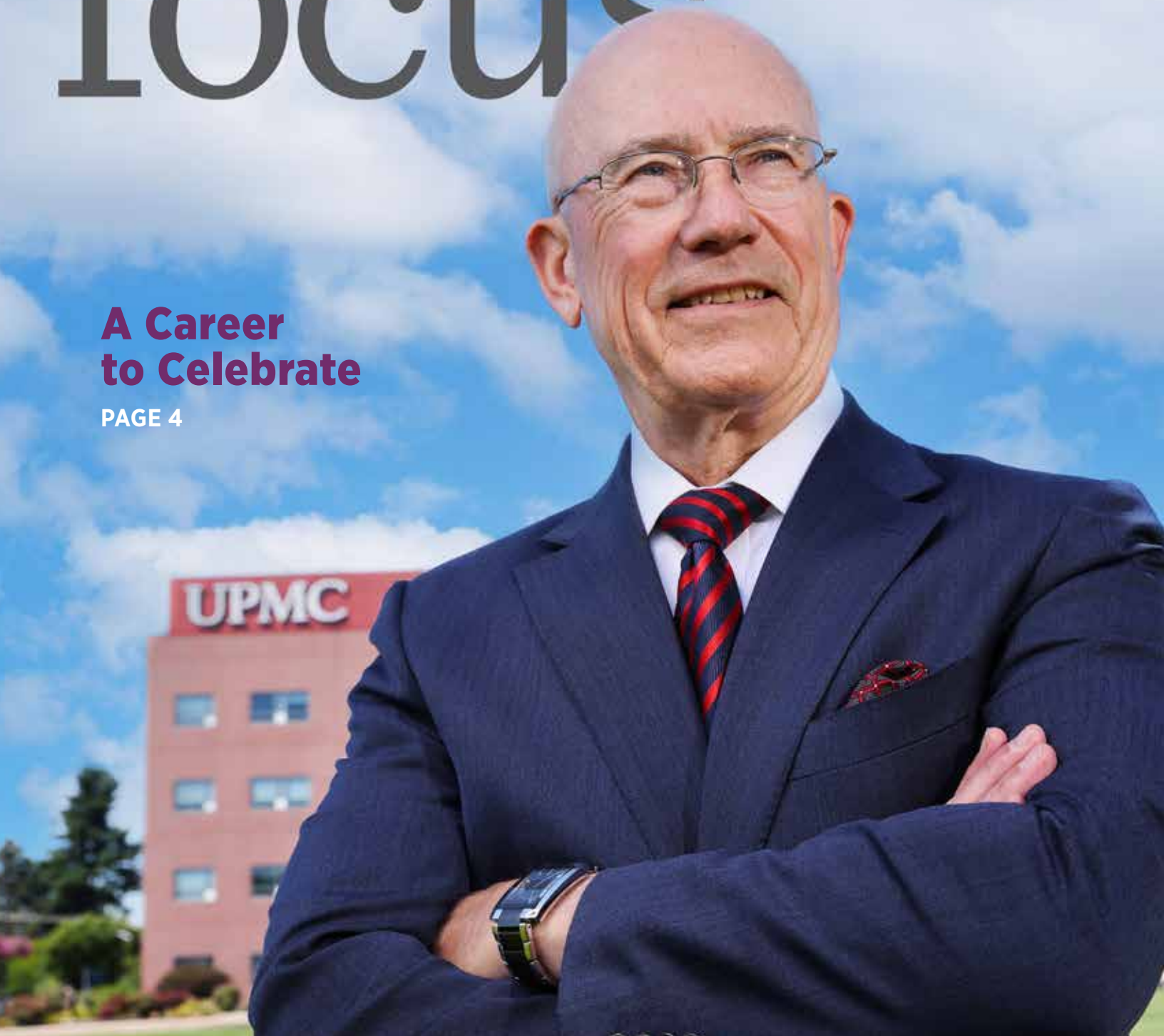


# foundation focus

VOLUME 39 | FALL 2022

## A Career to Celebrate

PAGE 4



9

2022 Lifetime  
Achievement Awards

16

Cornerstone Society  
Spotlight: Robert  
Ruffaner

30

Keystone Society  
Spotlight: The  
Umstead Family

36

Your Contributions  
at Work: Training the  
Hidden Profession

**UPMC** LIFE  
CHANGING  
MEDICINE

**SUSQUEHANNA**  
HEALTH FOUNDATION



## LETTER FROM PATTI JACKSON-GEHRIS

I've always been a big believer in the fact that health care organizations and communities exist together. When one thrives, so, too, does the other.

And while the old adage "it takes a village" still rings true today — the most collaborative and productive of those villages still needs a strong and capable leader to galvanize the team and bring everyone together. For so many years, that leader — at least for those of us lucky enough to be a part of the UPMC in North Central Pa. village — was **Steve Johnson**.

As you've likely heard (or will read later on in this issue), Steve's tenure as president of UPMC in North Central Pa. ended earlier this year when he announced his retirement. Fortunately for UPMC, Steve has graciously agreed to act as co-CEO of the first-ever UPMC-managed hospital in China.

In what is undoubtedly the greatest honor of my professional career, I now have the opportunity to carry on as president of UPMC in North Central Pa. and build on the strong foundation to continue delivering excellent health care in this region.

This appointment is the culmination of more than seven years of dedicated service to the Susquehanna Health now UPMC health system and 25 more working for and with other health systems throughout Pennsylvania. Since joining this organization in 2015, I've been vice president, Market Development & Communications; vice president, Strategy & Business Development; and chief operating officer of UPMC in North Central Pa. and president of UPMC Williamsport.

## Susquehanna Health Foundation

### Staff Information

**Vice President of Development**

*Sherry Watts, CFRE*  
wattsse2@upmc.edu  
570-320-7464

**Major & Planned Gifts Officer**

*Stephanie Steinbacher, CFRE*  
steinbachersl@upmc.edu  
570-320-7041

**Major & Planned Gifts Officer**

*Kristen Lorson*  
lorsonke@upmc.edu  
570-320-7463

**Senior Development Officer**

*Valerie Trego*  
tregova@upmc.edu  
570-320-7465

**Development Coordinator**

*Anna Thompson*  
thompsonac6@upmc.edu  
570-320-7612

**Development Associate**

*Kelly Regan*  
regankm2@upmc.edu  
570-320-7026

**Executive Assistant**

*Susan Rider*  
ridersl@upmc.edu  
570-320-7460

What's kept me in health care all this time is knowing that every day somehow, someway, my actions are going to positively help another person. I go home each day proud to be part of a successful team doing great work for the community that I call home.

We've made monumental strides in merging the best of what Susquehanna Health *was* with the best of what UPMC *is* to become the strongest, most person-centric version of UPMC in North Central Pa. Along the way, we've accomplished milestones that make our community a better place — like becoming a Level II Trauma Center, which has enabled us to offer advanced orthopaedic trauma services and acute care surgery for catastrophic injuries.

Over the next five years, we aim to hone in on maximizing our strengths by delivering the highest quality care and amplifying innovation in our communities. More specifically, we're going to focus intently on health disparities and other communitywide deficiencies that impact the quality of lives led by the people of this region.

But in order to do that, we must not lose sight of two vital strategic initiatives.

The first is continuing to recruit and retain the best and brightest in health care professionals.

It's important to me that we recognize the unique position in which UPMC in North Central Pa. resides. This may be a rural area, but our core competencies far exceed what traditional rural health care entails — and a big reason for that is because we've been able to recruit and keep our tremendous local talent in the area. I intend to build on our environment and culture,

continue our mission, and uphold the organizational beliefs and values that prompt people to become a part of our team.

Secondly, we must remain entrenched in the community and aligned with like-minded organizations throughout the area. As someone who grew up learning lessons about the importance of giving back, I can say few things mean more to me than community involvement. I believe my work should exist beyond the walls of the hospital. Frankly, it would be a disservice to the community if I didn't have my finger on the pulse of what's happening locally.

What I've learned during my time with UPMC is the people of this community care as much about us as we do them. I can't tell you how many times I've heard that someone was so moved by the care they received in our facilities that they felt compelled to donate to the Susquehanna Health Foundation.

It's truly a blessing to be surrounded by people who authentically support our mission and vision. Thanks to their financial generosity, and yours, we've been able to expand services and add technology that augment our existing offerings right here in the community. *Our* community.

I can only hope my excitement about this new role and the future of UPMC in the region is as evident in print as it is when I talk about it in person. Something tells me that it is — and that you feel the same way about what's in store. Together we are making a difference.

**Patti Jackson-Gehris,**

President, UPMC in North Central Pa.

1001 Grampian Boulevard | Williamsport, PA 17701

## Board Members

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*Hani Tuffaha, MD*

*Sis Fish*



# A Masterpiece Career Comes to a Close

4



**U**nless you're a classical music aficionado, chances are the names Carlos Kleiber and Claudio Abbado won't mean much to you. If you *are* a classical music enthusiast, you undoubtedly know that the late Kleiber and Abbado were world-renowned maestros who conducted musical ensembles with a tantalizing blend of ferocity and grace.

But regardless of your familiarity with classical music, there is one “conductor” of sorts whom everyone within the UPMC in North Central Pa. universe knows: **Steve Johnson**.

The former president and CEO of Susquehanna Health, who possessed the precision of a Kleiber or Abbado in skillfully conducting the health system's integration with UPMC, retired

from his full-time position as president of UPMC in North Central Pa. earlier this year.

“With humility and profound gratitude, I thank each of you for your dedication, inspiration, and support through the years,” he wrote in a message this summer. “I will be forever blessed by the opportunities, challenges, joys, sorrows, disappointments, and celebrations we experienced on this journey together.”

To understand why Steve was capable of making the impact in the community that he did is to know him. And, as it turns out, he's not entirely done making a difference in the lives of others.



## A commitment to a lifetime of service

Attending grade school in Kentucky but spending his high school years in New Jersey, Steve knew at an early age what was in store for his future.

"I grew up in a family that was committed to community service," he says. "My dad was a career pastor, and my mom was a schoolteacher. After college, I worked in long-term care and really liked it. I thought health care was the perfect place to combine my interest in business and industry and commitment to supporting the community and the people living there."

Following a stint as a nursing home administrator, Steve joined what was then The Williamsport Hospital, where his patient-first mentality helped him ascend from director of personnel to executive vice president-chief operating officer.

There, he got his first taste of health care consolidation in 1994, spearheading the operational merger of three area hospitals — The Williamsport Hospital, Divine Providence Hospital, and Muncy Valley Hospital — into a single faith-based partnership of community providers. Thanks to the same graceful flick of the conductor baton Steve would use years later with UPMC, Susquehanna Health System was born.

## Partners in faith and fellowship

Every good conductor needs an orchestra of skilled musicians working in harmony to drive the piece forward. And for most of Steve's career, the Sisters of Christian Charity (SCC) have been front and center in that ensemble.

"They were one of the two founding members of the forerunner to the organization we know today," Steve says when asked about SCC's impact.

In 2008, Steve says, Susquehanna Health transitioned from an operating alliance to a full consolidation thanks to a generous gift from SCC: Divine Providence Hospital and Muncy Valley Hospital. In exchange, Steve and Susquehanna Health made a series of commitments to SCC, including a pledge to remain a faith-based organization in perpetuity, continue providing SCC in the area with a safe, clean, and easily accessible place to live, and forever honor the role SCC has historically played in community health — all of which made perfect sense to Steve.

"I think there's a spiritual aspect to health care," he says. "One of the things I've been blessed by is having the opportunity to work in a faith-based health system. That really has been very meaningful."





## Susquehanna Health becomes UPMC in North Central Pa.

The decision for Susquehanna Health to join UPMC long predates the day ink went to paper and system integration began. As Steve recalls, Susquehanna Health had recently completed a series of significant facility investments and a merger with the Laurel Health System in Tioga County and was planning how best to capitalize on the health system's momentum.

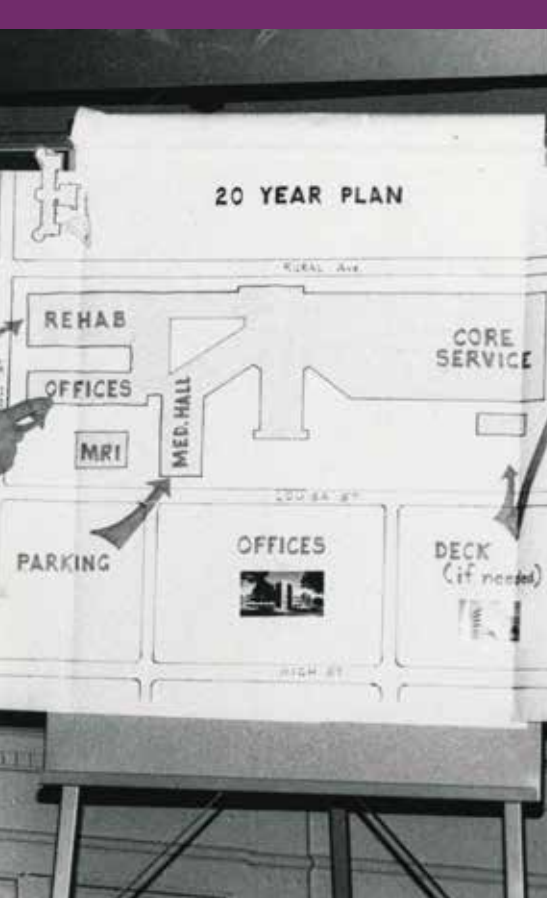
UPMC Williamsport was modernized through the addition of a new 350,000-square-foot inpatient tower and medical office building, major renovations that included a transition to single-occupancy patient rooms, and the construction of a new emergency room and surgical center. UPMC Hillman Cancer Center on the campus of UPMC Williamsport Divine Providence Campus received a \$25-million multi-year renovation and expansion that brought state-of-the-art technology and treatment to the region.

Additionally, Steve directed the process of acquiring neighboring property and the construction of a new emergency room and imaging services building at UPMC Muncy, along with various outpatient locations that support modern medicine's industrywide shift to outpatient care.

Officials at Susquehanna Health initially hoped to start their own health plan. The initiative offered them a chance to help more patients in ways they had previously been unable to provide, expanding the system's scope and community reach. Ultimately, the health plan project was deemed impractical and too expensive for Susquehanna Health officials to implement on their own — but what if they didn't have to go it alone? What if a partner could lock arms and walk down that path with Susquehanna Health officials for the good of the community?

"We started looking diligently for organizations that could help us, knowing full well we may select an organization that was larger than ours and that we would be uplinking to it," Steve says. "UPMC ended up being the preferred organization to join because it had one of the state's largest and most successful health plans. It also had an academic medical center, and its leadership team knew hospital operations extremely well."

In conducting the uplink process, Steve focused his team on installing new information technology systems that linked Susquehanna Health to UPMC, managed the merging of operating policies and the implementation of a new payroll system, and led the deployment of new supply chain processes. He also made sure the commitment to patient care never dipped below the standards he helped to set.



## UPMC in North Central Pa. Pays Tribute to Employees Who Served

Thanks to a partnership between UPMC in North Central Pa., Pennsylvania College of Technology, and corporate and private philanthropists, the grounds of UPMC Williamsport are getting a patriotic facelift.

The Health Care Veterans Tribute at UPMC — a project headed by Steve Johnson — is a way for patients, guests, and employees to honor and recognize members of the UPMC employee family who also served our country. A veteran himself, Steve believes the Tribute represents a way for the members of the entire community to demonstrate their gratitude for these local heroes.

Positioned on the front lawn of the UPMC Williamsport campus, the Tribute features a stunning statue of a soaring eagle and six different medallions — one for each service branch of the United States Armed Forces.

Outdoor paver manufacturer EP Henry donated supplies for the Tribute, which Pennsylvania College of Technology students installed. Two other community figures — **Fred Gilmour**, chairman of UPMC Williamsport's Hospital Arts Committee, who delivered the project's artistic design, and **Tony Visco** of Anthony H. Visco, Jr. Architects, provider of its architectural design and engineering work — were instrumental in the Tribute's construction.

The new outdoor space will officially open to the public this fall.

### UPMC in North Central Pa. grows bigger and better

Under Steve's leadership, UPMC in North Central Pa. experienced tremendous growth and revitalization.

Those updates punctuate a 20-year facility replacement and modernization plan for Muncy, Divine, Wellsboro, and Williamsport hospitals and outpatient clinics that began in 2005. The last elements of that plan — the construction of the emergency department observation unit and the demolition of an outdated building at UPMC Williamsport — were recently completed. The reconstruction of the Rehab Institute at UPMC Williamsport is slated to be completed by 2024.

Though he won't be at the post he's held for nearly two decades when it happens, the culmination of those final components will be Steve's proudest moment.

"Steve Johnson is one of the most exceptional individuals with whom I have had the pleasure to work," says **Ann S. Pepperman**, Esq., chairperson, UPMC in North Central Pa. Board of Directors. "His passion and commitment for patient care and for those who provide the patient care are unmatched."



### Community supporting the community

If you couldn't tell from his words about the Sisters of Christian Charity, Steve is a big believer in the power of partnerships and philanthropy.

Over the course of his career, he's developed deep ties with leaders at the city, county, and Chamber of Commerce levels, in addition to the YMCA, and organized collaborations with local colleges to ensure UPMC in North Central Pa. staff always had ample access to continuing education. Those connections have been paramount for developing the platform needed to modernize facilities and add cutting-edge technology and best-in-class medical providers.

"Community partnerships are so important," he adds. "We don't believe we have to own everything ourselves. Having strong partnerships in our community makes us better."

This year, the week of Veteran's Day will mark the dedication and commissioning of another of Steve's community-minded projects — the Health Care Veterans Tribute at UPMC Williamsport — which pays homage to local veterans (read more on page 7) with outdoor space, a statue of a soaring eagle, and medallions of the six branches of military service. For Steve, a veteran of the Pennsylvania National Guard, the installation is particularly poignant.

Under his leadership, Susquehanna Health Foundation and UPMC in North Central Pa. has received more than \$145 million in philanthropic support. On a personal level, Steve has

donated countless hours to local nonprofits and community-based organizations, including Little League® International, the Williamsport Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania College of Technology, Lycoming College, and the First United Methodist Church of Williamsport, among many others.

### The conductor readies for his next symphony

Steve's distinguished career has seen him lead and grow more business units and hospitals than he could have ever imagined. The full scope of the health system Steve assembled and led includes UPMC Williamsport, UPMC Williamsport Divine Providence Campus, UPMC Lock Haven, UPMC Muncy, UPMC Wellsboro, the Susquehanna Health Medical Group, the Susquehanna Regional EMS, and UPMC Cole (which merged with UPMC in 2018).

And that brings us to the future. Remember how we said Steve wasn't quite done helping people? The longtime health care executive is refocusing his attention to the east with his next project — and we don't mean Scranton or Wilkes-Barre. Think farther east.

Steve is now consulting on a new hospital being built in Chengdu, China, as part of a partnership between the Wanda Group and UPMC.

"I had expressed some interest in maybe doing something a little different for UPMC on a consultative basis," Steve says. "They had this project going on that needed somebody with experience in hospital leadership and working with UPMC, and I've always been interested in a potential international assignment."

As one of China's leading conglomerates, Wanda Group is constructing the 500-bed hospital, and UPMC will manage and operate it. The Chengdu hospital will encompass patient-focused Centers of Excellence for cancer care, orthopaedics and sports medicine, neurology and neurosurgery, heart and vascular treatments, ophthalmology, and digestive disorders, which will be integrated into UPMC's global network.

Steve will serve as co-CEO with **Dr. Randy Jernejcic**, who will live and work in Chengdu on a full-time basis beginning in 2023, while Steve visits intermittently.

"I'm humbled that I've been provided the opportunity to play a small role in helping facilitate community-focused health care," Steve says. "And for me personally, that's meant the world."

After a career performance stateside worthy of a standing ovation, here's to a sensational international encore, Steve.





# 2022 Lifetime Achievement Awards

**S**usquehanna Health Foundation's 7th Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards Celebrations recognized major donors, individuals, and groups who have had a significant impact on UPMC in North Central Pa. and the patient care provided every day.

The awards programs began with the Foundation recognizing new donors of \$10,000 or more and other major donors who reached a new giving level. More than 90 donors were recognized over the two nights. The community's ongoing support continues to bring life-changing medicine to north central Pennsylvania.

Following dinner, the Foundation recognized two honorees for their years of service, leadership, and commitment to health care locally — **Dr. Hani J. Tuffaha** and **Robert P. Crockett**.

The events, sponsored by UPMC and UPMC Health Plan, were held at DiSalvo's Restaurant in Williamsport on consecutive nights in May. The evenings' entertainment was sponsored by C&N.





### Physician Award—Dr. Hani J. Tuffaha

A kind, compassionate, and skilled neurosurgeon, Hani Tuffaha, MD, touched and changed many lives in his four decades of service to the community in Williamsport. He selflessly committed to his craft and spent countless hours with patients, colleagues, staff, and others promoting a culture of excellence and advancing the neurosciences program.

Shortly after completing his residency, Dr. Tuffaha was offered the opportunity to practice medicine in Williamsport, helping bring a new level of care to the region. Over his career, Dr. Tuffaha has made countless contributions to not only the local neuroscience services but also to the science of medicine locally, serving as president of the Lycoming County Medical Society, and across the nation and world. He helped build services and care that have changed the lives of countless patients and created a legacy that extends far beyond his career.

In addition to his significant contributions in advancing neurosurgical care in the region, Dr. Tuffaha also made multiple commitments to the financial support of the organization through major gifts to the Susquehanna Health Foundation. He and his wife, Eiman, are recognized as Signature Gift Donors and members of the Caduceus Society. Even in his retirement, he is still active in supporting the Foundation and is currently serving as a board member.

To recognize his dedication to his patients and commitment to providing care to our community, UPMC and Susquehanna Health Foundation honored Dr. Hani Tuffaha with the Physician Lifetime Achievement Award.



### President's Award—Robert P. Crockett

Robert P. “Bob” Crockett has a heart for philanthropy, volunteerism, and working to ensure Williamsport is a community he and others are proud to call home. Bob has built his professional reputation and career at Crockett Financial Services by helping individuals, families, and businesses manage their financial affairs. When he is not working, he uses his knowledge and passion to continually give back to the community.

He has served multiple terms with the Susquehanna Health Board of Directors and has been an invaluable volunteer through three major fundraising campaigns: *Count On Us For Life* in 2012, *Continuing the Innovation* in 2015, and the current *Susquehanna Strong Comprehensive Campaign*. With compassion for others and a commitment to enhance health care, Bob has created numerous meaningful relationships between Foundation staff and philanthropists.

Bob's commitment to support others extends to his time spent — more than 20 years — on UPMC in North Central Pa.'s Patient Safety Committee. There he actively provides an opportunity for patients and medical team members to share their concerns and insights to continually improve patient safety.

In addition to his donated time, Bob and his wife, Linda, are also major financial contributors to the Foundation. Their legacy of support spans more than 23 years, and they are recognized as members of the Cornerstone Society for their monetary gifting and the Legacy Society for their future planned gift.

To recognize his incredibly generous support, UPMC and Susquehanna Health Foundation honored Bob Crockett with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award.



# THE DONOR REPORT

A note to our donors: If your name has been omitted or misprinted, please notify us and accept our sincere apology.

## SIGNATURE GIFTS

**Signature Gifts** recognizes individuals and organizations

who made a commitment to Susquehanna Health Foundation with a contribution of \$100,000 or greater. Donors are listed through **June 30, 2022**.

### \$5,000,000+

Anonymous  
Employees of UPMC in North Central Pa.

### \$2,500,000–\$4,999,999

**Laurel Health Foundation**  
**The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation**  
**In Memory of Judge Malcolm Muir**

### \$1,000,000–\$2,499,999

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Dr. and Mrs. Francis M. Powers Jr.  
UPMC Susquehanna City Hospitals  
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UPMC Muncy Auxiliary  
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Jane and Al Clapps  
Alice and \*Charles Corbett  
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Steven and Mary Ann Johnson  
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**Thomas J. Rider Trust**  
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*In Memory of John A. Savoy*  
Dave Steinbacher  
Verizon Wireless  
Robert P. and Kathleen R. Walker  
John and \*Sue Young & Young Industries  
*In Memory of Kline A. DeWire*

### \$100,000–\$249,999

Anonymous  
Larry Allison, Larry Allison Jr., Allison Crane & Rigging  
Larry Allison Jr. and Family  
AutoTrakk, LLC  
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\*Walter and \*Marian Schell

\*Robert and Charlene Shangraw

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Shell Exploration & Production  
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Margaret E. Waldron Memorial Fund

Weisel Family Trust

Welliver McGuire Inc.

Wolyniec Construction, Inc.

*In Memory of James T. Wolyniec Sr.*

## Unique Gifts Enhancing the Patient Experience

The Foundation is continuously inspired by donors who provide meaningful and unique donations.

A huge thank-you to **Shaylor's Ponds & Patios** for donating half of the material and the installation of the water feature outside UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport. Also, thank you to **Anne Holladay** and **Gwyn and Dave Groh** for donating to cover the rest of the materials. This new addition to the landscape provides patients with a calming focal point during treatment.

Another recent addition, a gong in radiation oncology, was made possible by **Carol Chaapel** and **Kathleen DiSalvo**. It was something the staff had on their wish list for patients. The gong is meant to be rung as a symbol of a patient's end of treatment and as a wish of health and happiness on their journey.



\*deceased donor

**SUSQUEHANNA**  
HEALTH FOUNDATION

# CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

The Cornerstone Society recognizes

individuals who supported Susquehanna Health Foundation with a contribution of \$10,000–\$99,999. Donors are listed through **June 30, 2022.**

## \$75,000–\$99,999

E. Ruth Crist Estate  
David and Jan Fisher  
Friend of the Breast Health Center  
Thelma White

## \$50,000–\$74,999

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\*Katherine Stroehmann Crane  
*In Memory of Frederick J. and Ida S. Stroehmann*

Anne E. Cranmer Estate  
Robert and Diann DeCamp  
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Richard and Nancy DeWald  
Susan and Charles Duchman  
\*William and Joyce Francis  
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Sudie R. Ludwig Estate  
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Frank G. Pellegrino and Jeffrey Patterson  
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*In Memory of Joanne J. "Johnny" Lamade*

Dave and Maggie Roche  
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Donna E. Sayah  
Joanie and David Wallis  
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### **Young Men's Republican Club, Inc.**

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Neil and Karen Armstrong  
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**Bill and Shirley Hebe**  
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Jersey Shore Football Booster Club

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\*George and \*Elizabeth Logue

Don Lundy and Family

Dr. William J. and Laura H. Martin

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*In Memory of Ruth Lunt Forney*

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The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

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### **Woodcock Foundation for the Appreciation of the Arts, Inc.**

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Glenn C. Mechling



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Karen and David Young

Bold and italicized listing = new donor or new to giving level

\*deceased donor

SUSQUEHANNA  
HEALTH FOUNDATION



## Endowment Aims to Improve Emergency Medical Services

**A**mong other things, **Robert “Bob” Ruffaner** is what one might call a problem solver. The Williamsport native is also a Navy veteran, a graduate of Lycoming College and Bucknell University, a PPL Electric Utility retired executive of the former Susquehanna Division, and someone who donated many years of volunteer service to numerous charities and non-profit organizations.

Over the course of his life and career, Bob admits he has solved or helped others solve a lot of challenges — but it turns out it’s the one he couldn’t solve that may end up making the biggest impact of them all. Unfortunately, it’s also the one that hurts the most.

But before the pain, there was passion. And before the loss, there was deep love and respect.

### A romance blossoms, and a career blooms

Bob met his future wife, **Lanea Gaffney**, during their sophomore year at a Williamsport Area High School-sponsored Friday night dance, where a chance encounter resulted in the high school sweethearts’ six-year whirlwind courtship and a serious relationship. After their 1957 high school graduation, Bob, who had enlisted in the Navy Reserve at 17, served two years active Navy duty, while Lanea attended Robert Packer Hospital School of Nursing in Sayre, Pa.

“She always wanted to be a nurse since she was 7 years old,” Bob says of Lanea’s dream. “She was such a caring person who wanted to help people. It was just her God-given nature.”

Lanea graduated in 1960 from nursing school, achieving what had been her ambition from childhood, while Bob was attending Lycoming College after active Navy service. The two married in 1962, and Lanea settled in at The Williamsport Hospital for what would be a 38-year nursing career at four different Pennsylvania hospitals. Her career included transitioning from bedside nursing to the operating room, intensive care, emergency room, the IV team, paramedic education, and occupational health for employees working in local industries.

Of note, she was Susquehanna Health’s first-ever coordinator of Paramedic Education, selecting, developing and sending scores of top-notch paramedics from nine classes (1979-1987) on to paramedic and emergency services positions in Williamsport and across the country.

However, it was those early years as a frontline nurse that shaped Lanea’s view on improving emergency patient care and prompted her to wonder if her calling to serve might be better suited in other ways.

“During that period of the 1960s and ’70s, she became frustrated with the medical condition ambulance patients were in when they arrived at the hospital and felt that improvements could be made in emergency services,” Bob remembers. “It was in the late ’70s that **Dr. Earl R. Miller**, medical director of the hospital, also became concerned and eventually got the approvals to announce they were going to establish what came to be known as one of the first certified paramedic education

programs in the country. Lanea and I discussed her sincere interest and possible involvement. I encouraged her to apply because of her broad nursing-skills background and true commitment to quality patient care.”

Between her stints in health systems and Bob’s PPL relocations, Lanea and Bob had three children. Though she loved her job, decorating her home for the changing seasons, and tending to her flower garden, Lanea and Bob valued family above all else. Outside of work, keeping up with the children’s activities led to new ways for Lanea to serve Williamsport — only this time, it was in the community through the Trinity Episcopal Church, Williamsport Junior League, Curtin Junior High Parent Teacher Organization, Salvation Army, Boy Scouts, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, and more.

The Ruffaners were also active volunteers with the Williamsport Area High School Marching Millionaires for 10 years as their three children took their places as members of the top-quality band. The couple would raise funds and serve as chaperones on WAHS band competition trips, with Lanea pulling double duty as the band’s unofficial nurse on five buses. The directors were so appreciative of these efforts.

### The nurse retires, travels, and gradually becomes the patient

After retirement, Bob and Lanea enjoyed many wonderful trips across the country and abroad. But after a lifetime of giving so much to so many, a cruel twist of fate flipped the script in the most unfair of ways. The longtime caregiver now needed care of her own because of an insidious Alzheimer’s diagnosis — and as you might expect, Bob was there through these years until the very end with her at home. Bob acknowledges, “It’s a terrible, unsolved disease that requires more

concentrated public attention, research, and meaningful efforts.

“After my wife’s Alzheimer’s got worse, I started deeply thinking about her life, her wonderful contributions to her family, community, the medical profession, and her love of that profession,” he adds. “She always wanted to be part of lasting improvements in anything she tackled — and especially health care.”

### Forever making a loving difference

On June 16, 2022, the day that would have been his and Lanea’s 60th wedding anniversary — and less than a year after he lost the love of his life — Bob met with **Kristen Lorson** of Susquehanna Health Foundation.

Though neither the doctors nor Bob could solve Lanea’s problem by curing her Alzheimer’s, what Bob could do was honor her memory in a wonderful way that will forever contribute to what Lanea called the highlight of her storied career. As a result of that meeting, the Robert and Lanea Ruffaner Endowment was established to support the needs and education of emergency medical services for future emergency patients.

“Emergency medical services education and the latest technology and equipment enables a skilled staff to provide the services that are paramount to saving lives before ambulances ever arrive at hospitals,” Bob says in describing the focus of the endowment. “Now that UPMC Williamsport has been designated a Level II Trauma Center, highly skilled paramedics will be able to continue their vital role and team effort Lanea and I always agreed is needed everywhere.”

Bob believes the endowment would have been a source of great pride for Lanea, the registered nurse (RN) whose career objective was to provide flawless patient care with compassion whenever and however possible.

“The family, which has now grown to include eight wonderful grandchildren located across the country, wants to be an important part in this region’s emergency medical services effort for the future through the creation of this Susquehanna Health Foundation endowment,” Bob says. “And we encourage others to join us whenever they can.”



**If you’re interested in contributing to the Robert and Lanea Ruffaner Endowment, you can make a donation in the enclosed envelope or online at [SusquehannaHealthFoundation.org/Donate](https://SusquehannaHealthFoundation.org/Donate).**



# ENDOWMENT GIFTS

**Endowment Gifts** recognizes individuals and

businesses who supported Susquehanna Health Foundation with a contribution of \$25,000 or greater to establish an endowment. Donors are listed from **January 1, 2019, to present**. All donations, including endowments, continue to remain local and benefit our region. For more information, or to donate, contact Susquehanna Health Foundation at 570-320-7460.

## Benevolent Care

\$250,000–\$499,999 Level

**Karen Steinbacher Endowment**  
Dave Steinbacher

## Cancer

\$100,000–\$249,999 Level

**Joe and Carolyn Hume Endowment**  
Joe and Carolyn Hume Estate

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

**Ausley Construction Co., Inc. Endowment**  
Ausley Construction Co., Inc.

**Dr. William J. and Laura H. Martin Endowment**  
Dr. William J. and Laura H. Martin

**Christopher M. and Denise M. Plankenhorn Endowment**  
Chris and Denise Plankenhorn

## Cardiac

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

**John and Anne Rich Endowment**  
John W. and Anne Rich

## Cardiac Rehabilitation

\$100,000–\$249,999 Level

**Edward and Sherry McCabe Endowment**  
Edward and Sherry McCabe  
*In Memory of Michael McCabe*

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

**Patricia J. Rambo Endowment**  
Patricia J. Rambo

## Clinical Excellence

\$100,000–\$249,999 Level

**George and Shirley Durrwachter Endowment**  
George and Shirley Durrwachter

**Margaret Benner Reese and Charles L. Reese Endowment**  
Mike and Barbara B. Hudock

\$75,000–\$99,999 Level

**Sue Young Endowment**  
Friends of Sue Young

\$50,000–\$74,999 Level

**C&N Endowment**  
C&N

**Sisters of Christian Charity Endowment**

Frank G. Pellegrino  
*In Honor of Sister Judith Blair*  
*In Memory of Sister Mary Stephen Christian*  
*In Honor of Sister Felice Donelin*  
*In Honor of Sister Rosamund Eibach*

**Dr. Hani J. Tuffaha and Family Endowment**

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

**R. Edward and Linda Alberts Endowment**  
R. Edward and Linda Alberts

**Birch and Annmarie Phillips Endowment**  
Annmarie Phillips

**Kenneth and Kathryn A. Smith Endowment**  
Robert P. and Kathleen R. Walker

**Susquehanna Community Bank Endowment**  
Susquehanna Community Bank

**Paul H. and Margaret M. Walker Endowment**  
Robert P. and Kathleen R. Walker

## Colorectal and General Surgery

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

**William P. and Lorraine Manos Endowment**  
William P. and Lorraine A. Manos Foundation

## Emergency Medical Services

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

**Dr. Gregory and Mrs. Marilyn Frailey Endowment**  
Greg and Marilyn Frailey

**Robert and Lanea Ruffaner Endowment**  
Robert E. Ruffaner  
*In Memory of Lanea Ruffaner*

## Kathryn Candor Lundy Breast Health Center

\$100,000–\$249,999 Level

**Edward and Sherry McCabe Endowment**  
Edward and Sherry McCabe  
*In Memory of Michael McCabe*

\$50,000–\$99,999 Level

**John C. Lundy and Family Endowment**  
John C. Lundy and Family

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

**Kuzio Family Endowment**  
Keith and Jennifer Kuzio  
*In Honor of Janice D. Kuzio*

## Laboratory and Pathology

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

**Dr. Donald J. Leathers Endowment**  
Dr. and Mrs. Donald J. Leathers

**Dr. Sheldon M. Schwartz Endowment**  
Dr. and Mrs. Sheldon M. Schwartz

## Radiology

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

**Dr. and Mrs. Chan Yoon Family Endowment**  
Dr. Chan Yoon  
*In Memory of Karen Yoon*

# ENDOWMENT GIFTS

## Scholarships

\$100,000–\$249,999 Level

### Rosalie Kaleda Scholarship Endowment

Rosalie F. Kaleda

## Special Purpose

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

### Dr. Robert and Phyllis Yasui Endowment

Anonymous

## Trauma and Acute Care

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

### William P. and Lorraine Manos Endowment

William P. and Lorraine A. Manos Foundation

## Unrestricted

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

### Charles and Donna Johnson Endowment

Steven and Mary Ann Johnson

### John and Jean McDermott Endowment

Steven and Mary Ann Johnson

## UPMC Muncy and Muncy Place

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

### Daniel C. Berninger Endowment

The Muncy Bank & Trust Company

## UPMC Wellsboro

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

### Bill and Shirley Hebe Endowment

Bill and Shirley Hebe

## Urology

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

### Dr. and Mrs. David Kurz Endowment

Dr. David and Meghan Kurz

## Women's Health Needs

\$25,000–\$49,999 Level

### The Manchester Family Endowment

George Manchester, Brenda Terry-Manchester, Josh and Morgan Rogers, Meredith Manchester, & Alec and Maggie Fantaskey



## Golf Tournament Live Auction Sets Record

This year's Susquehanna Health Foundation Invitational Golf Tournament Live Auction helped grow the newly established Sue Young Endowment to support the recruitment, retention, and education of clinical staff at UPMC in North Central Pa. The Foundation's Board of Directors drove the endowment's creation, along with many of Sue's friends and family, who also supported it.

More than \$29,500 was raised through the live auction thanks to generous bidders and gracious individuals and businesses who donated unique, high-quality items for the auction. Thank you to the following for providing the live auction packages:

- Blair Brothers Goldsmiths
- DiSalvo's–Chef Vince DiSalvo
- EnergyPro Insulation–Jason Watts
- EuroOptic
- The Liberty Group Vacation Rentals
- Frank G. Pellegrino
- Susquehanna Valley Limousine
- John M. Young

*To learn more about the record-setting golf tournament and the impact it will make, please see the full story on page 27.*

# BUSINESS & INDUSTRY GIFTS

## Business & Industry Gifts

recognizes businesses that supported Susquehanna Health Foundation with a contribution of \$5,000 or greater. Donors are listed through **June 30, 2022**.

### \$1,000,000 +

Anonymous  
Ward Manufacturing LLC

### \$250,000–\$999,999

McCormick Law Firm  
***The Muncy Bank & Trust Company***  
Verizon Wireless

### \$100,000–\$249,999

AutoTrakk, LLC  
C&N  
Dominion Foundation  
EuroOptic Ltd.  
Hudock Capital Group, LLC  
iHeartMedia  
Jersey Shore State Bank  
Lamar Advertising of Williamsport  
M&T Bank  
The Park Home, Inc.  
PPL Foundation  
PRIMUS Technologies Corp.  
Reynolds Iron Works, Inc.  
Shell Exploration & Production Company  
Silvertip, Inc.  
Welliver McGuire Inc.  
Wolyniec Construction, Inc.  
*In Memory of James T. Wolyniec Sr.*

### \$50,000–\$99,999

ABS Building Systems Integrators, LLC  
Alexander Building Construction Co.  
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation  
Bayard Printing Group  
Ciocca Toyota of Williamsport  
First Quality, Inc.  
George E. Logue LLC  
Gift Box at Muncy Valley Hospital  
Glenn O. Hawbaker Inc. Charity Golf Outing  
Larson Design Group  
***Pennsylvania College of Technology***  
PPL Electric Utilities

Quandel Construction Group, Inc.  
Ronald McDonald House Charities of NEPA, Inc.  
Susquehanna Community Bank  
Weis Markets, Inc.  
Woodlands Bank

### \$25,000–\$49,999

Anonymous  
ARAMARK Healthcare  
Ausley Construction Co., Inc.  
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP  
BB&T  
Beiter's Home Center  
Construction Specialties, Inc.  
*In Honor of Construction Specialties, Inc. Staff and Families*  
Data Papers/KBF Print Technology  
Fairfield Auto Group  
First Citizens Community Bank  
Forrester Environmental, Inc.  
Fry's Plastic  
Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.  
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Martin Rogers Engineering Consultants  
***Mattel Children's Foundation***  
McCarty-Thomas Funeral Home, Inc.  
*In Memory of Richard G. Thomas*  
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### \$15,000–\$24,999

***AllOne Foundation***  
BDA Healthcare Architects  
Deerfield Charitable Trust  
Evergreen Wealth Solutions  
Gilmour Arts

Lezzer Lumber  
Lundy Industrial Realty, LP  
McDonald's–\*Doug and Frani Doherty  
Muncy Self Storage  
Murray Motors–Brian Peace and Bill Brown  
Norcen Industries Inc.  
Pennram Diversified Mfg. Corp., Andrew and Karen Hooker  
***Pittsburgh Penguins Organization***  
Steinbacher Enterprises, Inc.–Dave and \*Karen Steinbacher  
*In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. James Steinbacher*  
*In Memory of Karen Steinbacher*  
Steinbacher Enterprises, Inc.–Matt and Joslyn Dougherty  
*In Honor of Dave and \*Karen Steinbacher*  
Trojan Tube Sales and Fabrications, Inc.  
*In Memory of Jack Decker*  
Williamsport Moving Company  
Wm. L. Robinson Concrete

### \$5,000–\$14,999

Anonymous  
Aquarius Pool & Patio, Inc.–Gene and Mary Ann Schurer & Pam Keefer  
Axeman-Anderson Company  
Bennardi Barberio Dentistry  
*In Memory of Dr. Rudolph Bennardi*  
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices  
Hodrick Realty  
Billtown Mechanical Corp.  
The Blessing Insurance Agency, Inc.  
Brodart Co.  
Central Equipment Company  
Ruth Croyle and East End Lumber Company  
Elite Feet, Inc.–Bonnie Dodge  
EmCare, Inc.  
Fraternal Order of Eagles–Williamsport Aerie #970  
G.R. Noto Electrical Construction, Inc.  
Herman and Luther's  
Hermance Machine Company  
Houseknecht's Machine & Tool Co., Inc.



## BUSINESS & INDUSTRY GIFTS

J and M Construction Specialty, Inc.  
 Keystone Bingo Supply, Inc.  
 Keystone Data Systems, Inc.  
 L3Harris Electron Devices  
 The Liberty Group  
 M & R Contracting, Inc.  
 Marcellus Shale Coalition  
 MetalKraft Industries, Inc.  
 Mid-State Beverage Co.–Don and Betty Jo Heim  
 Montgomery Plumbing Supply Company  
 Pappy Jack's Winery  
 PATHS, LLC  
 Patterson-Brandt, Inc.

Penn Cabling Services, Inc.  
 Penn Recycling, Inc.  
***Pine Ridge Construction Management***  
 PMG Advisors, LLC  
 R&L Housing Associates, Inc.  
 Schneider Valley Farms Dairy  
*In Honor of Schneider Valley Farms Dairy Employees*  
 SelecTrim Corporation, James Wood and Marcus Annicelli  
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 Sher Properties, Inc.  
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State Farm  
 Steinbacher, Goodall & Yurchak  
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 Sunbury Motors  
 Susquehanna Oral & Facial Surgery and Dental Implant Center  
 Susquehanna Paper & Sanitary Supply Corporation  
 Tory Leather  
 Wayne Township Landfill  
 Wellsboro Electric  
 Wellsboro Rotary Club  
 The Herman O. West Foundation  
***West Pharmaceutical Services***

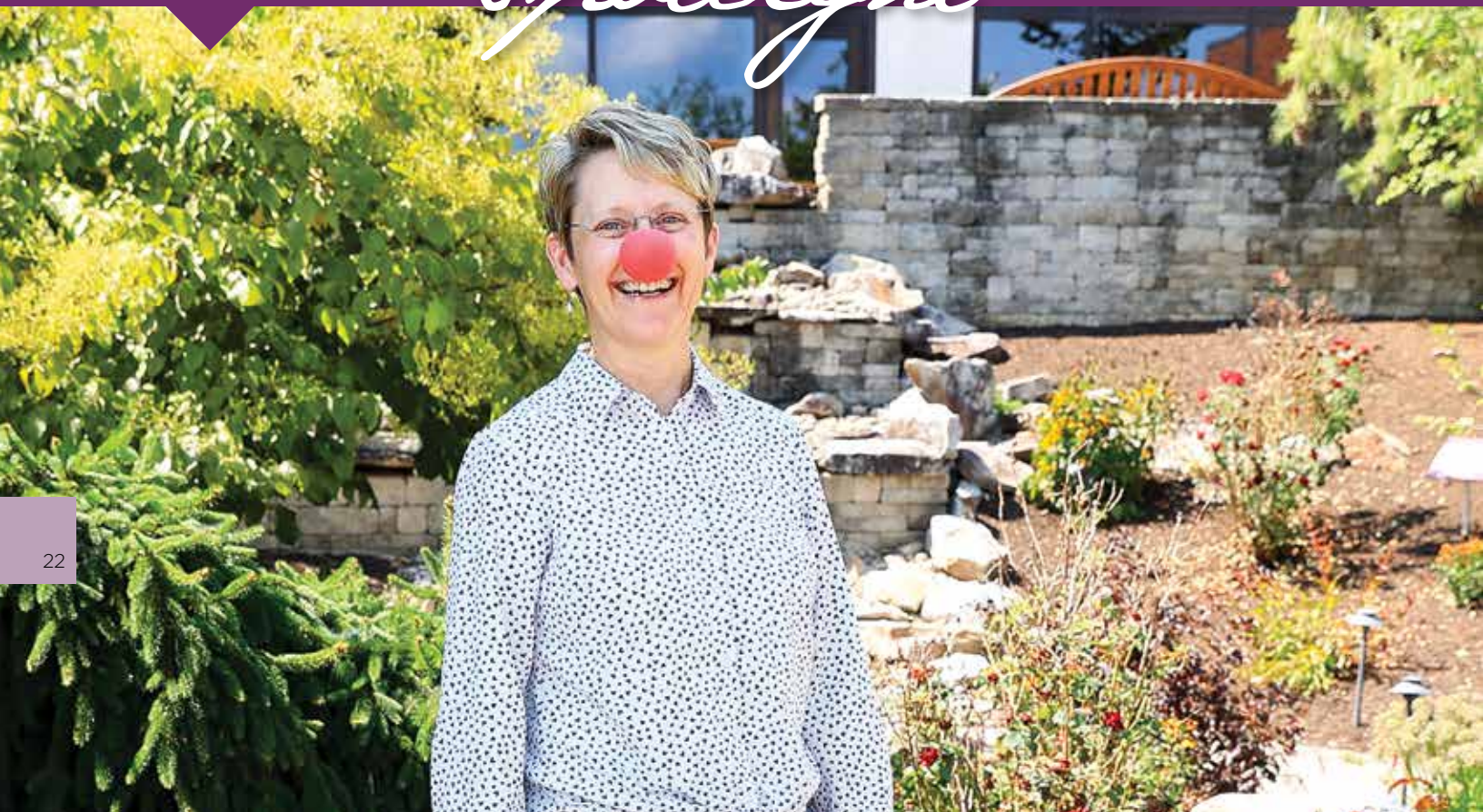


Susquehanna Health Foundation is honored that **The Muncy Bank & Trust Company** chose to create the Daniel C. Berninger Endowment for the benefit of UPMC Muncy and Muncy Place. Dan retired from The Muncy Bank & Trust Company in 2016 after serving 20 years as president and CEO.

Dan was committed to his community and shared his leadership and expertise with the Muncy Hospital as a board member for just shy of 30 years. He guided administration through the merger with Divine Providence Hospital, the creation of Susquehanna Health System,

and the journey to become a Critical Access Hospital. During his tenure, the board also accomplished several milestones including an expansion of Skilled Nursing, new operating rooms, and the expansion and renovation of the emergency department — which required significant planning and property acquisition. He is missed by many in the community and here at the hospital. Thanks to The Muncy Bank & Trust Company, the Daniel C. Berninger Endowment will be a lasting tribute that will keep his name alive for generations to come.





# Doing Good from Nose *to* Toes





If you happen to find yourself rummaging through **Bonnie Dodge's** desk drawer, don't be startled if you come across a clown nose. It turns out the prop is a relic from Bonnie's time at the University of Pittsburgh, where the UPMC in North Central Pa. physical therapist discovered that patient care is about more than helping someone's physical health.

It's about making a connection—both with the patient and the community.

"I spent a lot of time volunteering at different health care facilities in Pittsburgh," Bonnie says. "There was a clown organization when I was at Pitt, and I became one of those clowns. We went around to different events and dressed up to make people laugh. I keep a big red foam nose in my desk drawer wherever I am as a reminder."

Though it took until her time at Pitt to don the clown nose, Bonnie's love for physical therapy began to take shape years earlier. As a high school athlete, she witnessed countless injuries—and suffered quite a few of her own—and marveled at how the teams' physical therapists and training staff could assist her teammates in returning to action quickly and safely.

Watching from afar was one thing, but the Mifflinburg native wanted a closer look and began volunteering at her local hospital when she was just 16 years old.

"I always really enjoyed volunteering," Bonnie adds. "I just felt so much better when I could help people."

After obtaining an undergraduate degree in behavioral neuroscience from Pitt, Bonnie took the next step toward her goal of becoming a physical therapist by earning a master's degree in physical therapy at Beaver College (now Arcadia University) in Glenside, Pa.

Shortly after graduation, Bonnie returned to the area where she grew up and accepted her first physical therapy job at The Williamsport Hospital. Now a veteran physical therapist who recently celebrated her 30th year in hospitals currently falling under the UPMC in North Central Pa. umbrella, Bonnie says she often thinks back about her experiences over the last three decades.

"A lot has changed over the years," she says. "There's been so much research to prove what works and what doesn't, and now we know what's most effective for patients."

Along the way, Bonnie carved out a niche in foot-related physical therapy. Becoming a foot specialist didn't necessarily come as a surprise for Bonnie. For one thing, she was an avid runner, and perhaps more importantly, she recognized early on that the area where she lived lacked stores equipped to fit people for the right shoe.

After years of making the trek to State College for properly fitted running shoes, Bonnie took things into her own hands and opened Elite Feet in Montoursville. For 17 years, she owned and operated the shoe store, providing a valuable resource to locals in desperate need of custom fittings. Though Bonnie recently sold Elite Feet, she still works part-time and is just as committed to helping people in the area select the right shoes for their unique gait.

"It really gave me the opportunity to get out into the community and give back because there are so many who just can't afford good footwear," Bonnie says. "I had a customer tell me one time, 'The two most important things to have in your life are a good mattress and a good pair of shoes. Because if you're not in one, you're in the other.'"

Eventually, Bonnie was able to merge her passions for giving back and athletics through a variety of shoe donations to nonprofits like the YWCA and UPMC Williamsport Emergency Department's Angie's Closet.

In addition, Bonnie has personally donated money to the Susquehanna Health Foundation for nearly 20 years and supported several Foundation-hosted events through Elite Feet. In 2007, she was part of the Foundation's first formal employee giving campaign and followed that up by participating in the second employee-based campaign.

"When you're blessed with more than you need, I think it's our responsibility to give to others," Bonnie says.

"Everybody will go through something and need help at some point. It's important to help. It's important to make things better for people."

Generous donors like Bonnie Dodge fuel the mission of the Susquehanna Health Foundation, and we're so grateful for all that she has done to help people in need. **If you're interested in joining Bonnie in our shared goal of meeting the health care needs of our community, you can make a donation in the enclosed envelope or online at [SusquehannaHealthFoundation.org/Donate](https://SusquehannaHealthFoundation.org/Donate).**



# CADUCEUS SOCIETY

The Caduceus Society recognizes physicians who

made a commitment of \$2,500 or greater to Susquehanna Health Foundation. Donors are listed through **June 30, 2022.**

## \$500,000+

Dr. and Mrs. Francis M. Powers Jr.

## \$250,000–\$499,999

Anesthesia Associates of Williamsport

## \$100,000–\$249,999

**Dr. and Mrs. Rodwan and Zokaa Rajjoub**

Dr. Hani and Eiman Tuffaha

## \$50,000–\$99,999

Jean and John Burks

*In Memory of Joseph R. Calder, MD*

**Dr. and Mrs. George A. Manchester**

## \$25,000–\$49,999

Dr. John and Donna Becker

Dr. and Mrs. E. Lee Bellinger

**Dr. Jill A. Burns**

Dr. Ronald E. DiSimone

Greg and Marilyn Frailey

Dr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Gandy

Dr. Michael C. and Dr. Heather J. Gerst

Dr. Barbara Heere and \*Dr. Bernard Butkiewicz

Dr. David and Meghan Kurz

\*Dr. Ted and Jane Larson Jr.

Dr. and Mrs. Donald J. Leathers

Dr. and Mrs. David J. Lopatofsky

Dr. William C. and Beverly H. McCauley

Dr. and Mrs. Alexander R. Nesbitt

Drs. Timothy and Kathleen Pagana

Dr. and Mrs. Sheldon M. Schwartz

Dr. and Mrs. Donald D. Shaw

\*Dr. and Mrs. Gordon A. Shaw

*In Memory of Joseph R. Calder, MD*

Susquehanna Urologic Associates

Dr. and \*Mrs. Lawrence Tama

**Dr. Chan Yoon**

## \$15,000–\$24,999

Darius Abadi, DO

Dr. and Mrs. Victor P. Becker

Dr. and Mrs. William R. Beltz

Dr. and Mrs. Mark D. Beyer

Christopher and Susan Branton

Michael Desiderio, DO, and Darcie Desiderio, DNP, CRNP

Dr. Perry W. Doan

\*Dr. and Mrs. Albert G. Liddell

Cheryl Marceau and Dr. Michael Marceau

Dr. and Mrs. Anthony M. Nespola

Jim and Peg Redka

Dr. and Mrs. Zachary Ritter

Dr. and Mrs. Warren L. Robinson

Dr. and Mrs. Sandeep and Maria Sagar

Dr. Phyllis Scott

Dr. Mohammad and Mrs. Margaret Shafique

Dr. Donald J. and Susan Sweeney

## \$10,000–\$14,999

Anonymous

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## UPMC Welcomes New CFO to the Region

**Roger Yost**, chief financial officer, UPMC in North Central Pa., is excited by what lies ahead as he joins the regional leadership team.

“I’ve worked in health care for most of my professional career, and these last few years have been challenging to say the least,” Yost says. “Luckily, not only does UPMC have extraordinary staff, but also a strong donor community who are making a difference in the lives of those we serve every day. We’re doing everything we can to help make our organization appealing to attract new staff and retain our current life-changers. Your donations, alongside our robust system strategy, are supporting life-changing care right here in the region.”

Yost has more than 30 years of health care experience. He most recently served as vice president of finance and

vice president of Revenue Cycle for Mount Nittany Health in State College, Pa. Prior to joining Mount Nittany Health, Yost was vice president of Decision Support for Allegheny Health Network in Pittsburgh. Previously, he supported finance and operations at several leading health systems on the West Coast.

Yost received his undergraduate degree in accounting from Susquehanna University. While attending Susquehanna University, he also studied Japanese at Bucknell University and spent his junior year abroad at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan, during which time he had the opportunity to intern for Price Waterhouse Coopers’ Tokyo office. He went on to earn his MBA at Seattle University, Wash., and completed an executive health care leadership program at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.



# Donate to Make a Wish Come True

Susquehanna Health Foundation asked our department leaders to share their wish lists — items that operational funding cannot cover this year. The Foundation is asking the community to provide the necessary funds, or a portion of the funds, to purchase the items below. If you would like to make a gift to purchase one or more wish list items, please enclose your check in the magazine's attached envelope and note which item(s) you wish to fund. You also can make a gift at [SusquehannaHealthFoundation.org/Donate](https://SusquehannaHealthFoundation.org/Donate) and note in the comments section which item(s) you would like to fund.



\$10

## Materials for Grieving Children

### *Heartworks and Any Grieving Child*

Heartworks provides free grief support for children and teens throughout the school year. After a child's loss of a loved one, this support is vital for their emotional health and development. Your gift will purchase one grief activity book or journal that will be given to a child attending the Heartworks' sessions or any child experiencing grief and in need of this resource. Heartworks also partners with local schools to provide guidance counselors with materials to distribute to grieving children of all ages.

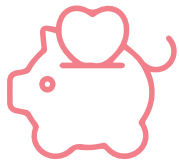


\$28

## Enhancing Memory Care Environment

### *Haven Place*

The space designated for memory care at Haven Place wants to create a more homelike environment for residents. In memory care, residents tend to seek exits, pace near them, and become agitated when they cannot go through them. Exits that are decorated with giant stickers to look like a bookcase, field, building front, or window distract the resident from the exit, brighten up their surroundings, and decrease agitation. You can help by purchasing one or all five stickers needed (\$140).



\$40

## Benevolent Care Fund

### *All Patients*

The Benevolent Care Fund offers emergency, short-term financial assistance to patients of UPMC in North Central Pa. who would otherwise have no source of payment for physician prescribed medications, transportation, infant care necessities, medical equipment, medical supplies, or copays. The goal is to ensure patients do not delay necessary care and can follow through with their treatment plan. Your gift will cover the average cost of helping one patient.



\$300

## Connecting Patients with Families

### *The Gatehouse*

The inpatient hospice unit has helped patients and families for 16 years. Your gift will help purchase new iPads for patients and their families to communicate with loved ones during such an important time.



\$500

## New Therapy Options

### *Inpatient Rehabilitation*

The inpatient rehabilitation therapy team constantly searches for new tools to help their patients. A Cricut machine allows patients to address fine motor skills and cognitive abilities while engaging in positive challenges that produce impressive end results. Your gift would add this new therapy option for our inpatient rehabilitation patients, who on average are in the hospital for 12 days.



# 40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL



## In Full Swing for 40 Years

The 40th Annual Susquehanna Health Foundation Invitational Golf Tournament was held August 8 at the Williamsport Country Club. This year's tournament raised more than \$172,500 to benefit the renovation and expansion of UPMC Rehabilitation Institute at Williamsport and the Sue Young Endowment.

Thank you to all sponsors, players, volunteers, and committee members for making this year's tournament another success. We would like to extend a special thanks to our platinum sponsors: Allison Crane & Rigging, Ausley Construction/The Liberty Group, Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships, Williamsport Medical Staff at UPMC, Ray and Shelly Mattie, UPMC Health Plan, and UPMC.

**Over the past 40 years, the tournament has raised \$2.6 million to bring life-changing medicine to north central Pennsylvania.** The leadership from **Harold "Lefty" Wagner, Larry Allison Sr., and Brent Fish**, along with the many golf committee members, has established a tournament with a legacy of making a significant impact on patient care in many ways.

## UPMC Rehabilitation Institute at Williamsport

A \$21.4-million investment will transform the Rehabilitation Institute. It currently encompasses a single floor, containing 26 multibed patient rooms. Some rooms have as many as four beds, with few having a full bathroom and shower. The demolition and renovation of this space will provide a healing and safe environment with 30 private rooms across two floors, all fitted with private bathrooms. The renovation will also incorporate two new state-of-the-art rehabilitation gyms. The first floor of the project will be completed by December 2022.

Due to the advanced level of expertise our team provides, the Rehabilitation Institute draws patients who live up to three hours away. Annually, our inpatient rehabilitation team cares for more than 600 patients, who can be as young as 13. The average length of stay is 12 days as we address diagnoses of stroke, burn, fractures, brain injury, and multiple traumas.

The Rehabilitation Institute is the only organization in north central Pennsylvania with all three of these certifications:

- **Certified for spinal cord treatment**  
(one of only four facilities in the state)
- **Certified for brain injury treatment**  
(one of just 14 facilities in the state)
- **Certified for stroke rehabilitation**

*See page 19 for more information on the live auction proceeds benefiting the Sue Young Endowment*



# KEYSTONE SOCIETY

The Keystone Society lists those who make a commitment to contribute \$250 or more annually to Susquehanna Health Foundation. Listed below are all Keystone Society members through **June 30, 2022.**

## \$1,000–\$9,999

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 Lori Englert  
**Alec and Maggie Fantaskey**  
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 Robin and David Fink

continued on page 32



# Finding the Good

In a perfect world, there are no losses, death, or destruction. There is only good. However, here in the real world, bad things can happen to anyone.

**Rebecca and Cody Umstead** of Williamsport know that reality all too well. But they also know that bad doesn't have to stay bad forever. As Rebecca says, "You don't have to let it be just something bad. It *can* be something good."

High school sweethearts Rebecca and Cody were preparing to tie the knot in 2018 when they learned some surprising news. The pair was going to become a trio, as Baby Eila Elizabeth was on the way.

All was good with Rebecca's pregnancy — until it wasn't.

"Around Christmas, we were supposed to find out the baby's gender [at the 20-week ultrasound]," Rebecca explains.

"We found out she was a girl, but we also found out that she had some abnormalities."

Baby Eila, Rebecca was told, had a significant amount of fluid built up around her neck and in her lungs. Excess fluid was also pushing her heart to the wrong side of her body. The news left them stunned, saddened, and confused — emotions that only intensified after later hearing the baby had a genetic disorder called Turner syndrome, also known as monosomy X.

If you're familiar with genetics, you might remember that the X and Y chromosomes determine a baby's sex. Males have one X and one Y chromosome. Females have two X chromosomes.

But babies with Turner syndrome are missing part or all of one of their X chromosomes. The disease only affects girls (about 1 in 2,000 babies born female have Turner syndrome), it is not preventable, and there is no known cause. (NOTE: Source for stats: [www.healthline.com/health/turner-syndrome](http://www.healthline.com/health/turner-syndrome))

Though doctors were confident in the diagnosis, the only way to confirm it was through amniocentesis testing, which the Umsteads declined because of the related risks. They sought a second opinion but received the same news.

## The bad gets worse

The Umsteads were given their options, which included proceeding with the pregnancy despite the grim prognosis or terminating their unborn child. The devout couple opted for Rebecca to continue carrying the baby, relying on their faith to get them through.

“There really wasn’t anything anybody could do,” Rebecca says. “It was just a wait-and-see situation. We were told we had a less than 1% chance of her making it to term.”

The plan was for Rebecca’s doctor to observe her during weekly check-ups to ensure her own health wasn’t at risk. But at the first of those appointments, the mom-to-be’s blood pressure spiked, and the baby’s heart rate became faint.

After being rushed to the labor and delivery department, Rebecca and Cody were informed that the baby’s heart had stopped beating. Eila had passed away.

## Saying hello. Saying good-bye.

After labor was induced, the Umsteads were given the opportunity to spend time with Eila thanks to an innovative device called a CuddleCot. The system uses a cooling pad to regulate the body’s temperature and prevent deterioration, thus enabling the families of stillbirth babies to hold their loved ones and properly say good-bye.

Life *after* Eila seemed unimaginable because life *with* Eila never got to happen. The Umsteads leaned on their friends, family, and church community for support — but they also committed to making a difference in Eila’s memory. The bad was so very bad, but maybe some good could come out of her short life?

“Both of us really wanted to make something of her life and have a way to remember her,” Rebecca says. “My husband very much wanted to find a way to donate and give back to honor her.”

## Returning to UPMC

An avid player of cornhole — the popular lawn game involving the tossing of fabric bean bags — Cody found inspiration in one of his favorite pastimes. He teamed up with his cousin, who was in the throes of her own grief after losing a child to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), to host a series of cornhole tournaments that would raise money for families in a similar situation.

Wanting to take their fundraising to the next level, the Umsteads created **The Eila Elizabeth Umstead Foundation** and contacted Susquehanna Health Foundation.

“We wanted to start with UPMC Williamsport because that’s where we went for ob-gyn and who delivered Eila,” Rebecca says. “Our delivery experience was amazing, given the circumstances. Our nurses were amazing.”

Though the Umsteads originally wanted to purchase another CuddleCot for the hospital, they were introduced to the Butterfly Qi+ Pro by a member of The Birthplace at UPMC, the state-of-the-art maternity services center at UPMC Williamsport.

The device is a portable ultrasound with diverse capabilities that include checking fetal heart rate, position, fluid levels, and more during labor and delivery. It also provides efficient labor triage and fast responses to peripartum emergencies.

After partnering with the American Cornhole League on their biggest tournament yet, the Eila Elizabeth Umstead Foundation raised enough money to buy two Butterfly Qi+ Pros.

“We want to keep giving,” Rebecca adds. “Our main focus is The Birthplace and in pediatrics because that’s where our hearts are. We know the pain of losing a child, and that’s where we want to help.”

## Gone but never forgotten

It’s been about three years since Rebecca and Cody lost Eila. The pain never goes away, but the smiles on the faces of Rogan and Beau — the two healthy boys Rebecca gave birth to after Eila — certainly help. So does the good put out into the world by the foundation established in Eila’s memory.

Rebecca says they hope to expand their giving in the coming years and are brainstorming what’s next.

“All this really stems from us wanting to honor Eila,” she says. “Cody is really the main force — he has such a passion for this, but that’s just the kind of person he’s always been. He’s always looking out for everybody else and wanting to give and make sure everybody is taken care of.”

**To honor or remember a loved one, we encourage you to make a donation in the enclosed envelope or online at [SusquehannaHealthFoundation.org/Donate](https://SusquehannaHealthFoundation.org/Donate).**

# KEYSTONE SOCIETY

continued from page 29

## **\$500–\$999** *continued*

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YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK:

# Training the “Hidden Profession”

**Unique program at UPMC Williamsport helps to fill the shortage of medical laboratory scientists thanks to endowments that offset costs for students.**

If a doctor is the quarterback of a patient care team, the hospital's laboratory is akin to the offensive line — the unsung hero that keeps things moving in the right direction.

Neither the line nor the lab is usually one to get splashy headlines, but both are essential parts of their team. Where the line and lab differ, however, is in the number of players. While college football powerhouses are steadily pumping out blue-chip linemen ready for the professional ranks, the lab landscape isn't quite as fruitful.

“We have a nationwide shortage of medical laboratory professionals,” says **Amanda Mills**, a medical laboratory scientist (MLS) and the program director for the Medical Laboratory Science Program at UPMC Williamsport. “A big

reason is we are in a mass retirement phase. A lot of those who started in the profession are now at the retirement age.”

The program Amanda helms is one of just 13 like it in the state. Officially, the program at UPMC Williamsport provides hands-on training and instruction in the operation of state-of-the-art laboratory instruments and in the performance of relevant manual procedures. The 12-month educational program is designed to be completed as the fourth or fifth year in a baccalaureate degree program, preparing future MLS candidates to sit for the examination in clinical laboratory science.

Unofficially, it sheds some much-needed light on what Amanda calls a “hidden profession.”





“Not a lot of people know we exist,” she says. “Everybody has had lab work done, but they don’t know what happens after their specimens are collected.”

Lab services at UPMC in North Central Pa. generally comprise two parts. There’s the clinical component or the drawing of a patient’s blood or collection of another specimen. Then there’s the instrumentation and methodologies that help inform providers about disease diagnosis. Studies show that some 70% of medical decisions are based on laboratory results. Together, those two specialties work in conjunction to ensure quality specimens are obtained and accurate analysis is conducted.

To provide some context into the type of volume UPMC in North Central Pa. labs are experiencing, UPMC Williamsport alone recently completed about two million billable tests in one calendar year. Like other departments within the hospital, the emergence of COVID-19 meant heightened numbers for the lab — and a need for its staff to remain agile and resilient.

“COVID-19 showed just how critical the lab is,” says **LeAnn Hess**, MLS, and regional director of Laboratory Services for UPMC in North Central Pa. “[Our team] knew change was coming at them hard, and they showed up every day, rolled with the punches, and did what they needed to do to just keep moving forward.”

That commitment to the cause didn’t surprise Amanda, who interacts with members of the Medical Laboratory Science Program at UPMC Williamsport daily — and is an alum of the program herself. Amanda says the ideal candidate for the MLS program is someone who wants to help others without taking on a patient-facing role and enjoys working on their own but also as part of a team when the need arises.

“We are very much troubleshooters,” she says.

One of the state’s most established MLS programs, UPMC Williamsport’s program accepts four students each year, with two beginning in January and two in July. Admission into the program requires a bachelor’s degree in a biological science (or a commitment to obtaining one) and exemplary college coursework. Students who attend one of 11 colleges and universities affiliated with the program can complete the program on the UPMC Williamsport campus during their senior year of study.





The program's structure includes about 90 minutes of classroom instruction each day, followed by a clinical rotation in blood bank, microbiology, chemistry, and hematology focuses.

"From the moment the students start, they are working with actual patient clinical samples," Amanda says. "[Students] are working with a clinical instructor who is producing actual patient results. It's very immersive."

Because of the program's prestige and the immediate need for new scientists in the field, new graduates essentially have their pick of jobs across the country, LeAnn adds.

A Laboratory and Pathology Endowment was recently created to help students offset the cost of completing the program. Additionally, two retired physicians — **Dr. Donald J. Leathers** and **Dr. Sheldon M. Schwartz** — also recently created endowments in their names to generate scholarships for students.

For people like Amanda and LeAnn, professionals who are passionate about what they do and thrive on the unknown, lab work satisfies both their emotional and intellectual needs.

"The beauty of medicine and science is that so much is always evolving. We constantly have the opportunity to ask, 'What do we do? What don't we do? And what does our population really need?'" LeAnn says.

**If you're interested in providing scholarships for future students of the Medical Laboratory Science Program, you can make a donation in the enclosed envelope or online at [SusquehannaHealthFoundation.org/Donate](https://SusquehannaHealthFoundation.org/Donate).**





## Young Philanthropists

The youth of our community continue to showcase their personal passions as they choose how they will make a positive impact. This year, the Foundation was honored to meet several area members of the Class of 2022 who supported patients at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport with their senior-year service projects.

**Maria Paternostro** and **Xander Brown**, from Muncy Junior-Senior High School, partnered with Paternostro Cancer Foundation to provide 25 Harnessing Hope Bags to the Cancer Center. They coordinated donation drives and packaged bags of personal care and comfort items, each with a card of encouragement to support patients during their cancer journey.



**Jenna Gallew**, a student of St. John Neumann Regional Academy, reached out to her community and classmates to gather comfort items including ginger candy, lip balm, peppermint tea, and slipper socks. With these items, she created 20 large care packages to be distributed to patients beginning chemotherapy.

We are grateful and impressed by these students' hearts for others. **Thank you!**

# LEGACY SOCIETY

The Legacy Society recognizes those who made a planned or estate gift to Susquehanna Health Foundation. The “past” designation distinguishes our members who have passed away but whose estate or planned gifts to the Foundation reflect the lasting legacy they left to help others.

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# LEGACY SOCIETY

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## Charitable Gift Annuities

### Learn more about the gift that pays you back.

A charitable gift annuity is a flexible way to make a gift to Susquehanna Health Foundation while providing you and/or your family with fixed income for life. The gift annuity is an agreement between you and the Foundation that can be funded with cash or marketable securities.

There are two types of gift annuities, immediate and deferred. Both types provide you with the following benefits:

- A quarterly income payment that is fixed and not affected by market fluctuation.
- An income tax deduction in the year you establish the annuity for the gift portion.
- A portion of your annuity income that is free of federal income tax.
- The ability to eliminate capital gains tax when you donate long-term appreciated assets.

The deferred annuity allows you to select when you begin receiving payments. You still receive the charitable tax deduction in the year that you establish the annuity. Since you defer the payment until a future date, the deferred annuity can have a higher payout rate than an immediate annuity.

The most important benefit you receive from establishing a charitable gift annuity is the impact you will have by helping UPMC in North Central Pa. continue to provide life-changing care for years to come.

**Contact the Foundation Office at  
570-320-7460 to make your impact today.**



# new doctors

By bringing the best physicians and advanced medical treatments to our region, UPMC in North Central Pa. delivers on its promise to provide high-quality, patient-centered care.



## **Jeffrey Carter, M.D.**

### ***UPMC Trauma Services***

UPMC welcomes Jeffrey Carter, M.D., trauma surgeon, to Williamsport. Dr. Carter received his medical degree and completed his general surgery residency at University of Buffalo School of Medicine in Buffalo, N.Y. He completed fellowship training in surgical critical care at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C., and is board-certified by the American Board of General Surgery. Most recently, Dr. Carter served as an acute care surgeon at Winchester Medical Center in Winchester, Va. Dr. Carter sees patients as part of the team of surgeons with Trauma Services at UPMC Williamsport.

## **Benjamin Chang, M.D.**

### ***Vascular Surgery, UPMC Heart & Vascular Institute | 570-321-2805***

UPMC welcomes Benjamin Chang, M.D., F.A.C.S., to the Heart and Vascular Institute team in Williamsport. Coming to UPMC with more than 35 years of clinical and instructional experience, Dr. Chang most recently served as an attending surgeon and assistant professor at Albany Medical Center Hospital and Albany Medical College in Albany, N.Y. He received his doctoral degree in physiology from University of California, Los Angeles, and his medical degree from Albany Medical College. He completed his residency in general surgery and his fellowship training in vascular surgery at Albany Medical College.

Dr. Chang is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and is board-certified in general surgery and general vascular surgery from the American Board of Surgery. Dr.

Chang sees patients at 740 High Street, Suite 3001, Williamsport.



## **Amy Curry, D.O.**

### ***Colorectal Surgery, UPMC Surgical Services | 570-321-3160***

UPMC welcomes Amy Curry, D.O., F.A.C.S., to the colon and rectal surgery team in Williamsport. Dr. Curry received her medical degree and completed her residency in general surgery at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia. She received fellowship training in minimally invasive colon and rectal surgery at The Colon and Rectal Clinic of Orlando in Orlando, Fla. Dr. Curry most recently served as a general and colorectal surgeon at Baycare Medical Group in Bartow, Fla. She specializes in laparoscopic and robotic surgery of the colon, bowel, and appendix, and diseases of the anus and rectum. She joins a team of general surgeons and gastroenterologists focused on providing colorectal care to north central Pennsylvania. Dr. Curry see patients at 740 High Street, Suite 1003, Williamsport.

**Karima Fitzgerald, M.D.**  
**UPMC Trauma Services**

UPMC welcomes Karima Fitzgerald, M.D., trauma surgeon, to Williamsport. Dr. Fitzgerald received her medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Ind. She completed her residency at Pinnacle Health in Harrisburg, and her fellowship at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Dr. Fitzgerald is board-certified by the American Board of General Surgery and Surgical Critical Care. She sees patients as part of the team of surgeons with Trauma Services at UPMC Williamsport.



**Timothy Horsky, D.O.**  
**General Surgery, UPMC Surgical Services | 570-723-0716**

UPMC welcomes Timothy Horsky, D.O., to the General Surgery team at UPMC in North Central Pa. Dr. Horsky received his medical degree and completed his residency training in general surgery at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia. He was fellowship trained at Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Browns Mills, N.J., and is board-certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery. Dr. Horsky has more than 30 years of experience in general surgery, and he sees patients at 1 Main Street, Wellsboro.



**Christine James, D.O.**  
**Psychiatry, UPMC Behavioral Health | 570-320-7525**

UPMC welcomes Christine James, D.O., to Williamsport. Dr. James received her medical degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia. She completed her residency in psychiatry at Maine Medical Center in Portland, and a year of training in child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of California San Diego in La Jolla. Most recently, Dr. James practiced as a telepsychiatrist. She sees patients at 1100 Grampian Boulevard, Williamsport.



**Joshua Kesterson, M.D.**  
**Gynecologic Oncology, UPMC Magee-Womens | 570-321-3300**

UPMC welcomes Joshua Kesterson, M.D., to Williamsport. Dr. Kesterson received his medical degree from the University of Missouri in Columbia. He completed his residency in obstetrics, gynecology, and women's health at the University of Louisville in Kentucky, and a fellowship in gynecologic oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y. He is board-certified in obstetrics and gynecology and gynecologic oncology by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He serves as gynecologic oncologist and medical director of the gynecologic oncology program at UPMC Magee-Womens in Central Pa. Dr. Kesterson sees patients at 740 High Street, Suite 1004, Williamsport.



### Whoon Jong Kil, M.D.

**Radiation Oncology, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center / 570-326-8203**

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center welcomes Whoon Jong Kil, M.D., radiation oncologist, to Williamsport. Coming to UPMC with 20 years of experience, Dr. Kil most recently served as a radiation oncologist at WellSpan Health in Chambersburg, Pa. He received his medical degree from Soonchunhyang University College of Medicine in South Korea and completed his residency in radiation oncology at Ajou University Hospital in South Korea.

Dr. Kil is certified by the American Board of Radiology, the Korean Board of Radiation Oncology, and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates. He sees patients at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, 1100 Grampian Boulevard, Williamsport.



### John Kunkel, D.O.

**UPMC Orthopaedic Care / 570-321-2020**

UPMC welcomes John Kunkel, D.O., to the UPMC Orthopaedic Care team in Williamsport. Dr. Kunkel received his medical degree and residency training from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia, and he completed his fellowship training in orthopaedic surgery and sports medicine at Houston Methodist Orthopedic Surgery & Sports Medicine in Houston, Texas. Dr. Kunkel sees patients at UPMC Orthopaedic Care, 1201 Grampian Boulevard, Suite 2F, Williamsport.

### Jennifer Marshalek, D.O.

**OB-GYN, UPMC Magee-Womens / 570-321-3300**

UPMC welcomes Jennifer Marshalek, D.O., F.A.C.O.O.G., to Williamsport. Dr. Marshalek, born and raised in Montoursville, received her medical degree from A.T. Still University in Kirksville, Mo., and completed an obstetric and gynecological surgery residency and internship at Metro Health Hospital in Wyoming, Mi. Most recently, Dr. Marshalek practiced at Tanner Health System in Carrollton, Ga. She joins the team of dedicated physicians, certified nurse midwives, nurses, and support staff at UPMC Magee-Womens, 740 High Street, Suite 1004, Williamsport.



### Sarah McLaughlin, D.O.

**Psychiatry, UPMC Behavioral Health / 570-320-7525**

UPMC welcomes Sarah McLaughlin, D.O., to Williamsport. Dr. McLaughlin received her medical degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia. She completed her residency in psychiatry at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville. Most recently, Dr. McLaughlin served as an associate psychiatrist at Geisinger Gray's Woods and Scenery Park in State College, and as an assistant professor of psychiatry at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine in Scranton. She sees patients at UPMC Behavioral Health, 1100 Grampian Boulevard, Williamsport.



### Lisa Mondell, Psy.D.

**Rehabilitation Psychology, UPMC Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation / 570-321-2600**

UPMC welcomes Lisa Mondell, Psy.D., to Williamsport. Dr. Mondell received her Doctor of Clinical Psychology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, and her master's in applied clinical psychology from Penn State Harrisburg in Middletown. Dr. Mondell sees patients at UPMC Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, 700 High Street, Williamsport.



### Peter Trevouledes, M.D.

**General Surgery, UPMC Surgical Services / 570-546-3633**

UPMC welcomes Peter Trevouledes, M.D., F.A.C.S., to the General Surgery team at UPMC in North Central Pa. Dr. Trevouledes is a board-certified general surgeon with the American Board of Surgery and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He received his medical degree from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia and completed his residency training in general surgery at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York, N.Y. Dr. Trevouledes has served eastern Lycoming County for more than 20 years and specializes in abdominal surgeries including gallbladder and gastrointestinal cancer, appendectomies, and hernias and minor surgical procedures and screenings including endoscopies and colonoscopies. He sees patients at UPMC Muncy, 10 Shady Lane, Suite 202, Muncy.



### Keying Yan, O.D.

**UPMC Ophthalmology / 570-320-7850**

UPMC welcomes Keying Yan, O.D., M.S., to Williamsport. Dr. Yan received her doctorate degree in optometry and master's degree of vision science from SUNY College of Optometry in New York, N.Y. She completed her residency in ocular disease and primary care optometry at BronxCare Health System in Bronx, N.Y. Dr. Yan sees patients at 1705 Warren Avenue, Suite 303, Williamsport.



### Chin-Chin Yeh, M.D.

**Vascular Surgery, UPMC Heart & Vascular Institute / 570-321-2805**

UPMC welcomes Chin-Chin Yeh, M.D., to the Heart and Vascular Institute team in Williamsport. Dr. Yeh received her medical degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, N.Y. She completed her residency in general surgery at Rhode Island Hospital in Providence, and fellowship training in vascular surgery at Albany Medical College in Albany, N.Y. With more than 15 years of clinical and instructional experience, Dr. Yeh most recently served as an attending surgeon and assistant professor at Albany Medical Center Hospital and Albany Medical College. Dr. Yeh sees patients at 740 High Street, Suite 3001, Williamsport.



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