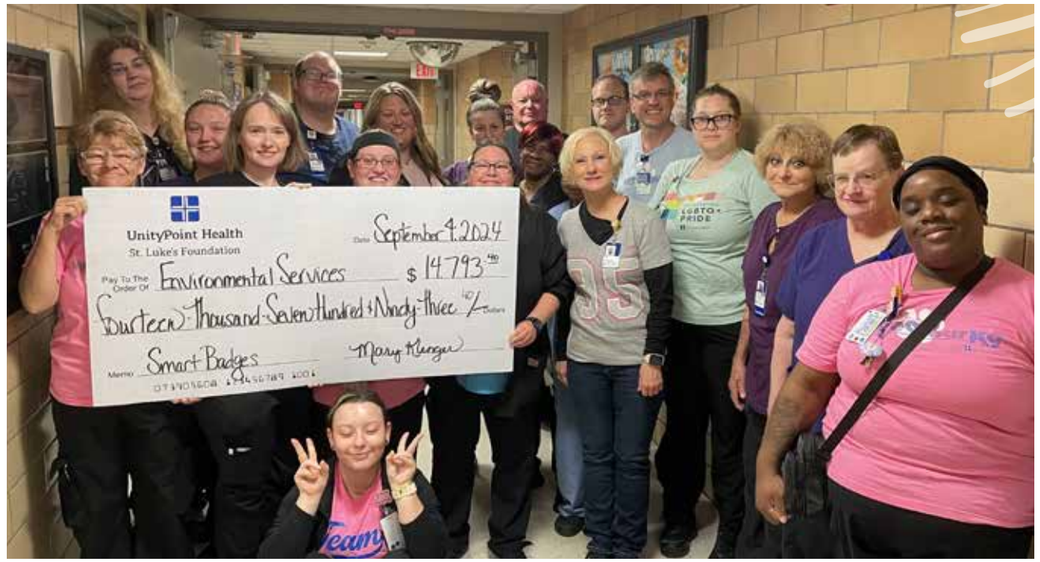
Team members demonstrate the Spravato process.

That's why Brandie decided to apply for an iGrant to purchase Vocera SmartBadges. The Vocera badges provide real-time communication for the team. As soon as a nurse updates EPIC to report a patient has been fully discharged, EVS is automatically notified.

Brandie says, "We average 71 discharges per day, and the instant communication has really streamlined our process. Now we're turning over rooms faster, which is better for incoming patients."

The Vocera badges have also resulted in a cost savings for St. Luke's. The former monthly fee for pagers and cell phones has been replaced by a one-time cost for the new, rechargeable devices.

"Having Vocera badges has been a huge team satisfier," says Brandie. "We also make sure our team members know the badges they're wearing came from the iGrant program. Donating to the Team Giving Campaign helps departments like ours invest in new technology that's better for team members and better for patients."



St. Luke's Environmental Services team used their iGrant to improve efficiency.

UNITYPOINT HEALTH –
ABBE CENTER FOR
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

Raising the Bar for Mental Health

In 2024, UnityPoint Health – St. Luke's Foundation launched a $4 million capital campaign to underwrite the new home for Abbe Center for Community Mental Health. Today, thanks to the generosity of our friends and neighbors, that new home is a reality.

"It's what our community needs," explains Kathy Johnson and Megan Vranish. "This is a chance for us to raise the bar and provide even higher quality services to address the growing need for mental health care."

Kathy Johnson, President, AbbeHealth Services

Megan Vranish, Executive Director, Abbe Center for Community Mental Health

Michael Sheeley, chief marketing officer for UFG Insurance, agrees the need is growing. UFG has been a generous contributor to St. Luke's Foundation for many years. "In this case, we're helping Abbe Center provide more timely and accessible mental health care services for residents in Eastern Iowa," Sheeley says. "It's a perfect match of our promise of community support and a respected nonprofit making a powerful difference in the community."

Located at 615 5th Avenue SE in the heart of the Cedar Rapids healthcare community, the new Abbe Center offers more room and more services. It's also one of the first Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) in Iowa. Because it consolidates multiple clinic offices into one convenient location, the new facility will save money on rent, utilities and other costs for years to come.

Luke Bishop, director at BAE Systems in Cedar Rapids, says they are grateful for the opportunity to support the Abbe Center capital campaign. "The new center reflects our commitment to building a stronger, healthier community. We're honored to contribute to a project that will benefit so many people."

The TrueNorth Legacy Foundation also chose to support the campaign. "We're fortunate to be surrounded by communities that inspire and uplift," explains Matt Evans, TrueNorth board of directors president. "This gift to St. Luke's Foundation reflects the growing momentum behind our mission to invest in organizations that are transforming lives and strengthening communities."

"The decision of these organizations to step up and support mental health services in our community is critical," adds St. Luke's Foundation President Mary Klinger. "It helps normalize the conversation around mental health and encourages others to speak up. Together we're reducing the stigma surrounding mental health so more people can seek help without shame."

You can show your support for mental health care in our community when you contribute to the Campaign for Abbe Center – New Beginnings Start Here. Donate at ***give.unitypoint.org/mentalhealth*** *or call St. Luke's Foundation at* ***(319) 369-7716.***

you matter
we care.

UNITYPOINT HEALTH – ABBE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH!

Thank you for your support!

$1,000,000

The Hall-Perrine Foundation

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Aegon Transamerica Foundation
Florence Constable Estate
Farmers State Bank
TrueNorth Legacy Foundation
UFG Insurance
In memory of Brian Zimmerman

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Anonymous
Russell & Ann Gerdin Family Foundation
UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Auxiliary

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Skorpman Companies

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Beverly J. Davey
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UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Team Members

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For a complete list of donors please visit give.unitypoint.org/mentalhealth

FIGHTING CANCER TOGETHER BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Teaming Up to Fight Cancer

The inaugural Fighting Cancer Together Baseball Tournament was a hit!

Thanks to the support and generosity of our friends and neighbors, the tournament raised over $5,000 to support free services at Nassif Community Cancer Center. Cancer patients and survivors, regardless of where they receive their care, can take advantage of free wellness classes, social work sessions, one-on-one nutrition counseling, clinical trial participation and more.

"I'm so proud of our team for making this event a reality," says UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids President Casey Greene. "Kudos to everyone involved!"

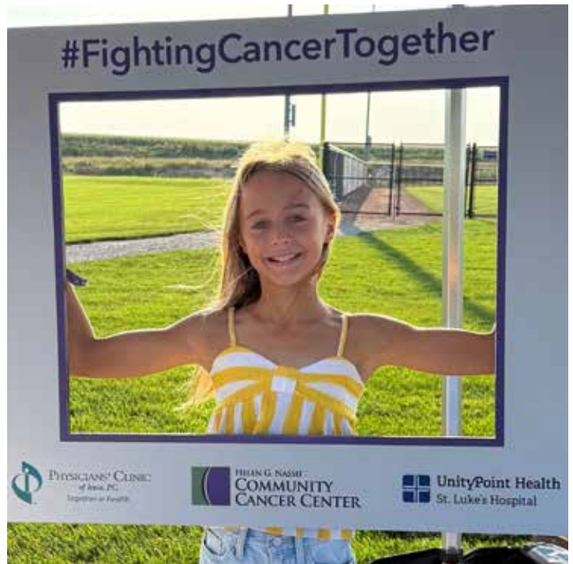
More than 700 people from 13 cities and six counties attended the tournament, which took place August 9. Prospect Meadows, in Marion, generously donated its facility and staff to help make it a success.

"What an excellent event!" adds Casey. "We're already looking forward to doing it again next year."

Nassif Community Cancer Center has been serving cancer patients and survivors since 2011 and there's no charge for most support services. Team up with us to fight cancer when you donate to St. Luke's Foundation at ***unitypoint.org/donate*** *or call* ***(319) 369-7716.***

Everyone stepped up to the plate to make the tournament a success!

UnityPoint Health President Casey Greene, Executive Director of Oncology Andrea Watkinson and Nassif Community Cancer Center Manager Matt Schmitz join young baseball players in the fight against cancer.



UnityPoint Health
St. Luke's Healthcare Foundation

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Hope BLOOMS

Hope Blooms is an annual fundraiser that brings a sense of hope and resilience to our community while directly benefiting local cancer patients and their families.

You can support Hope Blooms when you purchase cheerful daffodils for yourself or as bouquets of hope delivered to cancer patients undergoing treatment at local hospitals and facilities.

You can also purchase stuffed animals and Hope Blooms gardening gloves for your own use or as gifts for those impacted by cancer. All proceeds benefit patients, survivors and families served by the Helen G. Nassif Community Cancer Center.

Daffodil sales take place in January with delivery in mid-March. To participate in Hope Blooms, call **(319) 369-7716** or email **Stlukes.foundation@unitypoint.org**

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