Lourdes Health System continues to use advanced technology and innovation to set the mark in cardiovascular care. 2016 saw the much-anticipated opening of the hybrid operating suite at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center. The OR is specially designed for advanced, minimally invasive endovascular neurosurgery and cardiovascular surgery. At the heart of the lab is a biplane angiography system, a type of digital X-ray that constructs a real-time, three-dimensional roadmap of blood vessels leading to the brain and deep within it, as well as the relationship of vessels to tissues of the head and neck. With this new lab and our partners Drexel Neurosciences Institute (DNI), Lourdes is becoming a hub of neurosurgery in South Jersey.

**Ribbon-cutting for Lourdes new hybrid O.R.**

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**Left Atrial Appendate with WATCHMAN implant**

**This year, the cardiovascular team at Lourdes:**

- Made international news by using a patient’s Fitbit fitness tracker and smartphone to diagnose and treat a patient with atrial fibrillation. Doctors employed a procedure called cardioversion and discharged him from the hospital ER the same day.

- Was among the first hospitals in South Jersey and Philadelphia to implant patients with the world’s first FDA-approved dissolving heart stent, called Absorb.

- Began implanting the Watchman device for the prevention of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation.

- Offered free heart health programs in Camden and Willingboro focused on minorities and their unique cardiac risks thanks to a grant from Boston Scientific.
Thinking of Patients Who Need Everyone’s Helping Hand

Lourdes’ auxiliaries are an indispensable backbone of volunteer activities and fundraising. The results are tangible for patients. This year, for example, the Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center Auxiliary donated funds to purchase new equipment for the hospital’s rehabilitation facility. The Auxiliary at Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County provided new flat-screen TVs for patient rooms on two units.

A physical therapy table, one of many rehabilitation items donated by the OLLMC Auxiliary.

New TVs make the stay easier thanks to the Auxiliary of Lourdes Burlington.

Lifting Up Our Neighborhoods

We know now how closely bound health and economic opportunity are. But surrounding the campus of Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center are two neighborhoods that have been challenged and intermittently forgotten over the last half-century. Parkside and Whitman Park, however, have been gaining momentum in the last few years with the volunteer support and encouragement of Lourdes Health System.

Parkside Business & Community in Partnership Inc. (PBCIP) and the Haddon Avenue Business Association (HABA) work together to revitalize vacant properties and improve the economic health and climate of a 55-block area that is home to about 5,000 people. As part of the initiative, renovation efforts have steadily taken hold. Since 2000 — with the help of a planning effort funded by the Wells Fargo Regional Foundation — PBCIP and its partners have built more than 100 units of rental housing for seniors; rehabilitated and sold 60 single-family homes to qualified buyers; and constructed 49 apartments, as well expanded access to shopping and other retail. Among other forms of support for the effort, Lourdes serves an advisory role on the revitalization-plan steering committee.

Lourdes staff provided health screenings, free flu shots, health insurance information and seated chair massages at the PBCIP Haddon Avenue Street Festival.

At a HABA dinner and mixer, Lourdes cardiology specialists spoke to Camden business owners and community leaders about heart disease and what they can do to help address the issue of healthcare disparities. (Support for this and similar events came from Boston Scientific.)
A Refuge and Launch Pad for More than 35 Years

The United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, Bill and Kathie Stone, and Holman Automotive Group generously support one of Lourdes’ longest-standing community programs.

The Bridge program serves as a source of refuge, healthy outlet and communion for teens facing challenges. Hundreds of middle-schoolers and high-schoolers each year benefit from the program, many coming together there to share experiences and gain the strength to make healthy decisions with difficult family, school and social matters.

The Bridge uses presentations and weekly meetings to promote leadership, reduce risky behaviors and offer positive modelling. Past participants often return to mentor. One 15-year-old recently shared her experience: “I have been attending The Bridge for two years now, and it has changed my life in many ways. In recent situations during school, I have handled myself in a more adult and mature way. The Bridge has helped me to take accountability and ownership over everything I do. I have been active in positive retreats and workshops. I feel a need to help other people, because The Bridge helped me . . . The Bridge is a life-changing experience available to anyone.”

Gratitude for Blessings and Basics

The School of Nursing, Osborn Family Health Center and Farmers Against Hunger have collaborated to sustain the Marketplace for Healthy Living, a seasonal opportunity at Lourdes at which nearby residents can get fresh, farm-to-market produce.

To supplement access to healthy foods, the program has distributed thousands of pounds of produce from the Sister M. Elizabeth Corry Ambulatory Care Center to many hundreds of community members annually for four years running. Participants also get free health screenings and information on important health topics. Funding is provided by Allegany Franciscan Ministries.

Our Lady of Lourdes Health Foundation
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Like Lourdes on Facebook at http://facebook.com/lourdeshealthsystem and Follow us on Twitter @LourdesHealth
www.lourdesnet.org/donating-to-lourdes
Steadfast Support for Proven Family Health Care

Key donors continue to enhance the work of the Osborn Family Health Center, which for more than 40 years has provided primary and specialty care to the residents of Camden City and surrounding municipalities, with a particular focus on providing optimal prenatal care to women and their families.

This year, the Carz N’ Toyz organization supplied toys and children’s backpacks to youngsters who come to Osborn for care. The group also made it possible for the center to add new baby scales and to repaint all eight pediatric exam rooms. Osborn sees more than a thousand women for prenatal care each year and provides pediatric care for over 6,000 children. Recently, the group’s largest gift was made for the purchase of new ultrasound machines which will arrive shortly.
Moving on Up with Constant Improvement

Donors make renovations and new equipment possible, keeping Lourdes at its best for our patients and families.

The emergency waiting area in Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County has a bright, modern new look.

The mental health unit at Lourdes Burlington was renovated and updated.

Mimi and Chris Beane’s three sons each spent time in the Intensive Care Nursery. Each year, the family holds a golf outing to raise funds for the program. In 2016, funds raised by the family paid for renovation and redecorating of the Lactation Room.

Lactation Room at Our Lady of Lourdes is a tranquil space for mothers.

The two critical care floors at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center have new televisions.

Blessing ceremony at opening of the renovated fourth floor at Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County.
Making a Noble Profession Attainable

Donors to Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing continue to reap great personal gratification from the assistance they provide to deserving students training to be the next generation of healthcare providers.

Janet Reynolds, a former nurse, gives $2,000 each semester to a qualifying student in need. Similarly, the Rickershauser Memorial Scholarship — named for Eileen Rickershauser, a long-time leader in the Lourdes auxiliary — provides $1,000 each year to a student who likewise demonstrates a commitment to nursing, maintains good academic standing and has financial need.

It doesn’t take a lot of money to make a big difference in a student’s ability to meet educational costs in an academic year.

Donor profile

“We wanted to help students pursue their passion, and help The Bridge continue to provide safe space for the young people it serves.”

– Bill and Kathie Stone

Friends and associates involved in supporting Lourdes introduced Bill and Kathie Stone to the organization at a time when they were looking for worthy cause to get behind. After they began lending financial support to the programs, they had an opportunity to visit the Lourdes School of Nursing and The Bridge program for teens. With that, they decided to set up a five-year giving schedule to these areas, including scholarship support annually to a nursing student. “We wanted to help students pursue their passion, and help The Bridge continue to provide safe space for the young people it serves. The Foundation staff gets credit for assisting us in setting this up,” says Bill.