



The Power of Philanthropy ■ Summer 2021

# Promise



George and Alice Strickler:  
Leading the Way in a New Era in Healthcare





## Honoring Summa's healthcare heroes

Community members rallied to support Summa Health caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Read about those gifts on Pages 10 and 24.**

## 2 Cover Story: George and Alice Strickler

The longtime Akron philanthropists and community leaders feel fortunate to give back to Summa Health so that others in the community can benefit from the excellent care that Summa provides.

## 6 The Campaign for Summa Health

After surpassing the initial campaign goal of \$75 million, Summa Health set its sights on a new goal: \$100 million. **Support Summa Health using the enclosed envelope, or scan this QR code to visit a secure online giving page.**



## 14 A Philanthropic View

A gift from Evan and Jackie Williams will help other couples struggling to start their own families.



### Also inside: Honor Roll of Summa Health Donors

Our annual listing of the many benefactors who gave so generously to Summa Health in 2020.

### On the cover

George and Alice Strickler  
Photograph by Jason Miller

# Promise

SUMMER 2021 | VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 1

### LEADERSHIP

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*Chair, Board of Directors  
Summa Health*

**Cliff Deveny, M.D.**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer  
Summa Health*

**Patrick O'Neill**  
*Chair, Board of Directors  
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PROMISE is published for friends and benefactors of Summa Health. PROMISE focuses on the impact of philanthropy and provides information on programs and services at Summa Health.

Summa Health is an integrated healthcare delivery system that provides coordinated, value-based services across the continuum of care. Its mission: *To provide the highest quality, compassionate care to our patients and to contribute to a healthier community.* **For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit [summahealth.org](http://summahealth.org).**

Through Summa Foundation, friends and benefactors provide vital support for patient care, medical education and research initiatives at Summa Health. Staff members are available to answer questions regarding types of gifts and how to make a meaningful contribution.

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Cliff Deveny, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Summa Health, stands in the gallery on the Summa Health System — Akron Campus. For more on the gallery and the Healing Arts program, see Page 22.

**“Now and always, the health and well-being of our region’s residents is Summa’s primary focus.”**

T. Clifford Deveny, M.D.

**W**ith the help of our dedicated Summa Health family and the extraordinary support of our community, we surpassed the goal of \$75 million for the Campaign for Summa Health, “Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always.” The success of the campaign is a tribute to the tradition of community support that has benefited Summa Health for more than 125 years.

Our cover story honors Alice, a longtime member of the Women’s Board of Summa Health, and George Strickler, chair of the Summa Health board, for their transformational gift of \$1 million that inspired the extension of the campaign and an increased goal of \$100 million. We are grateful for their dedicated leadership and generous commitment to Summa Health as we embark on the second phase of our investment in the community.

Summa Health’s healthcare heroes continue to respond with selflessness, resilience and compassion to the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are pleased to bring you some highlights of the impactful and meaningful support from our community in this issue.

Also in this issue, an estate gift from the late Dr. Juan and Angelina Perdomo and generous gifts from Naomi Ganoe, Laurel and Paul Luff, Jackie and Evan Williams, Dr. Stephen and Marty Kaiser, Beverly Smith, and Dr. David and Linda Hoff are among the supporters we are privileged to feature.

Since its inception, Summa Health has pledged to take care of its community members and is unwavering in its mission to provide a healthier place for all. Now and always, the health and well-being of our region’s residents is Summa’s primary focus.

With your continued generosity, we look forward to a bright future of leading the way in a new era of healthcare at Summa Health and throughout our community.

Sincerely,

**T. Clifford Deveny, M.D.**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Summa Health



# Alice and George Strickler



## Giving back

to Summa Health to help others in the community is a way of life for Alice and George Strickler. Earlier this year, they made their way of life a legacy with a leadership gift of \$1 million to Summa Health that launched the extension of the campaign, "Caring For You... Then, Now, Always," with an increased goal of \$100 million.

to Summa Health to help others in the community is a way of life for Alice and George Strickler. Earlier this year, they made their way of life a legacy with a leadership gift of \$1 million to Summa Health that launched the extension of the campaign, "Caring For You... Then, Now, Always," with an increased goal of \$100 million.

"Summa Health is our health system, and we are fortunate to give back so that others in our community can benefit from the excellent care that Summa provides," said Alice and George. "We hope that by leading by example we inspire others to do the same."



“Their deep commitment to giving back to Summa is an inspiration for all of us.”

Cliff Deveny, M.D.

## A long legacy of giving back

The couple’s long history of giving back to Summa started in 1987 when Alice was invited to join the Women’s Board of Summa Health. Over her 33 years as a member, Alice helped the Women’s Board raise support for nearly every clinical department across Summa Health as well as annual scholarships for nursing education. A few years ago, a nurse who benefited from one of those scholarships treated Alice in the emergency room.

“It is very gratifying to know that we make a difference for our caregivers, patients and their families,” Alice said.

Eight years ago, George became involved at Summa Health at the invitation of Tom Strauss, Summa Health president and chief executive officer, now retired, to join the Summa Foundation board. George answered the call in more ways than one.

He since has served as a member of the executive committee of the Summa Foundation board for four years, the Summa Health Finance Committee for the last four years, the Summa Health Board of Directors since 2018, and was appointed the new chair in January.

His volunteer leadership roles at Summa Health were no doubt bettered by his years of business experience and the top financial positions he held throughout his career.

“No matter how busy we are with career and family, we always have time for Summa and the community,” he said. “Being able to give back to an organization that has really given to us and that has helped us through our lives and careers is a blessing. We’re glad that we’re able to do these things.”

Today, Alice serves as volunteer chair and George as a member of the Summa Health Orthopedic Institute Leadership Council. Both also volunteer their time and expertise on the Summa Health Cardiovascular Leadership Council.

“This community is incredibly fortunate to have leaders like Alice and George,” said Cliff Deveny, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Summa Health. “Their deep commitment to giving back to Summa is an inspiration for all of us.”

On August 19, the couple will be inducted into the Summa Health Thomas W. Cornell Philanthropic Leadership Society, a distinction reserved for those who have contributed \$1 million or more to Summa Health.

[ Continued on Page 4 ]

“It’s very gratifying to know that we make a difference for our caregivers, patients and their families.”

Alice Strickler





[ Continued from Page 3 ]

On August 30, the couple will be honored at this year's Summa Health Golf Outing for their years of community volunteerism, dedicated service and enduring support of Summa. Avid golfers, Alice and George are familiar faces at the annual outing.

"Golf brings everybody together," said George. The Stricklers' love of golf extends to their four children — George IV, Todd, Steve and Lauren — each of whom played varsity golf in high school. "I learned more about my kids while playing golf out on the course than having family dinners around the table," he added with a laugh.

### A love for family

Alice and George's love for family is evident throughout their warm and inviting home. Family photographs are displayed in every room, among them a photo of Alice's parents on their wedding day.

Alice shared the story of her mother, Elizabeth, who was only 3 years old when she arrived in the United States through Ellis Island on a ship from Hungary. Years later, after moving to Akron for a job at B. F. Goodrich, Elizabeth met her future husband, Adam, another Hungarian immigrant — who lived across the street from her.

Alice and George met under similar circumstances. In late 1970, George moved next door to Alice in an apartment complex by Nesmith Lake. As the story goes, they bumped into one another — while taking out the trash to the dumpster. The following year, the couple tied the knot in a large family wedding. George was raised in a family of six children, and Alice and her twin brother were the youngest of eight siblings.



The Strickler family (from left): Andy and Lauren John; Amanda and George IV with children George V and Penelope; Alice and George; Wendy and Todd with daughter Livia; and Jessie and Steve with children Sloane and Smith. Not pictured is Andy and Lauren's daughter, Avery, who was born after this family photo was taken.

**"For us, nothing is more precious than our family. And, Summa has been with us every step of the way." George Strickler**

By this time, George already had embarked on his 30-year career at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, having graduated in 1969 from the Pennsylvania State University with a degree in accounting. He earned his MBA in finance from The University of Akron in 1974 and received his CPA the following year.

Alice graduated from The University of Akron in 1970 with a degree in elementary education and began teaching third grade in the Manchester School System. Raised in the Lutheran faith, Alice has been involved at her church for as long as she can remember, including teaching Sunday School for more than 20 years.

In February 1976, the couple became proud parents to George IV, and 15 months later, Todd. Both boys were born at what was then Akron City Hospital.

Their overseas adventure with Goodyear began in 1978, taking the family to São Paulo, Brazil, where their third son, Steve, was born; and later to Lima, Peru.

"While we lived in and traveled to many parts of the world, Akron has been and always will be our home," they said.

In 1982, the couple returned to Akron. Five years later, their fourth child, Lauren, was born at Akron City Hospital.

After nearly 50 years of marriage, the Strickler clan has nearly tripled in size with their four children and their spouses — George IV and Amanda, Todd and Wendy, Steve and Jessie, and Lauren and Andy John — and six grandchildren — Penelope, George V, Livia, Sloane, Smith and Avery.

Their daughter-in-law Amanda is a member of The Circle of Women's Health Philanthropists at Summa Health.



"For us, nothing is more precious than our family," said George. "And, Summa has been with us every step of the way. They have taken great care of our parents, they take great care of us, and three of our four children were born there. We give back because Summa has been part of our family for more than 40 years."

Through careful estate planning, the couple has established a philanthropic trust that provides for their children and also gives back to Summa and the community after they are gone.

"It gives us great comfort in knowing that our family and community will continue to benefit from the same excellent and compassionate healthcare that we do today," said George.

## Thankful for Summa's care

Alice's mother — a talented seamstress and baker — was full of life, even in her elderly years, but her active lifestyle came to a screeching halt when a fall in her kitchen resulted in a compression fracture in her back. Following orthopedic surgery at Summa Health, her mother remained energetic and pain-free until she died in February 2001 at the age of 91.

George's mother was equally as active. Then, she suffered back pain so severe, she could not walk or stand. She underwent back surgery at Summa Health and, later, neck surgery. Finally, the pain subsided, and she was able to enjoy the activities she loved. She passed away in October 2014 at the age of 87.

Alice and George are thankful for the treatment their mothers received at Summa Health.

"We are fortunate to have compassionate caregivers at Summa right here in our back yard," said Alice. "Thanks to their exceptional care, our parents continued to enjoy the activities they so loved for their remaining years."

## A vision for the future

After George retired from Goodyear in 1999 as vice president of finance, he went on to serve as executive vice president and chief financial officer for Borg Warner, Republic Engineered Products, Lake West Inc. and Stoneridge Inc.

"With every business I've touched, the process starts with analyzing the marketplace, consumers and competitors, and working with talented people to create a clear vision for the future, even before we begin investing," he said.

George is applying this same practice as chair of the Summa Health Board of Directors.

"With gratitude for Alice and George's leadership and generosity," said Dr. Deveny, "we look forward to a bright future of leading the way in a new era of healthcare at Summa Health and throughout our community."

**For more information about supporting Summa Health, contact Shelley Green at 330.375.6891 or [greensh@summahealth.org](mailto:greensh@summahealth.org).**

"Golf brings everybody together. I learned more about my kids while playing golf than having family dinners around the table."

George Strickler





## Angelina and Juan Perdomo, M.D.

# Legacy of love for Summa's Akron City Hospital

**T**he legacy of Juan Perdomo, M.D., and his wife of 61 years, Angelina, reflects the deep affection the couple felt for Summa Akron City Hospital and the Akron community.

With Juan's passing in 2016 and Angelina in 2020, there came to light a transformational gift demonstrating a love for and commitment to the health system that Dr. Juan Perdomo had served for more than two decades. Celeste Donohue, a close family friend, shared the story of the Perdomos for Promise magazine.



Juan and Angelina Perdomo (seated) at a wedding reception with (from left) Nancy Garcia, wife of the late Dr. Eduardo Garcia, and Celeste Donohue with her husband, Mike.

"I first met them in 1967 through a mutual friend," she said. "I had moved to Akron from Florida for a teaching position. I was only 23. We had an instant connection, and they took me under their wing, like so many had done for them."

By that time, Juan and Angelina, who had fled Cuba after the rise of Fidel Castro, had become American citizens. They never forgot the warm welcome they received when they first came to Akron.

### Leaving Cuba behind

Juan and Angelina met as students at the University of Havana in Cuba. There, Juan earned a degree in medicine, and Angelina earned a doctorate in philosophy and literature. They embraced the United States as their new homeland. Juan first went to Chicago, where he interned at the Sisters of the Little Flower Hospital, and then to Richmond Medical College in Richmond, Virginia, where he completed his residency in anesthesia. Angelina first went to New York City to stay with relatives until she and Juan were married in 1955.



"Juan would always tell me, 'Akron is my hometown. My life, my profession and my friendships all developed there.' "

Celeste Donohue, close friend of the Perdomos, pictured above (middle) with Angelina (left) and Claudia China, Juan's cousin





“They loved Akron. They always felt very blessed. They wanted to give back and chose to share their blessings with others.”

Celeste Donohue,  
close friend of the Perdomos

## Embraced by Akron

When Juan accepted a position at what was then Akron City Hospital, the couple moved to Akron. There, professional relationships moved quickly to friendships and, in many cases, became family, surrounding the couple with warmth.

One of Juan’s colleagues at the hospital was the late Dr. Eduardo Garcia, who also had earned his medical degree at the University of Havana. Another was Dr. Albert Bremer, who served as a mentor to Juan and became a lifelong friend.

“Juan was very dedicated to his profession and very happy to be at Summa Akron City Hospital,” said Celeste. “He always remained grateful to Dr. Bremer.”

After several years of working together, Juan, Dr. Bremer and other colleagues formed Professional Anesthesia Services in Akron. Juan went on to serve as president for many years. The practice served Summa’s Akron City and St. Thomas hospitals, Akron Children’s Hospital and Akron General Medical Center.

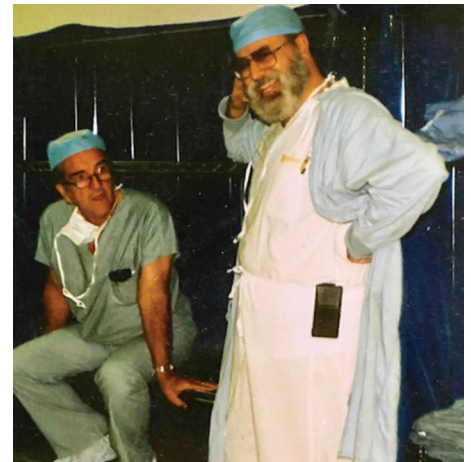
## Grateful for their blessings

In 1992, Juan and Angelina retired to Coral Gables, Florida, where they lived for nearly three decades. Neither time nor distance diminished their affection for Akron and their Summa Akron City family.

“They loved Akron,” said Celeste. “They always felt very blessed. They wanted to give back and chose to share their blessings with others.”

Long after retiring, the Perdomos stayed connected to their adopted community, keeping their home in Akron until they were in their late 80s. “Even then, Juan regretted selling their Akron home,” Celeste said.

“He continued to feel strong ties to the place he loved. Juan would always tell me, ‘Akron is my home town. My life, my profession and my friendships all developed there.’”

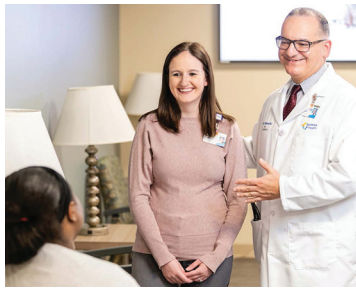


Dr. Juan Perdomo (seated) with Dr. Eduardo Garcia in the surgeon’s locker room at Summa Akron City Hospital.

With their gift, Juan and Angelina maintain their ties to Summa Akron City Hospital and Akron forever.

**For more information about supporting Summa Health, contact Barbara Boyce at 330.375.6356 or [boyceb@summahealth.org](mailto:boyceb@summahealth.org).**





## \$100 million

Increased goal builds on the legacy of caring for the whole you.



## Phase 2 of facility plan

Opening in January 2023, the seven-story Behavioral Health Pavilion on the Akron Campus is the centerpiece of Summa Health's second phase of investment in the community. Other key parts of Phase 2 include:

- A new wound care center
- Additional ambulatory space throughout the community
- A higher percentage of private rooms on the Akron Campus

# Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always

## Campaign exceeds \$75 million

In February 2019, Summa Health joined with leaders across the community to announce a \$75 million comprehensive campaign, "Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always," on behalf of the patients served today – and tomorrow. The campaign aligned with an investment in a physical transformation across the Akron and Barberton Campuses.

Early in 2021, Summa Health celebrated its success in surpassing the initial goal of \$75 million with the extraordinary support of individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations across the community and beyond. Building on this collective momentum, Summa extended the campaign and increased the goal by \$25 million to \$100 million.

## Enhancing patient care, empowering clinical excellence

Initially led by Honorary Chair Ann Brennan and more recently Campaign Chair Rennick Andreoli, the campaign has supported essential investments for the community, ushering in a new era of healthcare for Summa Health.

The landmark state-of-the-art patient tower provides a new front door to the Akron Campus where patients experience comfort in spacious, private inpatient rooms designed to promote healing. The new tower is home to labor and delivery, the Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Center for Breast Health and modern nursing units and offers expanded surgical capabilities.



Scan this QR code to visit a secure webpage where you can make a gift to the Campaign for Summa Health.







“Will you join us in this century-long journey of continuous innovation and growth?”

Tom and Ginny Knoll

## Investing in the community

Led by Campaign Chairs Tom and Ginny Knoll, the extended campaign with an increased goal of \$100 million aligns with Summa Health’s second phase of investment in the community with plans for a new, seven-story Behavioral Health Pavilion on the Akron Campus.

This second phase not only represents an important next step in how Summa cares for the community as a whole but also underscores the importance placed on the treatment of those in need of behavioral health services.

The new pavilion, opening in early 2023, is a welcoming and secure 60-bed inpatient and outpatient facility dedicated exclusively to behavioral health patients and provides services for the full spectrum of behavioral healthcare. Along with inpatient units, this integrated, state-of-the-art space is home to the partial hospitalization program and allows for enhanced integration with intensive outpatient services, including psychiatry, addiction medicine and traumatic stress.

## A message from our chairs

Dear Friends of Summa Health,

**W**e are honored to lead the extended campaign for Summa Health, “Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always,” at an exciting time in our history.

Summa Health rests on a strong foundation that began with the wisdom of our founding benefactors Boniface DeRoo, Thomas W. Cornell, O.C. Barber and Charles Deering. Their vision of caring for all those in need — regardless of their ability to pay — continues to inspire Summa Health today.

In faithfully honoring the vision of our early benefactors, Summa Health has touched countless lives and contributed meaningfully to the greater good for more than 125 years.

Summa has always been a special part of our family. It’s where our three sons were born, where we have had the opportunity to provide meaningful volunteer service, and where we have received important care in critical times.

When we moved to Akron in 1965, we began volunteering, in particular at Summa, to help out where we were needed in our new community. In that journey, we have gained far more than we have given.

Now, we are ready to build on Summa Health’s legacy of caring for Greater Akron and our neighbors throughout Northeast Ohio with the second phase of Summa’s investment in the community. The centerpiece of that second phase is the new Behavioral Health Pavilion on the Akron Campus.

Will you join us in this century-long journey of continuous innovation and growth? Your gift can support a program or service that is especially meaningful to your family.

All gifts help Summa Health provide the highest quality, compassionate care now and always — and build on Summa Health’s legacy of “Caring for the Whole You.”

Please, visit [summahealth.org/caringforyou](https://summahealth.org/caringforyou) for information on how you can establish a lasting legacy of caring at Summa Health, or call the Summa Foundation at 330.375.3159 to learn more.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

**Tom and Ginny Knoll**  
Chairs, The Campaign for Summa Health





More than  
**\$446,715**  
in gifts from  
the community

of all sizes have helped to support Summa Health's COVID-19 response by providing resources, personal protective equipment, meals and snacks. That number continues to grow.



More than **300**

individuals, community partners and corporations donated cash gifts, meals, personal protective equipment, critical care supplies and masks.



To join the  
community

in supporting Summa Health's healthcare heroes, visit [summahealth.org/give](https://summahealth.org/give), call 330.375.3159 or text Hero21 to 41444.

## Summa Health's COVID-19 Response

# Help for our healthcare HEROES

**W**hen we asked for support for our healthcare heroes, the response was overwhelming. In gifts of all sizes and sorts from individuals, businesses and foundations, our community came to the rescue with generous donations, face masks and shields, boxed lunches and pizzas, morale-boosting thank-you notes and prayer, perhaps the most priceless gift of all. In hundreds of kind gestures, our community cared for our frontline caregivers as passionately as they cared for patients. The examples here are a small sampling of the responses that make our community a family.



Sarah Watkins (third from left) and her family have been bringing a meal to the Akron Campus Emergency Department every Wednesday since the pandemic began. Mrs. Watkins is holding a painting by Summa nurse Nancy Donel – a thank-you gift from staff.





Barberton Community Foundation provided funding for the purchase of masks for nurses on the Barberton Campus and the installation of a thermal scanner. Pictured are, from left, Michael Hughes, M.D., president, Summa Health System — Barberton Campus, and T.J. DeAngelis, BSN, vice president and chief nursing officer, Summa Health System — Barberton Campus.

## Local foundations join the fight

In the struggle to contain the spread of COVID-19, Huntington-Akron Foundation added significant muscle to the fight with a gift of \$50,000. "As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic has touched everyone in our community," said Nick Browning, president of Huntington Bank, Akron Region. "We're proud to help Summa Health care for our community during this pandemic."

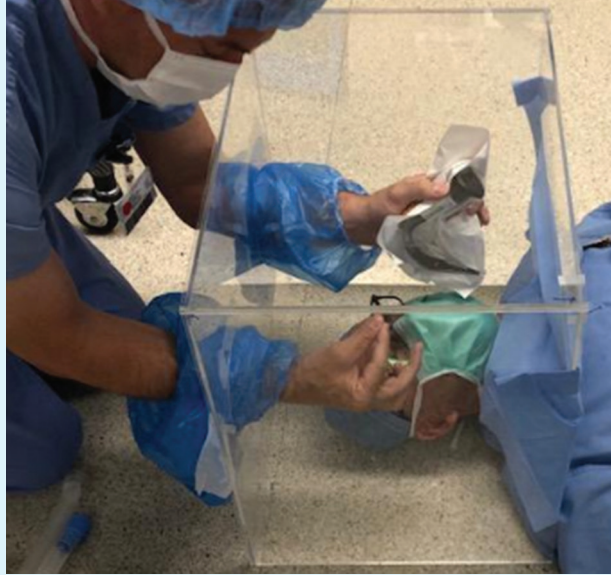
A gift of \$50,000 from FirstEnergy Foundation for telehealth devices and digital equipment supported the ability of Summa Health Equity Center to provide virtual office visits in underserved areas.

A gift of \$45,000 from United Way of Summit and Medina provided personal protective equipment and other safeguards for frontline caregivers.

With COVID taking a significantly higher toll in African American communities, the GAR Foundation awarded a grant of \$35,000 to Summa Health for kits containing vital COVID-related information for distribution to households in Middlebury, North Hill and West Akron.

"GAR is proud to leverage the medical knowledge and expertise of Summa alongside the deep community connections and long-standing credibility of neighborhood organizations to provide personal protective equipment and culturally relevant COVID and vaccine messaging to Akron neighborhoods," said Christine Amer Mayer, president of GAR Foundation.

Akron Community Foundation, Barberton Community Foundation and Centering Healthcare Institute also gave generously to help our healthcare heroes.



Caregivers at hospitals throughout Northeast Ohio benefited from the intubation/extubation boxes developed by Summa physicians Eric Espinal, M.D., Thomas Mark, M.D., and Phillip Khalil, D.O., with help from two Ohio companies — Action Precision in Pioneer and Ultra Tech Machinery in Cuyahoga Falls. The boxes protect caregivers preparing to connect COVID patients to ventilators.

## Thank you!

Additional benefactors who donated gifts of \$10,000 or more:

- NelDerm
- Living Essentials
- Cisco Systems Inc.
- Sandy and Tony Solaro
- The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
- Wildflower Foundation
- GOJO Industries, Inc.
- City Barbeque
- Delta Dental Foundation
- DuBois Family Foundation
- Hasenstab Architects, Inc.
- Women's Board of Summa Health



Scan the QR code to see a list of all gifts in support of our Healthcare Heroes.



City Barbeque provided more than \$10,000 worth of lunches to Summa Health caregivers.





## Naomi Ganoë: Paying it forward by giving back to Summa

**N**aomi Ganoë always had a passion for helping people. She has acted on that passion in many ways, from serving as a foster parent and guardian ad litem for many years, to volunteering as an emergency medical technician and working in the emergency room of a local hospital.

Today, she continues helping others in her role as a managing director and certified public accountant at CBIZ, Inc. for more than 22 years. At Summa Health, she devotes considerable time and expertise as the volunteer chair of the Charles Deering Legacy Advisor Leadership Council and member of The Circle of Women's Health Philanthropists.

No matter which hat she's wearing, Naomi is committed to giving back to the community that has given so generously to her. Her commitment to helping others, coupled with a desire to pay it forward, led her to make a generous gift of \$250,000 in support of the Summa Health Behavioral Health Institute.

"I was the first person in my family to graduate from high school and attend college. As a young, single mother, I benefited from the help of many people. It is very rewarding to be able to give back and pay it forward."

Naomi inspires those same values in her daughter, Cassie, who is following in her mother's footsteps by helping those in need. After completing a degree in psychology, Cassie works for a Michigan-based school that provides a quality preschool education for underserved children.

This mother and daughter duo enjoys a close relationship, so it comes as no surprise they share a passion for supporting mental healthcare, an area of need that has grown in importance during the pandemic.

"Now more than ever, every single person in our community is touched by a mental health need, whether it is your co-worker, family member or friend," Naomi said. "We've lost a lot of people we loved. We saw people suffer. Many of us were not able to be with some of our loved ones."

Even before the pandemic, statistics showed that 1 in 4 people deal with a mental health issue at some point in their lifetime – right here at home.

As a foster parent, emergency medical technician and guardian ad litem, Naomi has witnessed firsthand the need for accessibility to mental wellness services in the Akron community and the stigma that still exists for those who seek help.

After working closely with Summa Health in professional and volunteer roles, she knows the impact Summa Health has made in this area. "Through it all, Summa Health has been the leading provider in behavioral health and is always there for our community."

Naomi sees the new Behavioral Health Pavilion on the Akron Campus as a beacon of hope that will help raise awareness.

Her generous commitment to pay it forward while giving back to Summa Health will forever be recognized on the second-floor lobby of the new Behavioral Health Pavilion scheduled to open its doors in January 2023.

**"As a young, single mother, I benefited from the help of many people. It is very rewarding to be able to give back and pay it forward."**

Naomi Ganoë, pictured with her daughter, Cassie



# Luff gift honors beloved grandparents, William and Louise Burkhardt

**"A**ll things to all men." So reads the verse from 1 Corinthians 9:22 that once graced a plaque at St. Thomas Hospital honoring the generosity and dedication of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Burkhardt. William "Bill" Burkhardt served on the St. Thomas board from 1950 to 1965 and then as an honorary member until his death in 1972.

Many decades later, Bill and Louise Burkhardt are being honored again through a generous gift in their memory from their granddaughter, Laurel Burkhardt Luff, and her husband, Paul Luff. When the plaque was given to them in 2018, it came with a flood of memories.



**William "Bill" Burkhardt**

"My grandfather was my shining star," said Laurel. She spoke warmly of weekly visits as a child to see him in his downtown Akron office, followed by treats at Woolworth's.

"He loved downtown Akron," she said. "He'd stroll around with his cane and top hat with my hand in his. I felt like a princess. He was my best friend."

With the loving support of his wife, Louise, Bill Burkhardt did indeed strive to be all things to all people throughout his lifetime, said Laurel. He served his church, his city and his country as well as the hospital that cared for his family.

The grandson of German immigrants, Bill Burkhardt was only 11 when his father died. A devout Catholic, he went on to graduate from Notre Dame University, which named him Man of the Year in 1958. During World War II, he served as an officer in the U.S. Navy on an attack transport ship that took part in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Personal tragedy struck shortly after when his 4-year-old daughter, Mary, died suddenly.

"I think that in some way, years later, I became that little girl he had lost," said Laurel. "He was so good to me. Despite everything he had been through, he lived a life of service to St. Thomas and the Akron community. I was only 12 when he passed away at 58 from a heart condition that is treatable today," Laurel said. "Paul and I wanted to carry on his legacy of service."

The gift from Laurel and Paul will support cardiovascular care, in memory of Bill Burkhardt, and Summa Health Cancer Institute, in memory of Louise Burkhardt, who died of cancer. Motivated by the life of service lived by her grandfather, Laurel and Paul both serve on the Summa Health Seniors Institute Leadership Council.

"He was my inspiration," Laurel said. "He was all things to me, too."

**For more information about supporting Summa Health, contact Barbara Boyce at 330.375.6356 or [boyceb@summahealth.org](mailto:boyceb@summahealth.org).**



**Laurel Burkhardt Luff and Paul Luff at the Summa Health System — St. Thomas Campus**



# Hope and help

## for those struggling with infertility

**A**bout one in six couples has difficulty conceiving a child without medical intervention. For too many, the steep cost of medical help alone is an enormous barrier to ever starting a family.

Jackie and Evan Williams are giving hope to those struggling with infertility and helping to ease the financial burden.

With a generous gift to Summa Health, this philanthropic couple established the Jaclyn and Evan Williams Fertility Fund, the first of its kind offered through the Summa Health Women's Institute. This donor-supported fund offers grants to help qualified individuals and couples achieve their dreams of having a family.

"It was incredibly painful for us," is how Jackie and Evan describe their journey to starting a family. "We were fortunate that we didn't have the financial struggle on top of the stress we experienced."

Not every couple can afford the life-changing fertility treatments, which can cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Insurance doesn't cover every procedure. That leaves some financially burdened couples with little chance of having children.

After Jackie and Evan made it through their journey to have their own children, Henry, 3, Charlotte, 1, and one on the way in September, they were inspired to give other couples hope... and help.



Evan and Jackie Williams holding their children Charlotte, 1, and Henry, 3.

Individuals and couples who apply for the grant can receive up to \$25,000 in uncovered and out-of-pocket expenses for in vitro fertilization (IVF) and genetic testing. There are several health-related requirements that applicants must meet to qualify.

Those in need can apply for the grant through a formal written application to the Summa Health Women's Institute by first scheduling an appointment with one of its caring, compassionate specialists.

Jackie and Evan count their infertility specialist, Dr. Priya Maseelall, in that notable group. "We really appreciate her attention to detail and personalized service. She does every ultrasound and every specimen retrieval. Priya is a saint."



Priya Maseelall, M.D.

Dr. Maseelall is excited about the newly established fund as it will raise awareness about a topic that is rarely talked about – yet touches so many. "If you are struggling with infertility, you are not alone," she says. "We're here to help you."

The couple says their gift is "a way to show gratitude to Dr. Maseelall and other doctors who have helped families like ours that wouldn't otherwise exist."

Family is important to this couple in more ways than one. "My parents instilled in me the importance of philanthropy. We want to lead by example and leave a legacy for our children," says Evan. "We hope that our gift to Summa Health inspires others to do the same."

The Jaclyn and Evan Williams Fertility Fund allows donors to give the greatest gift of all to a couple in need – the chance to have a child.

**To support the Jaclyn and Evan Williams Fertility Fund or for more information, contact Andra Polasky at 330.375.3873 or polaskya@summahealth.org.**



# Circle's mission stays strong

## Three grants totaling \$150,000 support healthcare for women

**M**embers of The Circle of Women's Health Philanthropists range in age from 35 to 95 and have diverse backgrounds in business, medicine, philanthropy and much more. They are wives, mothers, daughters and grandmothers. And, they share a common goal: Helping other women.

That compassion motivates all members in supporting healthcare for women at Summa Health. 2019 was a turning point for the group. Instead of two grants, The Circle awarded three grants totaling \$150,000 – tripling members' impact from its early years. 2020 marks the second year Circle members awarded \$150,000 bringing its total to \$665,000 in grants distributed since the group formed in 2014.

In another first, members met virtually to celebrate and announce the grant winners in place of a traditional holiday gathering at the home of a Circle member.

"Last year, when COVID-19 put many things on pause, there was no pause in the number of women in our community needing healthcare," said Colleen O'Connor Wernig, chair of The Circle. "I am proud of our members for their continued strong support of the Circle's mission at a time when it was needed most."

For more information about The Circle, contact Ashley Manning at 330.375.7524 or [manningas@summahealth.org](mailto:manningas@summahealth.org).



### Translational Research Center

"Two grants from The Circle have provided for a dedicated lab on the Akron Campus for us to engage in leading-edge research and collaborate with academic research partners on personalized cancer therapies." — Jennifer Eaton, Ph.D. (far right), vice president, Research, Sponsored Programs & Innovation with (from the right) Cherie Hart-Spicer, M.D.; Mary Evancho-Chapman; Victoria Van Fossen, M.D.; Elizabeth Rich; and Andrew Pero.



### Family Medicine Center

"The Family Medicine Center has established a new medical-legal partnership with Community Legal Aid that addresses health-harming legal needs for families who struggle with poverty, housing and food insecurity, and more." — Shannon Perkins, Ph.D., director of Behavioral Science and associate director, Summa Family Medicine Residency Program (pictured).



### Women's Health

"We are using the funds to purchase a neonatal simulator to train labor and delivery staff that will help us meet a goal of 1,000 babies delivered on the Barberton Campus." — Derek Balas, D.O., director, Virtual Care Simulation Lab. Pictured are nurses conducting a class with a neonatal simulator.



# Hoff gift honors the past, shapes the future of family medicine

**I**n honor of the 50th anniversary of the Summa Health Family Medicine Residency Program, Dr. David Hoff and his wife, Linda, made a generous gift of \$100,000 to establish an endowed fund for program directors.

The anniversary was a milestone for Dr. Hoff, who was the first graduate of the program and its second director. He joined the family medicine residency program in 1970, the first year the program was offered. He entered as a third-year resident, having already completed two years of residency in general practice.

After graduating in 1971, he served two years in the military. At the request of his superiors, he set up the first family medicine residency program for the United States Air Force.

When he returned to civilian life – and Summa Akron City – he worked with Dr. Edward Shahady, the first director, developing the educational policies and innovations that became the national standard in family medicine training programs.



**“I always wanted to be a doctor because I love people.”**

Dr. David Hoff, pictured with his wife, Linda

“I always wanted to be a doctor,” said Dr. Hoff, “because I love people.” He had fond memories of the doctor who had cared for his family growing up. He wanted that close, long-term relationship with his patients, a core tenet of family medicine.

Dr. Hoff’s love of people found perfect expression in family medicine, shaping the physician he became and finding its way into the curriculum that shaped others. In addition to developing clinical excellence, Summa’s residents learned the skills of active listening and how to “read” both verbal and nonverbal patient cues, essential skills in providing lifelong care.

Concurrent with his influential role at Summa Akron City, Dr. Hoff served for 30 years as a consultant in the Residency Assistance Program, a project supported by four national family practice organizations. In that capacity, he helped to start up family medicine residency programs at more than 60 hospitals across the United States.

More than 300 Summa-trained family medicine physicians now practice at home and around the world. With perpetual support in place for current and future program directors, the legacy of Dr. Hoff, Dr. Shahady and all former directors will continue for generations to come.



Scan this QR code to visit a secure webpage where you can support the Family Medicine Residency Director’s Endowment Fund.

Family Medicine Residency

**50**  
YEARS

ANNIVERSARY





Dr. Jay Williamson and his wife, Jan

## Williamsons' gift builds momentum, inspires colleagues' collaboration

With the creation of the Family Medicine Residency Program Director's Endowment Fund, the program's third director, Dr. Jay Williamson, and his wife, Jan, added \$50,000 from the Williamson Family Fund they had established just the year before in support of the residency program. The Williamsons and the Hoffs agreed that a combined effort would have greater impact. Their instincts were correct. With strong support from former program directors and alumni from across the country, the endowed fund grew to \$230,000 in just the first few months.

Teaming up came naturally for the Hoffs and Williamsons who had a long history of friendship, living only a block apart for more than 40 years. As a former resident of the program, Dr. Williamson trained under Dr. Hoff, serving as his associate director for 12 years before becoming director.

"What moved me the most at our 50th anniversary celebration," said Dr. Williamson, "were former students telling me and the other directors, 'You are the reason I went into family medicine.'"

**To contribute to the Family Medicine Residency Program Director's Endowment Fund, visit [summahealth.org/foundation/ways-to-give/family-medicine/](https://summahealth.org/foundation/ways-to-give/family-medicine/) or contact Barbara Boyce at 330.375.6356 or [boyceb@summahealth.org](mailto:boyceb@summahealth.org).**

# Summa's heartfelt care inspires generous gift

"Caring is what sets Summa apart," said Beverly Smith, retired school principal and member of the Summa Health Cardiovascular Leadership Council. Her generous estate gift in support of cardiology research and education at Summa Health was inspired by the care she witnessed in 2017 as a participant in Summa's physician-shadowing program.

"I had a heart murmur as a child," she said. "After I retired, I started having trouble completing my workouts."

That symptom eventually led to an aortic valve replacement at another hospital, which performed the procedure as an open-chest surgery, the conventional practice at the time. She vividly remembers how frightened she was about having the surgery and the difficult recovery, which took her nearly two years.



Beverly Smith and Dr. Peter Bittenbender

She found out later that Summa's Dr. Peter Bittenbender had performed the first transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) in Summit County at Summa Health shortly before she had had her open-heart procedure. Most patients who undergo the minimally invasive, catheter-based procedure return home within 24 hours and are fully recovered in about a week.

After meeting Dr. Bittenbender at a Summa Foundation event, she shadowed him and his colleague Dr. Justin Dunn for a full day that included observing two TAVR procedures.

With patients' permission, Beverly accompanied Dr. Bittenbender when he talked to each patient and family before surgery. "It was heartwarming to see the way he interacted and the guidance he provided," said Beverly. "To see a doctor with such a high level of expertise communicate with such caring and concern was just a delight."

As Dr. Bittenbender performed the surgery, Dr. Dunn stood with Beverly, explaining every step of the procedure and the role of each person on the team.

"It was truly amazing. Everyone on the surgical team was so welcoming and so helpful. I have heard about the team approach many times, but it was impressive to see it firsthand," she said. "TAVR significantly shortens the recovery period for patients. It was truly an eye opener to witness the time and preparation that was devoted to each patient."

**For more information about supporting cardiovascular care at Summa Health, contact Jessica Hudson at 330.375.4762 or [hudsonj@summahealth.org](mailto:hudsonj@summahealth.org).**





"Summa is something special. As patients, Marty and I received excellent care. From the registration staff, to the housekeeping teams to the doctors and nurses who cared for us, we always had a great experience."

Dr. Stephen Kaiser, pictured with his wife, Marty

## Blended gift benefits givers and receiver

Adding to a lifetime of generous giving, Dr. Stephen Kaiser, a retired Summa Health physician, and his wife, Marty, a retired nurse, recently blended their generosity, combining an annual gift and a deferred estate gift. They were surprised to learn that such an arrangement came with tax benefits and permanent, prominent recognition in the new patient tower on the Akron Campus.

Dr. and Mrs. Kaiser have been both providers and patients at Summa Health, having undergone several successful cardiovascular procedures over the years. For that reason, part of their recent gift supports cardiovascular research and education. Other areas of care they have supported over more than three decades of giving include behavioral health, senior health, palliative care and emergency medicine.

"One of our first gifts to Summa Health was from an IRA," said Dr. Kaiser. "Donating by direct transfer from the IRA to Summa helped us reduce our adjusted gross income. It gave us a great way to help ourselves and Summa at the same time."

Their recent blended gift offers similar tax benefits. Summa Health is honored to recognize the Kaisers on a plaque in the elevator lobby on the fifth floor of the new patient tower. For Summa, it means a guaranteed gift now and later.

"Summa is something special," said Dr. Kaiser. "As patients, Marty and I received excellent care. From the registration staff, to the housekeeping teams to the doctors and nurses who cared for us, we always had a great experience."

"Everyone has such a positive attitude," said Marty. "We are so blessed to have such wonderful care right here in Akron."

As members of the Summa Health Seniors Institute Leadership Council, the Kaisers are generous with their time as well, serving as advisors, advocates and philanthropic partners of the health system. "We are so grateful to share our blessings," they said. "It means a lot to us to know that our gift will still be helping generations to come after we're gone."

For more information about planned giving at Summa Health, contact Barbara Boyce at 330.375.6356 or [boyceb@summahealth.org](mailto:boyceb@summahealth.org).



# Gay Community Endowment Fund shows its pride in Summa Health

For some 65 years, the Akron Community Foundation (ACF) has generously supported the ever-changing needs of the diverse individuals and organizations it serves throughout Summit County. And, for the last 20 years, the Foundation's Gay Community Endowment Fund (GCEF) continues as a shining example of how ACF grantmaking supports an unwavering goal of "full inclusion for everyone."

In 2020, GCEF awarded \$10,000 to support Summa Health's inaugural LGBTQ+ Healthcare Summit, which highlights health disparities specific to the LGBTQ+ community and helps train local physicians in providing inclusive care. The summit is scheduled for June 18 on the Summa Health System – Akron Campus.

"We feel strongly about the people we support and place Summa's Pride Clinic at the top of our list for donations we've made over the years," said Julie Jones, chair of the endowment fund. "We're very pleased to be a small part of the great work the Pride Clinic is doing."

John Garofalo, vice president for Community Investment at ACF, echoed the importance of the Pride Clinic in the community. "The fact that an LGBTQ+ person can go to a place like the Pride Clinic where they are respected and feel at home is remarkable. We are grateful to be able to support Summa's Pride Clinic."

For more information about supporting the Summa Health Pride Clinic, 1260 Independence Avenue, Akron, contact Andra Polasky at 330.375.3873 or polaskya@summahealth.org.

Why I Give: G. Dante Roulette, M.D.

## A dream comes true with Summa Health Pride Clinic

For Dr. G. Dante Roulette, chief of robotic surgery and physician chair of the Pride Clinic Leadership Council, the dream has come true. Since joining Summa Health in 2012, Dr. Roulette has been resolute in his thinking about the needs of the area's LGBTQ+ population. During his first seven years, he worked determinedly with several visionary Summa leaders to develop the Pride Clinic, Summit County's only clinic specifically designed to provide high-quality, compassionate care for all patients regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Since the Pride Clinic opened on September 9, 2019, growth in patient volumes has been remarkable, skyrocketing from 120 in late 2019 to more than 600 patients today.



**Promise:** Looking back, did you always think the Pride Clinic would become reality?

**Dr. Roulette:** Pride was a dream of mine. We had many deliberate conversations over the years, but I knew we'd always get here. Our internal stakeholders came through and the demand from the community was always there.

**Promise:** Why is the Pride Clinic so vital?

**Dr. Roulette:** Many of our LGBTQ+ friends need a place where they can feel safe. Our clinic provides such a space and, of course, offers many services that are so important to them.

**Promise:** Why do you give to Summa?

**Dr. Roulette:** My husband, Ian, and I try to lead our lives congruent with helping others. With Ian being a social worker and my being a physician, we are very fortunate to be able to help a cause that is near and dear to us.

## Pride Clinic growth

Year		Patients	Visits
2019	Opened September 9	120	193
2020		420	1,601
2021	Through March 31	146	595
Totals		686	2,389





# Partners in Good Health

Employees and customers of three local businesses joined the fight against cancer, two during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month last October and one in April. Gifts benefited the Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Center for Breast Health and cancer supportive services at Summa Health Cancer Institute. [For more information about supporting Summa Health, contact Nikki Hawk at 330.375.3548 or hawkn@summahealth.org.](#)



From left: Gavin Lake, general manager, Great Lakes Honda; Joey Huang, owner, Great Lakes Honda; Amanda Walters, marketing director, Great Lakes Honda; David Custodio, M.D., president, Summa Health System — Akron and St. Thomas Campuses; and Sameer Mahesh, M.D., medical director, Summa Health Cancer Institute, and Vincent and Nancy DiGirolamo Endowed Chair in Oncology.

**Great Lakes Honda** raised \$10,000 for the second consecutive year, donating a portion of the proceeds of every car sold in October. Owner Joey Huang said, "Last year's fundraiser was so successful. It was an easy decision to continue the fight against breast cancer." For Joey, the cause hits close to home. His mother's sister died of the disease at a very young age. "Everyone is touched in some way by breast cancer. We're happy to do whatever we can to help our customers, employees, community and family members affected by this disease, right here in Northeast Ohio." For these reasons, Joey chose again in 2020 to donate the proceeds to Summa's Williams Center for Breast Health because he wanted to give back locally. "It's nice knowing we're helping our neighbors." Joey is already planning for next year's drive and looks forward to growing this donation for many years to come.





Amanda McKenzie (left) of Ladies Super Fitness presents a check to Nikki Hawk, senior director, Summa Foundation.

**Ladies Super Fitness** in Stow raised \$1,720 through its Cardio for a Cure campaign. Owner Vanessa Carlson experienced firsthand the hardship breast cancer has on individuals and their families. Her grandmother died of the disease when Vanessa was only 12. Watching the struggle her grandmother and family endured drove her to take a preventive approach in her career as a physical therapist and to raise money annually through her gym for organizations that serve patients with breast cancer. "We have a few members here who are cancer survivors or currently receiving treatment. We wanted to show them as much support as possible," she said. "We have some amazing ladies who came together in this time of need. We love giving back!"

**Shulan's Fairlawn Jewelers** donated all proceeds from its battery sales in April totaling \$562 to Summa Health's cancer supportive care services. Owner John Shulan remarked that this is the most money raised through Shulan's monthly fundraising initiative in support of local nonprofits.



Jay Shulan of Shulan's Fairlawn Jewelers (left) presents a check to Nikki Hawk, senior director, Summa Foundation.



Officials of the Kent Area (OH) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated presented checks to Summa Health supporting Summa Screens.

## Linked in friendship, connected in service

Members of the Kent Area (OH) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated share Summa Health's commitment to serving the underserved by providing many resources to women with limited access to basic care and health services. "Linked in friendship and connected in service," local Links members live their slogan. To that end, they have contributed thousands of dollars to Summa Screens to provide free mammograms, breast ultrasounds and closed breast biopsies to women in need.

"Education is critical," said longtime Links member and former Summa Health leader Roxia Boykin, who served as a key player in the development of the Summa Screens Program at Summa Health. She recalls the system-wide vision of Summa Health to create a place for all women to receive lifesaving screenings regardless of their ability to pay. As a true model of service and philanthropy, the Kent Area (OH) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated shares that commitment today.



# Embracing healing, hope and renewal through art

**T**he worldwide pandemic has taught many lessons in patience and perseverance, in grace and gratitude. Most people, no doubt, have had to learn to adapt in some way, large or small. And when changes occur, challenges often result.

One of the most acute challenges over the past year has faced those in need of hospital care and those caregivers who worked tirelessly to serve them.

Enter the Healing Arts Leadership Council led by Christine Havice, Ph.D., volunteer chair of the council, and Meg Stanton, Summa Health's art curator, and many council members who drive Summa Health's Healing Arts Program, a community initiative which has been lauded by the Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading arts nonprofit organization.

"Our mission is clear," said Meg. "We want to distract patients and their loved ones through beautiful, interesting things, such as our gallery. If we've taken them away from their anxieties even for a few minutes, we have succeeded in our mission. And there's no question that art has the power to heal people in many different ways."

Since the March 2020 opening of the 1,500-square-foot Summa Gallery on the Akron Campus, the council has devoted its work to helping patients, their families and friends de-stress, if just briefly.



**"If we've taken them away from their anxieties even for a few minutes, we have succeeded in our mission. And there's no question that art has the power to heal people in many different ways."**

**Meg Stanton, pictured with her husband, Tom**

Every three months Meg rotates the gallery art, with the spring 2021 exhibit focusing on — appropriately for today — "Hope, Healing and Renewal." This exhibit features some of the newest artists from the Healing Arts collection, including Hilary Gent, paintings; Jacques Jackson, mixed media mosaics; Ryn Clarke, digital fantasy landscapes; Dinara Mirtalipova, paintings and linoleum block prints; and Meaghan Reed, mixed media wallflowers.

"We needed something uplifting and hopeful," said Meg about the current exhibit. "And we certainly have it!"

In addition to the visual arts, the Healing Arts Garden Committee, chaired by Sandra Smith, is involved in the planning for a Serenity Garden that will be part of Summa's new Behavioral Health Pavilion, scheduled to open on the Akron Campus in early 2023.

The Healing Arts Music Committee is chaired by Barbara Feld, and together with fellow committee member, Paul Jarrett, they are establishing an exciting, new partnership with the Akron Symphony Orchestra that will bring musical performances to the new patient tower.

Council members help by providing strategic advice, serving as ambassadors for the healing arts program in the community and encouraging philanthropic support.

Their dedication and generosity are demonstrated in many forms, including a recent gift of \$25,000 from Meg's husband, Tom, an art collector himself. The gift, given in Meg's honor, is planned to fund a publication that will catalog all current and future art collections.

All pieces in Summa Health exhibitions are available for purchase. To purchase art, email [foundation@summahealth.org](mailto:foundation@summahealth.org) or call 330.375.3159. Twenty-five percent of each purchase supports the Summa Health Healing Arts Fund.

**For more information about supporting the healing arts program at Summa Health, contact Shelley Green at 330.375.6891 or [greensh@summahealth.org](mailto:greensh@summahealth.org).**





I Am Summa

# Employees shine a light, give generously in pandemic

**C**hallenging times have a way of shining a light on an organization's true colors and the people who work there. At Summa Health, there is no better example than the employees and physicians who generously responded to the 2020 I Am Summa employee giving campaign. Despite an unprecedented pandemic, employee giving increased compared to 2019 in support of patients and their families.

"This has been an extraordinary year. We are grateful to all those who stepped up during the COVID-19 pandemic for not only tirelessly serving our patients but also for going above and beyond by giving back through the employee campaign," said Cliff Deveny, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Summa Health.

No matter how they choose to give, from supporting clinical advances to helping local families in need, employee generosity touches countless lives in the community. "Together, we are making life brighter for those who need it most," said Dr. Deveny.

For more information about I Am Summa, contact Ashley Manning at 330.375.7524 or [manningas@summahealth.org](mailto:manningas@summahealth.org).

Promise asked the following employees and physicians to share why they choose to give back to Summa Health:



## Kristol Bloomingdale

Billing specialist,  
Center for Corporate Health

"I was born with severely dislocated hips, spending my first seven years in a full-body cast. Today, I'm a walking miracle because of the financial support my family and I received from a local charity, inspiring me to give back to Summa Health. I give because I was in need at a desperate time in my life and could not fight for myself, but someone else did."



## Susana Bowling, M.D.

Medical director, Summa Health Neuroscience Institute

"The act of giving is particularly rewarding when it comes with an emotional attachment and an assurance that what you are giving will make a difference to others. I help fund stroke nursing education. It is my way to thank nurses for what they do and a way to better prepare them to take care of our patients, ultimately helping our community."



## Celena Collins

Provider configuration specialist, SummaCare

"I give to behavioral and mental health through I Am Summa because it is an important cause that directly affects my community. I feel it is important to encourage the understanding and treatment of mental and behavioral health disparities and their impact on communities. Donating is my way of doing my small part."



## David Custodio, M.D.

President, Summa Health System  
– Akron and St. Thomas Campuses

"I have been at Summa for over 30 years, and it has afforded me and my family many opportunities over that time. Giving back to the organization is a natural and rewarding next step and also a way for us to express gratitude to Summa for our personal experiences and its great work in our community."





# Rallying for Summa nurses

## Golf sponsors show support, raise \$74,000

When the COVID-19 pandemic compelled Summa Health to pause the 2020 Summa Health Golf Outing, several sponsors continued their faithful support of Summa Health nurses, helping to raise nearly \$74,000 last year alone for clinical and diagnostic equipment that advances their delivery of clinically excellent, compassionate care.

Past outings have supported nursing scholarships, continuing professional education and the latest devices for taking vital signs, finding veins and monitoring bladder function.

Thank you to the following sponsors for generous gifts in support of Summa Health nurses during the in 2020 pause of the Summa Health Golf Outing: Walter W. Born Foundation; The House of LaRose; Baird Foundation; Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging; Kaufman, Hall & Associates, LLC; SeibertKeck Insurance Agency Inc.; EPIC; O'Neill Insurance; Summit Construction Co., Inc.; and Agfa HealthCare. Thank you, Firestone Country Club, for recognizing sponsors of \$5,000 or more with generous golf packages.

The 2021 Summa Health Golf Outing is planned for Monday, August 30. For more information and sponsorship opportunities, visit [summahealth.org/golfouting](http://summahealth.org/golfouting) or call Nikki Hawk at 330.375.3548.

## Nurses' professional development helped by Women's Board grant

Along, storied history of generosity continued this spring when the Women's Board of Summa Health awarded a \$30,000 grant for nursing education. The annual grant for tuition fees supports Summa Health nurses who are pursuing Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees. Eleven nurses are currently benefiting from the program and, in total, 102 registered nurses have graduated with BSN degrees since 2014.

Summa Health had made a commitment, based on Institute of Medicine goals, to have a workforce of at least 80 percent of registered nurses also holding bachelor's degrees. The annual funding from the Women's Board contributed mightily to helping Summa achieve this goal in 2019.

"We are so grateful to the Women's Board for their generosity in supporting our nurses," said Christine Benson, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, director of Professional Practice and the Magnet program at Summa. "It's really incredible."



“The Women’s Board generosity promotes the professional development of nurses which ultimately impacts and improves the health of the people we serve.”

Diane Greer, BSN, RNC-OB

Barb Jones, president of the Women’s Board, noted that some of the board’s typical fundraising activities have been hampered due to the pandemic, but they were committed to supporting the Summa nurses again. “There is great satisfaction in helping others,” said Barb. “We certainly take pride in funding different areas of the health system.”

The Women’s Board, in fact, awarded \$10,000 to Summa for help with the COVID-19 Response Fund. This gift was subsequently matched by The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. In total, the Women’s Board has awarded \$7.5 million throughout its history.

Rebecca Davis, BSN, RN, Emergency Department nurse at Akron Campus, noted that the Women’s Board support allowed her to “focus on my studies and not have to worry about how much it would cost me to further my education. It took a lot of stress off my shoulders.”

Diane Greer, BSN, RNC-OB, added, “I am extremely grateful for the financial assistance I received...Frankly, after completing my basic nursing education 36 years earlier, going back to school was daunting. However, the RN to BSN loan program removed the financial barriers and helped make it possible. The Women’s Board generosity promotes the professional development of nurses which ultimately impacts and improves the health of the people we serve.”

For more information about the Women’s Board of Summa Health, contact Shelley Green at 330.375.6891 or greensh@summahealth.org.



From left: Cliff Deveny, M.D.; Kevin Spear, M.D.; and Joseph Dankoff, M.D.

## Wells endowed chair dedication

Cliff Deveny, M.D., Summa Health president and chief executive officer, led a virtual ceremony to appoint Kevin Spear, M.D., as the first chairholder of the Denise G. and Norman E. Wells Jr. Endowed Chair in Urology. The chair was established with a gift from Denise and Norm Wells in honor of the clinical excellence of Joseph Dankoff, M.D., and Dr. Spear.



Norm and Denise Wells







## Sapphire Sponsors

Summa Health would like to thank all of our movie sponsors. For a complete list, visit [summahealth.org/sapphireball](http://summahealth.org/sapphireball).

### Directors

Akron Beacon Journal  
The House of LaRose  
Sandy and Cliff Deveny  
Sandy and Tony Solaro

### Cinematographers

AkronLife  
Foundations Health Solutions  
Hasenstab Architects  
J.W. Didado Electric  
The Lehner Family Foundation  
Perspectus Architecture  
Thomarios  
United Glass and Panel  
Patricia and David Wartko  
Yerman and Young Printing

## Sapphire Stars

Summa Health would like to recognize all of the past honorary chairs of the Sapphire Ball for their dedication and service.

2001 Pamela McMillen  
2002 Brenda Cummins  
2003 Debbie Zarconi  
2004 Cindy Murphy  
2005 Kathy Lane and Cindy White  
2006 Sue Locke  
2007 Susan Pavloff  
2008 Donna Loomis  
2009 Julia Rea Bianchi and Savannah James  
2010 Mary Ann Jackson  
2012 Holly and Steve Wilt  
2013 Lori and Mark Krohn  
2014 Jeannine and Steve Marks  
2015 Alyssa and Rob Briggs  
2016 Kathie and Paul Testa  
2017 Dee and Rermick Andreoli  
2018 Ginny and Tom Knoll  
2019 Regina and Bob Cooper



# Lights! Camera! ACTION!

**W**hen COVID-19 put all live events on pause, there was no pause in the number of patients needing care. Their health and well-being remained a priority for Summa Health. To support patients and caregivers at an unprecedented time — and without the benefit of a live Sapphire Ball — Summa Health brought 18 years of the gala to viewers instead. The premiere of “Summa Health Sapphire Ball: The Movie” opened in select home theaters on Saturday, November 7, and was released publicly on November 9.

Set in the Akron Civic Theatre, the movie took viewers on a cinematic dance down memory lane with hosts Cliff Deveny, M.D., Summa Health president and chief executive officer, and veteran emcee Dave Lieberth.

The movie also gave viewers the chance to play their own important role by supporting Summa Health in its commitment to provide the highest quality, compassionate healthcare to patients in our community. More than \$12 million has been raised since the first gala in 2001.

Joining Drs. Sandra and Cliff Deveny as Director-level sponsors of the movie were the Akron Beacon Journal, The House of LaRose, and Sandy and Tony Solaro.

To watch the 2020 movie, visit [summahealth.org/sapphire-ball/movie](https://summahealth.org/sapphire-ball/movie). For information about the 2021 Sapphire Ball, contact Nikki Hawk, Summa Foundation, 330.375.3548 or [hawkn@summahealth.org](mailto:hawkn@summahealth.org)



**Watch it now!**

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to see the movie.



# Groundbreaking care for our community

“It has been our vision to design facilities for the future that enable us to deliver population health throughout the communities we serve.”

George Strickler

Dear Friends of Summa Health,

In February, Summa Health broke ground on the new Behavioral Health Pavilion on the Akron Campus. The future seven-story home of Summa’s Behavioral Health Institute is scheduled to open in January 2023.



The groundbreaking celebration marked the culmination of years of planning, a process informed by hundreds of individuals across our health system, as well as our patients and families, and many members of the Greater Akron community.

It has been our vision to design facilities for the future that enable us to deliver population health throughout the communities we serve. Our new patient tower on the Akron Campus and the new Behavioral Health Pavilion testify to the strength of our commitment.

In addition, we have completely modernized various portions of the Summa Health System – Barberton Campus and aligned services there to improve access to efficient ambulatory care to better meet the overall needs of the community.

We have 11 ambulatory centers including Green and Medina, our newest facilities in Fairlawn, Tallmadge and Stow/Kent, and the Summa Health Rootstown Medical Center opening this fall. All of these facilities address the growth we are experiencing for our communities in Summa Health’s healthcare network.

Summa Health’s master facility plan is the cornerstone that will distinguish our health system as a national leader in reshaping healthcare delivery and the preferred provider of healthcare in our community for generations to come.

Philanthropy is essential for accelerating Summa Health’s ability to implement its strategic plan and enhancing our high standard of patient care through new state-of-the-art facilities, advanced programs, and recruitment and retention of top talent. Gifts of any size help to propel the next leap forward, continuing – and honoring – the legacy of generosity that has sustained Summa Health since 1892.

We look forward to building on the momentum created as we work together to make our community stronger, healthier and better for all.

Sincerely,

**George Strickler**

Chair

Summa Health Board of Directors

## Virtual Groundbreaking Ceremony

Summa Health Board Chair George Strickler was one of 18 leaders from the community and Summa Health to participate in a virtual groundbreaking ceremony for the new Behavioral Health Pavilion on the Summa Health System – Akron Campus. The new home of the Behavioral Health Institute is expected to open in January 2023.



**Watch it now!**

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to see the groundbreaking ceremony.





# Every gift makes a difference in the lives of our patients and their families

Dear Friends of Summa Health,

**T**hank you and congratulations! With the help of our dedicated Summa Health family and the extraordinary support of our friends and benefactors, we surpassed the goal of \$75 million in the Campaign for Summa Health, "Caring for You ... Then, Now, Always."

We are grateful to Alice and George Strickler, whose generous gift of \$1 million inspired the extension of the campaign and an increase of \$25 million toward a new campaign goal of \$100 million.

We are thankful for the dedicated leadership of Honorary Chair Ann Brennan and Campaign Chair Rennick Andreoli, and we are honored to welcome Tom and Ginny Knoll as campaign chairs of the extended campaign.

Thank you to the following benefactors for their leading campaign gifts totaling more than one-third of the total funds raised: Ann Brennan and her late husband, David; Dr. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams; Yvonne and the late Richard Hamlin; Vanita and James Oelschlager; Nancy and Vincent DiGirolamo; the Dr. Basil E. Smith estate; Dee and Rennick Andreoli; Stephen Comunale; FirstEnergy Foundation; the Verna J. Hancock estate; Patty and Phil Kaufmann; and Norm and Denise Wells. They mirror the selfless spirit of community generosity that will help sustain Summa Health far beyond our lifetimes.

We also are pleased to present our 2020 Annual Honor Roll of Summa Health Donors. Each of these names represents the tradition of philanthropy that has shaped Summa Health for the past 129 years. The inspiring stories featured in this issue capture just a few examples of this extraordinary support and demonstrate how philanthropic gifts can assist our caregivers in providing the highest quality, compassionate care for our community. We thank you all.

The role of philanthropy will be more important than ever as we advance, expand and elevate our legacy of compassionate care and clinical excellence during the second phase of Summa's investment in the healthcare of the Greater Akron community.



From facilitating the recruitment and retention of exceptional physicians, to upgrading facilities, to keeping pace with innovation, every gift makes a difference in the lives of our patients and their families. As the "Caring for You" campaign continues, we look forward to all the advances our family of supporters will make possible for the patients and families of our community — one gift at a time.

Thank you!

**Patrick O'Neill**  
Chair  
Summa Foundation Board of Directors

**Phylis Ferrara**  
President, Summa Foundation  
Chief Development Officer, Summa Health



## Save the Date



George and Alice Strickler, 2021 Golf Outing Honorees

### Summa Health Golf Outing

**Monday, August 30, 2021**  
**Firestone Country Club**

Visit [summahealth.org/golfouting](https://summahealth.org/golfouting) for information about sponsorship opportunities and to learn more about the golf outing.



Sandra and Richey Smith, 2021 Sapphire Ball Honorary Chairs

### Summa Health Sapphire Ball

**Saturday, October 2, 2021**

Visit [summahealth.org/sapphireball](https://summahealth.org/sapphireball) to explore sponsorship opportunities, view photos of past Sapphire Balls and more.

For more information about Summa Health premier events, contact Nikki Hawk at 330.375.3548 or [hawkn@summahealth.org](mailto:hawkn@summahealth.org).