

# Gift<sup>of</sup> Health

Our Philanthropy Magazine

SPRING 2025

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## SAINT MARY'S FOUNDATION

A Member of Trinity Health

*In this issue of Gift of Health, we celebrate the many ways Saint Mary's Foundation is making a difference at Trinity Health Grand Rapids and in our community.*

For Donors of  
Saint Mary's Foundation



**Kieychia's Journey—  
A Sanctuary for Healing**

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**Dear Family of Supporters,**

Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of our *Gift of Health* newsletter! As we reflect on the incredible progress we've made, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support from our community. Your generosity continues to transform lives and sustain essential programs that meet the needs of our patients and neighbors.

I want to give a special shout-out to The Boutique, whose contributions have been instrumental in enhancing care for cancer patients. Their dedication to providing comfort and support to patients like Kieychia Likely is truly inspiring.

We also celebrate the remarkable work of Dr. Aileen Antonio, whose expertise and compassion have made a profound impact on the lives of those she cares for. Her ability to solve complex medical cases and restore hope to patients like Quana O'Bryan exemplifies the excellence we strive for at Trinity Health.

Additionally, I am excited to introduce several new faces at Saint Mary's Foundation. Their fresh perspectives and enthusiasm will undoubtedly help us continue our mission of improving community health and well-being.

This year is particularly special as we continue to celebrate our 60th anniversary. We are thrilled to announce the return of one of our signature events, Up on the Roof. We look forward to celebrating with you and making this event a memorable occasion on September 11, 2025.

Thank you for being a part of our journey and for your continued support. Together, we are making a difference.



Sincerest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Rabideau".

**Michelle Rabideau, CFRE, MPA**  
President, Saint Mary's Foundation

## Meet the Saint Mary's Foundation Team

*Front row: Tammy Prather, Cathy Mersman, Angela Paasche and Katie Olson*

*Back row: Joan Kessler, McKenzie VanPatten, Michelle Rabideau, Kelly Obenauer and Courtney Hubert*







## The Second 20 Years

- 1989** – The First Annual Doran Scholar award was awarded for \$1,000.
- 1990** – The McAuley Infectious Disease program launched (HIV Clinic).
- 1996** – The Kent County Pediatric Asthma Network was awarded \$20,000.
- 1985** – The Doran Foundation continued its educational lecture program. The Foundation continued grant making with a total of over \$200,000.
- 1999** – The Doran Foundation became the Saint Mary's Doran Foundation.
- 1999** – The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit established.
- 1999** – Mercy Health Wege Institute for Mind, Body and Spirit was established.
- 1988** – Clínica Santa María, Browning Claytor and Sparta community-based offices were established.
- 2000** – Saint Mary's Hospital and Saint Mary's Foundation became part of Trinity Health.
- 2001** – The Saint Mary's Doran Foundation hired its first executive director, Michelle Rabideau.



## The Impact of Grand Groups

In 2024, members of Grand Girlfriends™ and Grand Guys™ once again made a powerful difference through their collective generosity, awarding over \$20,000 in grants to support meaningful programs across Trinity Health Grand Rapids. These grants help create a more compassionate, patient-centered experience for those we serve.

### Grand Girlfriends™ awarded three grants totaling \$8,425:

- **\$2,625** to the Maternal Infant Health Program to purchase educational toys. These toys help families support their baby's development at home while also assisting the care team in evaluating milestones and ensuring early intervention, when needed.
- **\$2,800** to the Breast Center to provide hot/cold packs that offer comfort following breast procedures.
- **\$3,000** to the Rockford Emergency Department to purchase distraction toys for pediatric patients, supporting developmental coping skills during emergency visits.

### Grand Guys™ awarded two grants totaling \$12,528:

- **\$11,480** to the Heart & Vascular Department to purchase a Kosmos Plus ultrasound system. This technology will improve IV placement, reduce delays in care, and enhance patient satisfaction.
- **\$1,048** to Nursing Education to purchase three IV task trainers who will give new nurses more hands-on learning time during orientation.

**Together, Grand Groups members have awarded more than \$310,441 since inception**—funding projects that enhance the healing environment and elevate patient care.

### How grand is that?

## Kieychia's Journey

# A Sanctuary for Healing

For Kieychia Likely, life as a professional, wife, and mother of four was a balancing act she managed with grace. Then came a breast cancer diagnosis, surgery, and a whirlwind journey toward healing—all within a remarkably short time.

Just a week after her third surgery, Kieychia stood before donors at our Gratitude Gathering event in December 2024 and shared a deeply moving story of resilience, hope and the profound impact of The Boutique and its remarkable mastectomy fitter, Shannon Cochrane.

"Shannon has been a vital part of my success," Kieychia said. "She visited me in the hospital after my partial mastectomy, bringing a bright smile and a loving heart. She introduced herself and said she'd be honored to walk alongside me during this phase of my journey."

With Shannon's help, Kieychia discovered that The Boutique was more than a place to find prosthetics or bras—it was a sanctuary. "It's where women who feel broken, sad, or traumatized come to be loved, encouraged and reminded of their beauty. Shannon assured me I was still complete, and her kindness continues to uplift me through every step of this journey."



Kieychia recounted a particularly stressful moment before an upcoming surgery when Shannon offered comforting words that stuck with her: "Stay hopeful. You're capable of overcoming anything. Your courage is an inspiration to others."

For Kieychia, The Boutique has been transformative. It helped her reclaim her confidence with personalized prosthetics, sports bras and even vibrant, fun-colored options that made her smile. "My prosthetic fits so well, it looks even better than my natural breast," she said with a laugh, reflecting on the care and thoughtfulness that goes into every item Shannon provides.

But the impact of The Boutique extends far beyond fitting rooms. Shannon and the team create a sacred space for women, meeting patients at every stage of their cancer journey. Whether it's days after surgery or 20 years later, they offer not just products but empowerment, reminding women that their choices and individuality matter.

Kieychia concluded her story with a heartfelt message to donors: “Your support makes this sacred space possible. Women like me are restored in ways that are beyond physical. Shannon and the boutique have given me more than just prosthetics—they’ve given me hope, confidence and the ability to feel whole again.”

As we celebrate the incredible work of The Boutique, stories like Kieychia’s remind us why donor support is so vital. You can help make this sanctuary of healing possible for others, and your generosity will help women like Kieychia rediscover their strength and beauty every day.

“I’m honored to walk alongside breast cancer survivors throughout their recovery. I consider it a privilege to restore, even in some small way, a sense of femininity, confidence and wholeness through specialized bra and prosthetic fittings, while holding space for their emotional journey.”

—Shannon Cochrane, mastectomy fitter



## Together, We Reached New Heights!

### GivingTuesday & the 2024 Gratitude Gathering

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we reached a record-breaking milestone last GivingTuesday—raising \$83,750 in support of Trinity Health Grand Rapids! Your gifts are helping us build on 60 years of compassion and care, and we couldn’t be more grateful.

Special thanks to **LMCU** and **Bob Woodhouse** for their generous matching gifts, which helped inspire our community to give from the heart.



## Leaders, Teachers, Healers

# Beyond Grateful

## Neuro-Ophthalmologist Solves Mysterious Case

Trinity Health Grand Rapids was able to provide life-changing care to Quana O'Bryan, a 39-year-old mother, partner and share-ride driver. Quana faced a myriad of debilitating symptoms, including double vision, imbalance, dizziness, changes in sensation, hearing loss and difficulty walking. Despite consulting several specialists, her condition remained a mystery.

### A Turning Point

Quana's journey took a hopeful turn when she met Dr. Aileen A. Antonio, a neuro-ophthalmologist at Trinity Health Hauenstein Neurosciences. Dr. Antonio, who likens her role to that of a crime scene investigator, meticulously reviewed Quana's medical history, lab tests and neuroimaging. Through a process of elimination, Dr. Antonio diagnosed Quana with central nervous system demyelination, a rare adverse effect of her Crohn's disease medication.

### Restoring Hope

Dr. Antonio admitted Quana to the hospital for further evaluation and treatment. By discontinuing her Crohn's medication and administering high-dose steroids and plasma exchanges, Quana's condition began to improve significantly. After completing her treatment, Quana's life was transformed, and she is now feeling great.

### A Heartfelt Thank You

Quana expressed her deep gratitude in a heartfelt letter to the entire care team at Trinity Health Grand Rapids. She thanked everyone who contributed to her recovery, from doctors and nurses to phlebotomists and environmental services staff. Quana's story is a testament to the compassionate and comprehensive care provided at Trinity Health.



Quana O'Bryan



Dr. Aileen A. Antonio

### Continuing Care

Dr. Antonio continues to monitor Quana's condition with regular follow-up visits and MRIs, emphasizing the importance of a team approach in managing her health. If there is a flare-up of her Crohn's disease, the care team will coordinate to modify her treatment plan.

*Learn more about our neuroscience services at [trinityhealthmichigan.org/neuro](https://trinityhealthmichigan.org/neuro)  
Thank you for your continued support!*



# Revolutionizing Joint Replacement Surgery with Mako Technology

Thanks to the generous support from our donors, Trinity Health Grand Rapids has introduced the cutting-edge Mako technology to enhance joint replacement surgeries.



Kevin Steelman, MD, (right) and Adam Wiersma, manager, Mako Product Specialists, Stryker, (left) demonstrate the MAKO system to the Up Next\* program participants.

This innovative system uses a 3D image of the joint and a robotic arm to create a personalized surgery plan for each patient, allowing surgeons to perform joint replacements with remarkable accuracy. The result is less pain and faster healing compared to traditional surgery methods.

*Saint Mary's Foundation covered \$518,000 of the \$590,000 total cost of the new Mako robotic-arm-assisted surgery system for Trinity Health Grand Rapids Hospital.*

\* Up Next is a program designed to broaden and strengthen the volunteer leadership base and support of Trinity Health Grand Rapids by engaging emerging leaders.

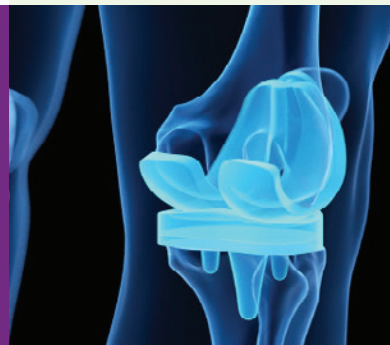


## Meet Our Expert Surgeon

Kevin Steelman, MD, from Trinity Health Medical Group Orthopaedics – Grand Rapids, is currently trained and certified to perform robotic-arm assisted partial knee and total knee replacements using the Mako system.



Discover more about how Mako technology is transforming joint replacement at Trinity Health Michigan, at [trinityhealthmichigan.org/services/surgery/robotic-surgery/mako](https://trinityhealthmichigan.org/services/surgery/robotic-surgery/mako)



Mako  
3D image  
of a joint

# Advancing HIV Research through Donor Support

*A letter to Saint Mary's Foundation supporters from John vanSchagen, MD, Regional Chief Academic Officer and Designated Institutional Official (DIO), Trinity Health Grand Rapids & Trinity Health Muskegon.*

We are thrilled to share some exciting news from our Implementation Science Research Collaborative with Michigan State University (MSU). Thanks to your generous contributions, our collaborative efforts have led to a significant publication studying HIV patients.

The study, supported by Saint Mary's Foundation and conducted by Andrew Jameson, MD; Ryan Tomlin, PharmD; and our Office of Research & Innovation, suggests that stress and proinflammatory processes in newly diagnosed HIV-infected patients might negatively impact their health literacy\* and ability to follow treatment guidance. This research highlights our commitment to vulnerable populations, improving outcomes and innovative approaches to patient care.



John vanSchagen, MD

## Impact on Patients and Providers

For patients, this research means better understanding and management of their health, leading to improved adherence to treatment plans and overall health outcomes. Providers will benefit from enhanced insights into the factors affecting patient health literacy, enabling them to tailor their care strategies more effectively and support patients in navigating their treatment.

*Your support of our research with MSU is making a real difference, advancing knowledge and transforming care by bridging the gap between research and practice. Thank you for helping us achieve these important milestones!*

\* Health literacy is the ability to understand basic health information and make appropriate health decisions and follow instructions for treatment.

Learn more about the relationship between stress and neuroimmunological responses and health literacy in newly diagnosed HIV-infected patients.





# Pharmacy Residency Program Earns National Recognition

A grant from Saint Mary's Foundation helped launch a promising new initiative at Trinity Health Grand Rapids — and it's already making an extraordinary impact.

In 2023, Saint Mary's Foundation provided funding for the inaugural year of the Postgraduate Year Two (PGY2) Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency Program, allowing Trinity Health Grand Rapids to welcome its first pharmacy resident, Jake Johnson, PharmD. Jake completed a full year of advanced training in ambulatory care and has since gone on to serve patients as a long-term care pharmacist in Texas. During his time in residency, Jake presented clinical research at national and regional conferences, including the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Meeting in Anaheim, California, and the Great Lakes Pharmacy Residency Conference at Purdue University. His research was also published in the *Journal of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy* — a major achievement for any resident.

Even more remarkable, **the residency program earned full accreditation from ASHP during its inaugural year — the longest accreditation they offer: a full eight years.**

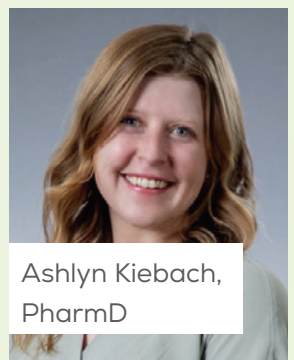
"This would not have been possible without the help of Saint Mary's Foundation," said Ryan Tomlin, PharmD, Clinical HIV Pharmacist and program lead. "We are so grateful for the Foundation's belief in our vision — and especially to Sister Rosita Schiller (who passed away in 2024), who helped champion this program from the beginning. We continue this work in her honor."



Left to right: Jessica Benzer, PharmD, BCACP, Program Director, PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency; Ryan Tomlin, PharmD; and Jake Johnson, PharmD.

Due to the success of the program, it has secured long-term support from Trinity Health, ensuring it can continue to shape the future of pharmacy care.

The 2024-2025 resident, Ashlyn Kiebach, PharmD, is already working on innovative clinical projects and has committed to staying on as a full-time pharmacist at Trinity Health Medical Group, Primary Care – Browning Claytor and East Beltline following graduation. The program has been notified of its next incoming resident, Madeline Gutta, PharmD, who will begin in July after completing her Postgraduate Year One residency at the San Francisco Veterans Administration.



Ashlyn Kiebach,  
PharmD

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*Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, Saint Mary's Foundation continues to invest in programs that strengthen our care teams. Your support is shaping the future of pharmacy — one resident at a time*

## New Liver Transplant Clinic in Grand Rapids

Patients in West Michigan for whom a liver transplant may be their best treatment option now have an opportunity to begin their evaluation and testing process closer to home.

### The Liver Transplant Clinic at Trinity Health Wege Medical Center—Grand Rapids Campus.

This pre-transplant liver evaluation clinic is coordinated and staffed by University of Michigan Health Transplant Center. Pre-transplant diagnostic testing is provided by Trinity Health Grand Rapids, in most cases.

Currently, the only liver transplant centers and pre-transplant evaluation services are provided in Southeast Michigan. With the growing need for such services among West Michigan residents, this new clinic will provide the first step in the transplant process.



## Saint Mary's Foundation Board Trustees Experience Trinity Health Academy

Last fall, our Saint Mary's Foundation Board Trustees had the honor of participating in the inaugural Trinity Health Academy. This immersive, one-day program offered a unique, behind-the-scenes look at the extraordinary work happening at Trinity Health Grand Rapids.

Through engaging sessions, our board and community leaders explored the innovative care, compassionate mission and impactful programs that make our health care system such a vital part of our community.





## Thank You for Honoring Your Health Care Heroes

We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated in our Doctors' Day campaign. Your heartfelt messages and gifts in honor of your physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners are powerful tributes to the exceptional care they provide. Each honored provider has been notified and will be celebrated as a Care Champion at Trinity Health Grand Rapids.

*Thank you for helping us celebrate the caregivers who make a difference every day.*

## You Spoke, We Listened

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our donor interest survey. Your feedback is helping shape the future of our work. As we plan for Fiscal Year 2026, we're making meaningful adjustments based on what matters most to you. Your voice is making a difference!

## Excellence in Stroke Care Recognized at Trinity Health Grand Rapids

Trinity Health Grand Rapids has once again earned national recognition for its exceptional stroke care, receiving a three-year recertification as a Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) from DNV (an accreditation body specializing in stroke). This prestigious designation—based on rigorous standards set by the American Stroke Association—reflects the hospital's ability to provide the highest level of care for even the most complex stroke cases. The CSC certification affirms Trinity Health Grand Rapids' commitment to improving outcomes for stroke patients across West Michigan.

**"We have an extraordinary stroke team trained to respond with precision and compassion when every second counts,"** said Dr. Muhammad Farooq, Medical Director of Vascular Neurology. "This recertification highlights our readiness and ability to deliver lifesaving care when it matters most." Trinity Health Grand Rapids also holds the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® – Stroke Gold Plus award, and is part of a broader network of stroke-certified facilities, including Trinity Health Muskegon, Trinity Health Grand Haven and Trinity Health Shelby.

## Michelle Rabideau Honored with Legacy of Brilliance Award

We're proud to share that Michelle Rabideau, president of Saint Mary's Foundation, was presented with the 2025 Legacy of Brilliance Award at the ninth annual West Michigan Woman Brilliance Awards on April 24, 2025.

This well-deserved recognition celebrates Michelle's unwavering dedication to uplifting lives across West Michigan—both through her inspiring leadership and her deep commitment to service. Known for leading with heart, Michelle consistently shows up for her team, our community, and our Mission of compassionate care. **Congratulations, Michelle, on this outstanding honor!**





## Restoring Confidence, One Beautiful Soul at a Time

**Meet Heather Case, volunteer stylist with the *Beautiful You* program at Lacks Cancer Center.**

At the Boutique inside the Lacks Cancer Center, beauty is more than skin deep — it's a path to healing, comfort, and renewed confidence. And at the heart of this transformation is Heather Case, a professional stylist and devoted volunteer with the *Beautiful You* program.

For individuals facing hair loss due to cancer treatment, Heather is more than a stylist. She is a compassionate guide on the journey back to self-confidence. With expert hands and a warm heart, she helps each person feel like herself again — beautiful, strong and seen.

But Heather's care doesn't end at the mirror. She listens with empathy, sheds tears alongside those who are struggling, and celebrates with those who reach recovery and no longer need her support. She invites clients to contact her anytime, offering a lifeline of emotional support that extends far beyond their appointment — and many do, drawn to her open heart and unwavering presence.

Through her selfless dedication and deep compassion, Heather is changing lives, one style — and one story — at a time.

**Looking for a meaningful way to give back?**

**Be a Volunteer at Trinity Health Grand Rapids!**

We are seeking dedicated volunteers to support our patients and community. Whether you have a heart for service or know someone who does, we would love to have you on board.



**Apply Today**  
[rb.gy/lr65xl](https://rb.gy/lr65xl)



**Questions?**  
**Contact Laura Conners**

[connerla@trinity-health.org](mailto:connerla@trinity-health.org)



## Thank You to our 2024 partners!

*We are deeply grateful to our incredible community partners for their unwavering support. Together, we have transformed the health of our community by sustaining essential programs that address the needs of our patients and neighbors. These partnerships empower our teams to strive for community health and well-being, clinical excellence and an exceptional patient-care experience.*



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Triangle Associates  
UM Health-West  
Van Andel Institute  
Varnum LLP  
West Michigan Surgical Specialists  
Whitecaps Community Foundation

## Connecting With Community



### Holiday Giving Drive Brings Comfort and Joy

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our colleagues and supporters, the **2024 Holiday Giving Drive** was a heartwarming success! Throughout November, donations poured in to support some of our most vulnerable patients and families during the holiday season.

With your help, we distributed essential items to Sophia's House, the downtown Emergency Department, and Trinity Health Medical Group, Primary Care - Browning Claytor, Sparta, and Clínica Santa María.

*Your kindness brought comfort, dignity and a sense of hope to those who needed it most—thank you for reflecting the true spirit of the season!*



### Guide Empowers Mothers and Families

Thanks to **Gold Coast Doulas LLC** for their donation of "*Supported: Your Guide to Birth and Baby*" books for our Birthing Center. Their thoughtful support is a beautiful example of community care in action. Because of them, more mothers and families in our community feel supported, informed and empowered.

# Start Your Legacy Today and Get Involved in the Mission You Love

Planned giving lets you see your values live on—today and tomorrow.

When most people hear “planned giving,” they imagine a formal process filled with paperwork and impact that happens far down the road. But here’s something you may not expect: planned gifts can start shaping the future right now.

That’s what one longtime supporter discovered when she included Saint Mary’s Foundation in her estate plans—not for the tax benefits (though those were a nice bonus), and not because she had tremendous wealth, but because she wanted to do something meaningful. “It was less about end of life and more about life,” she told us. “I wanted my values to keep doing good long after I’m gone—but also to connect with something big and important while I’m still here.”



Planned gifts—like bequests, charitable gift annuities or naming the Foundation as a beneficiary—are powerful tools for ordinary people to make an extraordinary difference. And they aren’t just for the wealthy or the elderly. In fact, many donors say the act of putting their intentions in writing brings a sense of peace and purpose.

Even more inspiring? Some donors choose to tell us now—so we can thank them, celebrate them, and involve them in the Mission they care about. Legacy giving isn’t just about end-of-life planning; it’s about a lifetime of meaning.



## Want to explore how you can leave a legacy that starts today?

We’d be honored to talk with you. **Contact Cathy Mersman** at 616-685-1484 or [cathy.skene@trinity-health.org](mailto:cathy.skene@trinity-health.org).

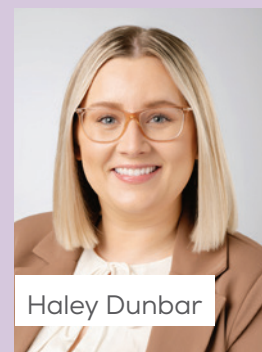
## Supporting Health and Well-Being from the Inside Out

Trinity Health colleagues in Grand Rapids are benefiting from the Colleague Lifestyle Medicine Program—an evidence-based approach to improving whole person health.

**The program focuses on six key pillars: nutrition, exercise, stress management, sleep, positive relationships, and avoiding risky substances.**

With guidance from board-certified Lifestyle Medicine practitioners, participants are empowered to build sustainable, healthy habits and take proactive steps toward preventing

or managing chronic disease. The first cohort has successfully completed the program, and a second is now underway. “We’re so thankful to Saint Mary’s Foundation for helping us deliver this program to colleagues in Grand Rapids and provide the chance for improved health and well-being,” said Haley Dunbar, Colleague Health Plan Navigator.



Haley Dunbar



# Guiding our Mission Forward

We are proud to recognize the dedicated individuals who serve on our Board of Trustees. These community leaders share their time, talents, and passion to help guide our Mission and ensure we remain focused on what matters most—providing exceptional, compassionate care. Their leadership and vision are vital to our continued success.

## Board Officers

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## President

Michelle Rabideau, CFRE, MPA

## Trinity Health Mission

We, Trinity Health, serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities.

## Our Core Values

### Reverence

We honor the sacredness and dignity of every person.

### Commitment to Those Experiencing Poverty

We stand with and serve those who are experiencing poverty, especially those most vulnerable.

### Safety

We embrace a culture that prevents harm and nurtures a healing, safe environment for all.

### Justice

We foster right relationships to promote the common good, including sustainability of Earth.

### Stewardship

We honor our heritage and hold ourselves accountable for the human, financial and natural resources entrusted to our care.

### Integrity

We are faithful to who we say we are.

# UP ON THE ROOF

Thursday, September 11, 2025

**UP on the ROOF is back!**

Save the Date for the 20th  
Anniversary Celebration of  
Lacks Cancer Center!



Saint Mary's Foundation is dedicated to building relationships that inspire financial support from the community to advance the mission of Trinity Health Grand Rapids.

**Interested in becoming  
a volunteer?**

Laura Conners | 616-685-6084  
connerla@trinity-health.org

**Interested in planned gift  
opportunities?**

Cathy Mersman | 616-685-1484  
cathy.skene@trinity-health.org

**Interested in becoming a  
member of our Grand Groups  
program?**

Kelly Obenauer | 616-685-1427  
kelly.obenauer@trinity-health.org

**Interested in your company  
becoming more involved?**

Angela Paasche | 616-685-1426  
angela.paasche@trinity-health.org

Saint Mary's Foundation  
616-685-1892

200 Jefferson Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

[SaintMarysFoundationGR.com](http://SaintMarysFoundationGR.com)

*If you do not wish to receive information  
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