

Momentum.

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation Newsletter

Volume 34 / Fall 2024

Mary Free Bed[™]
Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2 & 3
Keep Up the Pace
Junior Pacers Wheelchair Basketball Tournament
Mary Free Bed YMCA

November 9
Thrive!
Presented by Buist Electric
DeVos Place
Benefitting Stroke Rehabilitation

December 6 & 7
Mary Free Bed Invitational Adult Wheelchair Basketball Tournament
Presented by CareLinc
Mary Free Bed YMCA

WHAT'S NEW

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on August 15 for Joan Secchia Children's Rehabilitation Hospital – Michigan's first pediatric rehabilitation hospital. Over 400 community members, government officials, former patients and staff from both Mary Free Bed and Corewell Health came together to celebrate this momentous and long-awaited event.

This enormous milestone is the result of a heartfelt partnership between Mary Free Bed and Corewell Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. Together, both organizations are committed to elevating and expanding care for kids and families across Michigan, and beyond. This state-of-the-art facility will be dedicated to helping all kids achieve the best possible outcome through compassionate collaboration, innovation and interdisciplinary care.

"Each child will mitigate their disability through clinical expertise, hard work, and a big dose of love; so that they can live as full and functional a life as possible," said Mary Free Bed CEO, Kent Riddle.

The \$70 million Leaps & Boundless capital campaign for the project was publicly announced at the event by campaign co-chair Joan Secchia, who encouraged the community to help close the final \$3 million gap needed to complete the campaign.

"We're one step closer to taking Michigan's pediatric rehabilitation to new heights and so grateful for this community of supporters who are bringing this vision to life. This facility will give kids springboard to a brighter future," said Mary Free Bed major gifts director, Jocelyn Dettloff.

To get involved in Leaps & Boundless, visit maryfreebed.com/JSCRH

Thrive

SETTING THE TONE FOR STROKE RECOVERY

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 9

6:00 PM
DEVOS PLACE

To purchase tickets, give a sponsorship, or book specially-priced overnight accommodations at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, visit maryfreebed.com/thrive.

PRESENTED BY

BUIST
Raising The Standard
Electrical | Technology | Engineering

COMMUNITY GATHERS TO SUPPORT WAS AND MARY'S MISSION



Teeing off for its 11th year, the *Mary Free Bed Open* raised over \$130,000 for the Mary Free Bed Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports (WAS) programs. The funds raised from the *Open* ensure WAS can offer enriching recreational opportunities to hundreds of people of all ages through competitive teams, camps and clinics no matter their abilities.

The *Mary Free Bed Open* will be back in action on June 2, 2025, at Thousand Oaks Golf Club. To reserve your foursome or sponsorship for the 2025 Mary Free Bed Open, please contact Laura Dulay at laura.dulay@maryfreebed.com.

The Foundation's annual luncheon, *Let Freedom Spring*, bloomed in its 11th year by raising over \$82,000 for Mary's Mission – a fund that provides vital financial support for programs, services and state-of-the-art equipment and technology. *Let Freedom Spring* attendees

heard from CEO, Kent Riddle who shared the ways Mary Free Bed is "blooming" in our community, such as the new Joan Secchia Children's Rehabilitation Hospital and the expansion of the 6th floor of our Grand Rapids Campus hospital. Guests witnessed the positive miracles happening every day at Mary Free Bed when they heard from former patient James Maier. James shared his inspirational story of transformation following a tree-trimming accident that brought him to Mary Free Bed; further proof that hope and freedom are healing forces.

Both the *Mary Free Bed Open* and *Let Freedom Spring* create shared experiences that connect people to the Mary Free Bed mission. Not only do they raise awareness, but inspire collective action towards hope, freedom and independence. Thank you to all our event attendees, sponsors, and supporters!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS EVENT SUPPORTERS!

LET FREEDOM SPRING

Presented by:



MFB OPEN

Presented by:



THE MEIJER FOUNDATION



Mike and Rachel Mraz



MARY MOMENT

RIDE FOR A CAUSE

A very Mary thank you to all the amazing participants, staff and volunteers who brought the 2024 Gran Fondo to life. This year's cycling race raised nearly \$78,000 to support Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports, Joan Secchia Children's Rehabilitation Hospital and recreational therapy programming.

We're excited to share that Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation will be the charity partner of the 2025 Gran Fondo! Stay tuned for more information including details on how you and your network can cycle for a good cause.

Did you know Gran Fondo is a form of community fundraising? Check out page 7 to learn how you can turn these special moments into impact.



#9 AND FEELING FINE

After breaking into the top ten for the first time last year, Mary Free Bed climbs again in the rankings to be the **9th Best Rehabilitation Hospital in the country** according to *U.S. News & World Report*. National rankings like these are extremely helpful to patients in the midst of recovery, as they begin to look for rehabilitation services.

U.S. News & World Report considered 1,049 hospitals in the country for their 2024-25 Rehabilitation Hospital category ranking. Results were based on factors including clinical outcomes, physician perception, quality of care and patient experience, with Mary Free Bed exceeding the national average in several key metrics.



LEAVING A LEGACY AT MARY FREE BED

FAMILY RECOGNIZES COUSIN WHO RECEIVED CARE AT MARY FREE BED DECADES AGO.

Paula Detwiller and her cousin, Mary Beth Dyke, were born the same year (1957) and shared a love for goofy jokes and laughter. Growing up, they saw each other mainly on holidays and summer visits, but always had a close connection.

Mary Beth was born with a congenital limb difference, and as a toddler was treated at Mary Free Bed. Each year as she grew, the family returned to Mary Free Bed to outfit Mary Beth with new prosthetic arms and legs, allowing her as much independence as possible.

"Mary Beth never let her 'differentness' stop her from enjoying life," said Paula. "Her outgoing personality won people over. She especially liked to provide constructive user feedback to her prosthetic-makers and wheelchair suppliers."

Mary Beth passed away in 2023 at the age of 65. Paula, wanting to honor her cousin while at the same time helping other children who may need orthotics and prosthetics, approached Mary Free Bed. The Foundation worked with Paula to create the *Mary Beth Dyke*



Mary Beth Dyke, pictured here at age 5, was treated throughout her life at Mary Free Bed.



Mary Beth Dyke (L) with her cousin Paula Detwiller as adults.

Memorial Pediatric Orthotics & Prosthetics + Bionics Fund, designed to help pay for prosthetics, physical aids and equipment for kids who may not be able to afford it.

While the fund was planned to activate with a legacy gift from Paula's estate, a family gathering over Memorial Day weekend shifted the plan a little. Paula, along with her siblings, would establish the fund today so that it could start helping kids as soon as 2025. Then, through a gift from Paula's estate, the fund will receive another significant donation in the future to make an even bigger impact.

"I love that we can honor Mary Beth's life in this way," Paula said. "I think she would be delighted that the fund will help others like her find hope and freedom through Mary Free Bed. And I've got to say, the team at the Foundation made the process of establishing the fund and the planned gift very easy for me."

If you are considering making a legacy gift to Mary Free Bed designated to a specific purpose that is meaningful to you, please contact Brad Kaufmann, Director of Development and Foundation Operations, at brad.kaufmann@maryfreebed.com.

FURNISHING HOPE AND FREEDOM

For 11 years, West Michigan-based Steelcase dealer, Custer, has forged an impactful partnership with Mary Free Bed with a constant goal: provide a more comfortable and functional environment for both patients and staff — no matter their abilities.

Custer has played a pivotal role in improving the hospital's infrastructure which include ergonomic chairs and desks for administrative areas, specialized seating and tables for therapy rooms, and furniture designed to meet the specific needs of patients undergoing rehabilitation.

Beyond the tangible benefits, Custer's relationship with Mary Free Bed also strengthens our ability to deliver exceptional care. Through support of the annual *Thrive Gala* and the *Mary Free Bed Open*, they've impacted numerous programs such as Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports, Mary's Mission and Orthotics & Prosthetics + Bionics. Custer was also incredibly generous of our *Join the Movement* campaign which transformed Mary Free Bed's Grand Rapids Campus through the addition of the Bernedine Keller & Barbara Hoffius Center in 2016.

Thank you to Custer for your steadfast generosity for Mary Free Bed's patients and their families!



SCAN THE QR CODE to learn more about amplifying your organization's impact through Mary Free Bed Foundation's Community Partnership Program.



Colorful, accessible furniture provided by Custer can be found in our Grand Rapids Campus buildings

Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports

40 YEARS OF MAKING A SPLASH

This year marks a significant milestone as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp presented by the Saladin Shriners. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, including The James and Kimberly Currie Foundation, The Gerber Foundation, the Grand Rapids AMBUCS and many in-kind donors, we were able to welcome 52 campers from Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp offers a diverse range of activities such as wheelchair basketball, cycling and more, all free of charge.

A highlight of the week was the much-anticipated water fight with the Allendale Fire Department, bringing joy and excitement to campers, coaches and volunteers alike.



FRENZY ROLLS INTO ACTION

In mid-July, the Eagles Ice Center was alive with the energy and excitement of Frenzy Fest, our annual Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports (WAS) wheelchair lacrosse tournament. The Mary Free Bed Frenzy, along with teams from Wisconsin, New York and Indiana, competed in a thrilling round-robin format, showcasing incredible skill and sportsmanship.

A standout moment of the weekend was the Future Frenzy's scrimmage against able-bodied lacrosse players, where one of our young athletes scored his first goal, highlighting the potential of our growing youth wheelchair lacrosse program.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of the Michael and Christina Rosloniec Family, our community partners and program sponsors. To learn more about supporting the WAS program, please contact Laura Dulay, at laura.dulay@maryfreebed.com or by phone at 616.840.8729.

SERVING UP A TOUGH COMPETITION

Mary Free Bed Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports (WAS), in partnership with the United States Tennis Association (USTA) welcomed athletes from nine states, three countries and two continents for the Midwest Wheelchair Tennis Championship held in Grand Rapids, July 11-14.

The tournament kicked off with the Up/Down social, sponsored by Standard Lumber and Andersen Windows, where able-bodied players teamed up with wheelchair or para-standing athletes for an evening of tennis and camaraderie. A highlight was the Junior Wheelchair Tennis Clinic on Friday afternoon, introducing young players to the sport and inspiring them for the future. This event, which is a great demonstration of resilience and sportsmanship by the athletes, was made possible by the generous support of our WAS donors, whose philanthropy ensures that athletes of all abilities can compete and thrive in adaptive sports.



CELEBRATING RECOVERY WITH COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

We're excited to share a new way for donors and community members to support hope and freedom at Mary Free Bed. Community fundraising, or "peer-to-peer fundraising," is an approach that allows you to harness the power of your personal and professional networks to raise funds for Mary Free Bed, turning your special moments into opportunities for generosity.

Whether it's a birthday, anniversary, or your rehabilitation milestone, you can invite your friends and family to celebrate with you through a gift to Mary Free Bed. By creating a personalized fundraising page, you can share your story and why Mary Free Bed's mission is important to you.

Your support through community fundraising not only helps Mary Free Bed continue its mission of restoring hope and freedom but also inspires others to join in. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of our patients and their families.



Scan the QR code to celebrate YOU and Mary Free Bed through community fundraising!

GIFTS & GRANTS

The Mary Free Bed Foundation is grateful for the significant support from the following generous donors and organizations.

- Beusse & Porter Foundation
- Carelinc Medical
- Community Foundation for Muskegon County
- Consumers Credit Union
- Currie Family Foundation
- Dan Vos Construction
- David & Carol Van Andel Family Foundation
- Eastbrook Homes, Inc.
- Enterprise Mobility
- Fifth Third Bank
- Fremont Area Community Foundation
- Jones Manufacturing
- Kalamazoo Community Foundation
- Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation
- Lake Michigan Credit Union
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Old Trail Foundation
- River City Foundation
- Saladin Shriners
- SpartanNash, Inc.
- The Currie Foundation
- The Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation
- The Huizenga Family Fund
- United States Tennis Association, Inc.
- West Michigan Works

Mary Free Bed

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WISH LIST

The Mary Free Bed Foundation often receives requests from our clinicians for specialized equipment and technology to help patients during their rehabilitation journey. If you'd like to fulfill a wish, please contact Darrow Goodspeed at 616.840.8196 or darrow.goodspeed@maryfreebed.com.

REAL i-Series® Virtual Reality System

This virtual reality headset offers patients an escape from the hospital setting, which can sometimes cause increased anxiety. This headset would provide our patients with mindfulness, relaxation and social connection applications. Within these spaces, patients can participate in guided meditation, or they could dial in a friend or family member to join them on their virtual exploration of myriad destinations around the world. This headset could be used by patients of all ages and diagnoses such as spinal cord and brain injury, stroke, amputation and cancer. (\$1,100)

Forearm or Elbow Crutches

Therapists commonly utilize forearm or elbow crutches in therapy to help toddler, pediatric and young adult patients practice balance and build strength. (\$450)

General Purpose Gripping Aid

The Recreational Therapy team needs two sets of active hand gloves. Active hand gloves are designed to assist individuals with limited hand function or grip strength. These gloves empower users to carry out daily tasks and activities independently, from grasping objects to opening containers, holding fishing poles or handling tools. By providing this level of functionality, the gloves not only restore confidence in individuals' abilities but also enable them to rediscover the joy of pursuing their favorite activities. (\$260)

Thank you to Carol Springer for the generous gift of a trailer hitch for our Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports (WAS) program bus, providing increased capacity and efficiency for implementing travel and program logistics.