

foundation focus

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UPMC **LIFE
CHANGING
MEDICINE**

SUSQUEHANNA
HEALTH FOUNDATION



LETTER FROM SHERRY WATTS

Susquehanna Health Foundation is deeply grateful for the compassion and generosity of our donors, who are instrumental in enhancing the health and well-being of our community. By partnering with caring individuals and organizations, we are able to drive meaningful advancements in health care across UPMC in North Central Pa. Their support empowers us to provide life-changing care close to home, ensuring that every donation makes a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

In 2024, many incredible things happened because of the support of our donors. Some highlights include:

- **A fully funded mobile health center:** This 37-foot mobile unit enables UPMC staff to reach northern-tier residents and others who live a long distance from health care facilities. It is a clinic on wheels bringing high-quality health care directly to rural communities, helping ensure that individuals facing transportation barriers or other social determinants of health receive the care they need.
- **Mobile EEGs for outpatient brain-wave testing:** Electroencephalographs (EEGs) are noninvasive brain-wave recording devices used by our neurology department to monitor and measure a variety of conditions, including epilepsy, brain tumors, and sleep disorders. The new mobile EEGs allow patients to be recorded from the comfort of their homes.
- **A LiteGait system for our pediatric rehabilitation department:** This harness device safely helps patients stand up and walk with support while doing their rehabilitation therapies.

Susquehanna Health Foundation

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- **Sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) training and tools:** Emergency department SANE-trained nurses are certified to conduct sensitive victim exams, and funding helps them with training, education, and other support.
- **Fluid warmers for emergency medicine services:** These are portable warmers used in ambulances to warm blood and other fluids before they are administered to patients to limit the stress on the body.
- **Renovations to The Gatehouse:** Our incredible short-term inpatient hospice unit received renovations.
- **Cooling caps for cancer patients:** These 100% donor-funded cooling caps, which help reduce hair loss during chemotherapy, were gifted to more than 160 local patients since 2021.
- **Renovations and expansion of the UPMC Rehabilitation Institute in Williamsport:** Donors gave significantly to convert to single-occupancy patient rooms, renovate two patient floors and two new therapy gyms, add safety features for both patients and staff, and create a specialized treatment space for traumatic brain injuries.
- **Expanded reach of the Clinical Excellence Endowment:** This fund supports the recruitment, retention, and educational efforts for our clinical staff. The endowment provided financial support for certification courses and advanced degrees, as well as simulation-based training — all to improve patient outcomes and support our clinical teams.

How do you follow up a great year like 2024?

The Foundation knows that for continued success we must keep looking forward. Our donors rely on us to highlight future needs so that their generosity can have the greatest impact. I'd like to share a few of the funding priorities and ways you can help.

- **A linear accelerator for the radiation oncology department at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport:** This device provides highly precise delivery of radiation to a tumor while sparing healthy tissue around it, which can minimize side effects and result in faster treatment times. Because about 50% of cancer patients will need radiation during treatment, a new linear accelerator will be a game-changer for our patients. **Goal: \$1 million to offset the \$6.5-million total cost.**
- **A critical care simulation mannequin:** Commonly referred to as a SimMan, this training tool will help our regional critical care, trauma, and emergency care teams learn essential skills. **Goal: \$180,000 to cover the full cost.**
- **Growing the Clinical Excellence Endowment:** Our health care system relies on a strong, well-trained clinical workforce. This endowment focuses on that. Requests for assistance are double what is currently available in spendable funds. **Goal: Increase the endowment to meet clinical requests.**

It is hard to express in words how grateful the Foundation team and I are to you and all the donors who make the health care experiences of our patients, families, and the staff at UPMC in North Central Pa. so much better. The commitment and compassion you have shown to our community is truly remarkable. Thank you.

Best of health,

Sherry Watts

President of Susquehanna Health Foundation

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A YEAR OF RECOVERY AND SUCCESS





UPMC Williamsport's Renovated Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit

In April 2024, UPMC unveiled its newly renovated and expanded UPMC Rehabilitation Institute, matching the state-of-the-art, comprehensive rehabilitation care already provided there. Now, as the one-year anniversary of the renovation approaches, UPMC celebrates the impact this modernized facility has had on patients, families, and the community.

A Transformative Renovation

The Rehabilitation Institute's expansion reflects UPMC's commitment to exceptional, patient-centered care. The project introduced 30 private rooms with in-room bathrooms for enhanced comfort, along with two modern therapy gyms outfitted with advanced rehabilitation equipment. Specialized treatment areas, including private spaces for speech therapy and psychology services, ensure individualized, targeted care.

Unique additions — such as a sensory room for neurologic patients and a dedicated conference space for staff collaboration — further elevate the patient experience. The facility also prioritizes safety and innovation, with features such as a unit-wide elopement prevention system and a cutting-edge robotic overhead gait-training system to aid mobility recovery.

The renovation also paved the way for the **Disorders of Consciousness (DoC) program**, one of only three in Pennsylvania, dedicated to treating patients with severe traumatic brain injuries (TBI) who are minimally conscious. This highly specialized program is rare in inpatient rehabilitation settings, as most facilities do not accept brain injury patients at this stage.

"Our goal is to provide cutting-edge care right here in Williamsport," says **Tom Hoy**, administrative director, UPMC Neurosciences and Rehabilitation in North Central Pa. "Now, we have the state-of-the-art space to match the exceptional patient care we have always offered."



A Journey of Healing

Among the many success stories from the past year is **Nathan Beitz**, 44, a well-known local wood stain artist whose recovery journey showcases the Rehabilitation Institute's personalized and holistic approach.

Nathan's road to recovery began with a life-threatening motorcycle accident that left him with severe injuries, including a traumatic brain injury. He suffered a brain bleed, widespread brain damage, multiple fractures — including his ribs, pelvis, arm, and leg — and a torn diaphragm.

Emergency responders rushed Nathan to UPMC Williamsport, where the trauma team immediately worked to stabilize him. In the trauma bay, doctors inserted a chest tube to manage his breathing and controlled internal bleeding. He then underwent multiple surgeries, including orthopaedic procedures to repair his shoulder, pelvis, and femur, as well as abdominal surgery to repair his diaphragm.

Nathan's condition was extremely critical, requiring intensive care from specialists in trauma, orthopaedic trauma, neurosurgery, nephrology, anesthesia, and even pastoral care. He remained in the ICU, where he was closely monitored until he was stable enough to transition to rehabilitation.

Throughout his entire journey, Nathan's family was by his side, supporting him from the ICU to inpatient rehabilitation. Their involvement played a crucial role in his recovery, providing him with the encouragement and strength needed to progress.

Nathan transitioned to UPMC Williamsport's Disorders of Consciousness (DoC) program, one of only three in Pennsylvania, dedicated to treating patients with severe traumatic brain injuries (TBI) who are minimally conscious. His therapy was tailored to his passion for painting. Early sessions required multiple team members to support him as he held a brush. By the end of the program, he recreated a sunflower painting, symbolizing his remarkable progress.

"Nate's art is a gift and so is he. He loves hard and fought just as hard to be here," says **Amanda Darrin**, Nathan's girlfriend. "He is truly a miracle. I am beyond grateful for the amazing UPMC staff who helped us through this miraculous recovery."

Nathan's rehabilitation care team was comprised of nurses, physical and occupational therapists, a rehabilitation physician, speech-language pathologists, psychologists, and more. They all worked holistically to prepare him for life beyond the hospital. His rehab included home visits,

Before



After



community outings, and frequent family involvement, ensuring a seamless transition back to everyday life.

Following a successful discharge, his recent visit back to the units that saved his life, filled with hugs and well wishes from staff, underscores the extraordinary impact of specialized, compassionate rehabilitation.

The Power of Comprehensive Rehabilitation

Nathan's story is just one of many from the past year. The UPMC Rehabilitation has served more than 400 patients, with an average stay of 14 days. Patients aged 13 and older receive specialized care for conditions including stroke, spinal cord injuries, burns, and trauma. The institute is Gold Seal of Approval® certified by the Joint Commission, recognizing excellence in stroke, brain injury, and spinal cord injury rehabilitation.

The DoC program, in particular, has seen incredible success. Over the past 12 months, five patients with severe TBIs were admitted — all were discharged home.

"This 100% home discharge rate is significant, as most individuals with severe TBIs end up in long-term care facilities," says **Melissa Michaluk, D.O.**, medical director, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, UPMC Williamsport.


Patients receive three hours of daily therapy, along with specialized nursing care, all aimed at emerging patients from a minimally conscious state to wakefulness. Family members are also intensely involved with the goal of a home discharge.

"This facility represents UPMC's investment in the health and future of our region," says **Patti Jackson-Gehris**, president, UPMC in North Central Pa. "Our advanced capabilities, combined with the compassion of our expert team, are transforming lives every day."

Looking Ahead

As the UPMC Rehabilitation Institute at Williamsport marks one year since its renovation, its commitment to innovation and superior patient care continues to grow. Community support played a pivotal role in making this vision a reality, with \$3.5 million raised by Susquehanna Health Foundation.

With a state-of-the-art facility, groundbreaking programs like DoC, and a dedicated team of specialists, UPMC Williamsport remains a leader in rehabilitation — giving patients and families the support they need, close to home, to heal, recover, and return home.

A photograph of an elderly couple, Peter and Joyce Lynn, smiling and standing outdoors. Peter is on the right, wearing a light pink button-down shirt and sunglasses. Joyce is on the left, wearing a blue and white patterned sleeveless top. They are standing in front of a large green tree and a body of water.

A Legacy of Steadfast Support and Generosity for Cancer Patients

Peter and Joyce Lynn's Benevolent Cancer Care Fund provides financial assistance to cancer patients so that costs will not burden families or hinder treatment.

Peter and Joyce Lynn were enjoying their retirement years in 2021 when Joyce was diagnosed with the return of her cancer. Being snowbirds, they needed to find doctors in both Florida and Pennsylvania. When they returned to the area, Joyce began treatment with oncologist **Abdalla Sholi, M.D.** His outstanding medical care and expertise went hand-in-hand with his kind spirit, and Joyce and Peter both quickly grew very fond of him.

Dr. Sholi has been with UPMC North Central Pa. for just over six years. He is currently the regional medical director

for medical oncology at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport. He finds great satisfaction in providing personalized cancer treatment to the people in this rural community, where robust health care is truly needed. "We came up with a treatment plan that fit Joyce's illness, and Peter was a big part of her care and support system," says Dr. Sholi. "I got to know the Lynns well, and I cannot think of a more kind-hearted, endearing couple."

"The care at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center is excellent. I can't say enough good things about everyone who works

there, from the doctors right down to the volunteers who greet you with a smile. Everyone is caring and attentive to your needs,” says Joyce. She and Peter wanted to help as many people as possible have access to the quality care that she experienced. It saddened them to know that people in their own community would have to choose a less effective course of treatment, decline important medications, or postpone treatment due to financial hardships. They wanted to do something about it.

The Lynns were inspired by Dr. Sholi and the Hillman team to make a gift to the cancer center. They established the Benevolent Cancer Care Fund to help patients financially as they undergo treatment. The fund started helping patients in January 2025 and is dedicated to helping those in financial need get their medical treatment without delay. The Benevolent Cancer Care Fund put their compassion into action.

“My late husband and I have always tried to be attentive to those less fortunate than us,” says Joyce. “Giving back to the community has been very important.” Peter was a lifelong philanthropist and Lycoming College chair emeritus of the board of trustees. The couple has roots in the Williamsport area and care deeply for the people who live there. While Joyce and Peter felt blessed that they could afford access to medical care, they were dismayed to learn how many patients in the community could not.

Tragically, just a few months after deciding to give their generous donation to create the Benevolent Cancer Care Fund, Peter was diagnosed with cancer himself. In June 2023, he passed away from his illness. His generous legacy carries on through the financial support now available through the fund to the cancer center’s most economically challenged patients.

Words of Advice from a Fellow Cancer Journeyer

Living with cancer as both a patient and caregiver, Joyce is aware of the daunting journey cancer patients face. She does not want anyone to give up hope. “My advice would be to speak with your oncologist to learn about the means available for financial aid and support groups for families experiencing stress and strain. Your oncologist is there for you as a doctor and an advocate. Don’t be afraid to ask for the help you need.”

The mother of two, grandmother of five, and newly minted great-grandmother of one also reminds families dealing with cancer to live and love fully each and every day. “The journey can be long sometimes, as in my case. You just have to live each day to the fullest and do the best you can,” says Joyce. “I always try to keep a positive attitude and a smile on my face.”



Your Doctor, Your Advocate

“Joyce is exactly right when she tells cancer patients not to be afraid to ask their medical team for help,” says Dr. Sholi. “And not just medical help. As an oncologist, I know about a lot of resources that a newly diagnosed cancer patient might not. If I can connect my patients to the help they need, I want to do that.”

A cancer diagnosis is stressful and scary enough without potential financial, logistical, or other challenges that can spring up as a result of the illness. “Don’t think it is an inconvenience to your oncologist to hear about your struggles,” says Dr. Sholi. “Quite the contrary. A patient’s doctor knows this information is important to creating a treatment program that is the right fit. Speak up to help us help you better.”

Dr. Sholi says that your oncology team can help connect you with:

- Charitable support funds you might qualify for
- Social workers and hospital staff specializing in patient navigation support
- Support groups and specialized cancer organizations
- Mental health providers
- Food programs and food banks
- Transportation services available for cancer patients

THE DONOR REPORT

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

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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 **December 31, 2024.**

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GROWING HOPE: Healing Garden in Wellsboro



Each year, the *Friends of UPMC Wellsboro* dedicate their fundraising campaign to support a pressing health care need facing the community. For decades, donations have purchased vital medical equipment. This year, the campaign took a heartfelt turn, raising funds to create a peaceful healing garden outside the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Wellsboro.

The 2024 *Friends of UPMC Wellsboro* Annual Campaign raised \$35,395, including C&N's \$4,500 in matching funds, to support the creation of this healing garden. In 2025, a tranquil space full of natural beauty will be created where patients can find solace and strength amidst the challenges they face.

Together, we can brighten the often dark and difficult journey of cancer with the light of nature's beauty. Thank you to all those who gave to provide respite for patients undergoing chemotherapy.

Wellsboro residents **Donna and Ken Mettler** served as the 2024 Honorary Chairs alongside committee members **Roger C. Bunn, Rachel Domarew, Jack Eckman, Bev McKnight, Anne McNaught, Larry Nesbit, June Rudy, Sue Sticklin, and Ann Vayansky.**

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The Cornerstone Society recognizes

individuals who supported Susquehanna Health Foundation with a contribution of \$10,000–\$99,999. Donors are listed through **December 31, 2024.**

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GRATEFUL FAMILY SPOTLIGHT:

Justin & Nicoya Catino

The supportive and kind hospice and palliative care teams at UPMC in North Central Pa. community have long held a special place in **Nicoya and Justin Catino's** hearts. Nicoya's great-grandmother was among the first in the region to stay at The Gatehouse hospice unit after it opened in 2006. In the years since, Nicoya's grandfather and mother, as well as Justin's sister, would also receive palliative and hospice care. These experiences inspired them.

The Catinos recently made a generous gift in support of the new Dr. Alexander Nesbitt Endowment to help meet the ongoing needs of hospice and palliative care programs at UPMC in North Central Pa. "We felt almost a calling to support the hospice program and the people who were there for our family when we truly needed them, so that they can continue to help other families in their time of need," says Nicoya.

Honoring Loved Ones and Health Care Heroes Through Generosity

Nicoya was in her early twenties when her great-grandmother passed away. "She spent over a week at The Gatehouse when it was newly opened, and the

entire team there was incredible. They really took care of my whole family," says Nicoya. "My great-grandmother was comfortable and treated with dignity and devotion throughout her hospice journey. There was a sense of peace, of grace."

In 2001, Nicoya's grandfather passed away at home with the help of hospice services. "Once again, we were blessed with wonderful nurses, doctors, and volunteers who supported not only my grandfather but all of us during a very difficult time," she recalls.

Many years later, in March 2024, the Catinos would once again find their family in need of the hospice and palliative care services when Justin's sister **Nicole Selleck** lost her battle with glioblastoma (an aggressive form of malignant brain tumor) and Nicoya's mother, **Michelle Frey**, passed away from complications of a long-term illness, just 10 days apart.

"My sister was first on palliative care, and in January 2024 our family had to make the tough decision to move her to hospice care," says Justin. "There was difficulty accepting that it was time, because she was only in her 50s and too young for this. But the palliative care and

hospice nurses and staff were so kind and attentive to Nicole, and respectful of all our family was going through. They helped guide us all through a really hard time, for which I will be forever grateful."

Nicoya was equally grateful, noting that each time she has witnessed hospice and palliative care teams work with a member of her family, the patients have been treated uniquely. "They took the time to get to know each patient — their situation as well as who they were personally," she says. "And they did a really good job delivering difficult and delicate information to us. They cared so much about us."

The History of a Remarkable Hospice and Palliative Care Program

The Catinos' gift was both in memory of their loved ones who had passed and also to honor **Alexander Nesbitt, M.D.**, who retired in November from his long-time role as medical director of hospice and palliative care. Dr. Nesbitt was also instrumental in the creation of The Gatehouse, a family-friendly hospice unit at UPMC Williamsport Divine Providence Campus.

"Dr. Nesbitt is the face of so much good that has come from this program. I will never forget how he sat with my mom and us on the couch and spoke with us," says Nicoya. "It often felt like my mom was the only patient he had."

Dr. Nesbitt's deep connection with his patients and their families has also impacted his team. "The nurses also treated us with such respect and dignity. They were very factual, but kind, when they spoke to us about what was happening. They were so calm and devoted," reflects Nicoya.

Justin says that being able to support Dr. Nesbitt's endowment fund means the world to his family. "He has such a big heart and is so gentle and kind. He was part of our whole journey, with my mother-in-law and my sister's passing," says Justin. "He sat with us and spoke with true empathy and compassion,



because he knew exactly what our family was going through. He was there with us.”

Dr. Nesbitt says that although he began practicing medicine as a family doctor, he felt called to a career in hospice and palliative care. “Back in the 1980s, the hospice program in our community was small. It could only service 10 to 15 people at a time, all outpatient. When I became head of the department in 2000, we could care for about 30 to 40 people at a time,” says Dr. Nesbitt. “Now the hospice program helps as many as 160 to 180 people at a time, with the help of The Gatehouse and an expanded, experienced, and dedicated team of medical professionals and volunteers.” He feels blessed to have worked with them.

What is The Gatehouse?

The Catinos were relieved to have The Gatehouse available for Nicoya’s mother when they needed a small, private, and dignified space for hospice care. The Gatehouse is a seven-bed, short-term inpatient hospice unit at UPMC Williamsport Divine Providence Campus. It provides around-the-clock skilled nursing care to help manage pain and other difficult symptoms. Patients who are struggling with discomfort come to the unit for treatment. The Gatehouse provides a peaceful, home-like environment for patients and their loved ones. Families can spend quality time with patients in private bedroom suites, the comfortable family room, the kitchen, or the meditation room.

The Gatehouse provides care for terminally ill patients, focusing on managing suffering and distress that cannot be treated at home or in a nursing facility, according to Dr. Nesbitt, who was instrumental in its creation. “About half of the patients who stay at The Gatehouse receive treatment and can return home to continue hospice care,” he says. “Sometimes, patients require a higher level of care to manage symptoms and find relief, and The Gatehouse provides that support.”

Since Dr. Nesbitt’s retirement in 2024, The Gatehouse continues to provide compassionate, high-quality care, ensuring that patients and their families receive the same level of dedicated support.

A Special Place in Their Hearts for Nurses

Justin’s brother **John Catino** passed away in 1989 from muscular dystrophy, and his parents created an award to honor the nurses in the intensive care unit (ICU) for the exceptional care they gave him. The award is presented annually at a nurses banquet in May. In 2024, Justin and Nicoya were able to present the award on behalf of the family. They took that opportunity to express their gratitude to nurses in hospice and palliative care in addition to those in the ICU. It was a very moving experience for the couple.

“We have seen the tremendous guidance and care provided across the nursing spectrum and wanted to honor all of them for all that they do. It was a privilege

to do so,” says Justin. He says nurses are conduits between doctors and patients. “Nurses are champions and protectors for patients and their families during hard and vulnerable times. They give their talents and time, and they take time for even the smallest questions or concerns.”

The Catinos are pleased to know that their charitable donation will help support hospice nurses. “The Foundation was amazing to work with,” says Nicoya. “They truly understand. They get why we want to donate. They care about our emotional attachment to the causes we want to champion, and they are such good stewards of the money. I am much more likely to donate here again because I can see where my donations are going.”

Reflections on Hospice In Nicoya’s Own Words

Our time spent with my mom at The Gatehouse provided us with a quiet and serene place to spend our final days together. She was provided the physical comfort she needed, and I was provided the emotional support and comfort that I needed. The staff are absolutely incredible. They were present without being overwhelming.

People often speak of the miracle and magic of birth. Through my experience with UPMC Hospice with several of my family members, I learned that there is also something profoundly sacred about the process of dying. As was the case when my great-grandmother and grandfather were in hospice, in my mom’s final days there was such deep sense of love, connection, and peace in her journey — not just for her, but for us as the family, too. It was a time of reflection and gratitude, and one that The Gatehouse, specifically, helps to foster.

It was an honor that I’ll cherish forever to have been afforded the opportunity to help guide my mother out of this world, just as she once guided me in.

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What Families Need to Know About Hospice Before They Need It

“When we were going through it as family members of patients, I thought to myself, ‘I could never do what these amazing people do,’” reflects **Nicoya Catino**. “And then I realized that I could still help other families on the hospice journey by donating to support hospice and palliative care programs.”

In addition to donating, people can support hospice by volunteering or by raising awareness about its role in end-of-life care. The more families understand hospice, the better prepared they will be to access its support when the time comes.

Read more about the Catino family's experience with hospice care in the Grateful Family Spotlight on page 14.

Some things **Dr. Alexander Nesbitt** would like people to understand about hospice:

- **Hospice is not about helping people to die**, it is about providing comfort, relief, and compassionate care so that their end-of-life journeys are as peaceful, dignified, and fulfilling as possible.
- **Hospice care is flexible**. If a patient lives longer than expected, hospice care can be extended. Patients also have the right to stop care if it is no longer needed or wanted.
- **Research shows that hospice care benefits everyone** — patients, loved ones, and health care workers. Studies highlight improved pain management, reduced prolonged grief and emotional distress, and even lower Medicare costs, all of which help ease the burden during a difficult time.
- **Hospice supports families and caregivers as well as patients**. Hospice programs have grown a lot in the last 40 years and now include many levels of support for family members and caregivers. Bereavement programs often coordinate with hospice programs to help grieving loved ones.
- **Most people don't want to think about end-of-life decisions while there is no apparent urgency**, but preparing in advance can be a profound gift to ourselves and our loved ones. Planning ahead ensures that, even in times of grief or uncertainty, our choices and values will be honored.

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Edward G. Wyshock, MD

AUXILIARY DONATES VITAL EQUIPMENT



Board members of the **UPMC City Hospitals Auxiliary in Williamsport** recently watched a demonstration of SimJunior, an educational tool for clinical staff made possible by their latest donation. The adolescent simulator enhances staff education and skills through hands-on learning, helping develop confidence and competence in all aspects of pediatric care.

This past fall, the Auxiliary generously pledged \$50,000 to support the purchase of fluid warmers for prehospital services, wheelchairs for medical-surgical units, and a blanket warmer for the inpatient pediatric department at UPMC Williamsport. Their continued support is deeply appreciated.

UPMC City Hospitals Auxiliary donations from the past several years have supported the expansion of UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport, equipment for the ICU at UPMC Williamsport, a C-arm for the operating rooms, and a simulation mannequin for UPMC Trauma Services.

Pictured from left to right: **Peachie O'Connor**; **Marie Vannucci**; **Wendy Quigel**, programmatic nurse specialist, UPMC Williamsport; **Terry Clark**; **Fran Mazzullo**; **Josh Pauling**, director of clinical professional development; and **Marie Zurinsky**. Auxiliary board members not present: **Deb Miklavcic**, **Sue Lingg**, **Cindi Leber**, **Lisa English**, and **Linda Cioffi**.



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK: The Enduring Legacy of Endowments

Over the course of Susquehanna Health Foundation's history, we have seen our endowment funds grow in size and number. Of the 65 endowments we currently manage, fewer than a third date back to the 1990s. Since 2019, the Foundation has made growing our endowments a priority. These gifts provide funding in perpetuity, and with them the Foundation is creating sustainable support for UPMC in North Central Pa.

This year, the Foundation has more than \$200,000 in spendable funding from endowments that we can use to support the current needs across UPMC in North Central Pa. We are committed to seeing this number continue to grow.

What Is an Endowment, and How Does It Work?

An endowment fund is established and kept as a permanent source of financial support, providing funding through interest earnings for an organization. The principal of an endowment fund remains intact, while the income from the interest can be used for purposes identified by the donor or the organization. Endowments are gifts that literally last forever.

Once established, endowments provide spendable income every year. This income allows donors to support the causes they are passionate about, and their generosity will live on forever. Their legacy becomes one of lasting positive impact — impact that is vital in today's health care environment.

Four Reasons Why Endowments Are Beneficial

There are compelling reasons why Susquehanna Health Foundation has worked to grow our endowments:

- **Endowments provide sustainability.** They can help ensure the long-term continuity and quality of our work.
- **Endowments are resources for programs and services.** They can provide the vital funds needed to create new services and keep valuable programs running.
- **Endowments support innovation.** They can help us plan to meet the ever-changing health care needs of the people we serve.
- **Endowments are critical during difficult times.** During times of economic uncertainty, endowment earnings can help UPMC in North Central Pa. avoid having to cut programs and services.

Endowments Behind the Scenes

Susan Duchman, chief nursing officer and vice president of Patient Care Services at UPMC in North Central Pa., thinks it must be a surprise for people to learn about the far-reaching impact endowment funds have on clinical staff. Clinical Excellence Endowments help staff pursue continuing education. They also support growing the skills and abilities of team members who care for our community, through financial support for such things as:

- Nurses working toward their master's, nurse practitioner (NP) degrees, etc.
- Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) studying to become registered nurses (RNs)



- Patient care technicians studying to become LPNs
- Certification for nurses in their specialties (trauma, orthopaedics, critical care, etc.)
- Professional conference costs

“Clinical Excellence Endowments also support the efforts to recognize and reward staff members,” says Susan. All this goes a long way in UPMC in North Central Pa.’s efforts to retain high-caliber clinicians in our rural community. “Growing our team and supporting the community is the best way to give back and see an impact for the future,” she says.

Susan and her husband, **Charlie**, recently established an endowment supporting Clinical Excellence. Susan’s

experiences within her career were their inspiration. “My husband and I both work at UPMC in North Central Pa. He works in information technology, and while that’s not a clinical job, he has been married to a nurse for a long time,” says Susan. The Duchmans wanted to support the nurses and clinicians whom they have witnessed do so much for their community every day.

“Beyond the substantial educational assistance, endowment funds also support patients in meaningful ways,” says Susan. Oftentimes, nurses see that patients can benefit from certain items, equipment, or supplies. Endowment funds can be a way to provide financial assistance so that these nurses can have those tools for better patient care.

Examples of Endowment Impact

Endowment funds are providing increasingly more support to vital health care programs and services in our community, including:

- Tuition assistance for a wide array of nursing degrees and certifications
- UPMC Williamsport Medical Laboratory Science program tuition assistance
- Training tools for trauma, emergency, and other departments
- Noninvasive bilirubin testing equipment
- Specialized nursing and imaging certifications to advance the level of care
- Audio equipment for the Work Center
- Clinical staff recruitment events
- Nursing awards

Creating Your Legacy

All donations, including endowments, continue to remain local and benefit UPMC in North Central Pa. For more information, or to donate, contact the Foundation at 570-320-7460.

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Endowment Options to Meet the Vision and Desires of Donors

When donors designate their gifts for an endowment with the Foundation, there are two options:

Clinical Excellence Endowment

Gifts designated for this fund support innovative ways to improve clinician staff recruitment, retention, and education. This is important for the long-term growth of our local health

care workforce. Tools such as simulation training devices provide clinicians with hands-on learning experiences and in-depth knowledge to raise our level of care. Growing the Clinical Excellence Endowment is a primary focus of the Foundation, according to **Sherry Watts**, president, Susquehanna Health Foundation. “Our health care system relies on a strong, well-trained clinical workforce. This endowment focuses on that,” she says.

Create or Donate to a Specific Endowment

Donors can also create their own endowments to support a specialty service or an individual hospital. These types of endowments can fund equipment, training, and programs that fit within the strategic priorities of UPMC. In addition, donors may designate their gifts for an already established fund focused on a cause that really matters to them.

LEGACY SOCIETY

The **Legacy Society** recognizes those who made a planned or estate gift to Susquehanna Health Foundation of \$1,000 or more. 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.

Current Members

Susan H. Beery
 Steven and Maryjane Brown
 Carol M. Cacchione
 Rachal Diane Clark
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Creamer
 Robert P. and Linda H. Crockett
Naomi Cole Decker
 Ron and Jeanne DeFeo
 John and *Janet Dougherty
 Dena Kay and Lee Richard Dunlap Jr.
 Jena and Jason Eggerton
 Mitchell T. and Laura Marie Evans
 Chaplain Dave and Carol Fishel
 Timothy M. and Mary C. Gage
 Lindsay and Derek Garner
 David Lee Gemberling
 Dr. Davie Jane Gilmour
 Dr. Barbara Heere and *Dr. Bernard Butkiewicz
 Alanna and Darwin Huck
 Mark A. Huffman
 *Clarence and Lillian Iceman
 Steve and Mary Ann Johnson
 Rosalie F. Kaleda
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Karstetter
 Raymond E. Kehrler Jr.
In Memory of Hilda and Raymond Kehrler Sr.
 Ruth and *Ben Keller
 Mr. and *Mrs. George Koons
 Dr. Bonelyn Kyofski
 Nancy J. Lady
In Memory of Andrew Lady
 Christy and David Lassiter
 Dorie LeVan
 Stephen C., John W. and John C. Lundy Fund
 E. LaRue Lunt
 Dr. and Mrs. George A. Manchester
 Cheryl Marceau and Dr. Michael Marceau
 Charlotte E. Maxwell
 Edward and Sherry McCabe
 *Mr. and Mrs. Peyton D. McDonald
 Deborah K. Miklavcic
Thomas J. Moriarty
Danut F. Neagu
 Betty H. Niles
 Dr. Luan and Bethany Pham

*Birch and Annmarie Phillips
 Dr. Robert and the Reverend Christine Purcell
 Brenda L. and Barry K. Rake
 Ben and Ann Riles
 William G. Ritter
 Robert E. and *Lanea P. Ruffaner
 Donna E. Sayah
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Scherneck
 James and Linda Scott
 Jean Soars
 Dave Steinbacher

In Memory of Karen E. Steinbacher
 Wade and Ruth Strong
 Marsha C. Swartzlander
 Bill and Kim Van Campen
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Vanderlin
 Matthew G. Wech
 Dr. and *Mrs. Chan Yoon
 John and Lori Zeigler
 Marie B. Zurinsky

Past Members

Ruth D. Adams Estate
 Claire J. Anderson Estate
 Ruth A. Anstadt Estate
 John and Eva Mae Archer
David W. Arndt Estate
 Ruth S. Askey Estate
 Howard R. Baldwin Jr. Estate
 Estelle S. Bartlett Estate
 Dorothy M. Bartlow Estate
 Kathryn R. Biggar Estate
 Gertrude M. Blatchley Estate
 Kenneth and Lulu Blessing Trust
 Diane Bookmiller
 Virginia M. Bower Estate
 Margaret R. Brown Estate
 Helen L. Bruner Estate
 Anne H. Bullock Estate
 Richard K. Burrows
 Helen Callaghan Estate
 Adelina Caporaletti
 Rosemary C. Carey Trust
 Palma Colesanti Estate
 Charles John Colocino Jr. Estate
 William B. and Mary M. Cook Estate
 Alice and Charles Corbett
 Anne E. Cranmer Estate
 Ralph R. Cranmer Estate

E. Ruth Crist Estate
 A. Virginia Dannelley Estate
 William H. Jackson Dawson Estate
 Austin Deck Estate
 Doris and Fred Diehl Estate
 Mary G. Dore Estate
 Richard M. Dore Estate
 Frances E. Dorman Estate
 James W. Dow Estate
 William J. Dunlap Sr. Estate
 Walter P. Eilers Sr. Estate
 Kathleen L. Enigk Estate
 Aurele B. Ewing Trust
 Jo-Anne Fawcett Estate
 Katherine M. Fetter Estate
 Elizabeth K. Frederick Estate

In Memory of William Frederick
 G. Alan and Priscilla D. Frey
 Sarah J. Fry Estate
 Gwen Frye Estate
 Leonard F. Gajewski Estate
 Lester Gehr Estate
 LaVera G. Gehron Estate
 George W. and Lillian B. German Testamentary Trust
 Louise Goodman
 Peter J. Goodwin
 Amelia F. Grieco Estate
 Charles R. Gross Estate
 Mary Hanner Estate
 Catharine A. Harrison Trust
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 David A. Harvey Estate
 Christine H. Himes Estate
 K. Alan Himes Estate
 Catharine Hollenbeck Estate
 Ida A. Hoshauer Estate
 Joe and Carolyn Hume Estate
 Charles William Humphrey Estate
 B.G. Johnson Estate
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 Esther Kehler Estate
 Leah M. Kile Estate
 Matthew Kissell Estate
 Mary E. Krise Estate
 Sudie R. Ludwig Estate
 Elizabeth P. Lyon Estate
 Joseph N. Lytle Estate
 Robert B. and Virginia W. MacIndoe Trust

LEGACY SOCIETY

Esther Malleson Estate
 Thomas J. Malloy Estate
 W. Robert Maust Estate
 Marguerite Mayer Estate
 Lona J. McConnell Estate
 Jay H. McCormick Estate
 Mrs. Peter J. McGovern
 Janet I. McQuillen Estate
 Kenneth Meier Estate
 Mary G. Mosser Estate
 Wilhelmina J. Myers Estate
 Donald A. Nyce Estate
 Ruth E. Ohnmeiss Estate
 Ted and Janet Owlett Estate
 Theresa M. Paternostro Estate
 Larry Allen Persun Estate
 William Pickelner Estate
 Margaret A. Probst Estate
Patricia J. Rambo
 Dr. and Mrs. Paul B. Reis
In Memory of Al J. Smith
 Robert K. Rewalt Estate
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Thomas J. Rider Trust
 Lulu B. Roat Estate
 Berta Robbins Estate
 Beatrice W. Royston Estate
 Walter and Marian Schell
 Joy M. Shaner Estate
 Rebecca E. Sherman Estate
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 Henry C. Sitler Estate
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 Louella B. Snyder Estate
 Marvin and Jean Staiman
 Anna D. Stapleton Estate
 Marion Stopper Estate
 Ralph B. Strawbridge Estate
*In Memory of John W. and Sarah M.
 Strawbridge and Enjar and Clara P.
 Norman*
 Luther L. Stroup Estate
 Gertrude Strunk Estate

Barbara W. Taber
 W. Wendle Taggart
 Russell E. Tingue Trust and Emogene L.
 Tingue Estate
 Argeno and Eleanor Vannucci Estate
 Ross Vickers Estate
 Luigi Vittorio Estate
 Mary C. Vogel Estate
 Raymond F. Vogel Estate
 Jane Voneida Estate
 E. Louise "Petie" Waltman Estate
 Dwight and Eunice Waltz Estate
 Charles G. Webb Trust
 Donald J. Webb Estate
 Leonard G. Weber Estate
 Weisel Family Trust
 Charles N. Welshans Estate
 Eugene Welteroth Estate
Thelma B. White
 Helen Wilkins Estate
 Beatrice I. Winters Estate
 Marion Calvert Wright Estate
 Albert F. Young Trust
 Mary Louise Zimmerman Estate

COUPLE'S LEGACY OF GIVING Supporting Rural Health Care and Cancer Patients

Darwin and **Alanna Huck** of Wellsboro are passionate about giving back, particularly to rural health care in Pennsylvania. Alanna's grandmother inspired her sense of philanthropy by caring for others and emphasizing the importance of helping those in need.

Although they don't have children, they have nine cats who are like children to them. Recognizing the importance of planning for the future, they carefully considered the legacy they wanted to leave. Giving back to their church, local no-kill cat shelters, and rural health care were at the top of their list. In fact, the Hucks felt strongly about naming Susquehanna Health Foundation as a beneficiary of one of their investments.

"It was an easy process to make the Foundation a beneficiary. We would encourage others to not hesitate to find a way that is meaningful for them to give back to the Foundation, including a future gift. As a Foundation board member, I have witnessed how donations are being used right in our community, for our people, right now," says Alanna.

Their dedication to cancer care is deeply personal — Alanna lost her grandmother and a mentor to cancer, while Darwin lost his father. They now contribute to cooling cap therapy at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Williamsport, which helps patients retain their hair during treatment. The decision was immediate after learning



about the impact it could have on patients' dignity and confidence.

Darwin and Alanna encourage others to think about their own passions and how they can leave a lasting legacy of giving.

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 **December 31, 2024.**

\$1,000–\$9,999

Family of Pat Dominick Abrunzo
Ashton Palmetto Palms II LTD – John Stroehmann
Jack and Dottie Bailey
Mark and Monica Barner
BDA Healthcare Architects
Mark Beard
Karen and Michael Belenko
Deborah Bierly and Family
Big Foot Crossing
Drs. David and Susan Borys
Rick and Charlotte Bowen
*James W. and Cynthia Mengel Bower
Robert G. and Nancy C. Bowers
The Dedicated Staff at the Breast Health Center
Chaplain Tom Brokaw
Dr. John and Liz Broshkevitch
William C. Brown
John and Sarah Bruch Fund at FCFP
April M. Bryer
Amelia A. Buffington
Tom and Laurie Burkholder
Michael and Tera Bush
Stephanie T. Calder
Jim and Bethann Campbell
Susan and Dan Carlson
Nicholas and Carol Catino
Nicoya and Justin Catino
Alan Cipriani
Cheryl Corman
David and Sharon Crandall
Robert P. and Linda H. Crockett
Susan and Robb Curry
Matt Custer
Robert and Melissa Davis
Howard Dean
Robert and Diann DeCamp
Ron and Jeanne DeFeo
Amber Depew
Jonathan L. DeWald, Esquire
Dr. Ronald E. DiSimone
Divine Retiree Travelers
Dr. Perry Doan
Frani Doherty

Dotterer Dairy
Dan Doyle
The Drollinger Family Charitable Foundation
Valerie A. Duff
Kimberly and Michael Dzikowski
Chelsea M. Egger
Michael and Elaine Erickson
Joann C. Ertel
Carol Carson Evans
Fairfield Auto Group
Famvest Partners
Ashley L. Fedorff
Ronald S. Ferguson
Carol Flanigan and Jessica Flanigan
Alice Fleer
Denise and Joseph Folmar
Greg and *Marilyn Frailey
Richard A. Fry
Michelle R. Gaida
Nancy L. Gehret
Cathleen Gibson
Davie Jane and Fred Gilmour
Frank and Lynne Girardi
Robert and Lisa Glunk
Cheryl Maria Godfrey Memorial Fund at FCFP
Natalie A. Grubbs
Carol Zablocky Hall
Hedrick Family Donor Advised Fund
Herman & Luther's
Henry and Cally Herman
Dr. Norm Hesser
Autumn S. Hill
Julie Hittie
Ann M. Hocker
Grace A. Hockman
Hal and Karen Hoose
Kenneth and Ann Hoover
Robert and Mary Ann Hoover
William M. Hoppel Jr.
Thomas W. Hoy
Alanna and Darwin Huck
Stephen and Martha Huddy
Hudock Capital Group, LLC

Hudock Capital Group, LLC Corporate Advised Fund at FCFP
Bob Ireland
Jersey Shore High School Girls' Softball
Jersey Shore State Bank
John Savoy & Son, Inc.
Phil and Christine Johnson
Steve and Mary Ann Johnson
K's for Cancer
Stacey M. Kacyon
Kaiser Brothers
Stephen G. and Christine L. Kaiser
Courtney L. Kasenchak
Ruth and *Ben Keller
Allen and Ashley Kiessling
Carol Kitchen
Heidi A. Kosmer
Janice D. Kuzio
Nancy J. Lady
Mr. and Mrs. Chip Lamade
Abbey M. Lepley
Becky Levi
The Lindsay Family
Craig and Rhonda Litchfield
Linda and Joe Loehr
Dr. and Mrs. David J. Lopatofsky
Denise and Bud Lorson
Lundy Construction Co., Inc.
Ken Lundy and Family
E. LaRue Lunt
Michael and Annette Lupacchino
Mike and Jo Mahonski, Chris and Karen Mahonski, Fran and Randy Graham, Julie and Rocky Caringi, Wayne and Wendy Mahonski, Matt and Emily Mahonski, & Teresa Michaud
John and Judy Maietta
Darlene M. Malischewski
Family of Anna Mapstone
Chris and Mike Marrazzo
Robert G. Mayer
Amy McCorkel
*Jay H. McCormick
James and Patricia McGee
Robert J. McKernan Sr.

KEYSTONE SOCIETY

Ronald and Judith McKibben

Joseph McTish

Dr. Donna and Kenneth Mettler

Mid-State Beverage Co. – Don and Betty Jo Heim

Miele Group

James and Debra Moff

Jeanne M. Moriarty, Steven Turner Moriarty, Christopher Turner Moriarty, and Thomas J. Moriarty

Jessica Mosher

Murray Motors – Brian Peace and Bill Brown

Family of Sharon Myers

Susan and Joseph Myers

Drs. *Naresh C. and Anita Nagpal

Danut F. Neagu

Robert and Rikki Nevins

Mark A. Nyce

Diana Nyman

Tom and Mary Owlett

Melissa Pandolfi, PA-C

Paternostro Cancer Foundation

Diane D. Pelesh

Steve and Kathy Pellegrino

Ms. Ann Pepperman and Senator Gene Yaw

John and Margaret Piper

Adriana Polisano, MD, and Timothy E. Wirth, PharmD

The Children of Kenneth Poorman Sr.

Charline M. Pulizzi

Patrick Pulsifer Family

Jay and Julie Raup

Michael and Christina Reed

Donald M. Rishcoff

George and Barbara Rizzo

Dr. and Mrs. Warren L. Robinson

Dave and Maggie Roche

Annabelle and James Rogers Jr.

Seth M. Rogers

Sean and Cynthia Roman

Thomas and Deborah Rudy

Robert E. Ruffaner

Diane N. Ryan

Larry and *Nancy Sanders

Donna E. Sayah

Kathryn A. Schon

Gene and Mary Ann Schurer & Pam Keefer

Dr. Phyllis Scott

Kay S. Seery

Dr. Mohammad and Mrs. Margaret Shafique

*Joseph and Charmaine Shockloss

Rita B. Shoemaker

Shooters on the Susquehanna

Pastor Edward Siddle

Jeri Sims

Mark and Connie Sitler

Dr. Thomas C. Smith and Suzanne Dively-Smith

Sons of Italy Lodge 138

Steinbacher, Goodall & Yurchak

Stephanie and Curtis Steinbacher

D.L. Stroehmann Family

Whitney L. Strosser

Susquehanna Health Retirees

Kristy M. Teisher

Texas Roadhouse – Williamsport

Dr. and Mrs. F. Ardell Thomas

David R. Tomazic, DO

Brian Toner

Don Lawrence Troyer, MD

Judith Tubbs

The Family of Janet R. Ulmer

USAA Federal Legislative

Jeffrey Verzella, MD

Joanie and David Wallis

Ward Manufacturing LLC

David G. and Barbara A. Wascher

Karen Wastler

Wellsboro Area School District

Kathryn C. Werner Estate

Jackie and Arne Werts

West Pharmaceutical Services

Tamara S. West

Christine and Mark Wheary

Kevin Whitehill

Heather M. Williamson

Williamsport Area High School Booster Club

Williamsport Conclave of the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine

Patrick and Jennifer Wilson

Lamont Withey

Samantha A. Witner

Mike and Mary Wolf

Woodlands Bank

X50 Pilot Care Services

John and *Sue Young and Young Industries

Young Men's Democratic Club of Lycoming County, Inc.

Young Men's Republican Club, Inc.

Marie B. Zurinsky

\$500–\$999

Sharon R. Adams

Kay and Butchie Adelson & Family

Dr. Ryan Allen

Curtis B. Anderson

Cynthia Anderson

Dudley and Debbie Anderson

Melissa Anderson

Jeffrey D. Andrew

Jennifer L. Avery

Denise A. Ayers

Alice R. Bair

Brian and Victoria Bair

Rachel A. Baker

Julie Baloga

Holly Barbella

Dr. Julianne Barrett

Emily M. Bartlett

Oliver R. Bartlett

Skip Bassett, DO

Bayard Printing Group

John Q. Beauge

Kathleen A. Bechdel

Carol and Mike Beck

Mary Ann Bellfy

Michele K. Bergman

Drs. Andrea and Ross Bickford

Bike Run for Autism Awareness

Bill MacIntyre Chevrolet Inc.

Marlin Bitler Family: Judy, Amy, and Lee

John and Karen Blaschak

Richard and Julie Born

Bower-Decker American Legion Post 251

Mona Boyer

Jennifer R. Boyles, RN

Julian Brabham

Taylor Bradley-Geiser

Cynthia Breon and Family

John and Cynthia Brindger

Krista L. Brown

Lynne M. Brown

continued on page 30

2024 Foundation Impact Report

The Foundation is profoundly grateful for YOU. Your generosity has transformed lives, bringing hope, dignity, healing, and comfort to those who need it most.

In 2024, you funded life-changing equipment – delivering care directly to patients through a mobile health center, enhancing emergency response with fluid warmers, and ensuring newborns receive gentle, noninvasive bilirubin testing. But your impact extends far beyond equipment.

Because of you, more than 390 patients used the Benevolent Care Fund and didn't have to choose between medicine and food. Cancer patients maintained their hair and dignity with cooling cap therapy. Nurses advanced their education to provide specialized, life-saving care. Survivors of sexual assault received the compassionate support they deserve. Your generosity has fueled excellence, innovation, and unwavering compassion.

Thanks to you, the newly expanded **UPMC Rehabilitation Institute** is now a beacon of healing for those recovering from devastating injuries and illnesses. **The Gatehouse** remains a sanctuary for hospice care. **Nurse-Family Partnership** continues to guide at-risk mothers and babies. **Heartworks** provides solace to children navigating grief. And through your foresight in establishing endowments and legacy gifts, you have ensured the future of health care in our community for generations to come.

Because of you, lives have been changed, hope has been restored, and a healthier future is possible.

The numbers below tell only part of the story. Stay tuned throughout the year for inspiring donor and patient stories that showcase the true impact of your generosity.

Foundation Contributions



1,262
tribute gifts honored or
remembered 466 individuals



2,808
individuals, organizations, and
foundations supported us

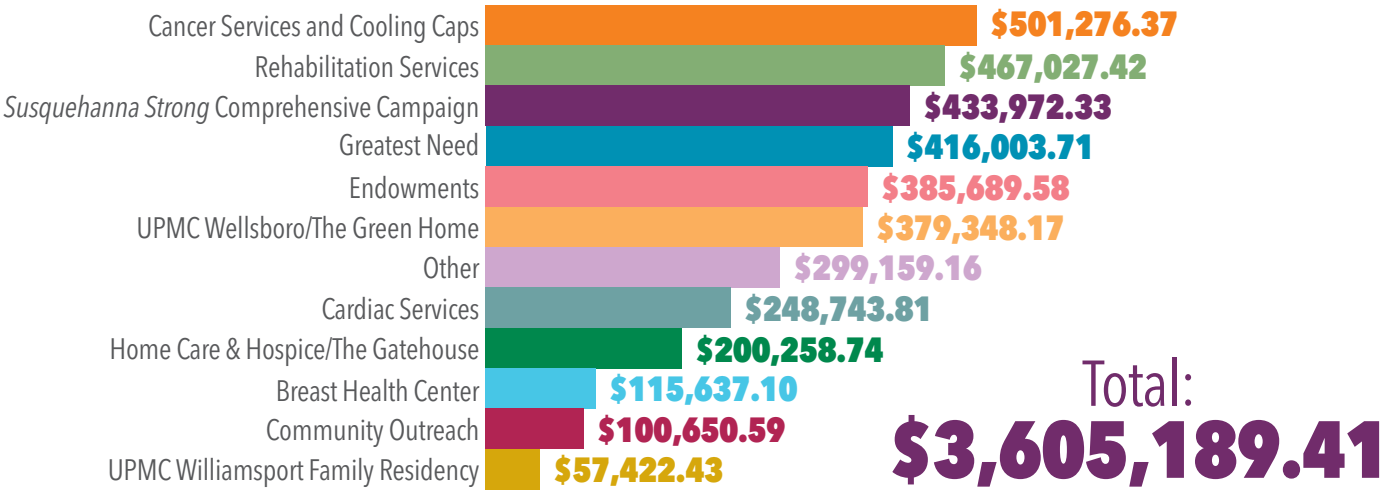


\$663,537
donated from planned gifts



\$417,151
UPMC in North Central Pa. employee
and medical staff contributions

Contributions by Fund



PARTICIPATING DEALERSHIPS

Bill MacIntyre
CHEVROLET

Van
Campen

Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram
vancampenmotors.com

EST. 1986
Fairfield
AUTO GROUP
FAIR DEALS

MURRAY **m** MOTORS

KAISER BROS.
Jeep Ram / MUNCY - DANVILLE

MEDIA SPONSORS

iHeartMEDIA

LAMAR

Webb Weekly

CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS

UPMC
LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

UPMC
HEALTH
PLAN

M+M
PAVING & EXCAVATING
"Since 1971"



DRIVE FOR A CAUSE

Each October, car dealerships throughout north central Pennsylvania team up with Susquehanna Health Foundation for Drive for a Cause. For every car sold, \$25 is donated to enhance breast health services in our region, supporting the Kathryn Candor Lundy Breast Health Center, part of UPMC Magee-Womens in Williamsport.

For the seventh annual event in 2024, \$15,350 was raised to support the fight against breast cancer in our communities. Since the start, Drive for a Cause has raised more than \$120,000 for breast health services at UPMC in North Central Pa. This event also serves as a reminder for women to have their annual screenings — early detection saves lives.

“Drive for a Cause continues to provide local women with access to life-changing breast health services,” says **Sherry Watts**, president, Susquehanna Health Foundation. “We are extremely grateful for the dealerships and businesses whose generosity helps ensure women receive the specialized care they need to detect and battle breast cancer, right here, close to home.”

KEYSTONE SOCIETY

\$500–\$999 *continued from page 27*

Stephen and Madelyn Brown
Harrison (Jamie) Brownlee, MD
Barry and Jane Brucklacher
Roxanne L. Buss
Carol M. Cacchione
David and Penelope Cappa
Dr. Patrick and Maureen Carey

Centre Community Church of Christ

Joann L. Chappell
Patricia A. Cioffi
Ryan and Tiffany Cioffi
Sue Clayton

William A. Clemons

True Coleman and Children: Teresa, Tom, Tony, and Tim

Concepts Design Group

Jon P. Conklin
The Family of Jeff and Deb Cram
Theresa Cunningham
Rose Czap
Erin E. Daly
Debra L. Damaska
Kory and Carnie Datres
Kristine Datres
Mark and Patty Davidson
Janelle F. Day
Matthew and Amy DeCamp
Michelle Delp
Thomas W. Dempsey

Debra Detrick

Michelle M. Deuel
Stephanie T. Deviney
Candy and Steve Dewar
Linda Dibble
Tawyana Dinsmore
Ronald and Beatrice Dreese
Molly J. Durland
Shirley and George Durrwachter
Charles and Erin Edmonds
Brian M. Engel
Lori Englert
Douglas A. Erdman
Alec and Maggie Fantaskey

John Faughnan and Emily Lagace

Robin and David Fink
First Presbyterian Church of Wellsboro
Fischer Insurance Agency
Julie E. Foresman

Clifford M. Frost
Howard L. Fulmer Jr.
Terry and Mary Kay Gamble
Tom and Linda Gamble
Ryan Gardner and Erica Trimble
James and Lorraine Gates
Lynel P. Gaunt
Sarah Gensel
George and Patricia Girio
Matthew R. Godfrey
Monica Haefner
Brenda M. Hagedorn
Katherine Hart
Dr. Leo M. Hartz and Mrs. Debra A. Hartz

Robert E. Harvey

Jane Hassler

Harry Hefty
Barbara and Ross Hemmendinger
Darlene Hepler
Becky Hess
High Company LLC
Kathleen C. Hill
Amanda L. Hitchcock
Anne and Tim Holladay

Pierre Hopson

Taren Hornberger
Billie Jo Houtz

Craig and Mike Hower & Family

*Rob and Barb Hughes
Dr. Victoria and Jason Hurwitz
Dennis and Patti Jackson-Gehris
Anthony Von Johnson
George and Joy Johnson
Chelsea Kahley
Betty M. Karasek
Alexander J. Karney

Arlyn Kauffman

Andrew and Megan Kelley
Margaret C. Kelly
Caron Kenyon

Sandra Kibler

Kimberley King
Dr. Quinn and Rachel Kirk
Doug and Loni Kline
Jason G. Kling
Oscar W. Knade Jr., EdD
Dr. and Mrs. Aaron J. Kolb
Geri Kono
Judith A. Krezmer

Heather C. Lanahan
Kenneth H. Landis and Ellen C. Landis
Jordin R. Langin
Sharon T. Lindauer

Lisa's Business Services, Inc.

Sarah "Sally" Lott
Katlyn M. Lutchko
Kay C. Lyman
Lynn R. Mader

Amy Magee

Darrin and Sue Mahaffey
Rachel Makley
Dr. and Mrs. George A. Manchester
Lucas C. Mariano

Steven E. Marshall

Dorothy B. Martin
Scott and Carol Masteller
*Vincent J. and Susan E. Matteo
Dr. and Mrs. William J. Mattiace
Brian McClintock
Butch and Sue McCusker

McDevitt Family: Mike, Jessie, Danette, Colleen, Michael, Kelly, and Staci

Bernie and Barbara McFadden
Constance McFadden
Jerry and Nancy McHenry
Renee K. McNutt
Dr. Matthew J. Meeker
Brandy K. Melko
Glenda R. Merkel

Anne D. Miller

Carina Miller
Jenifer L. Miller
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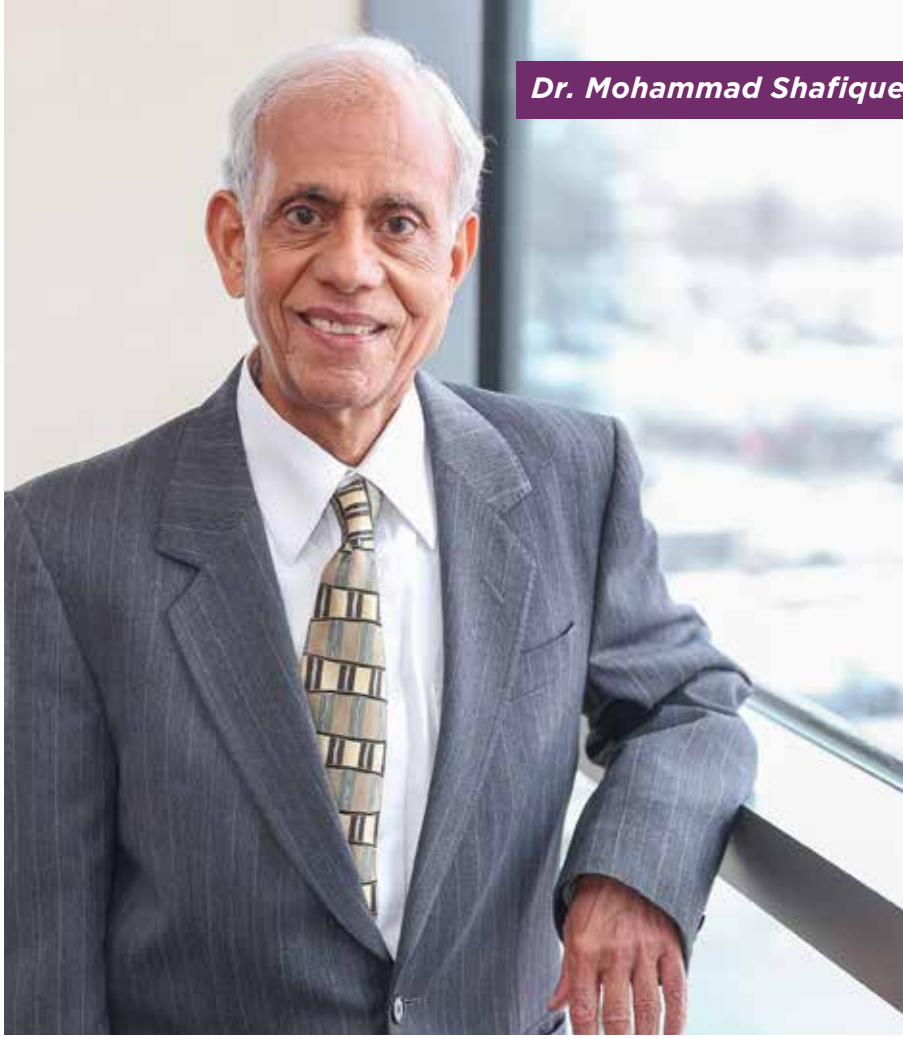
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2025 Lifetime Achievement Award Honorees



Dr. Mohammad Shafique



Rosalie F. Kaleda

Dr. Mohammad Shafique, Physician Lifetime Achievement Award

A kind, compassionate, and skilled cardiologist, **Mohammad Shafique, M.D.**, touched and changed many lives in his nearly 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 heart and vascular program.

Dr. Shafique received his medical degree from King Edward Medical University. He completed residencies at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center and Rutgers Health/Trinitas Regional Medical Center and fellowship training in cardiovascular disease at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. Dr. Shafique is board-certified in internal medicine and cardiovascular disease from the American Board of Internal Medicine. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology.

"One of the highlights of my time in cardiology was the opportunity to work alongside Dr. Shafique," says **John Burks, M.D.** "He was always there for his patients and colleagues. He was unflappable in the face of conflicts, with a laser focus on obtaining the best results. His efforts in Williamsport and the neighboring communities greatly enhanced access to the highest level of cardiovascular care locally."

"Dr. Shafique is a physician's physician — he was always willing to help others, lend an ear as a consult, and make time for his and others' patients who needed him," says **David Lopatofsky, M.D.** "Dr. Shafique is highly regarded in his field, and he consistently demonstrated the utmost care, compassion, patience, and calmness in every interaction. In my time working with him, I've never heard a bad word spoken of him, and no matter what came his way, I never saw him get flustered. Dr. Shafique is an exceptional physician and all-around wonderful individual, and he's very deserving of this recognition for all he has contributed to this community, his patients, the organization, and advancing medical excellence in the region."

Not only were Dr. Shafique's contributions significant in advancing heart and vascular care in the region, but he and his wife have also made multiple commitments to the financial support of the organization through major gifts to Susquehanna Health Foundation and are recognized as members of the Caduceus Society.

In recognition of his dedication to his patients and commitment to providing care to our community, UPMC and Susquehanna Health Foundation will honor Dr. Mohammad Shafique with the Physician Lifetime Achievement Award.

Rosalie F. Kaleda, Philanthropist Lifetime Achievement Award

Rosalie Kaleda has dedicated her life to serving others through philanthropy, volunteerism, and advocacy. Arriving in Williamsport in 1979 as one of the region's few certified nurse midwives, she spent more than two decades pioneering midwifery services and championing legislative recognition for nurse midwives across Pennsylvania.

"As a nurse midwife in this region, I stand on the shoulders of those who paved the way before me, and no one has been more instrumental than Rosalie," says **Kathy Swatkowski, C.N.M.**, UPMC Magee-Womens in North Central Pa. "Through unwavering dedication, she not only advocated for our profession but also earned the trust of our community, proving the invaluable role of midwives in health care. Her mentorship shaped my career, and her legacy continues in every patient we serve with compassion and excellence. I am forever grateful to Rosalie and all she has done, not just for nurse midwives and advanced practice nurses but for women and babies here in our region."

Rosalie's generosity as a Signature Gifts donor and Legacy Society member has left a lasting impact, including the establishment of the Rosalie Kaleda Scholarship Endowment in 2011, which supports nurses pursuing advanced degrees. With the increased demand for advanced practice professionals, Rosalie wanted to help offset the financial burden of advanced training. Of note, **Kelly Douglass, C.R.N.P.**, was the first scholarship recipient in 2012 and still works for UPMC Family Medicine in Loyalsock.

"Rosalie's pioneering impact on this region cannot be overstated," says **Leonard Collins, M.D.** "She changed the way we view prenatal and postnatal care of the women in our community. Rosalie played a crucial role in so many families' birth stories, including my own. Her sharp wit and sense of humor, matched only by her knowledge of women's health care, immediately put her patients at ease. There is and was no better champion for maternal health care in north central Pennsylvania than Rosalie."

Rosalie's commitment to maternal and neonatal care continues through her support of ongoing needs at The Birthplace, a UPMC Magee-Womens facility in Williamsport, including most recently contributing to funds for a state-of-the-art Giraffe Incubator.

In addition to her clinical practice and advocacy, Rosalie is a long-standing volunteer with Little League International, the Community Arts Center in Williamsport, and supports numerous community nonprofits. Through her unwavering dedication, Rosalie has transformed countless lives and strengthened the future of health care in her community.

In recognition of her record of exceptional generosity and demonstration of civic and charitable responsibility, UPMC and Susquehanna Health Foundation will honor Rosalie Kaleda with the Philanthropist Lifetime Achievement Award.

new doctors

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



Nancy Abu-Bonsrah, M.D.

UPMC Neurosurgery | 570-321-2820

Dr. Nancy Abu-Bonsrah completed her medical degree, a master's degree in public health, and her residency in neurosurgery with Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. She was the first African American female resident in the history of the hospital's neurosurgery program. Dr. Abu-Bonsrah sees patients at UPMC Neurological Institute, 740 High St., Williamsport.

Samer AlMasri, M.D.
UPMC Central PA Surgical Oncology | 717-988-8451

Dr. Samer AlMasri received his medical degree from American University of Beirut, Lebanon. He completed his residency in general surgery at American University of Beirut Medical Center. Additionally, Dr. AlMasri completed a two-year fellowship in complex general surgical oncology at UPMC, Pittsburgh. He sees patients at UPMC Central PA Surgical Oncology, 10 Shady Ln., First Floor, Muncy.



Kyo Chu, M.D.

UPMC Central PA Surgical Oncology | 717-988-8451

Dr. Kyo Chu received his medical degree and completed a residency program with the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He also completed a fellowship at John Wayne Cancer Institute, Santa Monica, Calif. Dr. Chu sees patients at UPMC Central PA Surgical Oncology, 10 Shady Ln., First Floor, Muncy.

Akilah Evans, M.D.
UPMC Pediatrics | 570-321-2810

Dr. Akilah Evans earned her medical degree from St. George's University School of Medicine, St. Georges, Grenada, and completed her pediatric residency with SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, N.Y. Dr. Evans sees patients at UPMC Williamsport, 700 High St., 9th Floor, Williamsport.





Ashley Leberfinger, M.D.

UPMC Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery / 570-326-8005

Dr. Ashley Leberfinger earned her medical degree with Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Scranton. She completed an internship and residency in general surgery with Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey. Most recently, Dr. Leberfinger completed a fellowship in plastic and reconstructive surgery with Summa Health, Akron, Ohio. She sees patients at UPMC Williamsport Divine Providence Campus, 1100 Grampian Blvd., Williamsport, and offers plastic surgery expertise including but not limited to trauma and wound reconstruction, skin cancer resection and reconstruction, abdominoplasty/panniculectomy, and breast augmentation and revisions.

Curran Perry, M.D.

UPMC Infectious Diseases / 570-321-2181

Dr. Curran Perry earned his medical degree from Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Scranton, and completed his residency in internal medicine with Lankenau Medical Center, Wynnewood. Most recently, Dr. Perry completed an infectious disease fellowship with Geisinger Medical Center, Danville. He sees patients at UPMC Williamsport, 700 High St., Williamsport.



Jonathan Seiferth, M.D.

UPMC Primary Care / 570-326-2447

Dr. Jonathan Seiferth earned his medical degree from American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine, St. Maarten, and completed his residency with UPMC Williamsport Family Medicine Residency, Williamsport. He sees patients at UPMC Primary Care, 175 Pine St., Suite 200, Williamsport.

Roman Tuma, M.D.

UPMC Infectious Diseases / 570-321-2181

Dr. Roman Tuma earned his medical degree from Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms University, Bonn, Germany. He completed internal medicine residencies with St. Nikolaus Stift's Hospital, Bonn, Germany, and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, N.Y. Additionally, Dr. Tuma completed infectious disease fellowships with Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn., and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York City. Most recently, he practiced medicine at Hackensack Meridian Health/Bayshore Medical Center, N.J. Dr. Tuma sees patients at UPMC Williamsport, 700 High St., Williamsport.



Kwabena Yamoah, M.D.

Interventional Radiology / UPMC Heart & Vascular Institute / 570-321-2800

Dr. Kwabena Yamoah earned his medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore. He completed an internship in internal medicine with Howard University Hospital, Washington, D.C., followed by an interventional/diagnostic radiology internship with University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore. Dr. Yamoah sees patients at UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute, 740 High St., Williamsport.

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