Cherry Health Foundation

2020 Donor Impact Report

The Cherry Health strategy is very simple. We design solutions that specifically address barriers to care, and create safe havens for health needs.

Through Cherry Health Foundation, your financial contributions came together to provide essential support for health care solutions that work.

Breaking Barriers to Health Equity

Overcoming obstacles to breast health
1,644 mobile mammograms

When patients face multiple complexities in accessing mammograms and other breast health services, Cherry Health Foundation donors fund the team that breaks those barriers to care. Our breast health team makes sure that care is accessible and affordable for all those who need it.

Covering patient access to complete mental health
6,974 behavioral health patients

Cherry Health’s integrated care teams know that more steps are needed to get patients facing the most complex mental illnesses on the road to wellness. These ‘extra mile moments’ are often not found in a billing code. Foundation donors step in to cover these vital appointments and care. The results: national recognition for outstanding mental health outcomes.

Marcus* has agoraphobia and is unable to leave their home to get access to their life-saving treatment at our Durham Clinic. SHF reached out and equipped Marcus with the tools they needed to participate in care: Home delivery, creative problem solving for telehealth equipment, and connections to multiple team members put Marcus back on track. The philanthropic efforts of donors to Cherry Health Foundation make complete health a reality for thousands of patients like Marcus.

Prescription to Grow

Multi-year funding for Reach Out & Read
2,629 age, language, & culturally appropriate books distributed to pediatric patients

"Cherry Health’s Reach Out & Read (ROR) program is a high-quality initiative that addresses one of the keys to every child’s success – vocabulary development. ROR is a natural fit with PNC’s signature philanthropic initiative, PNC Grow Up Great, a $500 million, multi-year program designed to help prepare children from birth through age 5 for success in school and life. PNC’s support of ROR is an investment in West Michigan’s greatest resource – its children.”

Sean Welsh
PNC Regional President for West Michigan

Covering the Gaps in Care

Independence for seniors & unlocking learning for kids

Grand Rapids Lions Club philanthropic leadership provided:
- 12,649 total free & discounted glasses distributed
- 1,029 free eye exams for school-aged children

Rebuilding smiles & lifelong oral health
- 71,656 total dental visits

Many patients in the counties Cherry Health serves do not have vision or dental insurance coverage. Donors made affordable care possible.

Nancy* didn’t know how to call or how to find crucial access to her annual mammogram. After one phone call from the Breast Health team, she was equipped with a mobile mammogram location in her neighborhood. Free transportation and a scheduled appointment with reminders to make it happen. Nancy is grateful for the donors that made this program possible!

Owen struggled with substance abuse for years. After nearly dying entering treatment, and successFully releasing himself from the power of his addictions, he returned to work. Years of drug use without proper dental care had ruined his teeth, and he wanted a new smile for his new life. The Wyoming Community Health Center dental team worked with Owen to complete 3 rounds of extractions and fill him for dentures, all without compromising his recovery with strong pain medicine. Now Owen says he feels like a brand new man. He’s proud to be a positive force for his children and his confidence is higher than it’s ever been!

*Name has been changed to protect patient privacy
Donors Support Continuity of Care in COVID-19

When Karen became pregnant with Kian, she knew she could count on Cherry Health’s Maternal Infant Health Program (MIPH) to care for her throughout her pregnancy and Kian’s infancy despite the COVID-19 crisis. Thanks to the compassionate, comprehensive pre- and postnatal care available through MIPH, Karen says she had a healthy pregnancy and healthy birth. Kian is healthy and strong today thanks to donor support for life-changing programs like MIPH.

Masking Michigan

Reducing risk, staying safe

41,180+ masks donated

Cherry Health Foundation donors and community partners sprang into action and came together to donate thousands of surgical, N95, and handmade fabric masks to keep our staff, patients, and community safe.

Ensuring Safe Health Care

Supporting families

13,245 well-child visits

Cherry Health is making sure that the pandemic doesn’t mean children are falling behind on their vaccine schedule and well-child checks. These visits are crucial for a child’s health and well-being—especially in the earliest years of a child’s life.

Expanding telehealth

21,311 medical telehealth visits

25,269 behavioral telehealth visits

In a short period of time, Cherry Health jumped into action to develop and rapidly scale up telehealth services for medical and behavioral health appointments. This means patients are safely consulting with their doctors and therapists either over the phone or with a video connection.

Donors funded innovative solutions to the problems posed by the transition to virtual visits among a vulnerable patient population, such as donating home blood pressure monitors that were distributed free to patients with hypertension.

Funding the Last Mile of Health Care Delivery

Curbside prescriptions

31,054+ prescriptions retrieved

Though daily life slowed down for many this spring, health conditions requiring medication weren’t taking any breaks. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, Cherry Health pharmacies have filled over 31,000 prescriptions. We were able to quickly adapt our pharmacy services to a curbside pick-up model, meaning patients could stay safe while getting needed medicine. Donor support ensured that those who couldn’t afford their medications during these difficult times were still able to obtain them.

Controlling diabetes

265+ drive-up A1C tests administered

For those living with diabetes, the A1C test measuring average blood glucose over the last three months is a key indicator of how well-controlled a person’s diabetes is. During COVID-19, Cherry Health medical teams have been able to offer this important test curbside. Patients with diabetes can drive up, have their finger poked, and be on their way, all while maintaining social distancing.

Caring for the Front Line

Community support for patients and health care staff

$157,000+ donated to ensure access to care

1,047 meals donated to health care workers

From day one of the pandemic, members of our community have stepped up to offer aid and show their support. They have donated their time, their resources, and have given the gift of a good lunch to hundreds of our staff. Our patients and our teams feel and appreciate the tremendous support of all those rallying behind them during such difficult times. Donor support keeps our patients cared for and our team members feeling valued for their heroic efforts.