

# MAKING A difference

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF COVENANT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

## FOCUS ON Faces

In this digital age, it is easy to forget that behind every article we read, video we watch, text we send, and email we reply to, there is a person who is impacted. This issue is dedicated to the faces behind the work of Covenant and Covenant HealthCare Foundation.

## FACES OF GIVING / A DONOR'S STORY

# Grandmothers Who Give Back

Great-Grandmother Elaine Dole and Grandmother Sue Dole are grateful grandmothers. If you ask them about their granddaughter, their faces beam with love and pride.

Their precious tiny granddaughter, Zoe Farrand, arrived into this world weighing slightly over two pounds. She spent six weeks in the Covenant HealthCare Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (RNICU). A retired Covenant HealthCare employee, Grandma Sue recalls how hard it was to see her granddaughter in an incubator and unable to hold her. However, she also remembers her granddaughter receiving expert medical care with the region's most advanced medical equipment for neonates.

Great-Grandmother Elaine remembers how worried the family was and their concern over if their baby would be ok. She now beams with joy saying, "She has done everything we hoped for and more."

Sue agrees with her mother and shares, "My granddaughter is thriving in so many ways. She loves science, reading, archery, art, and is active in Scouts. She is smart and not the least bit shy; She even sings in the Hemmeter Idol competition." Zoe is so confident and outgoing that she has sung both the American and Canadian National Anthems in front of many hockey fans.

The grandmothers were looking for ways to express their gratitude for the amazing medical expertise and compassionate care their grand-



**ABOVE** A newborn Zoe weighed just over two pounds. **TOP RIGHT** Now 9 years old, Zoe is thriving. **BOTTOM RIGHT** Zoe proudly singing the National Anthem at a Saginaw Spirit hockey home game.

daughter received. They chose to become donors of the Covenant Kids fund once they learned the fund supports pediatric programs and equipment for Covenant, which includes requests from the Covenant RNICU.

Sue says, "Technology changes so frequently and it is so important [for medical care]. By donating to Covenant Kids I can make a difference in another child's life."

Elaine has no hesitation in sharing, "I give because of my granddaughter, and if it wasn't for Covenant she wouldn't be here."



**COVENANT**  
HealthCare





Extraordinary care  
for every generation.

covenant  
Kids

## Showcasing Extraordinary Care for Kids

The Covenant Kids Telethon highlights the extraordinary care Covenant provides for kids in our region and helps raise money to continue our work for kids on into the future.

Please donate today so that we may care for children tomorrow.

-  **Saturday, April 14**  
Noon - 6 pm
-  **Watch it on WNEM TV5**
-  **Call 1.855.475.KIDS**  
to make a pledge
-  **Or join us at the**  
Mid-Michigan  
Children's Museum

More information at  
[www.covenantkidsmi.com](http://www.covenantkidsmi.com)  
or [www.facebook.com/CovenantKidsMI](https://www.facebook.com/CovenantKidsMI)

## OUR MISSION

The Covenant HealthCare Foundation is established to support the Covenant Medical Center by accepting gifts and providing stewardship of charitable funds received from the Covenant HealthCare constituency.



## COMMENTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Like the seasons, contributions to and connections with Covenant HealthCare Foundation always seem to come full-circle. Flower bulbs planted in the fall, carve their way out of the thawed ground to bloom again in the spring. It's amazing to watch the cycle happen at the Foundation as well. Hundreds of stories that keep evolving and inspiring; from the grandmother who became a donor, to the patient who's become a volunteer.

Each winter, the Foundation hosts its Annual Giving campaign (see page 3 for details). We are very grateful to each of the donors who generously contributed. Many people designated their donations to a specific service area within the hospital, including Covenant Kids.

Speaking of Covenant Kids, on April 14th, we will be hosting our 9th Covenant Kids Telethon. There have been so many folks over the past 9 years who have helped to make this event successful. It would be impossible to name each and every one of them. Some contributed by hosting an independent fund-raising event, such as a lemonade stand or baking cupcakes for "Cupcake Wars." Others ran in the 5K and half-marathon races of "Go the Extra Mile for Covenant Kids." Yet others donated their time to answer telephones and take pledges during the Covenant Kids Telethon. Some folks made a contribution to Covenant Kids through the Annual Giving campaign, while others purchased a circle at one of the many local businesses that support Covenant Kids. Through all these contributions, we have been able to enhance the care provided to our tiniest, most vulnerable patients by purchasing critical equipment. A RetCam, which detects conditions that can lead to blindness if left untreated, was just one of the pieces of equipment purchased with funds raised by Covenant Kids. How do we even begin to say "thank you" for contributing to such life-impacting equipment? Hopefully, the knowledge that each contribution has positively impacted one or more children will provide a measure of satisfaction.

While we are on the topic of Covenant Kids, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge our Cuddlers. Many times, parents have exhausted their medical leave from work or they live miles away from Covenant and are unable to be by the side of their infant in the RNICU. That's when our Cuddlers play a vital role in the care of our tiniest patients. These volunteers assist the staff in Covenant Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (RNICU) by rocking and comforting infants. We have Cuddlers rocking and comforting infants 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Many parents have shared that it is comforting to them to know that in addition to the outstanding care provided by the nursing staff, their child has someone to provide a soothing touch and gentle voice. This year marks the 25th anniversary of our Cuddlers. Being a Cuddler is the most requested volunteer position at Covenant. In fact, we just had information sessions on being a Cuddler at Covenant, and over 80 potential volunteers attended. What a blessing to have that many folks interested in donating their time to help with providing extraordinary care to the tiniest of patients!

Whether you are a volunteer, a donor, patient, or employee, you have helped create our community of caring. Each gift of time or treasure makes a positive impact on another person, inspiring the work to continue season after season.

As we progress into Spring, I wish you sunny days, warm weather, and gentle breezes.

Cheers!

Carol Cottrell



**ABOVE** Cuddlers gather for a celebration.

### TOP PHOTO

*Friendly faces will volunteer answering phones and accepting donations for Covenant Kids during the telethon on Saturday, April 14.*



# COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYEES COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT 2017 ANNUAL FUND

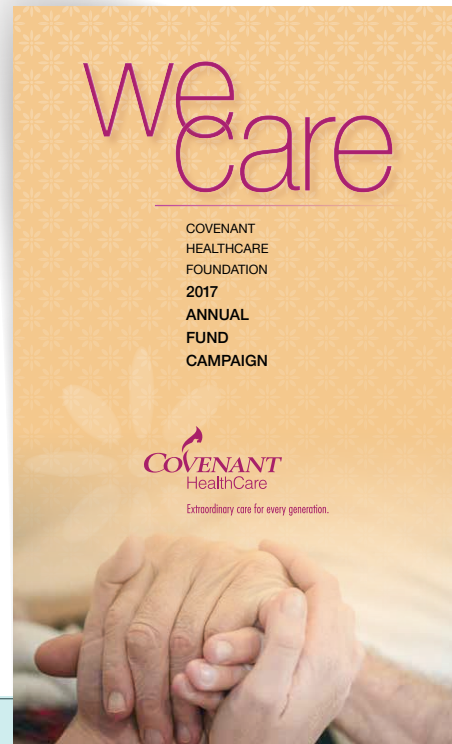
The recently concluded 2017 Covenant HealthCare Foundation Annual Fund campaign was built around the theme “We Care.” President and CEO Ed Bruff stated, “Everything that we do and the way we go about it is always dedicated to putting the patient and his or her needs first.” Annual Fund gifts continue to provide the necessary funds to help achieve Covenant’s goal of providing the extraordinary care that all have come to expect from Covenant.

This year’s campaign successfully concluded, raising more than \$265,000! Supported by the community, Covenant employees, and physicians, Annual Fund proceeds benefit numerous projects and programs at the medical center. We thought you might be

interested to know the top areas for contributions, they included: Cancer Care, Covenant Kids, Hands of Hope, Dr. Jacob Ninan Oncology Education, Nursing Education, Pediatric Intensive Care and Regional Neonatal Intensive Care.

The staff of Covenant HealthCare Foundation would like to take this opportunity to extend a sincere THANK YOU to all who generously joined in this effort. Your participation is a true testimony to your commitment to quality health care in our community, not only for today, but for future generations to come.

**Thank you for caring and sharing.**



## COVENANT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## COVENANT HEALTHCARE AND MARY FREE BED FORGE PARTNERSHIP

### Expanding Accessibility to Inpatient Rehabilitation Care

In December, leaders from Covenant HealthCare and Mary Free Bed signed a partnership agreement to form a 50-50 joint venture. Working together, Covenant and Mary Free Bed will bring advanced rehabilitation care to Saginaw and the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Providing quality inpatient rehabilitation has long been part of the care delivered to patients at Covenant. The team believed the time was right to expand and enhance these services, looked extensively at options and ultimately selected Mary Free Bed as a rehabilitation partner.

Nationally recognized for excellent patient satisfaction and rehabilitation outcomes, specialists from Mary Free Bed will share expertise, educational programs and research opportunities to expand and

enhance services. The organizations are exploring plans to design and construct a new freestanding center in Saginaw. In the meantime, the current inpatient rehabilitation area will be updated.

“This partnership underscores Covenant’s focus on our patients’ needs and the needs of their families,” notes Ed Bruff, Covenant President and CEO. “Patients and their families travel across the state to receive the advanced inpatient rehabilitation care that Mary Free Bed so wonderfully delivers. We are excited to see what this partnership will bring to patients in our community.”

“Covenant is an organization with parallel values and a reputation for providing outstanding care,” said Mary Free Bed CEO Kent Riddle. “We’re thrilled to expand our

services to Saginaw through this partnering.”

Covenant is the newest member of the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Network, an alliance of 32 hospitals with 369 inpatient rehabilitation beds and more than 2,000 rehabilitation specialists across Michigan.



#### ABOVE AND LEFT

*Working together, Covenant and Mary Free Bed will bring advanced rehabilitation care to Saginaw and the Great Lakes Bay Region.*



**ABOVE** Gardey Financial Advisors chose to support Covenant Kids.

# ONE BUSINESS' STORY: SUPPORTING COVENANT KIDS

In 1985, Kim Gardey established what is now known as Gardey Financial Advisors. Kim and his wife, Barbara, started the business out of their home. Gardey Financial Advisors has grown to a staff of 17 with offices in Saginaw managing millions in investment assets for clients in 14 states.

Years ago, the employees of the firm got together and decided to annually adopt a family for the holidays. When that option was no longer available, they looked for local organizations that they could raise money for. Fast forward to the last 5 years, the firm has formalized this process. Gardey Financial Advisors chooses a charity to support each year. Suggestions are gathered from the entire staff, and the Leadership Team selects one. Jon Gardey, President & CEO says, "We choose a charity based on what we think will best help the community. It is important for individuals and companies to give back to our community. It's a win-win that benefits an organization in need in our community and results in team building for our staff. This past year we chose Covenant Kids and everyone here was thrilled to support an organization that benefits kids."

Charity coordinators at Gardey Financial Advisors plan fun activities to earn money for the charity. Here are just a few examples of what the group did this past year:

- **Company Cookouts.** Supplies for the cookouts were provided by the company and their CEO grilled the food. Each person paid a flat amount for their grilled lunch that included pop, a hamburger or 2 hotdogs, and chips. Everyone got together for an hour to socialize, play outdoor games and eat. It turned into a team building event as well as a fundraiser for Covenant Kids.
- **The "Gardey Vending Machine."** This ran for around six weeks in the spring and about six weeks the fall. Items for sale included: fresh fruit, chips, candy bars, pop, tea, snack bars, etc. The company purchased all the items for sale and the money raised was donated to Covenant Kids.
- **A Raffle.** Items were gathered and included food vouchers, a gift basket of goodies, coolers and a variety of fun household items.
- **Individual Donations.** Employees would add to the collection envelope and the Covenant Kids coin jars. Simple!



**Overall, Gardey raised \$1,157.32 for Covenant Kids. We thank them for their creativity in engaging their team with each other and Covenant Kids!**

**Meet them on the 2018 Covenant Kids Telethon, Saturday, April 14!**





**LEFT TO RIGHT** Vickie Schmitzer, Frankenmuth Credit Union CEO; Jenny Bickel, Frankenmuth Credit Union Marketing Manager; Larry Daly, Covenant Kids Founder; Brent, Jenny and Brantley, Past Covenant RNICU family; Jim and Barb, on-air personalities from KCQ 98.1 FM.



*"This equipment is a godsend," said Leena Erskine, Patient Services Manager of Covenant's Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. "Currently, we have to use our big 'rig' that normally is used to transport babies via ambulance or helicopter from other hospitals. This transporter is more compact and can easily travel anywhere throughout the hospital. Also, in case of an emergency transfer from the birth center to the RNICU, where every second counts, we can ventilate the baby on the way, eliminating any need to wait for the procedure, which results in a safer transport."*

## A DONOR'S STORY:

# Frankenmuth Credit Union Foundation Gives Back Funding Vital Equipment

Frankenmuth Credit Union Foundation for Our Communities recently helped Covenant HealthCare by providing some of the "extra" in the extraordinary care we give. Thanks to them, we were able to purchase vital equipment that serves children in our region.

The organization helped fulfill a need in the Birth Center with an infant transport incubator that ensures babies safely get to where they need to be in the hospital, while being kept warm with access to oxygen and other resuscitative efforts. In addition, the purchase of a pediatric gait trainer will greatly enhance therapy techniques for children with physical disabilities and for those who need to relearn to walk after an accident.

"Frankenmuth Credit Union has been blessed," says Frankenmuth Credit Union Marketing Manager Jenny Bickel. "We are able to serve over 42,000 members that live and work in the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond. We often ask, how can we make the biggest impact to improve our members lives? Since 2014, we have given over \$1.2 million to community groups, schools and others who are making a big impact to improve the communities Frankenmuth Credit Union serves."

"Stronger communities mean improved standard of living for those living here today and our children that will be our heirs to this area we live, after we are gone," explained Vickie Schmitzer, CEO of Frankenmuth Credit Union. "We felt a bond to Covenant

because of our similar geographic areas we serve and their commitment to saving and improving lives. Supporting their endeavors through their telethon and giving funds to buy life-saving and life-improving equipment makes a positive impact on all of our members lives."

Many thanks to Frankenmuth Credit Union Foundation for stepping up to make a difference for the children in our community and their families.



**ABOVE** Infant transport incubator ensures babies safely get to where they need to be in the hospital.

**LEFT** The new pediatric gait trainer will enhance therapy techniques for children with physical disabilities or who need to relearn how to walk after an accident.



To find out more about giving opportunities for your business, please contact Lynn Weaver, Corporate Relations Officer at 989.583.7602 or [lynn.weaver@chs-mi.com](mailto:lynn.weaver@chs-mi.com).

Do your passions align with Covenant HealthCare's mission? Would you, or anyone you know, like to receive information on how to include Covenant HealthCare in a will or trust?

If so, please contact Tom Mueller or Carrie Schultz at the Covenant HealthCare Foundation at 989.583.7604. They are here to provide valuable advice and guidance on many giving options!



**ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT**  
Tom Mueller and Carrie Schultz,  
Major Gifts and Planned Giving  
Officers.

## Let a Loved One Know You Are Thinking of Them; Gift Shops Can Help

Want to let someone know you are thinking of them while they are in the hospital? We can help.

Order online and the Gift Shop staff and volunteers will make sure your loved one receives your well-wishes.

**Shop online today:**  
[www.covenanthealthcare.com/giftshop](http://www.covenanthealthcare.com/giftshop)

# FRESH FACES WELCOME NEW STAFF IN THE GIFT SHOP AND COFFEE CLINIC



**ABOVE** Takiyah Abdul Shaheed, left, and Erma McKinney, right.

In this issue of the Foundation newsletter, we would like to let you get to know the "Fresh Faces" in the Gift Shop and Coffee Clinic. We thank Erma and Takiyah for their focus on providing extraordinary care to the customers in the Gift Shop and Coffee Clinic.

### ERMA MCKINNEY, GIFT SHOP

**Q: What do you like the most about your job in the Gift Shop?**

*I like the atmosphere of the Gift Shop and the coworkers. My supervisor listens and does not mind working in any position. I also like the interaction with the customers. The job is simple and enjoyable.*

### TAKIYAH ABDUL SHAHEED, COFFEE CLINIC

**Q: What do you like the most about your job in the Coffee Clinic?**

*I love to satisfy my customers by being a friendly employee and meeting their needs. I also like knowing that customers have taken a liking to me. It feels good to hear people tell me I was missed when I was out for a few days. It makes me realize what a great impact I have on people. I also love working alongside the Gift Shop staff. They have been very kind to me and are always telling me what a wonderful job I'm doing since I have been at Covenant.*



## SAVE THE DATE! RED CARPET 2018

**THURSDAY AUGUST 9 & FRIDAY AUGUST 10**

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018

**RED CARPET PAR 3 CHALLENGE** Back by popular demand, this event offers 18 chances at winning 18 prizes valued at \$5,000 or more! Enjoy light breakfast and the practice range before a shotgun start and 18 holes. This fun-filled event is open to the first 28 teams who register!

**CRUMPETS & CROQUET** For those who want to be part of the daytime events, but golf is not your cup of tea, join us for a different cup of tea wearing your most festive attire! Women and men will have the chance to enjoy summer refreshments on the lawn, a delicious lunch and a round of croquet.

**RED CARPET PREMIERE** Enjoy a fun-filled evening of gourmet food and casino-style gaming events. Snappy casual dress for this blockbuster bash of blackjack, slot machines, auctions, raffles, door prizes, and more!

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2018

**PREMIERE GOLF CLASSIC** This popular event features a full breakfast and practice range, followed by a shotgun start. Pick up pointers with your team while playing with a PGA golf professional. Dinner and awards banquet following golf.

**For information on how to participate in or sponsor any of the Red Carpet events, call 989.583.7604 or visit [www.covenanthealthcarefoundation.com](http://www.covenanthealthcarefoundation.com)**





## FRIENDLY FACES

# Providing Information in an Extraordinary Way

Each day, hundreds of people walk through the doors of Covenant HealthCare. While some are employees and physicians, many are people who require some type of assistance. Whether it be patient information, appointment location, a prospective employee here for an interview, or food delivery for a department, 16 Front Desk Receptionists along with their volunteer support, are ready with a smile to assist whoever enters through the door. They serve at Covenant's five main campuses and provide extraordinary service to everyone they meet.

One receptionist states: "We wear several different hats and are always multi-tasking – lending an ear or hand, individual inquiries, directions, providing a clean and safe environment along with housekeeping and security, assisting with surgical waiting and so much more. We are professional, empathetic, courteous and willing to help out wherever needed. We strive to provide the best customer service possible each and every day."

**Thank you to our Front Desk team!**

**ABOVE** The friendly faces of staff and volunteers can be found at the reception desks of Covenant HealthCare locations like the Cooper Campus.

# Providing Voluntary Service in an Extraordinary Way

In 2017, 480 individuals provided over 95,000 hours of service time to Covenant HealthCare. From first breath to last breath, volunteers provide comfort and care to patients, their families and staff at Covenant HealthCare. This past year, we increased volunteer support in a variety of inpatient and ancillary areas. In 2018, we are looking forward to growing our Canine Therapy and Patient Ambassador volunteer programs.

During **National Hospital Volunteer Week, April 15-22**, Covenant HealthCare will be celebrating that extraordinary service our volunteers bring to the organization. Volunteers will be honored and recognized for their services throughout the medical center and the impact they have on the patient's experience through safety, quality and satisfaction standards.

Covenant HealthCare Volunteers not only provide rewarding acts of service, they continue to raise

money for special projects and needs of the medical center. The Covenant HealthCare Volunteer Advisory Board votes on special requests as they are presented and determines how to use funds earned through fundraisers including: Popcorn Sales, Baby Photo Revenue, 50% Gift Shop Revenue, Spring Fling, and Tree of Love. In 2017, volunteers provided financial support to the Cancer Care Center, Covenant Kids, the Family Comfort Fund, High School Scholarships, and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation.

Covenant HealthCare Volunteers will be hosting their annual Spring Fling on Thursday, May 10, in Bliss Park and at Covenant Mackinaw. Volunteers will sell beautiful hanging baskets (\$22) and potted plants (\$15). Additionally, home & garden and food vendors will be on-site at Bliss Park. All proceeds from the day benefit patient care at Covenant Cancer Care Center.



**ABOVE** The annual Spring Fling event, hosted by the Covenant HealthCare Volunteers, will be held on Thursday, May 10, in Bliss Park and at the Mackinaw campus.

**Covenant HealthCare has nearly 50 different service areas with volunteers. Volunteers provide service at many Covenant facilities including the five main campuses, Bay City, Frankenmuth and Irving.**

**If you or someone you know is interested in making a difference in someone's life, consider volunteering at Covenant. Please contact Sarah Knochel, 989.583.6048 if you are interested. We offer flexible scheduling and guarantee a rewarding experience!**

**COVENANT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION**  
1447 NORTH HARRISON  
SAGINAW, MI 48602

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## CALENDAR



## COVENANT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION STAFF

**CAROL COTTRELL**  
Director  
583.7601

**HEATHER APPOLD**  
Coordinator Front Desk/  
Volunteer Services/  
Covenant Kids  
583.4166

**RENEE GRAHAM**  
Administrative Associate  
583.7600

**SARAH KNOCHER**  
Manager Front Desk/  
Volunteer Services  
583.6048

**KAREN LUPLOW**  
Foundation Associate  
583.7604

**TOM MUELLER**  
Major Gifts and  
Planned Giving  
583.7603

**CARRIE SCHULTZ**  
Major Gifts & Planned  
Giving Officer  
583.7607

**TIM SCHULTZ**  
Manager Gift Shops  
583.7053

**LYNN WEAVER**  
Corporate Relations Officer  
583.7602

## APRIL

- 14** COVENANT KIDS TELETHON  
WNEM TV5 LIVE @ THE MID-MICHIGAN  
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, SAGINAW
- 26** VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER  
HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER, SAGINAW

## MAY

- 9** SECOND CENTURY DONOR RECOGNITION  
EVENT • ZEHNDER'S RESTAURANT,  
FRANKENMUTH
- 10** ANNUAL SPRING FLING! BLISS PARK  
AND THE MACKINAW CAMPUS, SAGINAW

## AUGUST

- 9** RED CARPET EVENTS:  
PAR 3 CHALLENGE, CRUMPETS &  
CROQUET, RED CARPET PREMIERE  
APPLE MOUNTAIN RESORT, FREELAND
- 10** RED CARPET EVENTS: GOLF CLASSIC  
APPLE MOUNTAIN RESORT, FREELAND

## SEPTEMBER

- 13** ALUMNI REUNION FOR RETIREES  
APPLE MOUNTAIN RESORT, FREELAND  
SEE ALUMNI COMMUNICATOR INSERT

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