Your Impact

Every day you give us the opportunity to be thankful for your generosity and commitment to Spectrum Health, including Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. You inspire excellence and your kindness fills all of us with joy and respect.

Your gifts have measurable impact. This issue of Giving Matters covers a variety of examples of the difference philanthropy makes in patient support, care and treatment and breakthrough research in cystic fibrosis, neuroscience and genetic testing. Annual gifts, special gifts, endowed funds and estate planning, all play a significant role in making programs possible throughout the communities that Spectrum Health serves.

We are in awe of the many ways that individuals, foundations, businesses, community groups and schools support lifesaving and life-changing care. We sincerely appreciate and recognize the difference you make.

Gratefully,

Vicki Weaver, President
Spectrum Health Foundation
Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Foundation

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Christopher Chambers, MD, vice president, research, Spectrum Health, and Pete Odland, founder of the Hunt for a Cure Foundation, crossed paths in 2011 at the entrepreneurial roundtable discussion at Spectrum Health Innovations in Grand Rapids, Michigan. There was instant mutual admiration and respect. They shared a hope in the value of scientific research, from Dr. Chambers’ medical perspective and Pete’s fatherly perspective. Pete’s son, Dylan, has cystic fibrosis (CF), a genetic disease that causes the body to produce abnormally thick mucus leading to life-threatening lung infections. “When I received Dylan’s diagnosis, I immediately sat down with my outdated Encyclopedia Britannica,” said Pete. “The prognosis was grim, and I literally cried. I knew I had to learn more, and I knew I wanted to find a cure.”

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In 1996, Dylan was one of the first patients to be seen in the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Cystic Fibrosis Care Center by John Schuen, MD, division chief of pediatric pulmonary medicine and sleep clinic. “The body of work at the CF care center has been a labor of love. The lives of our young people with CF, like Dylan, have tremendously improved,” said Dr. Schuen.

The Hunt for a Cure Foundation, founded in 2006 and supported by other passionate parents of children with cystic fibrosis, has been funding research in hopes of finding a cure. Fast-forward to 2018: Dylan is 21 years old and an adult living with cystic fibrosis. “Our comprehensive, accredited CF care center provides multidisciplinary care for people with CF from birth and into adulthood,” said Dr. Schuen. “This requires a team approach and we have been blessed with gifted and talented clinicians, researchers, leaders and administrators who have come together for a single purpose: to control and ultimately cure CF.”

Multiple synergies are aligning to launch the cystic fibrosis research program in search of this elusive cure. “It was the ‘perfect storm,’ and I knew this was the direction our path was leading,” said Pete. “Dr. Chambers and I were talking about the future. We looked out the window and down Michigan Street and into the future Michigan State Research Center and the amazing West Michigan-based Hunt for a Cure, we can continue to advance the science of CF here in West Michigan,” said Dr. Schuen. More importantly, the program will facilitate and create new opportunities for collaboration between MSU scientists and Spectrum Health, including Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital clinicians. “It is a multidisciplinary model that came to fruition because our paths crossed,” said Dr. Chambers. “Together, we are helping patients and doing everything we can to find a cure. I’m excited and confident in where this path is leading.”

We invite you to cross paths with us and participate in funding research to cure cystic fibrosis. For more information, contact Tara Werkhoven at 616.391.2069 or tara.werkhoven@spectrumhealth.org.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

An active life with pain-free movement is something many of us take for granted. But when an accident or illness occurs, this lifestyle can disappear in an instant. For Kathryn Hobbs, this happened in 2012 after she injured herself in a fall. This accident left her with cervical dystonia, a rare neurological disorder. Cervical dystonia is characterized by involuntary contractions in the neck and head, causing pain, tremors, twisting and uncontrollable movements. “My chin was locked in the neck and head, causing pain, tremors, twisting and uncontrollable movements. I went from being active to being in unbearable pain.”

Desperate for answers, she spent two years in Ohio with 15 different specialists and a variety of programs, obtaining no answers and no relief. Determined, she came home to Holland, Michigan, and searched for answers closer to home. She found the answer in Spectrum Health neurologist Ashok Sriram, MD. “From the first visit, I knew he could be an answer,” she said. “He respected me and spent time with me. He asked about my fall before I had an opportunity to mention it. He gave me answers; he enrolled me in clinical trials. He gave me my life back. I call him ‘my miracle man.’”

Sustaining Neuroscience Champion

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Overwhelming with gratitude, Kathryn is giving back with a planned gift and as a monthly donor through the Spectrum Health Foundation Sustaining Champion Program. Her generosity supports the life-changing work in neuroscience. “Today, I am 90 percent of what I was before I fell. I am walking well, I still struggle with swallowing, but I am back at a healthy weight and it really is a miracle. I love giving, and donating is a way of expressing my gratitude and support for this work. I hope it will assist others in the future.”

If you are interested in learning more about Spectrum Health neuroscience funding opportunities or becoming a Sustaining Champion, contact Kris Palosaari at kris.palosaari@spectrumhealth.org or 616.391.2568.
Kim (Baynton) Basch and her family learned about the HCM gene and the testing provided through Spectrum Health. This was most meaningful to Kim because that testing wasn’t available on June 13, 1987; when her otherwise healthy 43-year-old father dropped dead from sudden cardiac arrest in the checkout line of the local grocery store. He had successfully passed a stress test a few weeks prior to his death. The autopsy revealed her dad had HCM, the most common inherited, single-gene heart disease and can present at any age. It is the number one cause of sudden cardiac arrest. Once diagnosed, a patient requires specialty follow-up, medical management, and possibly defibrillator implantation or cardiac surgery. “His death was our wake-up call to get tested,” said Kim. “Two of my aunts and two cousins tested positive for the gene. In 2009, I tested positive for the gene. In the last few years, my cousin Mark and cousin Michael had significant thickening of the heart and required surgery to correct the condition.”

Knowing you have the gene is the first step in the process. Finding a physician with expertise in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is the next step. Kim’s local physician in Traverse City recommended follow-up every five years. She was uncomfortable with this recommendation. Kim decided her kids should be tested, and she worked with their pediatrician. An abnormal cardiomyopathy test led them to Jeffrey Schneider, MD, cardiologist at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. Dr. Schneider referred them to Ryan Rodarmer, genetics counselor for genetic testing, and then to Richard McNamara, MD, cardiologist and HCM physician. Kim was retested and her sons were tested. Bryton, 24, tested negative and Brandon, 19, tested positive. Within a matter of days, Kimberly was able to consult with some of the top heart doctors in the United States.

“Our disease is minimal and we don’t really have any restrictions but we will continue to be monitored,” she said. “However, I’m a runner and a total gym rat and I’m always afraid of dying early, like Dad. I did not want to live in fear, and on November 16, 2017, I proactively had an EMBLEM MRS S-ICD System implanted. This is the first and only subcutaneous implantable defibrillator providing protection from sudden cardiac death. I want to live to see my children marry and have grandbabies. My Dad missed all of this.”

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, every gift to support the Spectrum Health Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Program (HCM), will be matched dollar for dollar, up to $200,000. This means your $25 donation becomes $50; your $200 donation is doubled to $400; and a gift of $1,000 becomes $2,000. Your gift will expand educational opportunities and provide testing that will save the lives of patients with the HCM gene.
A Lifetime of Giving and a Legacy for the Future

George and Barbara Gordon have been by our side for more than 50 years. With a special concern for children and families and a desire to ensure we have the best and brightest pediatric specialists for the future, they have honored us with two very special gifts.

Their gift to create the George H. and Barbara Gordon Endowment for the Child Life School Services Program helps our kids maintain their educational studies and development while they are being treated for serious health issues. This program bridges the gap between school, families and the medical team; reduces future educational concerns due to medical issues; provides educational opportunities during treatment; and helps children maintain involvement in normal activities. Their gift will help fund this program in perpetuity.

Funding for pediatric fellowships ensures Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital will provide continuous access to high-quality care and physician specialists. Jessica Foley, MD, and Matt Pridgeon, MD, two previous fellows in hematology and oncology, are examples of this caliber of expertise.

“When George and Barbara first asked for my thoughts regarding areas of greatest need and the greatest potential to touch and change lives, I felt so honored,” says James Fahner, MD, division chief for pediatric hematology and oncology. “I knew immediately that their generous gift would be a lasting positive impact for our children and their families.”

George and Barbara are faithful supporters of Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. They are modest and reverent people with strong beliefs in family values and their faith in God. They are emblematic of servant leadership.

We are also grateful for their vision and generosity in establishing the George H. and Barbara Gordon Endowed Education Fund for Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital for pediatric fellowship funding and additional school services support through an estate gift.

“As much as George and Barbara Gordon have done for this community, our state, and with George’s WWII experience and also a Silver Star recipient—the world, they never seek the spotlight or recognition for their generosity or efforts,” says Pam Daugavietis, longtime friend and Junior Golden Rule Guild member. “They are as humble as any individual or couple I have ever known. George and Barbara Gordon are committed to the American values of freedom and equality for all.”

We are deeply indebted to them. A few examples of their generosity in our community are:

• The chapel at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital in the original capital campaign
• More than 50 years as a member of the Spectrum Health Junior Golden Rule Guild and current president
• The gallery at Grand Valley State University, with a priceless collection of Mathias Alten paintings
• The G.H. Gordon Biological Station at Rockwell Lake

George and Barbara are an example of passionate people giving to programs that are meaningful to them and needed at the hospital. Contact Kristin Long at 616.486.6590 or kristin.long@spectrumhealth.org for more information on planned giving and other endowment opportunities.

Jaziel Padron, 3, does a science experiment during the back-to-school event at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital.
Beautifully Different

Mallory Hersman and her husband, Jeremy, experienced different journeys with each of their daughters—4-year-old Alsae and 1-year-old Renner.

When Mallory was pregnant with Alsae, an ultrasound showed Alsae’s arms were shorter than usual and her fingers appeared different. A prenatal blood test did not turn up any known chromosomal disorders. But further tests raised more concerns and questions.

In those months leading up to Alsae’s birth, Mallory said she grieved for the baby she thought she would have. But she also realized nothing would change her because a gene has not been identified for Alsae’s condition, the Hersmans have not done genetic testing for it. But when Mallory was expecting Alsae’s little sister, Renner, she had a noninvasive genetic test done that uses a sample of the mother’s blood to screen for chromosomal abnormalities. The test showed Renner has triple X syndrome, which involves three X chromosomes in each cell. The condition occurs in about 1 in 1,000 females. The condition involves a lot of unknowns. It is associated with an increased risk of learning disabilities or developmental delays. Girls who have it may be taller than average. “But some children may show little or no signs of the condition,” said geneticist Caleb Bupp, MD. “Doctors believe many people with triple X syndrome never realize they have it.”

The Hersmans have not seen any signs with 1-year-old Renner. She is a busy toddler, walking and starting to talk. She loves peekaboo, dancing and playing with the TV remote—and she adores her big sister. “I want people to not look at our story and feel sorry for us or feel sorry for my child,” Mallory said. “I want them to look and say, ‘They are so blessed. Their kids are amazing.’”

Raising children always involves unknowns—any child can face unique challenges and bring unexpected blessings, even when there is not a diagnosis.

“Alsae and Renner are both rock stars,” Mallory says. “I couldn’t have asked for better kids. I really feel like the luckiest mom in the world.”
United and Kelsey Annual Charity Ball

The Spectrum Health Foundation United and Kelsey Hospitals Annual Charity Ball took place on February 17, 2018, raising more than $127,000 to support the Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) at Spectrum Health United Lifestyles.

Program supervisor Jennifer Peterman brought the attendees on a journey. We bring this journey to you, our readers.

"Close your eyes and imagine yourself driving in to work on the same path you take every day. Call into your mind the image of the most dilapidated home, and instead of passing it, imagine yourself pulling into the driveway. Imagine getting out of the car, and as you approach the door you notice blankets are being used as window coverings. You hear loud voices coming from within. You step lightly on the mangled wooden steps leading to the front door. Imagine yourself reaching up to knock on the door. What are you feeling? Are you apprehensive, nervous and uncertain about what lies on the other side of the door? These are the homes MIHP staff enter every day.

Our mothers are depressed and often abused. I can tell you from my own personal experience how crippling this is. Luckily, I was able to rise above that situation. Why am I a survivor? I strongly believe I survived that dark spot in my life because of the healthy support system of friends and family, a solid education, employment at a wonderful organization, the ability to travel places to receive the care I needed, a health care system I could trust, and a community full of agencies to provide the services and connections I needed to heal. I often think and reflect—where would I be without all of this support?

Now imagine yourself back at the front door of that dilapidated house, but this time when you reach to knock on the door imagine the door opens and you can see that on the other side is someone like me. This could be any one of us. One mishap, one loss of a job, one loss of someone who supports us could put us into a situation where we must struggle on a daily basis just to have food on the table.

We, the MIHP staff, are not here to judge but rather to nudge patients into a direction of a healthier state of living, to support and connect them to the services needed most. We do this work because there is hope. Your generosity provides this hope. We are eternally grateful for every donation and every one of you for raising your hand to knock on the door."

If you are interested in knocking on this door and funding this work at Spectrum Health United and Kelsey Hospitals, contact Shelly Westbrook at shelly.westbrook@spectrumhealth.org or 616.225.6416.

ATTENDEES AT THE 2018 ANNUAL CHARITY BALL

Congratulations to the 2018 Fred and Lena Meijer Spirit of Caring Award recipients, the Ray and Mary Tower family. The family received several nominations for their generational giving and impact on the Greenville community. The Tower family established the first manufacturing business in Greenville and built its very first fire truck. They have touched every area of philanthropy and are often quiet givers who focus on others and never let social status determine friendships.
The Hansen-Balk Surgical Family Lounge officially opened its doors on January 26, 2018, to serve patients and families receiving outpatient surgical, endoscopy and bronchoscopy services at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital.

Thanks to Jim and Shirley Balk, the family lounge was funded 100 percent. They made their gift in honor of the legacy of Jens Hansen, founder of Hansen/Balk Steel Treating Company, mentor and friend. “Jens always had a desire to take care of his employees, customers and community—he was a very generous man,” said Martin Balk, son of Jim and Shirley. “When Jim and Shirley saw the vision of this new space, they knew they wanted to be part of making a difference for our patients and their families,” said Vicki Weaver, president of Spectrum Health Foundation.

What once was located 677 steps away, requiring a journey down dark hallways, up and down elevators, and through more hallways, is now located 50 feet from the hospital’s main entrance and valet parking. What was once dark and isolated is now a bright, uplifting, welcoming environment with private registration and postoperative stations.

“This is more than a space; this is a place for healing,” said Reverend Randy Murphy, pastoral care chaplain. “We are so very grateful for the generosity that has risen from such a deep compassion. Here is where the very best of medical science and human need will intersect. The full range of human emotions will occur here—hope, anxiety, relief, disappointment and sorrow—so this space is a sacred space.”

“As a not-for-profit hospital, we are grateful for the support of the community to make these projects a reality,” said John Shull, vice president of operations, surgical services, respiratory and endoscopy. “This gift will ease the stress of surgical patients and their families as they face one of the most difficult times of their lives. Thank you to the Balk family; we couldn’t do this without you.”

Bless the ones who have so generously provided this space.
Bless the ones who will come here in hopes of healing and restoration.
Bless the ones who will experience significant change after surgery.
Bless the ones who will anxiously wait when minutes and hours will seem like eternity.
Bless the ones who will lift up prayer and those who do not.
Bless the ones who will receive good news and rejoice.
Bless those who will face disappointment and sorrow.

(Excerpts from Reverend Randy Murphy’s blessing)
Extraordinary Radiothon

Every Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Radiothon is special, but this year was extraordinary. We welcomed our friends from Star 105.7, B-93.7 and 107MUS, including radio personnel Dave, Tim, Matt, Aly, Tony, Shmitty, Ron, Alyssa, Derek, Amanda, Conrad, Mark and Cathy, who all put their hearts and souls into every moment and gave the listeners a vision of why supporting the children’s hospital is so very important. They inspired a community of listeners in unimaginable ways. “This was the right time to expand our listening audience and to include our radio family in making a difference,” said Tim Feagan, Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Foundation board member and iHeartMedia executive. “Our listeners are the best, and every employee jumped at the opportunity to be involved. All of us were touched by how it came together.”

And “come together” it did—a staggering $338,556.51 was raised; more than 1,200 first-time donors joined the foundation family; and more than 300 individuals volunteered. The atmosphere was festive and energetic with many wearing their best “ugly Christmas sweater.” “It takes everyone to make this happen. The families and children sharing their stories remind us why this work matters and why giving matters,” said Jim Steenbergen, lead foundation specialist. “A lot of stories come out of this event, from the army soldier dressed in his fatigues dropping off his donations; the group of construction workers taking up an ‘impromptu’ collection; sponsors including their employees on the phone banks; to droves of patients coming over to share their stories. This is all pretty incredible.”

A special thank you to our sponsors and friends at Kessler Diamonds, Robinson Dental, MCPc, Meijer, IHOP, Credit Union One, Creative Dining Services, DFCU Financial, Gun Lake Casino, Wendy’s, Culver’s, AGO, Best Financial Credit Union, Preferred Chevy, the Gear Group and many more.
Wrap-Ups

THANK YOU!

Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial’s Beards for Babies Beard-off

On November 29, Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial highlighted and awarded the efforts of all the men who participated in the first annual Beards for Babies competition. In addition to growing their facial hair over the month, these men were also fundraising for the Spectrum Health Foundation in support of the Gerber Memorial Family Birth Center. Their efforts helped raise over $7,300.

Hallmark Gift of Giving Ornament

The weekend after Thanksgiving marks the unofficial start of the Christmas shopping season, and customers of Di’s and Mariellen’s Hallmark stores were able to purchase the exclusive “Gift of Giving” ornament for 2017. The sale of these special ornaments raised over $7,900 for Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital! More than $34,000 has been raised through ornament sales since the inception of this fundraising program three years ago. Special thanks to the customers who add to their collection each year and the staff who tirelessly support this sale.

Auto Show Charity Spectacular

On January 31, over 1,000 guests enjoyed an exclusive preview of the 2018 Michigan International Auto Show and a stunning up-close reveal of the Million Dollar Motorway. Guests enjoyed live entertainment by Brenna and a strolling dinner while viewing the car show. This special evening raised $83,000 for Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital.

Dance Marathons

From February through April, six Children’s Miracle Network Dance Marathons took place to raise funds for Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, collectively raising over $376,000. Dance Marathon is a nationwide movement involving college and high school students at more than 300 schools. The entirely student-run programs in our community donate 100 percent of the funds raised to help patients and families right here in West Michigan. Students spend a year learning invaluable leadership and life skills by raising funds in a variety of ways and interacting with Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital’s patients and families. Thank you to the students at Calvin College, Grand Valley State University, Hope College, Western Michigan University, West Ottawa High School, and Zeeland East High School for your support. To learn more about Dance Marathon, visit give.helendevoschildrens.org/dancemarathons.

Foraged Feast

Guests gathered on March 17 for a Foraged Feast at Scottville Optimist Hall. The exciting evening featured blue jeans, local craft beers, a taste of the wild dinner and a great cause. This event raised $25,820 for the Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital Cancer Patient Assistance Fund. This fund helps local cancer patients with out-of-pocket costs that are not covered by insurance. A big thank you to all of our event sponsors and the hosts of the evening, Todd and Brad Reed.

Greenville High School Supporting Cancer Patients

On February 2, a crowd gathered at Greenville High School’s Ninth Annual Hunt for a Cure basketball games to raise cancer awareness to honor and remember loved ones, and to help local families that are battling cancer. The event this year raised a total of $6,400 for two different programs—Pediatric Oncology Resource Team, Greenville Fund and the cancer center at Spectrum Health United Hospital.

P.O.R.T. Light up the Night

On March 8, guests gathered at New Vintage Place for a special evening raising funds for the Pediatric Oncology Resource Team (P.O.R.T.). P.O.R.T. is a group of volunteer families serving families with a child battling cancer or a life-threatening blood disorder. With a total of $54,000 raised at the event, P.O.R.T. will be able to continue offering crucial support, activities and pick-me-ups to these families. Special thanks to our Gold Event Sponsor, Pridgeon & Clay, for its continued support.

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You Can Be an Everyday Hero

Give your voice, your passion, your heart and encourage your friends to make a big difference in the programs you care about. The Everyday Hero peer-to-peer fundraising platform allows you to create your own special event and give back to the programs that touch your heart. Do good, and feel good about it.

Visit give.spectrumhealth.org/everydayhero to get started. Be part of something bigger, and know everything you do matters to patients and families.

Lake Michigan RTS 10K

Join us on July 7 for the 20th anniversary of the toughest race you’ll ever love! The Lake Michigan RTS combines road, trail and sand to provide a truly unique 10K experience along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Whether you’re a road racer looking to mix things up a bit, an avid trail runner or just a running adventurer, this course has something for you. All proceeds benefit the music therapy program and the Pediatric Oncology Resource Team at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. For more information, contact Laurie Alighire at laurie.alighire@spectrumhealth.org or 616.391.9125.

3rd Annual Stiles Open

Stiles Machinery is excited to invite you to the 3rd Annual Stiles Open to benefit the Pediatric Oncology Resource Team at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. The event will tee off Saturday, June 16, at Boulder Creek Golf Club and will offer an opportunity to partner with business associates and friends. Come prepared to have a great time while supporting a wonderful cause! For additional information, contact Laurie Alighire at laurie.alighire@spectrumhealth.org or 616.391.9125.

Everyone has a wish list

At Spectrum Health, including Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, our wish list is helping patients and their families. Your donation or in-kind gift can help fulfill a wish every day of the year. Browse the online wish list at give.spectrumhealth.org/wishlist or call the foundation office at 616.391.2000 to discuss your in-kind gift.

Spectrum Health Foundation United and Kelsey Hospitals Golf Day 2018

Join us on the course on Monday, June 11, at Egypt Valley Country Club for the Spectrum Health Foundation United and Kelsey Hospitals Golf Day 2018 to support local health care. This outing includes contests, prizes, lunch and dinner. The proceeds from this fun day of golf will benefit a new cancer patient assistance program at Spectrum Health Cancer Center at United Hospital. This program will assist patients experiencing financial hardships due to diagnosis, by providing aid for transportation to and from treatments, medication assistance, and other support needs. For sponsorship opportunities or more information, contact Laurie Tissue at laurie.tissue@spectrumhealth.org or 616.225.6328.

Ride for a Cure

An unusual fundraising opportunity is on tap to help area cancer patients on Saturday, September 15 at 1 p.m. at D Bar D Ranch in Chase. It’s the 8th annual Ride for a Cure, and in this case “ride” means on horseback or in horse-drawn wagons. The $25-per-person event benefits the Spectrum Health Susan P. Wheatlake Regional Cancer Center in Reed City. Additional donations are welcome and there will also be a silent auction. For more information, contact Laurie Alighire at laurie.alighire@spectrumhealth.org or 231.592.4280.

2018 Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial Golf Scramble

Come out golfing for a cause on Friday, June 22, at Water’s Edge Golf Course. The 18th annual Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial Golf Scramble will offer a fun day of golf, contests, raffles and prizes. All proceeds will be designated to the Spectrum Health Cancer Center at Gerber Memorial and will assist with programs, technology and future improvements. For more information, contact Loretta Towne at loretta.towne@spectrumhealth.org or 231.924.3681.

Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Night at Berlin Raceway

Join us for a fun-filled evening on Saturday, June 30, at Berlin Raceway in Marine, Michigan. See the three Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital cars in action, meet the drivers and experience the excitement of auto racing at one of the country’s best family-friendly facilities. For more information, contact Devin Pierson at devin.pierson@spectrumhealth.org or 616.391.2461.

Tri-Cities Kiwanis Salmon Fishing Tournament

Join us for the annual Tri-Cities Kiwanis Salmon Fishing Tournament on Thursday, May 24, or Thursday, July 26. Tournament sponsors are assigned to professional charter boats for a morning of exciting salmon fishing on Lake Michigan. Each boat holds up to six participants, and sponsors can invite anyone they wish—family, friends, employees or customers. The tournament also offers fishing opportunities for young patients currently undergoing treatment at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, and sponsorship of patient VIP boats is available. For more information, contact Devin Pierson at devin.pierson@spectrumhealth.org or 616.391.2461.
Ludington Benefit Ball
Mark your calendars for the Ludington Benefit Ball on Friday, August 10, at Lincoln Hills Country Club. Enjoy cuisine specifically designed for the event, open bar service, an array of desserts and several additional surprises. Following dinner, the annual Justus and Paulina Stearns Legacy Award will be presented. Later, guests will enjoy musical entertainment by Orquesta Ritmo. For more information, contact Kaley Petersen at kaley.petersen@spectrumhealth.org or 231.845.2233.

Positively Warren Golf Classic
In honor of Warren Reynolds, the longtime sports director at WOOD TV8 who helped raise millions of dollars for dozens of causes, and the first recipient of the Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award, we present the 19th Annual Positively Warren Golf Classic.

The event will be held on Monday, August 13, at Thousand Oaks Golf Club, to benefit the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital cancer program, including the Pediatric Oncology Resource Team and the Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame. This event will feature a shotgun-start four-person men’s and women’s mixed scramble style of play and includes 18 holes on one of the top courses in Michigan. For more information, contact Laurie Alighire at laurie.alighire@spectrumhealth.org or 616.391.9125.

Spectrum Health Zeeland Golf Benefit
Join Spectrum Health Zeeland Community Hospital on Monday, September 10, at Sunnybrook Country Club for a day of golf! Proceeds from this event will support the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Injury Prevention Program at Spectrum Health Zeeland Community Hospital, which exists to reduce childhood injuries through car seat checks, helmet fittings and safety workshops. For more information, contact Tami Elhart at tamara.elhart@spectrumhealth.org or 616.748.3639.

Wizard’s Ball
This November, Celebration! Cinema Grand Rapids North, in partnership with Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Foundation and Make-A-Wish® Michigan, is excited to host the next Wizard’s Ball. Join us for a magical evening to benefit young patients in West Michigan who are battling life-threatening illnesses. You won’t want to miss this memorable experience featuring delicious food, live entertainment and the premiere of the highly anticipated movie—“Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald.” For more information, contact Nicole Cook at nicole.cook@spectrumhealth.org or 616.391.2040.

Spectrum Health Big Rapids and Reed City Hospitals Charity Golf Classic
The Fourth Annual Spectrum Health Big Rapids and Reed City Hospitals Charity Golf Classic will take place on Monday, August 20 at Tullymore Golf Club. Funds raised from this event are going toward the purchase of an ultrasound machine for in-office orthopedic procedures. This will reduce the number of patient visits and out-of-pocket cost. For more information, contact Nicole Cook at nicole.cook@spectrumhealth.org or 616.391.2040.

Gridiron Giving
From August through October, Gridiron Giving is partnering with Wendy’s of Michigan and West Michigan high schools to raise funds and awareness for Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. Gridiron Giving is a fundraising initiative that not only provides a unique leadership opportunity for students, but also allows them to give back to their community. For more information about Gridiron Giving or how to get involved, visit give.helendevoschildrens.org/gridirongiving or contact Devin Pierson at devin.pierson@spectrumhealth.org or 616.391.2461.
Look for a full recap of the 2018 Spectrum Health Gala in the next issue of Giving Matters. Like us and visit us on Facebook at Spectrum Health Foundations to view and share your photos!