

FOUNDATION FALL 2019 *IN FOCUS*

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF



BAY MEDICAL FOUNDATION

DONORS HELP BRING LIFE-SAVING TECHNOLOGY TO MCLAREN BAY

TOMO 3D – NEW TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN SAVE LIVES

The newest cutting-edge technology for breast cancer detection is at McLaren Bay Region – thanks to donors who contributed over \$400,000 to bring the Tomosynthesis 3D Mammography system here.

At a community open house on October 7, McLaren Bay Region celebrated the arrival of the Tomo 3D system to its Health Services Pavilion on West Campus– just in time for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

“We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors and their commitment to provide the technology that will help take care of our community,” says breast surgeon, Dr. Tari Stull. “This machine is able to find cancer when it is smaller and the key to a cure is early detection.”

Also, some people have dense breast tissue that overlaps on itself and appears to be a mass, when it is not. “It is so stressful to get a phone call that says we need more testing,” explains Dr. Stull. “This sensitive machine will reduce these calls, as well as cut costs, biopsy rates and patient anxiety.”

Local healthcare is important. Having the latest equipment, knowledge and expertise right here in our community makes it a healthier place to live, work and play.

Thank you to the many donors who are improving the quality of healthcare right here at home. As a donor, you may be helping a young mother with three children, or your coworker’s grandmother, or the cafeteria worker at your child’s school. You may never meet her, but she will be forever grateful for your part in saving her life.

A QUICK NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:
In this issue, we have stories of people who give and why they give. They give their time, talent and treasure. They inspire us as they make our community a better place. They are just like YOU. Enjoy!

Lynn
LYNN WEAVER, DIRECTOR
MCLAREN BAY
MEDICAL FOUNDATION



LEFT: Dr. Stull and Traci McFarland. CENTER: RN Kim Fritz explaining how the Tomo 3D features. RIGHT: Open House attendees get a big thank you for attending.

3D MAMMOGRAPHY IS THE NEWEST
INNOVATION FOR DETECTING BREAST CANCER
DURING AN ANNUAL MAMMOGRAM.

It reveals suspicious tissue and small tumors that may otherwise not be found. This latest technology will provide better detection rates, reduced exposure to radiation, and quicker timeframe to diagnosis, resulting in reduced anxiety. To make your 3D mammogram appointment, call (989) 667-6350

THE NEXT GENERATION OF GENEROSITY

The three Nickless sisters all grew up in Bay City. Even though they moved away, their hearts clearly remain in their hometown – mostly due to the upbringing and memories of their parents.

Joan, Jan and Judy were raised by Arthur and Helen Nickless. Listening to the daughters speak about their parents is truly inspiring: “Our parents did all sorts of little things that created big results in individual lives.” The daughters watched their parents and grew up just like them. However, they now do big things that create even bigger results.

Arthur Nickless lost his beloved wife, Helen, in 2004. His daughters explained what happened next. “Dad loved mom so much, he wanted to do something special for her. She cared about other people – they both did – and he wanted to do something in her name that was positive for the community.”

This was how the Helen M. Nickless Volunteer Clinic was born. Arthur’s gift of \$1 million was the catalyst for a community campaign that raised over \$4 million to ensure that those who are economically disadvantaged would have access to primary healthcare at no cost.

In 2011, our community lost Arthur Nickless. His three daughters carry on their parents’ memory even though they live across the country – Joan Tankersley in California, Jan Royce in Northern Michigan and Judy Graham in New York.

“Our parent’s understood generosity. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to continue what they believed in,” they explain. The sisters and their Foundation have been supporting many nonprofit programs and projects in Bay County and the surrounding area for years, with no plans of stopping. They say they are simply adhering to the values of their parents: “Unbounded generosity for those in need.”



The Nickless Sisters recently visited the Helen M. Nickless Volunteer Clinic. Pictured L to R: Joan Tankersley, Jan Royce and Judy Graham.

“Unbounded generosity for those in need.”



Lori Murphy

CHANGING LIVES AT THE VOLUNTEER CLINIC

Lori Murphy’s story is not that different from many who live in our community. She and her husband work full time but have no health insurance and they don’t make enough to afford it.

When Lori developed a wound on her toe that would not heal, she did not know where to turn. A friend referred her to the Helen M. Nickless Volunteer Clinic.

“I don’t know what I would have done without the Volunteer Clinic,” says Lori. “But I’m pretty sure I would be blind.” During treatment for her toe, it was discovered that Lori was diabetic and needed insulin. She also attended McLaren’s diabetic education program. “I have learned a lot, including exercise and portion control to help my diabetes,” Lori says.

The Volunteer Clinic is here to help people just like Lori. People who need primary healthcare, as well as dental care. People underestimate the importance of dental care to maintain good health. When teeth hurt or are falling out, it can affect a person’s health in so many ways

Most recently, Lori received dental care that has further changed her life. She is proudly sporting dentures through a collaboration with Great Lakes Bay Health and the Volunteer Clinic. Now Lori is not only free from pain and able to eat – she has a brand-new sense of self confidence.

“I can’t even thank them enough for what they have done for me,” says Lori. “The clinic volunteers do so much. They help in many ways, send you in the right direction and they are here for you.”



Jean and Donald Massnick

A JOURNEY LEADS TO A LEGACY

"It was a journey. An unexpected journey ... that I chose to take." That is how Cathy Massnick LaTulip describes her experience of ensuring the legacy of her parents – Jean and Donald Massnick.

Jean and Don had a deep commitment to the health and well-being of the Bay City community. Don volunteered for the McLaren Bay Medical Foundation board for 28 years, which included 8 years as

Chairman. Jean was a RN at the former Mercy Hospital and later volunteered for the McLaren Bay Region Auxiliary. Their dedication included a legacy gift to the hospital.

Cathy began the journey by advising the Foundation on how to best honor her parents. A nurse herself, Cathy cared for her parents before her Mom passed in 2015 and her Dad in 2016. Jean was a hospice pancreatic cancer patient. "McLaren Hospice did a fantastic job with my Mom's hospice care and Dad had help with McLaren home care services," explained Cathy. "I couldn't have done it without their help."

Hospice seemed to be the perfect choice and the renovation of two inpatient hospice rooms was the road that was taken. After approximately three years of planning, designing, construction and lots of waiting, the two hospice rooms are now open. They are warm, comforting and large enough for families to gather and say their final goodbyes.

"I can't believe what transpired," says Cathy. "It's the coolest thing to see my parents' names on the wall of the hospice rooms. It took a really long time, but it was an amazing thing to see it come together."

Cathy is adamant that it is ALL about her parents, explaining that it was all well planned. Her parents put the money away in the 1980's and shared their giving plans with Cathy and she greatly agreed with them. However, they did not specify exactly how the money should be used. Cathy used her parents' experiences, values and memory to complete the journey.

"To be able to honor my parents in this way with McLaren was amazing," she said. "I accepted the responsibility and did it in their honor."

Inpatient hospice is available for patients who are very near the end of life. "I am so happy that people can stay in these gorgeous rooms and not have to transfer to another facility," says Cathy. "I am so proud of my parents and what they did and that I was able to represent them."

TOP: *The ceiling lights shine through translucent tiles featuring a bright sky, clouds and trees.*

SECOND FROM TOP: *Cathy LaTulip with Tim and Jane Moulthrop. The Moulthrops were longtime friends of the Massnicks. Tim, a current and founding McLaren Bay Medical Foundation trustee, served on the board with Don.*

THIRD FROM TOP: *The bathroom has been expanded and tiled to make it easily accessible for patients.*

BOTTOM: *The hospice rooms feature new flooring and paint in colors that are proven to be soothing for patients and their families. Brand new beds and chairs include a sleeping chair to accommodate family members wishing to stay close by during the night.*



If you are interested in finding out more about legacy giving or other giving opportunities at the McLaren Bay Medical Foundation, please contact Lynn Weaver at 989-895-4728 or lynn.weaver@mclaren.org.

DOING WHAT'S BEST...TOGETHER!

McLaren Bay Region is **your** hospital. As medical technology advances, **your** hospital is committed to staying at the cutting edge – for you, for your loved ones, for every person in the community. The doctors, nurses and staff are proud to serve you with the best care possible. They are also proud of how the community – people like **you** – support their efforts. **Together, we can do great things right here at home.**

Contact us to find out more about how you can change lives through giving to the McLaren Bay Medical Foundation. Call 989-895-4725 or email mbmf@mclaren.org.

SAVE THE DATES!

Don't miss our upcoming events coming this spring. More information to follow!

DINNER AROUND THE WORLD

Thursday, March 12, 2020 | The Grand, Essexville

5K WALK/RUN

Saturday, May 2, 2020 | Uptown Bay City

STAFF

Lynn Weaver | Director

Judy Dallas | Senior Foundation Assistant

Jessica Gregory | Volunteer Specialist

Alysa Matthews | Foundation Specialist

Chris Sheets | Database Administrator

95 AND STILL VOLUNTEERING



McLaren Bay Region has a dedicated and active volunteer force who chooses to give back to the community by donating their time. Some people give a little more time than others. For instance, Veronica Grusecki, who goes by the name Ronni, has been a volunteer for 22 years – and she started at the young age of 73!

The Bay City resident was born in Standish 95 years ago. Ronni volunteers every Tuesday morning in the outpatient surgery recovery area. Why? "I like to keep busy," says Ronni. "I make up the beds, get patients drinks, sanitize the chairs, and wheel patients out to their cars, if needed."

As we look at Ronni, we think that volunteering might just be the secret to a long life!

Call today if you want to find out more about volunteering at McLaren Bay Region! Our Volunteer Specialist is Jessica Gregory, 989-894-3540 or jessica.gregory@mclaren.org.

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IN 2018, MCLAREN VOLUNTEERS MADE A DIFFERENCE!

- Over **100** active volunteers gave a total of **13,472** hours of service.
- Volunteer Courtesy Van drivers transported McLaren patients to and from appointments **656** times. (The courtesy van operates 4 days a week.)