MetroHealth Foundation

What's Inside?

JoAnn and Bob Glick's Generosity Transforms Lives
Nurse-Family Partnership Expands with Support from Mt. Sinai Health Foundation
MetroHealth Employee Lynda Bowman Pays it Forward

You did it...

FOR ALL OF US.

$153 MILLION RAISED! When we set out to raise $100 million in 2018, we knew that it was an ambitious goal. We faced it confidently knowing the spirit, passion and generosity of our donors. You answered our call to care – **for all of us** – and we are grateful.

GIVING

SUMMER 2025 | SPECIAL EDITION

Celebrating the generosity and impact of our donors – For All of Us

MetroHealth Foundation

If my 50 years at MetroHealth have taught me anything, it's that extraordinary things happen when people come together. As a physician, senior administrator and Emeritus Chair of The MetroHealth Foundation Board of Directors, I have witnessed firsthand the dedication and expertise of caregivers and MetroHealth staff, the healing power of kindness and compassion and the generosity of donors like you.

Because of YOU,

we did something extraordinary together. Your generosity enabled MetroHealth to address the immediate needs of our patients and provide resources that supplement and enhance their medical care. You helped to lay a foundation for us to address emerging needs and well-being initiatives. Most importantly, you built HOPE – for all of us – that generations to come will have the opportunity to thrive.

For All of Us surpassed our goal, raising $153 million, and it is because of each and every one of you – whether you gave $1, $100 or $1,000. Every gift mattered because it enabled us to do what we do best: care for our patients and advance the health and well-being of our community.

In this **special edition of GIVING**, you will meet a few of your fellow donors, learn why they invested in MetroHealth and read about the very real impact of their generosity on patients who benefit from programs like Nurse-Family Partnership, the School Health Program and Food as Medicine, just to name a few.

You will learn more about the new Board Chair, Jon Pressnell, later in this issue. His commitment to MetroHealth, financial and business acumen and willingness to champion our philanthropy efforts position him well to lead us forward.

YOU turned *For All of Us* from a campaign title into a call for action.

Thank you for making a promise to improve the health and well-being of our entire community. You opened doors and made the impossible possible.

With gratitude,

Alfred F. Connors, Jr., MD
Emeritus Chair, The MetroHealth Foundation
Board of Directors

FOR ALL OF US.

JoAnn and Bob Glick: Partners in Transformation

$153
million raised

102,000
gifts from $1 to $42 million - every gift matters

8,200
donors

250
programs/projects supported

In 2020, two very special people joined our MetroHealth family, JoAnn and Bob Glick. They were so moved by our mission and fueled by their desire to give back and create real impact, that they committed $42 million to MetroHealth, the largest gift in our 188-year history.

Their transformational gift created The JoAnn and Bob Glick Fund for Healthy Communities and The JoAnn Zlotnick Glick Endowed Fund in Community Health Nursing.

Their gift, in advance of their larger contribution, expanded the MetroHealth Autism Assessment Clinic, the only autism assessment clinic on Cleveland's west side and the only clinic in Ohio (and one of very few in the country) that accommodates and embraces the language and cultural needs of Hispanic patients and families. JoAnn and Bob's generosity also supported expansion of the system's Students Are Free to Express (SAFE) Project, a mental health initiative within MetroHealth's School Health Program, which provides healthcare services to children while they are at school. SAFE immerses students in the arts – music, dance, theater, visual arts, poetry, drum circles and more – helping them navigate serious mental health challenges, learn how to work through their anxiety and trauma and find healthy outlets for their emotions.

Through their support, MetroHealth became the first public, safety-net hospital to establish a professorship in Community Health Nursing with Case Western Reserve University's Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, where JoAnn received her MSN in community health nursing.

The couple has embraced MetroHealth. JoAnn and Bob are true partners in transforming the well-being of the entire Northeast Ohio region. For them, it is personal. JoAnn shared, "I just want to leave the world a better place than it was when I came into it. Knowing that we can do a little piece of that through MetroHealth is as rewarding as it could be."

MetroHealth President and CEO, Christine Alexander-Rager, MD, says the Glicks are a special couple. She is grateful for their generosity and partnership and for the example they set for others. "Their passion to give where others haven't and to truly make a difference has already transformed lives," Dr. Alexander said, "and that will have a ripple effect for generations to come."

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP – CHANGING LIVES, ONE FAMILY at a TIME

Your generous support of *For All of Us* has made a profound difference for families like Danielle Grantham's. Through your contributions, MetroHealth has been able to develop life-changing programs and services that improve health outcomes, create opportunities and save lives. One such program is the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), a nationally recognized initiative that supports pregnant patients and their babies.

Danielle found strength and stability through NFP, which pairs BSN-prepared registered nurses with low-income patients expecting their first child. These patients are at risk for preventable pregnancy complications and poor birth outcomes. For the past nine years, MetroHealth's NFP has provided this vital support, helping families build healthier futures.

Thanks to a recent $500,000 grant from the Mt. Sinai Health Foundation, the program has expanded. It now welcomes patients at any stage of pregnancy, regardless of whether they've had previous pregnancies. This expansion allows NFP to reach even more families in need.

NFP nurses make regular home visits throughout pregnancy and continue their support until the child's second birthday. Danielle credits her visiting nurse with helping her navigate one of the most vulnerable times in her life.

Throughout the program, nurses monitor patients' health, provide essential education and empower parents to care for themselves and their babies. Nurses also help families envision a path to economic independence and work with them to set and achieve personal goals.

"We're grateful to have the Mt. Sinai Health Foundation as a longstanding partner in our work to end maternal and fetal health gaps in Cuyahoga County," said Dr. Donald "Chip" Wiper III, Chair of MetroHealth's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Medical Director of the program.

"We've seen the good the Nurse-Family Partnership has done for first-time patients and their babies. The opportunity to build on these successful outcomes is reason to celebrate," Wiper said.

The need for this program is urgent. Cuyahoga County has one of the highest rates of maternal and infant mortality in the state. Black women and infants are disproportionately affected. Black women are two and a half times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes. Black infants die before their first birthday at nearly three times the rate of white infants, according to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

However, programs like NFP are making a measurable difference. An ODH study found that participants in the state's Help Me Grow home-visiting programs, including NFP, had an infant mortality rate less than half that of those not enrolled in such programs.

> ***"I know I am a great mom because of the Nurse-Family Partnership."***
>
> – Danielle Grantham
> *Nurse-Family Partnership Coordinator for Administrative Outreach*

The Nurse-Family Partnership Program has come full circle for participant Danielle Grantham and her children. She now works as the Nurse-Family Partnership Coordinator for Administrative Outreach.

Kimberly Green, MSN, RN, C-EFM, Vice President of Women and Children Services and administrator of NFP, emphasized that the program goes far beyond traditional nursing care. Led by nurse supervisors Sara Biedenbach, MEd, BSN, RNC-MNN, and Maria Rush, MSN, RN, CNML, the team is committed to addressing the social determinants of health that affect patients' well-being.

"Our program is not just about traditional nursing," Biedenbach said. "We support our clients and help them set and meet life goals. That could be offering help with applying for a job, finishing high school or going on to further their education. We encourage and connect them with resources. We help with everything from budgeting to making grocery lists that prioritize nutrition. Whatever goal the new parents may have, the nurses will do everything in their power to help them get there."

The program's success is built on collaboration. Referrals to NFP come from a wide network, including MetroHealth's OB/GYN and Family Medicine clinics located throughout Cleveland and Cuyahoga County; other local health systems such as Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, Neighborhood Family Practice, Care Alliance and Circle Health; Medicaid managed care plans; WIC; local school districts; Pathway HUB and community-based organizations. Patients can also self-refer.

Importantly, participants don't need to be MetroHealth patients. In fact, about 25 percent of clients deliver at other hospitals. Regardless of where they receive care, those who enroll in the program become part of a lasting support system.

The program's roots in Cuyahoga County trace back to 2015, when the Mt. Sinai Health Foundation founding President Mitchell Balk championed its launch. Recognizing the program's success in other cities, he saw an urgent need to bring it to Northeast Ohio and partnered with MetroHealth to make it happen.

"We are thrilled that MetroHealth has scaled the Nurse-Family Partnership across Northeast Ohio, serving 400 first-time moms on an ongoing basis," Balk said. "Mt. Sinai's recent $500,000 grant helps MetroHealth reach all moms who know the benefits a home-visiting nurse can bring for both mom and baby, prenatally to age two."

Today, Danielle Grantham is giving back to the program that once supported her. She now serves as the Nurse-Family Partnership Coordinator for Administrative Outreach, helping other families access the same life-changing care.

"There's a lot of education and knowledge that goes into being a parent that a lot of people don't have access to," Grantham said. "It means so much just to have someone to talk to who isn't going to look down on you because you can't afford a pack of diapers. The nurses provide emotional support, education and resources."

"I don't feel like I would be the mom I am today if I didn't have my visiting nurse. That's what I tell everyone when they call in to the program office or when I'm at meetings in the community. I know I am a great mom because of the Nurse-Family Partnership."

For more information, contact Kathryn E. Plummer, Director of Grants and Proposals at The MetroHealth Foundation, at 440-592-1393.

Together – *For All of Us*

It started with one gift, then another, then another. You stepped up again and again. By the time we surpassed our goal, 8,200 donors supported MetroHealth with one-time gifts, small gifts, large gifts, recurring gifts and MetroHealth employee sustainer gifts – giving back and paying it forward every paycheck, all year long.

For All of Us made so many things possible. Your support enabled MetroHealth to develop programs and services that improved health outcomes, created opportunities and saved lives.

EMPLOYEE GIVING – PAYING IT FORWARD

When Lynda Bowman joined MetroHealth almost 53 years ago, there were no calculators, computers, CTs, MRIs or automated laboratory analyzers. Bowman is a Technologist/ Training Specialist in the Pathology Department.

One of Bowman's early assignments focused on researching blood clotting disorders in burn patients. That work put her side-by-side with physicians who were seeking to improve the care they provided, including fellows pursuing advanced training.

Throughout her career, Bowman says she has worked with more than 200 Hematology/Oncology fellows. Many of them were inspired by what they learned from MetroHealth's culture and sense of mission and instilled it into their own careers. She kept in touch with many of them, and over the years, they occasionally shared instances when something she taught them or a conversation they shared, provided the answer they needed during an exam or a patient consultation.

Realizing the value of sharing that kind of knowledge led Bowman to contribute to the John Harris, MD Visiting Professorship Endowment. Dr. Harris gained national acclaim when he cracked the code of sickle cell anemia, a catalyst to diagnosis and treatment of the disease. In 1952, Dr. Harris became the Director of the Division of Hematology at MetroHealth, advancing the hospital's academic program and creating a landmark new approach for teaching hematology.

This endowment provides funds to support an annual lecture and dinner that brings experts in Hematology from across the country to MetroHealth. Over the years, the experts attending these dinners and lectures became colleagues, mentors and friends, including physicians like Neal S. Young, MD, who is the chief of the Hematology Branch of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Director of the Center for Human Immunology at the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland, and the late Evan Sadler, MD, PhD, a hematology expert and world-renowned expert in the study and treatment of blood clotting disorders.

> ***"The luckiest day of my life was the day I was hired here. I'm lucky because not everyone gets the career meant for them, and I found it, which is a rare gift."***
>
> – Lynda Bowman
> *Technologist/Training Specialist, Pathology Department*

Bowman said these relationships enhance education and hands-on medical care that ultimately benefit MetroHealth patients. Bowman gives to the Harris Endowment, knowing that the funds are spent furthering education, research and patient care. More recently, she also started supporting the Pathology Residents and Fellows Fund.

"If we don't keep hearing the latest information, attending lectures and traveling to conferences, we get stale and we don't learn," she said. "For me, this is personal. I was offered an opportunity to be part of something that is so special and unique, and giving my support might open the door for others to be a part of this."

MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS:

MetroHealth was able to do so much more because of your support:

School Health Program

Our School Health Program provided medical care for a student right in their school and their parent didn't have to miss work to take them to an appointment. Access to healthcare improved attendance rates at the 30 Cleveland schools and learning centers enrolled in the program.

Food as Medicine

Our Food as Medicine program provided nourishing food to a patient and helped them lower their A1C.

Institute for H.O.P.E.™

Our Institute for H.O.P.E.™ screened nearly 170,000 patients for social drivers of health and provided access to resources to help them thrive.

Zubizaretta House

Our Zubizaretta House provided a fully accessible residence that serves as a home away from home for patients with paralysis enrolled in clinical trials in Cleveland.

Endowments

We established endowments that will support education and research in critical care, neurology, trauma, community nursing, research and so many more.

You turned *For All of Us* from a campaign title to a call for action, making a promise to improve the health and well-being of our entire community. You opened doors and made the impossible possible.

WATCH HERE

When Charles Davenport was connected to high-speed, affordable internet through a partnership with MetroHealth, Dollar Bank and Digital C, his world changed. He reconnected with his family though email, applied for jobs and made his medical appointments online.

The MetroHealth Foundation Board of Directors

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Opening 2026: Outpatient Health Center

About a year from now, construction crews will be putting the finishing touches on the 300,000-square-foot Outpatient Health Center taking shape on Main Campus. We expect to see our first patients in this state-of-the-art facility in spring 2026.

This $224 million capital project is more than just a building. It's a game changer for ambulatory services, campus redevelopment and the growth of The MetroHealth System.

"This is all about improving access for our patients," said MetroHealth President and CEO Christine Alexander-Rager, MD. "It will be completely dedicated to clinical care."

The Outpatient Health Center will also include a drive-thru pharmacy that will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week – an especially important development given the number of pharmacy closures in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood and elsewhere on Cleveland's near west side.

Through 2025, small group tours of the new center will be held monthly. If you are interested in learning more or supporting any of our outpatient programs, please contact Greg Sanders, Vice President of Philanthropy: **gsanders@metrohealth.org** or **440-592-1319**.

Departments that will have clinical space in the building include:

- ✓ **Cancer Center**
- ✓ **Radiation Oncology**
- ✓ **Breast Health Center**
- ✓ **Heart and Vascular**
- ✓ **Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine**
- ✓ **OB-GYN**
- ✓ **Pediatrics**
- ✓ **24-hour Drive-thru Pharmacy**
- ✓ **Occupational Therapy and more**

Investing in Hope

Philanthropy plays a vital role in our continued pursuit of a healthier community through service, teaching, discovery and teamwork. When you choose to give to The MetroHealth Foundation, your gift is an investment that reaches beyond the walls of our hospital.

Your investment in hope can be made in many different ways. This issue, we are turning the focus on **donor-advised funds (DAFs)**.

MetroHealth is a qualified charity accepting donations from all DAFs.

A DAF is one of the many ways to make a gift to The MetroHealth Foundation. You can use your established DAF to support causes that mean the most to you.

BENEFITS OF DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS (DAFS)

- You can make tax-deductible charitable contributions to receive an immediate current-year tax deduction. You will not have to identify nonprofit beneficiaries at the time you make your gift, or even in the current year. Instead, your gifts are invested so that they grow until you are ready to designate.
- Contributions to a DAF can be made in cash, publicly traded stocks or a variety of other complex assets.
- You can make additional contributions to your DAF in any amount, at any time. Others can also contribute, marking a special occasion or supporting a special project that interests you.
- For more information, contact Caleb Sturrup at **csturrup@metrohealth.org** or **216-339-3724**

Thanks for Lacing Up for Philanthropy

Thank you to everyone who grabbed their walking or running shoes and joined us for the 9th Annual MetroHealth Resiliency Run on Saturday, June 7, at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. This family-friendly event honors the strength and resiliency of trauma and burn survivors and celebrates the caregivers who support them.

Funds raised benefit survivors who come to MetroHealth for critical care and ongoing healthcare needs. We're thrilled to share that more than 1,100 participants joined us this year, and together, we raised over $50,000 to support this vital cause. A heartfelt thank you to our many generous sponsors, including Clearstead, Plante Moran and CBLH Design/ Perspectus Architecture, along with numerous first-time supporters who helped make this event a success. We can't wait to see you next year!

Dear Friends of MetroHealth,

At the top of this newsletter, you read the thoughtful words of Dr. Al Connors, a man whose dedication to MetroHealth spans an incredible 50 years. As I step into the role of Chair of The MetroHealth Foundation Board of Directors, I do so with profound respect and gratitude for Al's exceptional service and leadership. From his beginnings as an intern to his roles as Chair of the Department of Medicine, Chief Medical Officer, and most recently, Chair of this Foundation Board since May 2023, Al has built an extraordinary legacy. His commitment is further evidenced by his personal support of MetroHealth, establishing key professorships and fellowships. It is no exaggeration to say, that as I take on this role, Dr. Connors has likely forgotten more about MetroHealth than I will ever know. His leadership has been instrumental. I am deeply honored to follow in his footsteps, building upon the strong foundation that he helped solidify.

Dr. Connors' letter rightly celebrates the extraordinary success of the ***For All of Us*** campaign. I want to echo his immense gratitude to each of you. Together, we did something remarkable, surpassing the ambitious goal to raise $153 million. This wasn't just about reaching a number. Whether supporting vital initiatives like the Nurse-Family Partnership, School Health and Food as Medicine programs, expanding the MetroHealth Autism Assessment Clinic, or bolstering the Institute for H.O.P.E.™, every single gift mattered – and continues to matter.

It is with genuine humility and a profound sense of honor that I accept the responsibility of serving as the next Chair of The MetroHealth Foundation Board of Directors. I believe passionately in MetroHealth's mission. For much of its existence, MetroHealth has embraced the challenge of doing more with less, constantly focusing on how to deliver value-based healthcare and meeting the essential needs of patients throughout Northeast Ohio. This commitment to efficiency defines the spirit of MetroHealth.

MetroHealth's mission feels deeply personal to me, rooted in my own family's history with this very institution. Decades ago, when MetroHealth was still known as City Hospital, my grandmother contracted polio as a child. It was a terrifying time. The disease tragically took the life of her brother, but my grandmother survived. Her life was spared, and her recovery was possible because she had access to an iron lung and expert care right here at City Hospital. Designated as a National Respiratory Care Center, the hospital operated dozens of these life-saving machines during the epidemic's peak. Without the care that my grandmother received then, within the walls of MetroHealth, I simply wouldn't be here today. That history underscores the profound, generational impact that MetroHealth has had on countless families in our community, including my own.

That legacy of life-saving care and community service fuels my commitment as we look to the future. I firmly believe that if we remain steadfastly focused on our core mission – delivering exceptional healthcare for all, advancing value-based approaches and meeting the evolving needs of our community – MetroHealth will continue to thrive and succeed in any environment. Thank you, again, for your partnership and your belief in MetroHealth. I look forward to connecting with you in the future.

In gratitude,

Jonathan C. Pressnell
Chair, The MetroHealth Foundation
Board of Directors

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MetroHealth Foundation

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Scan this code with your phone's camera to support MetroHealth

FOR ALL OF US.

If you wish to not receive any communication supporting The MetroHealth System or The MetroHealth Foundation, please contact The MetroHealth System Office of Strategic Philanthropy by email at mhdevelopment@metrohealth.org or by phone at 800-325-5606, ext. 85665 (calling from Ohio) or 800-554-5251, ext. 85665 (calling from outside Ohio).

PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Led by students from 10 local high schools through the Junior Achievement Marketing Program at Beachwood High School, Hope Heroes is a student-run campaign that teaches real-world business skills. From budgeting and planning to securing sponsors and selling balloon-themed merchandise, these future leaders are making a real impact.

This year, Hope Heroes has raised over $200,000. Their goal is to support therapy and facility dog programs across Northeast Ohio, including MetroHealth's Loving Paws Program, which recently received a $15,000 gift. Research shows therapy dogs help reduce stress, anxiety and trauma symptoms, promoting faster recovery and emotional well-being. With every tail wag, MetroHealth's therapy dogs continue to bring joy to those who need it most.

If you're interested in supporting The MetroHealth Foundation through a third-party fundraising event, scan the QR code to complete the application form, or contact The MetroHealth Foundation office at 216-778-5665 or mhfoundation@metrohealth.org.