

HENNEPIN HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2021

Impact

GENEROSITY HAPPENS HERE



Trauma Care —
Far from Normal

A Father Caring
for Fathers

Food at the
Door Step

Humans of
Hennepin Healthcare

Thumbs up for Hennepin Healthcare's COVID-19 vaccine efforts. Reaching deep into the community to ensure access to this critical resource is part of our equity mission. You can read an indepth story on the effort in our 2020 Report to the Community now featured on our website: www.hennepinhealthcare.org/foundation.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Recently I had an opportunity to attend the groundbreaking for The Moment complex which will house the Firefighters for Healing Transitional Healing Center. This Center will provide temporary lodging for first responders, patients receiving care in our Burn Center, as well as their family members who come from out of town. It's a wonderful and much needed project, providing comfort and support to families at a time of their greatest need.

We are honored to commit to raising funds for this project. At press time, I'm happy to report we have met our \$300K goal. It's a great example of how generosity can change people's lives. This is what drives us and inspires us every day.

The Hennepin Healthcare Foundation provides a connection between world class health care providers and the community we serve. With the help of our donors we break down barriers to care, we support innovation, and we look for ways to improve the health and wellbeing of the community and our patients and families.

The stories you see throughout this publication provide a snapshot of the breadth and the depth of the programs that are made possible by philanthropy. We were proud to support those who are the backbone of our trauma care with PPE, food, and hotel vouchers so they could continue providing life-saving service through the pandemic. We were inspired by the way donors stepped up to fund art for the Redleaf Center for Family Healing to support the mental health needs of parents. We're grateful for the partnership of the Bush Foundation as we prepare to re-open the East Lake Clinic, which was shut down during the uprising following the murder of George Floyd, but will soon reemerge as a vital resource in the neighborhood.

There are so many examples where our donors responded to a need and provided the resources to expand the reach and the effectiveness of Hennepin Healthcare. This generosity brings tangible results, supporting programs that are among the best in the nation and making them available to families regardless of their income or insurance status.

With your help we are forming new partnerships, supporting leading-edge programs, and enhancing the ability of Hennepin Healthcare to focus on what we do best: improve the health and lives of the community. After a chaotic year, it says a lot that we not only survived, we are set to thrive.

Sincerely,

Theresa Pesch, RN

President, Hennepin Healthcare Foundation

Our Mission

We partner with our community, our patients and their families to ensure access to outstanding care for everyone, while improving health and wellness through teaching, patient and community education, and research.



Operating Room P4



Far from Normal

Trauma Care in the Time of COVID-19

Trauma is, by definition, unpredictable. Accidents, falls, severe burns, and gunshot wounds are just some of the incidents that happen without warning, requiring immediate, specialized and coordinated response.

For decades, Hennepin Healthcare has filled this role in the community as a Level 1 Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center. A team of specially-trained doctors, nurses, social workers and support staff are ready to handle the most urgent and complex cases 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The pace can be relentless. In 2020, more than 3,850 patients were admitted to trauma service. That included more than 600 gunshot wounds or stabbings.

In normal times, trauma care is stressful, intense, and emotionally draining. The last year and a half have been far from normal. The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with social unrest in the wake of the murder of

George Floyd, put Hennepin Healthcare's trauma program in uncharted waters. Unlike many elements of patient care, trauma care can't be handled remotely and it can't be delayed. The cases that come through our doors require immediate, hands-on response, often from a large team operating in close quarters. Lives hang in the balance, so despite the pandemic, the team members had to rise to the challenge.

Adapting on the Fly

Early in 2020, before the pandemic, Hennepin Healthcare was seeing some of the highest numbers of trauma cases in its history. There was a slight decline in the spring and early summer, but then cases skyrocketed again, putting added stress on the program. With only eleven surgeons to handle all the surgical emergencies, protecting the staff from infection became a top priority. This meant dividing into groups, so if someone tested positive the exposures could be

Trauma surgeons:
Rachel Payne
Derek Lumbard
Ryan Deisler
Chad Richardson
Paul Stahler
Richard Zera

— Continued on
page 4

contained. Then, as COVID cases started to rise, the teams had to constantly evaluate and change their practices to maximize resources and minimize risks.

“It was an emotional roller coaster,” said nurse anesthetist Eric Steuck, “because you know if you don’t get this right, everyone that comes through our door could die. So you have that extreme responsibility with all the decision making we had to take on.”

“Having enough staff became more of a concern than beds or PPE because if there was an exposure you couldn’t work for a week.”

— DR. ANDREW SCHMIDT, ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON

The surging patient volumes and unpredictability of the virus took both a physical and emotional toll on the care teams, who felt extra pressure to stay healthy.

“It was stressful. We were hanging on the edge for literally months,” said Dr. Andrew Schmidt, orthopaedic surgeon. “Hennepin never completely ran out of space but I was watching it everyday looking at the beds and, more importantly, the staff. Having enough staff became more of a concern than beds or PPE because if there was an exposure you couldn’t work for a week.”

Dr. Derek Lumbard, a surgical resident, said the stress of operating on COVID patients was only part of the challenge.

“The thing that was more stressful to me was home life,” he said. “Was I going to bring this home? Was I going to maybe not have symptoms but then pass it on to my family with two young kids?”

Dual Challenges: Isolation and Unrest

As the surges of COVID patients started to show up at Hennepin Healthcare, the trauma team faced new challenges. First, they had to treat very sick patients who could often take quick and unexpected turns for the worse due to the virus. Then they had to help the patients and their families navigate the isolation and uncertainty that became a hallmark of the pandemic.

“In trauma cases, these are often young, healthy people who suddenly are in critical condition due to a car accident or some other tragic event,” said Kimberly Schneider, RN, Surgical Intensive Care Unit. “To have to tell parents or a significant other, ‘We’ll update



Director of Trauma Services, Dr. Chad Richardson

you,’ is really hard. They would cry. I would cry. We were really busy but we did our best to include family in all decisions, reaching out over the phone and trying to explain what was going on.”

The nature of the virus also made it more difficult to predict when, or if, a patient was going to recover.

“The thing that worried me the most was when we started to see patients who were healthy getting really, really sick,” said Dr. Schmidt. “COVID patients also had a lot more complications from surgery. Simple hip fractures could result in complications or death which is very unusual.”

On top of the uncertainty from the pandemic, the trauma program also faced a different kind of challenge in the wake of George Floyd’s murder. The unrest brought a spike in new trauma cases, from gunshot wounds, rubber bullets, and other injuries that put added stress on an already difficult situation.

“I got called in at midnight during the protests and driving in I was thinking, the city’s on fire, I’m being called in for backup during what appear to be riots during a worldwide pandemic,” said Dr. Chad Richardson, director

of trauma services. “Write that down and read it back to yourself and never in a million years would I think we would be doing such a thing. There was so much added stress, thinking about your own safety but also wondering what you’re going to face when you get into work.”

“We were busy around the clock,” added Eric Steuck. “We were busy with COVID. We had just opened up our disaster ICU and a number of us volunteered to work there. I was proud of the way we stepped up at a time when things were uncertain, putting ourselves out there for the greater good. We did it because we needed to.”

Supporting Each Other, and Receiving Support

At first, the trauma program was driven by adrenaline, knowing they had to quickly rise to any and all challenges. After a while, however, adrenaline can give way to exhaustion. That’s when the team had to rely on each other, and the community, for support. To offer assistance, the daily work huddles started to include chaplaincy and psychiatric support. Philanthropy from the community also made a huge difference, providing PPE, free hotel stays to reduce exposure, food, and other support services to front line workers.

“One thing that really helped when I was working long shifts was being able to stay at a hotel nearby,” said nurse anesthetist Paige Saunders. “That took the pressure off of potentially bringing the virus home to my family and helped get me through some of the toughest weekends since my career started.”

Lessons Learned

Even as vaccinations expand and COVID cases hopefully wane, the need for trauma care never goes away. Summer months are always the busiest time of year for trauma cases, and the surge in violent crime over the last year is continuing to challenge the team.

“It shows our incredible dedication and resiliency because this is what we do,” said Dr. Richardson. “I’ve told our team how incredibly proud I am of everything they have

done and for the fortitude and commitment that I think has been a really impressive showing for what we do.”

Paige Saunders said as difficult as COVID-19 was to manage, it only reinforced her commitment to trauma care.

“In the end it was the patients that kept me going,” she said. “I love my job. I work here because of the patients and my relationships with my colleagues. My heart is in it. Even though there were so many difficult times, there were those patients who had successful outcomes. It’s hard to explain, but it’s such a victory.”

Our state, and our region, have come to rely on Hennepin Healthcare for the most serious and urgent care. It’s a role that members of the trauma program are honored to accept.

“We’re humbled by doing the work,” said Dr. Richardson. “We’re here for this community just doing what we do. This is what the community expects of us. They expect us to do a good job and we are committed to bringing the best of ourselves to that job every day.”

The unpredictable nature of trauma will continue, and the doctors, nurses and staff have shown they are up to the challenge. The passion and commitment that drives trauma care every day is what allowed the team to persevere in a trying year. This strength will continue long after the pandemic fades.

“The city’s on fire, I’m being called in for backup during what appear to be riots during a worldwide pandemic.”

— DR. CHAD RICHARDSON, DIRECTOR OF TRAUMA SERVICES



A Father Caring for Fathers

Dr. Krishnan Subrahmanian is a husband and father of three children under the age of five and spends his professional time as a pediatrician at Hennepin Healthcare. A former high school teacher with a background in public health, he sat down with Dustin Parks of New Publica to discuss fatherhood.

What has becoming a dad been like for you?

We have a book about this little bunny who keeps getting asked: “What do you wanna be when you grow up?” The whole family has their own take. But in the end, the bunny says: “I don’t wanna do any of those things. I wanna be a daddy!” I bring this example up because that wasn’t me. To be honest, I never introspected enough to build in the fact that fatherhood would become my life.

Being a father changes one’s identity. We all have dreams, ambitions, and stories. However, being a father makes you realize, this is not a story about me anymore. I am now a supporting character in the story of another. And for someone who was so career oriented, it’s a big shift.



Was there a moment when you really realized that?

It compounds, right? You start out and you’re like, I better pull the car around and have the car seat placed correctly. In the early days, my biggest role is to support mom so she can breastfeed. Then it just progresses, and with time, I realize how much I enjoy it. I’ll take my children to swimming lessons and I’ll just sit there, watching them be afraid of the water, and I’m going to love it because I’ll watch them overcome that fear. I would rather do that than write another paper or bill for another appointment. That is when you realize that MY story is not the story at hand anymore.

Tell me more about this joy of fatherhood. Where do you find it?

In just about everything. When my son is able to use the toilet without assistance. When my daughter puts on all her winter clothing, only half backwards! It’s a huge deal. Part of it is, well, it’s a little less I have to do for them. But part of it is like, gosh, we worked hard on learning this and now you’re doing it.

This world we live in, for all its frustrations, sadness and toughness—it’s pretty amazing. To get to relive it again, through the eyes of children is so wonderful.



“As a father, the way we support our partner has a profound effect on baby and can serve as an important role model.”

— DR. KRISHNAN SUBRAHMANIAN

What are the challenges to being a father?

Oh yeah, there's a lot. I don't think fatigue should be underestimated. You can't get away from your own professional expectations and personal life. So to balance those realities of everyday life with being present is difficult.

We put a lot on dads, a lot on families between financial burdens and commitments. To do that, and have the time and energy to enjoy your kids, it's a major challenge. Also, the world doesn't grant the father the opportunity to say “oh, I was late because I was wiping up my child,” or “I can't make it today because I'm taking care of my kids.”

That's not a space granted to dads, because it doesn't fit with the traditional roles. Thank goodness it's changing. There are greater expectations for the father to be around for the daily routines and care. This helps to redefine gender roles. That's very important. It allows them to take on the role they want, whatever it may be. Plus it really takes more than two people to manage all of this, so having at least two parents take on the tasks is really great!

How does your experiences as a dad affect your practice as a physician?

Being a pediatrician doesn't make me any better of a father. But being a father makes me a much better pediatrician. The truth of the matter is that in pediatrics, or medicine, we learn a lot about diseases and processes and dangerous conditions — how to help solve them. We get little instruction in some of the things that matter most, like how you help a kid sleep. How do you help a kid eat and poop and pee? All the things that make up that daily life, you don't get a ton of training on that.

So now, as a pediatrician, I can bring the lens of what is dangerous, what should we avoid. But probably more valuable are the lessons of “here is what works at midnight, here's what you can try, here's other stuff we tried that did — or didn't work” that's very valuable for parents.

What are questions dads come to you with?

Sleep is a huge one. How do I get the baby to sleep? How do we feed? Is this spit-up normal? Kinda humorously, a lot of questions about penises — should they do this or not? A lot of it just comes down to: Is this normal or not?

We raise our children in siloes, in four closed walls. We're all doing what we can, but we're doing it alone in many cases. I think, oftentimes I'm there to help set boundaries. This is within the normal range, this is when I would worry.

How can someone be the best dad they choose to be?

An important point here is that each family looks different and understand that this takes as much help as available. If you are a father you can be a part of that, whether you live with your partner or not, whether you are an adoptive parent, part of a same sex relationship, or are a single parent.

As a father, the way we support our partner has a profound effect on baby and can serve as an important role model.

In the first couple of months, the baby needs milk and particularly if mother is breastfeeding. It can feel like baby wants mom and tolerates dad. But understand that there is a connection for you too, you are a voice, a person, a smell that the baby will recognize. Also in those early months, support your partner. It can take an hour to feed the baby. If your partner has to do that every two hours, there is little time left and a lot to do. There is laundry, sterilizing bottles, paying attention to other children and family members.

This support of our partner is not only helpful, it also improves the emotional health of moms, babies and families in the short and long run. With time it serves as important role modeling for relationship building.

By 3-4 months you are starting to get eye contact, at six months, the connection becomes even more

— Continued on page 8

profound. From there on, there is so much you can do to speak with baby, sing to baby, promote language, act as a role model, developing that relationship and advocating for your child and pushing them outside their comfort zone to try new things.

How can we as a community work to better support dads?

It starts early and often. I talk a lot about how there are no books about this art of fathering. Dads have oftentimes been told, here's your role as provider/protector. But they're not instructed on feeding, diaper changing, managing bedtime. How can you be a helpful partner, and father, and role model, and community member? We don't get to talk about those things enough. We have learned that fathers want this kind of information and they want it even as they are preparing for fatherhood.

Also, in health care, we can be more inviting to fathers throughout the first couple of years. We have a lot of contact points with moms, and babies. Far fewer with dads. To some extent it's about helping dads even know how they can show up at appointments and get the most of it. At every level of fatherhood and rearing children, dads should be empowered with that knowledge — how is my child growing and developing.

Moreover, we as healthcare providers can help keep men healthy, screen them for depression, and make sure they are caring for their own health. In policy terms, there is a lot that could be done to support dads. If we really believe that fathers, and all parents for that matter, should be involved in the early life of a child, then let's support that. Support that with paternal leave, and ensuring all parents have adequate time to care for children.

Finally we can let people know how special and important the role of "dad" can be. Even myself, who was a teacher and worked with kids, I didn't understand the joy of fatherhood. Kids are amazing, they are wonderful creatures. Just highlighting that there's a lot of joy to be had in being a parent, a father. That's something I never heard as a young man. We have not done a great job of telling that joy, and normalizing it for young men. It's great to be a dad!

Dr. Subrahmanian sees patients in the Hennepin Healthcare Pediatric Clinic and is a consulting pediatrician with The Redleaf Center for Family Healing. This new Center provides mental health and parenting support to mothers and fathers with young children zero to five years of age. For more information visit <https://redleaffamilyhealing.org>.



Dr. Subrahmanian at home with his mother-in-law, wife and three children.



ENJOY A SNEAK PEAK OF THE REDLEAF CENTER THROUGH A VIRTUAL ART TOUR

Welcoming the moms, dads, and children to the Redleaf Center for Family Healing are 50 pieces of original artwork, created by a diverse group of local artists. This amazing collection is made possible through the generosity of art sponsors. You can enjoy a virtual art tour of the Center showcasing each piece of art, select artist statements, and reflections from those inspired to give.

Watch the fifteen minute art tour on: <https://youtu.be/--T30jWFaYU>. Scan the QR code with your smart phone camera and you'll be linked directly to the video.



View the complete art catalog and information on the campaign for the Redleaf Center for Family Healing at www.hennepinhealthcare.org/redleafcampaign.

Announcing Bush Foundation Grant for East Lake Clinic

Thanks to a grant from the Bush Foundation, the Hennepin Healthcare East Lake Clinic will receive a makeover from the inside out. After the clinic sustained damages from social unrest last summer, it needed a new physical space and a new care approach.

A \$204,559 Community Innovation Grant will support an 18-month community collaborative that will design a new trauma-healing primary care model. This model involves providers treating and viewing patients holistically and considers a patient's safety, empowerment, voice, cultural and historical context, and kinship network within the health system.

Ndidiama Koka, MD, medical director of the East Lake Clinic and model design co-leader, shared "this project is a way the healthcare system can help patients heal from trauma. To do that, we require a dialogue and a very close connection with the community."

Ramla Bile, a grant-making officer with the Bush Foundation, said trauma-informed care is typically used in behavioral health or addiction services, so she was excited to see a proposal within a primary care clinic.

"We know the disparities and gaps in healthcare," Ramla said. "We know this community is uniquely impacted, and with the uprising last summer and the pandemic, it created a 'syndemic' — the intersection of two or more concurrent or sequential health threats. We see the value of this work and how it might change the healthcare ecosystem."

The grant will fund capacity-building resources, the plan on what the practice will look like, space for co-learning, a design based on diversity, equity, inclusion, and the potential for the project to spread to other clinics and communities. The design will be created with input from patients, staff, and outside community groups.

"It takes one good experience to help shift people's mentality around how they trust and engage with systems," Ramla said. "Making sure this is available to people of color who already experience bias and probably have some level of mistrust of systems because of their very real experience is important."

"A lot of trauma-informed care is being done with 0-5-year-olds and families at the Hennepin Healthcare Redleaf Center for Family Healing and Aqui Para Tí to interrupt the generational trauma, but what if you're 55? Is there still a way to heal from trauma? We feel that there is," shared Maria Kaefer, MD, a physician at East Lake Clinic and project co-leader.





Emily of Open Arms greets Hennepin Healthcare client Brenda

Food at the Door Step: a Gift of Philanthropy

“It’s more than feeding a person, you’re feeding their mind, body, and soul.”

— BRENDA

Philanthropy translates to ‘love of mankind’ in Latin. Donations to our Hennepin Heroes fund during the pandemic was a clear expression of this love from the community for the community we serve. COVID-19 brought unique challenges to many of our patients, including access to nutritious meals for those who were homebound.

At a time when staying home was encouraged, food access was restricted. Some could not leave their homes for a variety of COVID-related reasons, such as a positive test, an exposure, or a pre-existing condition.

Fortunately, Hennepin Healthcare had an existing partnership with Open Arms of Minnesota, a nonprofit dedicated to delivering nutritious meals to those in the Twin Cities living with severe illnesses. The meals are afforded through grants and donations and offered at no costs to clients. Together, both organizations created a plan to serve Hennepin Healthcare patients who were homebound due to COVID.

Once identified and enrolled, patients received two meals a day over the course

of four weeks, delivered by Open Arms volunteers. The meals were medically tailored to each individual, and also offered to caregivers and children in the home.

Brenda, a patient of Hennepin Healthcare, had difficulty accessing food because of health issues. COVID-19 exasperated the problem. She called her resource worker for help and was connected to Open Arms.

“Open Arms helped me because I saw that someone cared,” Brenda said. “When I saw the volunteer’s face, it meant a lot to me. If it weren’t for COVID, I’d give her a hug.”

She said Open Arms has a great impact on people who are homebound.

“It’s more than feeding a person,” Brenda said. “You’re feeding their mind, body, and soul.”

Emily Szeliga, a client advocate for Open Arms, said her love language is feeding people and recalled times when she or a family member was given a meal.

“Once you know that feeling, you know how important it is,” Emily said. She added that the number of clients has rapidly increased with the pandemic, as well as the partnership with Hennepin Healthcare. “It’s incredible that we’ve expanded so much and can serve so many more people, especially during a time when the world is scary.”

Amy Harris, population health program director, and Karen Birkeland, a performance improvement advisor, said it was important for a health system to do this work because it helped reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19, particularly for those who were at a high risk.

“The goal is to keep people with COVID home safe,” Amy said. “It gave them a sense that they could focus on their health and healing, rather than where they’re getting food.”

At the end of the four weeks, patients had the chance to speak with a dietitian from Open Arms, and many accepted the opportunity. According to Open Arms, Hennepin Healthcare had the highest number of patients accept and schedule a meeting with a dietitian. In fact, this offering was so successful, second meetings were scheduled.

“It wasn’t usually just the patient that participated, but their partner and several kids,” Karen said. “We could reach the whole family in one meeting and improve their excitement and understanding of nutrition.”

This month, the program wraps up after having served over 42,000 meals to Hennepin Healthcare patients, including meals offered to their dependents and caregivers.

Andrew Mendez, director of client services for Open Arms, said the partnership benefitted clients beyond receiving meals and nutrition counseling. A hidden benefit was that some clients qualified for other funding after the four-week program, and received more long-term assistance. Others received additional medical care.

“We rely so much on healthcare providers to give us access to clients so we can help as many people as possible,” Andrew said.

Hennepin Healthcare Foundations thanks our donors. This program was 100 percent supported by philanthropy, with funds coming from the Hennepin Heroes Fund, Otto Bremer, Hennepin Healthcare staff in Internal Medicine, a Hunger Solutions grant, and a federal CARES grant.



FORMER NURSES CIRCLE BACK TO HENNEPIN HEALTHCARE

The Hennepin Healthcare Foundation and Nursing Administration have joined forces to create a Hennepin Nursing Alumni Society. This new giving circle welcomes retired and departed nurse professionals from Hennepin Healthcare to stay connected with each other and the organization.

“The purpose of this new group is to create a spirited forum for camaraderie, connection, and philanthropy among former Hennepin Healthcare nurses to support Hennepin nursing and the mission of the organization,” stated CNO Kelly White.

Advising the new initiative is former Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) Kathy Wilde and nurse alum, Marsha Zimmerman, RN. Both had long standing careers at Hennepin Healthcare and have joined forces to recruit members, inspire generosity, and build a legacy bridge between former and current nursing professionals.

Kathy and Marsha recently shared their thoughts on the launch. “It has been a meaningful and inspiring effort to develop this vision and create the charter that will guide the Hennepin Nursing Society. We see the desire of loyal, devoted former Hennepin nurses to stay connected and find ways they can make a personal impact in giving back to their profession and to Hennepin Healthcare. We are energized by the initial enthusiastic response of nurses to join the Society.”

The kick-off celebration on May 12 attracted 49 guests. If you are a nurse and soon retiring, we encourage you to stay connected. For more information, scan the QR code with the camera on your smartphone.



Almost Ready to Dance

As soon as Dan and Kristin Schmidt knew Dan needed trauma care from a 30-foot fall, they wanted to go to the experts. They chose Hennepin Healthcare.

On April 11, 2020, Dan was trimming trees along his driveway at his home in Belle Plaine. His brother-in-law was running the telehandler. As he let Dan down, the front basket got caught on a tree underneath that he could not see.

Without time to warn his brother of the tree, Dan held on to the basket.

“When it snapped back into that level position, I think the backrest is what broke my back,” Dan said. “Then I dropped to my knees and rolled out the front and hit the ground.”

Luckily, Dan was wearing a helmet and avoided any head trauma.



“I couldn’t move my legs or my feet. I knew immediately it was a spinal cord injury,” Dan said.

His brother-in-law called 911, and Dan called Kristin. When the helicopter arrived, Kristin asked, “Where was the best place for Dan to receive care. They all said HCMC.”

Even though they lived 45 minutes away, Dan and Kristin knew of HCMC’s reputation for excellent trauma care, as two relatives received care and successfully recovered.

When Dan arrived at HCMC, staff confirmed he shattered his L1 vertebrae, damaged his T12 vertebrae, broke his forearm, and broke 11 ribs.

With the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kristin could not accompany her husband but praised the great communication from Hennepin nurses.

“Dan had a 10-hour surgery, and a nurse called me at each stage — before he went in and each time they switched surgical teams,” Kristin said. “After surgery, my sisters-in-law and I went out to where his room was and brought posters. The nurses wheeled his bed to the window and elevated it so he could see us.”

Kristin said that time was like living in a black hole because they didn’t know Dan’s long-term prognosis. “I was at my whit’s end because I couldn’t see him, but Dan repeatedly told me, ‘Don’t worry, I’m receiving good care.’ Having that message when you’re operating blind in the pandemic because you can’t physically be there really puts your mind at ease.”

After about two weeks at HCMC, Dan was transferred to Abbott Northwestern Hospital for rehabilitation with Courage Kenny.

“My sisters-in-law and I were able to be outside during Dan’s transfer,” Kristin shared. “It had been two weeks since we had really seen him, and then we knew he was going to be at another facility for two to three months. Seeing Dan during his transfer meant a lot during the pandemic.”

After some time at Abbott, Dan transferred again to Courage Kenny’s transitional rehabilitation program in Golden Valley. His goal there was to walk 150 feet with a walker.

“I could tell they were surprised, and they asked me, ‘Oh goodness, how are you going to do that?’ But I was probably walking 500 feet or 400 feet in a walker when I came home,” Dan said.

Just before July 4, Dan finally returned home. A little over a year after the accident, Dan says he feels 50 percent of what he was before the accident but hopes to get to 80 percent.

“I’m not using a cane or anything to walk,” Dan said. “I’m not ready to dance yet, but I think we’re getting close.”

Dan is happy with his recovery and thinks it could’ve been a different outcome if he had not received care at HCMC.

“I’m so grateful for the nurses and entire staff at HCMC,” Dan said. “When you’re in an accident, you need to go to the experts.”

His next goal is to fulfill his promise to Kristin — to take her dancing.



**WHY I GIVE:
Jantze Haley**

When I was interviewed for this piece, I was literally speechless. How can you put into words that others will understand the depth of appreciation I feel for the care team at Hennepin Healthcare? How can you possibly explain why you care enough to give of yourself when you are faced with life-threatening pancreatic and breast Cancers?

First and foremost, my heartfelt gratitude goes to Dr. Richard Zera for his kind, caring, and compassionate abilities. To the Infusion Team for their ability to multitask and yet stay connected, genuinely caring for one patient then another. To Dr. Ramen, who gently guided me and reassured me of strengths I never knew I had. With his open and big heart, he offered compassion and friendship.

Special thanks to Dr. Rachel Koreth, who tirelessly walked me through endless tests while staying a beacon during my days that felt like a storm. Her compassion and dedication are unmatched. When you see her, her gentleness warms you, calms you, and you know guidance will follow.

To Kelly Porter, her friendship has been a gift of life. She is a caring person who always brightens my day. I appreciate all the staff in Oncology who are very unique and special on their own. Thank you to Leah, Dr. Tony Severt, and staff of the Wanzek Family Breast Center. What an example of another great team at Hennepin Healthcare!

To everyone I have encountered, I will never be able to put into words how incredible and dedicated you are. Talent, innovation, and compassion permeate throughout the organization. Staff could take these skills anywhere, but they choose to serve the mission and patients of Hennepin Healthcare. And for that, I couldn't be more grateful.

How can you say thank you for the gift of time? I have been given this gift by Hennepin Healthcare and their team. Time to live, time with family, time to love, and along the way I have made amazing friends. I give because Hennepin Healthcare has made a difference in my life and my family. My family has given because Hennepin gave them more time with me.

I give because I have watched and felt how my husband, a provider at Hennepin, cares and carries it daily.

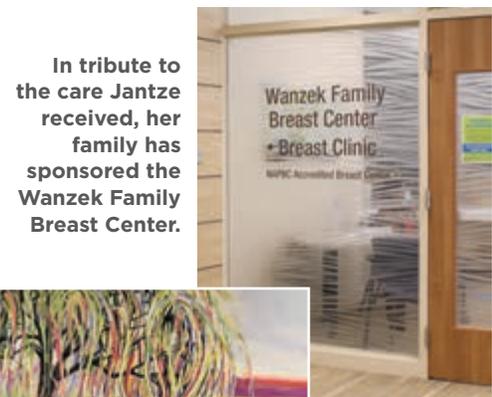
So in closing, thank you Hennepin Healthcare for the most amazing, gentle, and compassionate team a patient could hope for!

In the end, I give because I care that Hennepin cares!

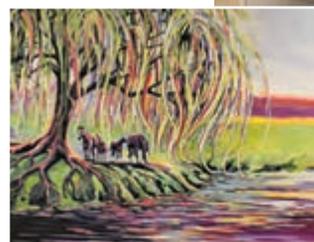
Jantze Haley's gratitude has touched the lives of thousands of patients as a volunteer in the Cancer Center, a legacy supporter with an endowment for the healing arts, a board member of the Hennepin Healthcare Foundation, and as a prominent philanthropist with a passion for the patient and staff experience.



Jantze and Dennis Haley in front of the signature art piece in the Clinic and Specialty Center, sponsored in honor of Jantze's mother, who influenced Jantze's love of the arts, including her 25 years as a principal harpist.



In tribute to the care Jantze received, her family has sponsored the Wanzek Family Breast Center.



A few of the many art pieces that grace the Cancer Center as a thank you from Jantze.



Humans of Hennepin Healthcare

A new column profiling people and their stories with Hennepin Healthcare

Haylee Veazey, MD, has a goal — that the Adult Gender and Sexual Health clinic she runs will not be necessary one day.

Dr. Veazey started the clinic during her years as an intern in both internal and emergency medicine and after she came out as a transgender woman. She wanted to help the LGBTQ+ community feel comfortable and accepted while talking to primary care doctors.

“In general, the LGBTQ community doesn’t get the same care that the cisgender heterosexual community gets, for a number of reasons,” shared Dr. Veazey. “For instance, people who were assigned female at birth and are members of the LGBTQ community don’t get cervical cancer screenings at the same rate as cisgender heterosexual people do.”

She said it would be a great goal for the medical community to make all

people feel comfortable going to the doctor like they do at the Adult Gender and Sexual Health Clinic.

“Having a place where people can feel comfortable and get the same care that a cisgender heterosexual person would get is just one small thing we can do to make healthcare more equal,”

— HAYLEE VEAZEY, MD

The Adult Gender and Sexual Health Clinic provides patients with typical primary care, as well as specific care such as hormone replacement therapy, referrals for gender affirming surgeries and gender affirming therapy, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and mental healthcare.

Dr. Veazey said her work is gratifying, especially helping patients transition.

“It feels like you’re giving them something they’ve needed their whole life, or taking away something that shouldn’t have been there,” Dr. Veazey said. “It’s such an accomplishment to hear patients tell me they don’t have the same dysphoria, pain, and depression they felt before. They’re happier.”

Aside from running the Adult Gender and Sexual Health Clinic, Dr. Veazey also worked at the COVID-19 viral screening clinic. She said she volunteered because she knew her risk of COVID complications would be low, and she would see some of those patients anyway, while working in the emergency department.

Dr. Veazey saw patients at all stages — walking and talking and getting a COVID-19 diagnosis, getting intubated, and struggling with the deadly illness.

“It was sometimes a disheartening struggle, feeling like COVID-19 was something our society could have prevented. But there were more patients we helped get through this — we saved their lives,” Dr. Veazey said. “I tried to focus on those things to stay hopeful through the whole pandemic.”

Although there are challenges, Dr. Veazey enjoys the combination of emergency and internal medicine. “I enjoy helping patients through a full spectrum of care,” concludes Dr. Veazey.

Connect with more humans of Hennepin Healthcare at www.hennepinheroes.org.



Representatives of Hennepin Healthcare, Hennepin Healthcare Foundation, Sherman Associates, and Homes for Heroes dig in to celebrate the groundbreaking.

In the Moment for Families of Burn Patients and First Responders

On May 19, Hennepin Healthcare celebrated the groundbreaking of The Moment, a unique project that mixes residential, commercial, and nonprofit spaces. The entire second floor will be managed by Firefighters for Healing as a Transitional Healing Center, supporting families of burn patients and first responders receiving care at Hennepin Healthcare. Twelve fully furnished one-bedroom suites will be available at no cost. It will be a beautiful environment where a family member can rest and recharge. This Center will also accommodate patients who have been discharged so they have a comfortable and safe place to transition before heading home.

“We consider Firefighters for Healing an extension of our Hennepin Healthcare family”, shared Hennepin Healthcare Foundation President, Theresa Pesch. “They have stepped up to help our families when they have needed them with social, emotional, and financial support. We are thrilled to stand alongside them at the groundbreaking, and honored to raise support for this much needed resource for our patient families and first responder community.”

Because of its profound impact, Hennepin Healthcare Foundation raised \$300,000 for this project and thanks the Homes for Heroes Foundation for their leadership gift of \$100,000. Appreciation is also extended to board member Chris Sherman, his father George Sherman, and Sherman Associates for the role they have taken to make this project a reality. We also thank campaign co-chairs Jantze Haley and Rebecca Anderson for leading the fundraising effort.

None of this could be possible without the extraordinary vision of Firefighters for Healing and their close partnership with the doctors, nurses, and care team in Hennepin Healthcare’s renowned regional Burn Center.

REMEMBRANCE EVENT ACKNOWLEDGES GRIEF AND OFFERS HEALING

“There is much grief here because there is much love.” — Rev. David Hottinger, Director of Spiritual Care

All team members at Hennepin Healthcare shared a moment to acknowledge the loss and grief experienced over the last 15 months. Led by the spiritual care team, a remembrance event was held on June 8.



Prior to the virtual program, staff were provided ribbons to write names, messages of hope or intentions. The biodegradable ribbons, donated by Cream City Ribbons, were hung on a tree outside the downtown Minneapolis campus.

Chaplain Maia Twedt composed the following poem for the occasion.

Color dances in these currents of change,
Ribbons of perseverance,
Strands of resilience
Persisting through a pandemic.
They cling tight to what holds firm, the branches and
roots of a tree, bound in the earth.
This rainbow of radiance heralds a new time:
Testimony that the earth
Yearns for a peaceable transition, into
A kinder, gentler world, with room for ferocious love,
Love that knows no inequalities, that trumpets
Interconnectedness, mutuality.
May the spectrum of color held in place by outstretched limbs
Be healing balm, a visible and visceral salve for
The strain of the year, the year when so much became
Stark, the year when we provided what we could in love
Recognizing there is still so far to go.
Dance brilliantly in the wind
Dazzling color and sparkling hope
With every leap, with every intention, with every breath.

Stay Connected

612-873-6090
foundation@hcmcd.org

 hennepinhealthcare.org/foundation

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SUPPORT A MISSION. AVOID TAXES. LEAVE A LEGACY.

Naming the Hennepin Healthcare Foundation as a beneficiary in a tax-deferred investment is a simple and meaningful way to support Hennepin Healthcare's mission for healthcare access, medical education, and research. Some examples of tax-deferred investments include: IRAs, 401Ks, life insurance policies, and annuities.

While distributions from tax-deferred investments are generally subject to tax, these distributions aren't taxed when given to a charitable organization like Hennepin Healthcare Foundation. That's why many donors give tax-deferred assets to charity and earmark other assets to heirs and loved ones.

Hennepin Healthcare Foundation does not provide legal or tax advice. Please consult with a professional advisor before making a gift.

QUESTIONS?

Contact us at 612-873-6090 or email: foundation@hcmcd.org.

Does a deferred gift make sense for you? Find free gift planning tools and guides along with the latest news around estate planning on our website: hcmcd.giftlegacy.com.