

GIVING

THE METROHEALTH FOUNDATION SPRING 2023



METROHEALTH'S RENOWNED REHABILITATION INSTITUTE

A GUIDING HAND ON THE ROAD BACK



MetroHealth

Foundation

FROM KATE AND GARETH

HEALTH EQUITY IS OUR CALLING

Welcome to the Spring 2023 issue of *Giving*, the publication that honors the generosity of our donors and celebrates the life-changing impact of philanthropy on our patients, caregivers and community.

This is the first installment of *Giving* in more than a year. The publication was in hibernation as The MetroHealth Foundation completed a top-to-bottom strategic planning process that has resulted in an exciting transformation of our organization. We have elevated our team, reimagined our vision and mission, and sharpened our focus to best support MetroHealth and our patients.

Giving awakens from its hibernation at the perfect time.

That’s because this spring is special. In this season of new beginnings, MetroHealth is blossoming brighter than Daffodil Hill.

Over the past 12 months, the system has unveiled several stunning new facilities: a state-of-the-art Birthing Center and NICU, the Behavioral Health Hospital in Cleveland Heights, senior-focused health centers, and, of course, the most advanced hospital in Ohio, The MetroHealth Glick Center.

The health system welcomed its new President and CEO, Airica Steed, Ed.D, RN, MBA, FACHE, who has “hit the ground sprinting” as she’s met with staff, connected with patients, and gone into our community to listen to and collaborate with people throughout our region.

As the first Black person, first woman and first nurse to serve as MetroHealth’s chief executive, Dr. Steed has experienced first-hand – as patient and caregiver – our nation’s most pressing health issue: health disparities.

Racial and ethnic minorities in our nation endure shockingly higher rates of diabetes, stroke, hypertension, maternal mortality, obesity, dementia and many, many other health problems.

The factors driving this injustice are numerous: lack of access to care, healthy food, reliable transportation, safe housing, educational/economic opportunities and much more. Structural racism and implicit bias play monumental roles.

Much of MetroHealth’s work for the past 186 years has been to combat and reverse these health disparities. And now, MetroHealth is making it a priority to become a national leader in reversing health injustice and to give every member of our community the chance to enjoy their best possible health and health outcomes.

The MetroHealth Foundation is rolling up our sleeves to help. To the right, you can see our priorities for 2023. Rest assured that health equity will be the underpinning of all of our philanthropy.

It is a spring of new beginnings and promise, and we are grateful to you for providing the sunlight and nutrients for MetroHealth to soar into the sky.

Thank you,



Some of our key philanthropic priorities for 2023

- Institute for H.O.P.E.™/ Social Drivers of Health
- Behavioral Health
- MetroHealth’s Rehabilitation Institute
- Transformation/Capital Projects



Kate Brown
President
The MetroHealth Foundation



Gareth Vaughan
Chair
The MetroHealth Foundation Board of Directors



With outstanding care, robust training and cutting-edge research, The **MetroHealth Rehabilitation Institute** is tops in Ohio – again

A guiding hand toward their best lives

Miracles happen every day inside the healing environment of MetroHealth’s Rehabilitation Institute. Patients recovering from traumatic injuries, strokes and other conditions re-learn how to walk, how to talk, step into a car, hold the hand of a loved one – how to return to their best possible life.

When it was established in 1953, the Institute was one of only six hospitals in the nation dedicated solely to rehabilitation. Today, it’s one of only 18 federally designated Spinal Cord Injury Model System Centers in the nation and the only facility in northern Ohio with dedicated units for stroke, spinal cord and brain injuries.

Last year, U.S. News & World Report again ranked the MetroHealth Rehabilitation Institute No. 1 in Ohio.

In addition to serving patients with extraordinary rehabilitation care, the Institute trains the next generation of rehabilitation clinicians and scientists, and performs cutting-edge research that will change patients’ lives.

The Institute is led by John Chae, MD, whose groundbreaking work has led to relief for thousands of people living with chronic pain.

Under Dr. Chae’s leadership, the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) at MetroHealth and Case Western Reserve University ranks No. 1 in the nation in NIH funding among PM&R departments in U.S. medical schools.

This year marks the start of an ambitious five-year fundraising campaign to raise

support for the Institute, which is one of the region’s most vital health care and research assets.

The campaign will provide resources for a PM&R endowment, capital projects, functional electrical stimulation research, pilot-program research and the Benjamin S. Gerson Endowment.



DR. JOHN CHAE

Want to learn more about supporting MetroHealth’s Rehabilitation Institute? Contact Mary Wheelock at 440-592-1389 or mwheelock@metrohealth.org.



Benjamin S. Gerson in 1964

The Gerson legacy: productive lives after trauma, illness

Cleveland entrepreneur Benjamin S. Gerson was in his 40s and living a successful life when he was diagnosed with polio in 1953.

Mr. Gerson received exceptional care at MetroHealth, then called City Hospital, which was the third largest of 13 polio centers in the country. That care allowed him to build a flourishing business and to find fulfillment in his new normal until he died in 1973.

During his lifetime, Mr. Gerson developed a passion for improving the lives of people who were disenfranchised as a result of economic, physical, educational, racial and cultural barriers.

Years later, in 2004, Mr. Gerson’s children generously chose to honor his memory by establishing The MetroHealth Benjamin S. Gerson Family Resource Center and seeding the Benjamin S. Gerson Family Endowment to support the center’s critical work.

Operating under the auspices of the MetroHealth Rehabilitation Institute, the Benjamin S. Gerson Family Resource Center connects patients with community resources after a life-altering event, going beyond rehabilitative therapy to support them as they navigate their new normal. The Benjamin S. Gerson Endowment funds the Gerson Center Community Resource Coordinator’s salary and the important work that happens at the Gerson Center.



THE HEALING POWER OF LISTENING

MetroHealth President and CEO Dr. Airica Steed connects with a member of the community during one of her "Healthy Conversations."

MetroHealth's new CEO offers the community a seat at the table

"Hitting the ground sprinting."

That's how local media have described the first months on the job for MetroHealth President and CEO Dr. Airica Steed, Ed.D, RN, MBA, FACHE.

Meeting patients; rounding with caregivers; visiting MetroHealth sites across the region; speaking at events; engaging with lawmakers locally, in Columbus and in Washington; and hosting listening sessions, dozens of listening sessions.

As MetroHealth patients, staff members and the community open their arms to the system's new leader from Chicago, Dr. Steed has opened her ears, making her engagement sessions, or "Healthy Conversations," a tenant of her leadership style.

"A central component of my introduction to this wonderful community is listening," she says. "I am committed to hearing from as many people as possible and incorporating their ideas, opinions and challenges into the decisions we make."

"Everyone – employees, patients and members of the community – deserves to have a voice and a seat at the table."

Community engagement is just one of the "five pillars" in Dr. Steed's vision for the future of Greater Cleveland's safety-net hospital system. The others are clinical and academic excellence, accelerating growth, innovation, and health equity.

Health equity permeates them all. Dr. Steed is the first Black person, first woman and first nurse to serve as MetroHealth's chief executive. She has experienced first-hand the unfairness and injustice of America's health care system.

Dr. Steed's mother died at the age of 46, after being misdiagnosed for what turned out to be a rare cancer known as acute myeloid leukemia. Her family was never given information about the risks of the aggressive experimental treatment she received or options that might have added more joy to the last months of her life.

Her grandmothers, both of them, died of breast cancer. And just a year ago, her baby sister died at the age of 39 from metastatic breast cancer after she was

denied early screenings despite their family history.

Dr. Steed's own life was at risk with preeclampsia, which affects Black women more often, during two pregnancies. Both resulted in premature births and weeks of separation as her babies struggled for survival, a terrifying reminder that Black women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes.

"I have been impacted," Dr. Steed says. "It's tattooed all over my heart and soul."

What she's heard from patients, community members and staff has emboldened Dr. Steed.

"These internal and external conversations have only strengthened my conviction that MetroHealth is uniquely positioned to meet the needs of the individuals we serve. We are doing this by building upon our clinical and academic excellence, committing to eradicating health care disparities and zeroing out the death gap, and ensuring all have access to high-quality, patient-centered care."

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THE GRANDEST OF OPENINGS

Over the historic past 12 months, MetroHealth has welcomed patients into new facilities that address some of our community's most vital needs: behavioral health, maternity care, senior care and more.

The crown jewel of these new buildings? The stunning MetroHealth Glick Center. Here's more about the newest facilities:



The MetroHealth Glick Center: Opened to rave reviews in November 2022, it is the most modern, technologically advanced hospital in the region.



Cleveland Heights Behavioral Health Hospital: Opened in October 2022, it will treat about 5,000 patients a year, helping fill a vital need for mental health and addiction treatment in the region.



Birthing Center: Opened in January 2023, the state-of-the-art Birthing Center and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit gives our community's expectant mothers the option for care and delivery that they have long deserved.



Spry Senior: Now open in Brook Park, Solon and Strongsville, these health centers are dedicated to serving and improving the health of our community's older adults.



Scranton Castle resident Chuck Davenport calls the initiative a "life-changer."

CONNECTED TO HOPE

Led by an investment from Dollar Bank, a life-changing digital-equity initiative is bringing low-cost, reliable internet to Cleveland residents

Chuck Davenport would love a better job. Yet, until recently, he didn't have the computer skills or the access to reliable internet that are essential to any successful job search in 2023.

"Before, I didn't know a whole lot more than how to turn the computer on and off," Chuck says. "That was the extent of my knowledge."

Chuck lives in Scranton Castle, a Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) senior apartment complex a half-mile north of MetroHealth's main campus.

Thanks to a public-private partnership involving MetroHealth, Dollar Bank, DigitalC and CMHA that's aimed at bringing digital equity to Cleveland, the building and its 161 apartments have been connected to low-cost, reliable broadband.

Launched in response to a 2019 report from the U.S. Census that identified Cleveland as the worst-connected big city in the nation, the initiative set out to connect 1,000 households (equaling more than 2,200 Cleveland residents) in neighborhoods directly served by MetroHealth by 2024.

In December, the partners celebrated surpassing that goal with more than a year to spare.

Dollar Bank's \$600,000 investment in MetroHealth's **Institute for H.O.P.E.™** provided the resources to make it a reality. Instrumental in the partnership have been MetroHealth Foundation Board Member Berry Grant III, who is Dollar Bank's Senior Vice President, Retail Banking Division; Morton D. Stanfield, Dollar Bank's Senior Vice President of Community Development; and Bill Elliott, Dollar Bank Executive Vice President.

"We are delighted to see and hear the firsthand accounts of the people this initiative has helped," Stanfield said during December's celebration at Scranton Castle. "Dollar Bank continues to be intentional in our commitment to invest in our local neighborhoods to enhance the quality of life and support the economic development of our communities. We know that in today's world, digital connectivity is essential to supporting education, jobs and economic growth and look forward to this program's continued success."

Chuck Davenport can feel that success.

"Now I can send or receive email, things like that," he says. "I created a really nice résumé, and I've been using it to apply for some jobs. ... It's a life-changer."

DollarBank



EMPLOYEE GIVING

Fund lights the way in dark times

Alex (not his real name) had just had his car stolen – for the second time.

The vehicle was recovered by police, but it was a mess. The repairs were going to break the bank.

Alex needed this car to get to and from his job at MetroHealth, where he helps some of the most at-risk patients navigate care and get the lifesaving medicine they need, but he simply didn't have the funds to get it fixed.

If he worked somewhere else, this kind of unforeseen crisis could have sent Alex and his finances spiraling downward. (The Federal Reserve reports that 4 in 10 Americans cannot afford an emergency bill of \$400.)

But Alex works at MetroHealth, where all workers have access to the system's award-winning Employee Assistance and Wellness Program, which provides support ranging from confidential counseling services to tobacco-cessation programs to childcare/eldercare resources.

The program also offers access to the Employee Hardship Fund.

Funded by donors – most of them MetroHealth employees themselves – the Hardship Fund provides assistance to staff members experiencing financial emergencies from such calamities as accidents, illness, fires and more. Funds do not need to be paid back and are typically used to pay bills for utilities, rent, mortgage and car payments.

In 2022, the fund helped almost 50 employees weather emergencies, get back on their feet, and continue serving our community and patients. Through the first three months of 2023, more than two dozen employees, including Alex, applied for assistance.

During a successful Employee Giving Campaign in late 2022, many employees jumped at the chance to support the Fund. Here are some of the reasons why they chose to support this crucial need:



Scan this code or click here to support the Hardship Fund

"The reason I give is short and simple: It's my pleasure, and at any given time, we all will have a need in our lives! To give to others is nourishment for the soul."

- Judy Ruiz, Bilingual Patient Services Representative

"When I have found myself in need, others have stepped up to help. I do what I can, when I can, to pay it forward. Giving others a hand up is the least I can do."

- Danielle C.T. Meadows, Immunohistochemistry Specialist

"My partner, the love of my life, passed away last fall. During the most difficult time of my life, I felt surrounded by the love and support of my colleagues. ... I wanted to be that support for someone else who may be struggling. Sometimes we need the love and support of our community to see us through our trying times. We are lucky to have a wonderful community at Metro that will help light the way during dark times."

- Stephanie Baker, Clinical Research Nurse

With EID in mind, Turner invests in MetroHealth

When you think about the well-being of construction workers, you think about physical safety, about helmets, steel-toed boots and yellow vests.

For Turner Construction Co., employee well-being goes much deeper: It includes an unwavering commitment to equity, inclusion and diversity (EID).

"We prioritize the health, safety, and well-being of our employees and the many men and women who work on Turner jobsites across the world," says Lisa Moving, Turner's Vice President of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. "Part of that is making sure our environments are free from bias, discrimination and intimidation of any kind."

So when Turner was looking for an EID partner, it made perfect sense to collaborate with an organization that shares its values. That partner was MetroHealth.

Timed to coincide with the historic opening of The Glick Center, Turner made a generous gift to MetroHealth's Transformation to become the system's first-ever Equity Champion.

The gift allows Turner, which managed construction of the stunning new hospital, to collaborate and participate in MetroHealth's award-winning EID training, specifically in the system's new Respect in the Workforce education program, which launches this summer.

Respect in the Workforce is the next chapter in MetroHealth's comprehensive EID training program that creates a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment for patients, visitors and staff.

MetroHealth and Turner will also be producing podcast episodes about the partnership.

Why did Turner invest in MetroHealth and its neighborhood?

"It was a logical choice," says Moving. "Turner mirrors MetroHealth's dedication to the community surrounding the hospital and the entire region.

"Together, the work we do and the progress we make in building a more diverse, equitable and inclusive community is the most important, rewarding, lasting and life-changing work we will do in our careers."

Turner

With sponsors' support, annual fair helps 100s of minority men take control of their health

Hundreds of men took a step toward improving their health at the 2023 Minority Men's Health Fair, held April 27 at three MetroHealth locations – Main Campus, Cleveland Heights Medical Center and Ohio City Health Center.

Participants from across the region took advantage of more than 30 free health screenings and learned about access to community resources. Free haircuts and refreshments were also available.

Participants were screened for conditions prevalent in the minority community, including prostate cancer, diabetes, kidney, heart disease and vascular disease, high blood pressure, skin cancer, mental health concerns, lung and colorectal cancer, hepatitis, vitamin D deficiency and stroke.

MetroHealth's Charles Modlin, MD, created the free health fair to address disproportionate disease rates in Black men.

"We especially encourage men of color, who suffer from the greatest incidence rates of chronic diseases and health disparities, and who experience the lowest life expectancies of any group in the nation, to undergo health screenings for the prevention and early detection of disease, the majority of which present with no signs or symptoms, and the majority of which can be prevented, treated and cured through early health screenings," said Dr. Modlin.

The generosity of **KeyBank**, **Saint Luke's Foundation** and **First Energy Foundation** helped make this free community event possible.

Recognizing that minority women face similar health challenges, MetroHealth has announced a Minority Women's Health Expo debuting September 30, 2023, at the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland.

NEW FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS



Bill Clawson is Chief Human Resources Officer at Progressive. His nearly 20 years with the insurance giant have been highlighted with numerous achievements in the company's home, auto and online businesses. He's also had a profound impact on Progressive's diversity and inclusion efforts. Clawson was a founding member of the Progressive African American Network employee resource group and was responsible for helping establish the Multicultural Leadership Development Program.



Jade Davis is Senior Vice President, Public Affairs and Energy Policy, at the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, where he leads a wide range of initiatives and projects. A Cleveland native, Davis left for a decade to pursue a career as a public policy analyst and advocate in Columbus and Washington. Today, he is charged with raising the Port Authority's profile in Columbus. That effort recently translated into a \$2.5 million state budget allocation to help rebuild the collapsing hillside above the Irishtown Bend of the Cuyahoga River.

WHY I SERVE ...

"I serve on The MetroHealth Foundation Board to contribute to one of the most important anchors for health and well-being in our community. Serving on the Board means I have the opportunity to share with my network and communities about the multiple ways in which Metro serves our community and to help people and organizations see the value and importance of their support of The MetroHealth System."

-*Marcy Levy Shankman, PhD, Chief Organizational Learning Officer, Cleveland Metropolitan School District*



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A TRADITION OF GIVING

Decades ago, the members of the Delta Delta Delta Cleveland Alumnae Chapter came together to raise support to purchase an iron lung for a member at what was then Cleveland City Hospital.

Every year since then, for more than six decades, the chapter has been a benefactor to The MetroHealth Foundation, making it the **Foundation's longest sustained donor.**

Over 60 years, the sisterhood and its members have donated more than \$1 million to The MetroHealth Foundation, focusing specifically on the Child Life and Education Program and the MetroHealth Comprehensive Burn Care Center.

On February 16, the Tri Deltas held their membership meeting at The Glick Center and toured the Pediatric Play Area. Members (pictured at left) presented a donation of homemade blankets, books and toys to Jessica Chupnick, MetroHealth's Manager of Child Life.