You may not know who or how many your generosity will touch, but on behalf of all who will benefit from care at Lourdes Health System, THANK YOU for making a difference in the lives of those in our community!

**Continued Cardiac Leadership Recognized**

Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center is widely regarded as a top heart center, recognized nationally for excellence in cardiac surgery, treatment of heart attack and stroke and overall cardiovascular care.

This past summer, the *New York Times* detailed how Lourdes has set new standards for heart attack response and the lives saved by such speedy care.

From the time the emergency medical team reaches a patient, information is flowing and staff and services are prepared for rapid care. Whether needed treatment is medical, interventional catheterization or surgery, time to return essential blood flow to the heart is critically tracked and consistently reduced at Lourdes—with measurable outcomes. Faster diagnosis and intervention means less damage to the heart and a more complete return to function after a heart attack.

In addition to the *New York Times* accolades, in 2015, Healthgrades named Our Lady of Lourdes one of America’s 50 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Surgery (the hospital has seen a 92 percent increase in cardiothoracic surgery over the past five years). Truven Health Analytics named Lourdes one of the nation’s 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals and Becker’s Hospital Review tapped Lourdes as one of the nation’s “100 Hospitals with Great Heart Programs.”
Closing the Gap for Heart Health

Lourdes is committed to being a transforming, healing presence in the community. We were pleased to participate in “Close the Gap,” a national initiative that aims to improve cardiovascular outcomes and eliminate the disparity gap among women and minorities. Through a grant funded by Boston Scientific and spearheaded by Lourdes cardiologists Dr. Troy Randle and Dr. Thierry Momplaisir, Lourdes held community health fairs at the Kroc Center in Camden and First Baptist Church in Willingboro that attracted more than 500 people and a series of clinical education events that focused on how primary care providers can improve ways to diagnose, treat and prevent heart disease in under-served populations.

Bridging Camden Youth on to Better Lives

For over 35 years, Camden area teens have had a positive place to gather and share experiences. The unique program has helped many on to healthier lives.

The Bridge brings teenagers together for peer-facilitated discussions of, and refuge from, family problems, drugs, crime, loss, trauma and other issues. Students are empowered by learning about healthy lifestyle choices, positive interpersonal relationships and communication skills. Young people like Yolanda Quintana, whose parents were diagnosed with schizophrenia, get the space to exchange with and support one another. Yolanda, who volunteers as a group leader at the sessions, credits the “safe haven” and “family-like environment” of the Bridge with helping her to achieve her goal of admission to college at Rutgers University. Founded by Sister Helen Owens, OSF, the Bridge operates on a modest budget of grants and donations each year and has earned the Catholic Health Association’s Achievement Citation.
Family Health Center Inspires Support

Osborn Family Health Center, on the campus of Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center, continues its inspiring work on the frontlines of health and welfare for those most in need.

In family practice, OB-GYN and pediatrics, the center provides top-quality medical care for acute and chronic illnesses and prenatal, infant and child healthcare. With help from private donors, the Domenica Foundation and Lourdes Health System, Osborn also provides tens of thousands of dollars in prescription assistance to very-low-income families and individuals without the means to pay for medications.

Osborn's 40-year commitment to plugging critical gaps in care has prompted supporters like the Carz N’ Toyz organization and the Davis Foundation to provide donations or in-kind gifts of more than $25,000 in the past year toward books, videos, waiting room toys, car seats, televisions and rocking chairs, as well as a pediatric AED (automatic emergency defibrillator for sudden cardiac arrest), oximeters, thermometers, blood pressure monitors and vision testers, among other needs. The group also contributed hundreds of backpacks and school supplies during the summers of 2014 and 2015 for the center’s back-to-school program.

A Fresh Look at Health

This past summer, with donor support, Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing sponsored the Marketplace for Healthy Living at the Sister M. Elizabeth Corry Ambulatory Care Center. More than 250 people received cholesterol, blood pressure, BMI (body mass index) and glucose screenings, along with health education from the nursing students. The students also worked with more than 100 children in the Reach Out and Read literacy program. Collaborating with Farmers Against Hunger, the Marketplace distributed more than 20,000 pounds of fresh produce to more than 1,000 city residents.
Our Auxiliaries are Angels

The hospital auxiliaries at Lourdes Camden and Burlington are the angels behind the scenes by adding support for those most in need and for additional patient amenities.

At Our Lady of Lourdes in Camden, the Auxiliary supports Lourdes’ NICHE program (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders). Lourdes takes particular pride in its care of seniors, recently earning certification in NICHE, the leading nurse-driven program designed to help healthcare organizations improve the care of older adults. Through their generosity and energetic fundraising, the Auxiliary supported activity kits specially designed with puzzles and games meant to stimulate, relax and challenge and medication information kits for seniors to access quickly for an emergency hospital trip.

At Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County, the Auxiliary generously provided new flat screen televisions for the recently renovated fifth floor patient unit. The new TVs improve the patient’s hospital experience.

Getting Off to a Good Start

For a quarter century, Lourdes’ Child Development Services have addressed the basic and therapeutic needs of many hundreds of children up to age 3 who have developmental delays and oftentimes few resources. Through the generosity of Our Lady of Lourdes Auxiliary, the Diocese of Camden and other donors, Lourdes supplements state support to provide full services. Benefactors have provided financial support, as well as donated clothes, toys and new iPads for therapeutic stimulation of youngsters with challenges.

At 14 months old, Enmanuel Rosario was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. With support of therapists and his family he made progress in areas of communication, social interaction, play skill development, and fine motor/adaptive skills. He learned to imitate words, name objects, animals, colors, and shapes. He also began to transition to and from non-preferred activities with less resistance. Enmanuel became able to follow daily routines, play alongside peers, and take turns with adult support. Enmanuel’s eye contact greatly increased as did his attention to complete activities such as puzzles, books, and pretend play scenarios. Recently when Enmanuel turned 3 years old, he transitioned to preschool to continue building age appropriate skills from the foundation he received through Early Intervention.

These successes keep the staff reaching out to those who have little or no other forms of help.
A Reminder that We Can All Work Real-World “Miracles”

Those who work in and support healthcare can help make seemingly miraculous things happen. As a sprawling reminder of that power, Lourdes recently hung “Christ Healing the Sick,” a 10-foot-by-6-foot painting donated by the estate of artist Frank Mason of New York City. Placed in the Physician’s Conference Room at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center, the work in oil, by Mason, depicts the healing miracles of Christ. Lourdes Health System is honored to be the recipient of this fine work of art.

LIFE Goes On!

Since opening five years ago, LIFE at Lourdes, our Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, has helped several hundred seniors to live safely at home while providing them a team of healthcare experts to take care of their healthcare needs. Serving dual-eligible Medicare and Medicaid residents of Camden County, LIFE provides medical and social services in the participant’s home, at its adult day health center and at other facilities. Funding received this year supported new therapy equipment including a recumbent bike and a hemibar for the wheelchair-bound, patient recliners, and computer equipment. Working with outside organizations and volunteers, LIFE holds many special events for participants, including Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Day, Christmastime sleigh rides and Thanksgiving dinner. LIFE hopes to open another facility in the near future.
Supporting the Next Generation of Nurses

Working, studying, taking care of their families and serving the community—students at Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing are often juggling all these responsibilities at once. Scholarships can make a huge difference in their lives, and awardees are deeply appreciative. Erica Jensen, the 2015 recipient of the Linda R. Dambrowski Pay-It-Forward Memorial Scholarship, said, “As a single mother of two amazing girls, I have others that rely on me for support emotionally and financially. They were my inspiration for going back to school and they stick by me every day.” Bethsaida Ortiz, the 2015 recipient of the Janet Reynolds Scholarship, said, “I know that nursing is the one career that will allow me to help others, make myself happy and make a difference in the lives of those people I serve. One day, I hope to be a patient advocate, educator, caretaker and much more.”

Nurturing the Spirit

Phyllis Stern was so impressed by the attention to spiritual needs of patients of all faiths at the hospital that she has made several donations to the Spiritual Care Department. Stern, who is Jewish, was happy to have her contributions go towards items needed by the hospital chapel, where people of all religions are equally welcomed. On attending Mass at the hospital, Phyllis said, “I noticed so many similarities between the faiths. It feels good to hold hands and pray with someone, regardless of religion. When that happens, you only feel kindness, warmth and a love of God. It’s what I hope every patient can feel, especially in times of need.”

Sr. Rose Colanzi, OSF, Pastoral Associate, Ruth Cila of Lourdes Foundation, donor Phyllis Stern and Chaplain Connie Giampaolo, Director Spiritual Care (l to r) commemorate the donation of Sacred vessels made possible by generous support from Ms. Stern.

Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County patient Phyllis Stern was so impressed by the attention to spiritual needs of patients of all faiths at the hospital that she has made several donations to the Spiritual Care Department. Stern, who is Jewish, was happy to have her contributions go towards items needed by the hospital chapel, where people of all religions are equally welcomed. On attending Mass at the hospital, Phyllis said, “I noticed so many similarities between the faiths. It feels good to hold hands and pray with someone, regardless of religion. When that happens, you only feel kindness, warmth and a love of God. It’s what I hope every patient can feel, especially in times of need.”

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