When everything stops, how do you keep going? Beginning in March 2020, when stay at home orders kept people from accessing Cherry Health's pharmacy programs for affordable medication, the teams got moving.

Socorro Godoy, a Cherry Health Community Health Worker (CHW), immediately began making calls to patients when their prescriptions were not retrieved from Cherry Health's Pharmacy.

“I knew they desperately needed their insulin, inhalers and statins, but they were faced with barriers to getting them,” said Godoy. “Most people didn’t have a way to get here when the buses stopped, so the pharmacy started mailing prescriptions. Then curbside pick-up started.”

Godoy’s mission as a CHW is funded by philanthropy. The calls, the connections, the follow up—all lead to healthier outcomes for Cherry Health patients.

Every Friday, Godoy would get a list of patients needing their medicine from Dr. Brett Gingrich, Cherry Health Director of Pharmacy Services, and begin her calls. It was not just prescriptions. Each call would check in with patients for the “social determinants of health” such as food insecurity, housing instability, domestic violence and more. Then resourcing the solutions would start.

“Cherry Health’s pharmacy services are essential to achieve the quality metrics we’re seeing,” offered Gingrich. “Our teams are constantly working to eliminate barriers so that patients have access to affordable medications to keep them healthy. That means knowing each patient, each provider, each personal situation to serve the most vulnerable among us. Philanthropy, advocacy and using the resources we have to help our patients are essential, now and always.”

> Read about incredible outcomes inside
For the tenth year in a row, Cherry Health Celebration brought our community together to support the award-winning, life-sustaining and affordable health care that Cherry Health provides to our most vulnerable neighbors.

On Thursday, November 19, donors and friends logged on to experience Cherry Health’s first-ever virtual Celebration, hosted by DJ AB and Chef Jenna Arcidiacono of Amore Trattoria Italiana. Throughout the evening, guests heard stories of hope, bravery and inspiration, highlighting how Cherry Health patients and staff have worked and lived on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are thrilled and grateful to share that over $159,000 (and rising!) was donated via Cherry Health Celebration to support patient access. Make sure you save the date for next year’s event, scheduled for November 3, 2021.

Cherry Health Mission

Cherry Health improves the health and wellness of individuals by providing comprehensive primary and behavioral health care while encouraging access by those who are underserved.

Special thanks to our presenting sponsors

Acrisure Benefits Group was blessed to be the Presenting Sponsor of Cherry Health Celebration and one of so many benefactors of Cherry Health’s mission of health equity. Smashing barriers to access while simultaneously becoming one of the top 10% of community health centers in the United States, Cherry Health sets a standard to which we should all aspire. We thank you all for your continued support of Cherry Health and the tireless employees that make it all work.

- Jim Alton, President, Acrisure Benefits Group

Through our support of Cherry Health Foundation, we answer a call higher than ourselves. We have been blessed to be a blessing to others and, through this gift, we hope that many other families would join us in honoring Petey’s legacy of love. We serve her memory when we take action to heal our neighbors. Thank you for joining Petey and me in this mission of health equity, because everyone deserves access to the kind of affordable care Cherry Health provides.

- Ken Faber & Family

If you do not wish to receive future fundraising requests to support Cherry Health Foundation, please e-mail foundation@cherryhealth.com or call us at 616.965.8254 with a message identifying yourself, your address and that you do not want to receive future Foundation communications.
This last year has been one for the books. While the term “unprecedented” has been used ad nauseam, many of us have never experienced anything like this in our lifetime. I recently spent time with each director and their managers to understand how this time has affected their leadership. They shared the harsh realities they have faced during the pandemic, but also the life-changing lessons that they have learned during this time. A common theme across all departments was the inspiration they felt through the staff’s display of courage and resilience. It is the team’s ability to thrive beyond current circumstances that makes Cherry Health a beacon of health and hope in our community. And it is your steadfast support that carries our healthcare heroes through hard times like these and beyond.

With sincere gratitude, thank you for prioritizing Cherry Health through your giving.

Cherry Health Achieves Gold Status as Top-Performing Health Center

The U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) recently announced the recipients of its 2020 Health Center Quality Improvement Awards. We are proud to share that Cherry Health achieved Gold status, meaning our services rank within the top 10% of health centers nationally. Among this elite group, Cherry Health achieved the best overall clinical performance among all Gold-level health centers. This award-winning care would not be possible without the support of our donors and community partners, who make sure that our patients receive the best—not just better-than-nothing—care. Our outcomes are proven, our approach is compassionate, and our community is generous. Thank you for helping us “get the Gold!”
The Gift of Health:

Investing in Proven Solutions with Cherry Health Foundation

Which present do you wrap first – the pretty package, the large one or the easiest? When donating to your favorite charitable cause, the gift is always the right size and shape.

Here are some gift ideas that benefit you as well as Cherry Health Foundation and your other treasured nonprofits.

**Present 1** – Donate $300 to claim a deduction up to $300 in charitable giving without itemizing, in addition to the standard deduction (per tax return).

**Present 2** – Donor Advised Funds (DAF) can be the perfect giving vehicle. Make a tax-deductible donation to your DAF when the timing is right for your finances and best tax benefits. Then recommend a grant to the nonprofit important to you. Charitable accounts like Fidelity Charitable and Schwab Charitable function the same.

**Present 3** – IRA savings donated by direct transfer are income tax-free to those age 70.5 or older. These qualified charitable distributions can be in any amount up to $100,000 total per year, or $200,000 if married filing jointly.

*For more information or to donate, please contact your tax advisor then Anna Goddard Clifford, Cherry Health Foundation Director, at 616.965.8217 or annaclifford@cherryhealth.com.*

**Did You Know?** Beginning January 1, 2020, the SECURE Act requires most non-spouse beneficiaries of an IRA to withdraw the entire balance within 10 years of inheritance, rather than stretching it over their lifetimes. This inspired Anna to change the beneficiaries of her traditional IRA to select nonprofits and offset those changes by increasing cash bequests to family and friends.

**Why We Give**

At Cherry Health, we believe all of our patients deserve the best care and the utmost respect. Through Cherry Health Foundation, our community rallies behind that belief, providing essential financial support for solutions that work.

**Sue & Craig Bruggink**  
Donors, Bruggink Family Foundation

“We support Cherry Health Foundation through our Donor Advised Fund because we can help more folks when the money is invested and growing. And we give because we know how important access to health care is right now and always. Cherry Health is doing the hard work of saving lives before, during and after the current crisis.”

**Sneh Gupta**  
Donor, Individual Retirement Account (IRA)

“Of course I give to Cherry Health because the cause is important. One’s health is essential to success and, when people are healthy, it benefits the whole community. At age 70.5, except in 2020, everyone has to take out an estimated [allowance] from your IRA called the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and pay tax on that amount. I can give to charities that do great work, such as Cherry Health Foundation, from my RMD and not pay tax on that gift.”