

Your Impact

August 2012

Your Support Matters

To provide quality healthcare, Harrison needs the support of the communities it serves.

Patients' fees cover essential services but fall short of providing all the resources needed to advance our capabilities in order to serve patients – and our communities – at the highest possible level. Resources are needed to keep pace with advancing technology, as well as attract, train and retain the best doctors, nurses and other care providers.

Harrison Foundation proudly supports our medical center – and our community – by facilitating charitable gifts to support exceptional healthcare right here, close to home.

Grateful patients, as well as others in the community, make charitable gifts to the Foundation that provide valued funding for patient care services, equipment, education and community outreach programs.

No matter the type or the size, every gift makes a difference. Every donor matters, contributions – large and small – result in the shared success of making healthcare better, for our region, our community, *and you*.

We are excited to share with you the difference your gifts make. We have highlighted a few of our priority projects, that have benefitted from the gifts of many.

A Strategic Investment

Investing in sustaining a highly competent nursing workforce is an essential and effective way to aid in the retention and recruitment of vital personnel.

Harrison is breaking ground in the way they “on-board” new nurse graduates. Harrison's RN Residency Program, implemented in September 2009, provides new grads with disciplined, documented, progressive on-the-job training. The 18-week program accelerates the development of both their competence and confidence in caring for patients.

What used to take 17 months, now takes 18 weeks – ensuring that the nurse at your bedside can support the consistent delivery of exceptional patient care. A confident and competent nurse equals safe, quality patient care.

In addition, we are supporting our nurses obtaining their specialty certification. This raises the nurse's core knowledge and supports advanced practice patient care in their chosen area of specialty.

Recently we were able to fund a med/surg specialty certification training course involving 30 nurses from six units across the hospital. Prior to the training investment, these units had 25 nurses with their med/surg specialty certification. This single investment will double the number of med/surg certified nurse's at Harrison.

Did You Know...

- Every charitable \$1 given is equal in impact to \$102 in patient charges (gross revenue) on the hospital's "bottom line" and goes straight to the programs and projects for which it was raised.

- More than 15,000 patients are admitted to the hospital each year, and more than 100,000 patients are served annually in our emergency rooms and urgent care centers.

- Harrison Medical Center provides more than \$50 million annually in uncompensated care for our community.

- Harrison Medical Center's oncology program has been accredited for more than 25 years by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer - a distinction given to only one in four hospitals in the U.S. Since 2006, Harrison Medical Center has received this Accreditation with Commendation, a special designation recognizing excellence.

- Harrison's cardiothoracic surgery program has achieved a three-star rating from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, putting it in the top 10 percent of nearly 1,100 hospitals in the U.S. that report similar data. (Rating is for all consecutive reporting periods July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010).

Your Gifts...

...Give Hope a Place to Grow

The roof-top garden has been a dream in the making for more than 10 years. The Les & Betty Krueger Family Healing Garden combines elements of nature, art and technology to bring hope to patients and their families during their time at Harrison.

Patients' yearn for a place to escape to—a place to get a breath of fresh air and feel "normal" for a few precious moments.

The healing garden at Harrison will feature gathering spaces for families, working areas for hospital therapies, an inspirational Tree of Hope sculpture and an interactive kiosk where family, friends and community members can share words of encouragement and hope.

"Being able to visit with family in the garden will be more like sitting out on the deck at home than being at a hospital," says Judie Hagan, wife of former patient. "And the kiosk is a wonderful tool that will serve as a source of hope and bring healing to both the givers and receivers."

...Change Lives

Two children, Lily Whitt and William Christian, met in group therapy at Harrison Pediatric Rehabilitation and now get together for play dates on the weekends. At one time, the simple joy of hanging out with a friend seemed unimaginable for two children with cerebral palsy whose initial diagnoses were discouraging. "They make miracles happen—things doctors said weren't possible—and they teach kids how to do things independently," says Lily's mom, Stephanie.

For the state to pay for expensive equipment such as walkers, wheelchairs and communication devices, a child first has to prove he or she can operate them, which requires access to and practice on real equipment or simulation devices. Using funds raised by Harrison Medical Center

Numerous studies cite the positive impact of gardens on patients and they are widely recognized as a valuable asset to patient wellbeing within the medical profession. Unfortunately, they are not currently subsidized by health care funding, so creating and maintaining a healing garden requires the efforts of an entire community.

Generous gifts from Les and Betty Krueger and other donors have given the garden its roots, but future enhancements and upkeep will take the support of many others. Every gift to Harrison Medical Center Foundation will help give hope a place to grow in the Les & Betty Krueger Family Healing Garden,

"The garden is a legacy that will carry on from month to month and year to year, bringing hope to patients," says Judie, who encourages others to consider a donation in honor of their loved ones and in gratitude for the care they received at the hospital.

Foundation, Pediatric Rehabilitation is able to buy equipment for patients to practice on so they can demonstrate competency and get their own life-changing equipment.

Both Lily and William have benefited from equipment made available by donor gifts. Besides a walker, William trained on a loaner communication device that enabled him to express himself for the first time.

"Harrison Pediatric Rehab has given my son independence and a voice," says William's mom, Jane. "He is now able to tell me he loves me. How do you thank someone for that?"

You can make a difference with a charitable gift to the Pediatric Rehabilitation Fund and change the lives of children like Lily and William.

...Save Lives

Sepsis is a medical condition that takes more lives in the U.S. than prostate cancer, breast cancer and AIDS combined. This life-threatening condition is brought on by an overwhelming immune response to infection. More than 75,000 people develop severe sepsis in North America each year. For all, early diagnosis plays the biggest role in saving lives.

Through funding from Harrison Medical Center Foundation, eight nurses attended a national Emergency Nurses Association Conference and were inspired to improve sepsis care at Harrison, particularly through improvements in the early detection and decisive treatment of sepsis.

"We got excited about the information we received," says Amy Dunn, patient care supervisor in the emergency department.

These dedicated nurses formed a committee, reviewed and revised protocols, and then trained 370 nurses and 30 physicians from the ER, ICU and Med/Surg areas of Harrison in support of the new protocols.

"Quite simply, this program saves lives and it would not have happened without the funding from the Foundation," says Louann Bean, executive director of Harrison's emergency and urgent care services. "We have to be careful with every dollar, so receiving the funds to send enough nurses to the conference to generate sufficient energy and passion around sepsis to make such a change was a true gift to us and, most of all, to the community who benefits from the care."

Your gift has a very real impact on exceptional patient care. Your gift saves lives.