

The HEART of Regina Health Center



SPRING 2019

MISSION

Regina Health Center provides compassionate and holistic health care services primarily for members of religious communities, clergy and for other persons needing supportive services or residential nursing care. Regina Health Center is a collaborative ministry sponsored by the Sisters of Charity Health System.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

A Couple of Dynamic Duos

Dr. Elizabeth Macintyre and her husband Dr. Joseph A. Sopko are no strangers to the ministries of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA). Dr. Macintyre provided care as a gastroenterologist for St. Vincent Charity Medical Center from 1979 until her retirement in 2015. Although Dr. Sopko retired from clinical practice, he still serves as chief medical officer at St. Vincent Charity. They both love working for the sisters and the Sisters of Charity Health System, which is the parent corporation for the sponsored ministries of CSA and includes St. Vincent Charity, Regina Health Center, Mercy Medical Center in Canton, and various other outreach ministries in Ohio and South Carolina.

The years practicing at St. Vincent Charity were very formative for Dr. Macintyre both professionally and personally. Caregivers, from colleagues to nurses and health professionals to housekeepers, were consistently kind, thoughtful and respectful. It was at St. Vincent Charity in the persons of CSA sisters Sister Mercia Beever and Sister Carole DeCrane that she became aware of the power of pastoral care. Patients that the sisters visited were supported emotionally and spiritually, a support that enabled them to endure difficult, frightening issues.

“Watching the two of them, taught me the power of faith in action, and started me on my road to conversion to Catholicism,” said Dr. Macintyre.

To commemorate Sr. Mercia and Sr. Carole, and all of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Drs. Macintyre and Sopko decided to make a transformational gift to Regina Health Center (RHC). They chose RHC because they believe in the mission of compassion and care for elderly vowed religious, clergy and lay family members.

Continued on page 3

A GREAT SHORT AND LONG GAME



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Golf is a good metaphor for what it's like to keep Regina Health Center at the top of our game—especially as the popular Holy-In-One Golf Outing reaches its 20th year of raising much-needed funds to help care for those who cared for the members of the church for so long.

To be successful in golf, a good long game (driving) and a good short game (putting and chipping) are essential. It's similar here. We have to have a consistent, quality short game (day-to-day resident care and operations) while continuing to work on our long game (planning for the future).

The renovations currently underway at Regina Health Center are a mix of both day-to-day and preparing for a successful future. When complete, the renovations will enable us to provide more gracious surroundings to residents while also positioning us to better compete with newer facilities in the area.

In a matter of a few months, the renovations are progressing as planned. All resident rooms and gathering spaces in our memory-care unit (2A) have been updated with new furniture, flooring, light fixtures, paint and more. Resident rooms in our 2B area are currently the focus. To minimize disruption to residents, the project is spread out over 18 months, which means all renovations should be complete around this time next year.

Speaking of both a strong short and long game, Holy-In-One remains an essential fundraising event to cover Medicaid funding gaps so we can continue to provide the compassionate, holistic health care services that are the hallmark of our mission. Holy-In-One has proven to be a huge hit since it began in 2000. It's a really well run golf

outing and always a wonderful day on the links, which is why it's been so successful. Through 2018, 19 Holy-In-One outings have raised more than \$2.6 million to support our mission.

If you haven't heard, this year's Holy-In-One is June 17 at the venerable Firestone Country Club. I encourage you to get tickets soon because it is a popular event. If you're not a golfer, join us for a tasty dinner and auction with some terrific prizes on which to bid. Each year, we pick one important cause for the auction. This year, it's raising funds to buy a new activities bus for residents. Our current bus is still perfectly safe and kept in good repair, but after 22 years of reliable service, it's starting to show its wear.

Good news about the auction this year. Higher-value items will be done online and via a special auction app. We hope to see you there, but even if you can't be at Holy-In-One, you can still bid on many of the great items that will be available at the fundraising event from your computer or mobile device. Stay tuned for more details.

We invite you to stop by to see the renovations. If you'd like to help support these ongoing renovations, please contact Maureen O'Neill-Laszlo at 330.659.5132 for more information or to discuss giving options. Or, donate online at reginahealthcenter.org. Our renovations are an important part of supporting our unique mission and our commitment to providing a caring, compassionate home.

DEACON MARK C. YANTEK, LNHA

Executive Director, Regina Health Center



Pictured at the 25th Anniversary Gala are (top) Sister M. Allan Kenzig, CSA, and Dr. Macintyre; (bottom) Dr. Joseph A. Sopko.

Dr. Macintyre tells the story of her husband’s father, Joe, who was a resident at RHC several years ago. Joe, critically ill, was admitted to St. Vincent Charity. While he was there, and Dr. Macintyre was on duty at the hospital, she received a page that she had an important phone call. She took the call. That call was from the Polish housekeepers at RHC who wanted to know how Joe was doing and to ask when he could come home. Joe was also Polish, and the housekeepers looked forward to visiting with him and having conversations with him in their language. Dr. Macintyre said, “The care at Regina Health Center is so special. They actually called to ask when he could come home! This is where I want to come when I need care.”

Drs. Macintyre and Sopko decided to make the first of several six-figure gifts that would kick off Regina Health Center’s 25th Anniversary Renovation Project. With their gift and five others, a \$1 million matching gift initiative was created to inspire others to also take part in the renovation. Gifts made for the renovation continue to be matched dollar for dollar for recognition purposes.

“This initiative has played a huge part in helping to get toward our goal of \$2.5 million, the total cost for the renovation,” said Maureen O’Neill-Laszlo, director of mission support and donor relations. “We are so grateful and in awe of the outpouring of support for this project.”

The doctors are taking advantage of the new naming opportunities at RHC. They wish to dedicate a plaque outside the chapel on the third floor assisted living area so that Sr. Mercia and Sr. Carole will always be remembered for the tireless, compassionate care they provided for many sick and dying patients and their families.

In addition to the doctors’ gift for the renovation, Dr. Macintyre made a significant will provision to benefit RHC. Her legacy gift is one of the strongest messages a donor can send. It shows how important this ministry is to her and her family. RHC will continue to receive loving support long after her lifetime. With her legacy gift, she is welcomed into the Regina Society, which recognizes individuals who establish legacy gifts.

Gifts received from will bequests and other forms of legacy gifts can be designated for the general operating fund or the Regina Health Center endowment to provide for future sustainability, or for other purposes to support the ministry.

“My gift is not only in recognition of the extraordinary Sisters Mercia and Carole, but in appreciation for all the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, who throughout my practice at St. Vincent enriched my practice and my life.” – Dr. Elizabeth Macintyre

Regina Health Center and the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine recognize Dr. Macintyre and Dr. Sopko for their extraordinary years of support as physicians, leaders and tremendous supporters of the ministries of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. Like Sisters Mercia and Carole, they are a dynamic duo. ♦



Sam Gasbarre (center) with his good friends and fellow Regina Health Center volunteers, Laddie Hula (left) and Gene Yurick.

A Volunteer Icon

SAM GASBARRE COLLECTED STORIES AND MEMORIES OVER 25 YEARS

Newly retired in February 1994, Sam Gasbarre found himself looking for something to do. Like many Regina Health Center (RHC) volunteers, Sam happened to see a notice in his parish bulletin, seeking volunteers for the newly opened health care facility. Sam took the cue and contacted then volunteer coordinator, Sister Pat Gardner, CSA, to discuss volunteer opportunities. That was the beginning of a 25-year relationship with the residents, staff and fellow volunteers. Sam's quarter-century run came to an end at the end of 2018 when he made the decision to retire from his volunteer position to spend more time with his wife and family.

Sam said he had no idea what to expect when he first arrived at RHC back in 1994, but remembers his first job

well, which was to make sure that water pitchers were filled in resident rooms. Once mastered, he was promoted to washing wheelchairs—which was an important job to keep the chairs clean and sanitized since so many residents use them. Another job mastered, Sam moved on to helping out drivers transport residents to medical appointments. Sam chuckles as he remembers one such trip when he was transporting one of the sisters to a doctor's appointment. She told him what a good driver he was, while clutching her Rosary tightly in her hands!

Sam said his favorite job as a volunteer was mingling with residents and getting to know them. He has enough stories to fill a small book, but here are a few that really stand out to him.

Jumping Jesus *The late Father Waldie was a paratrooper and chaplain in World War II and the Korean War. Father had many stories to share with Sam about war times. “We would chuckle about the name the troops had given him—Jumping Jesus! Father Waldie was just a great person.”*

The Bossy One *He recalls, with amusement, about one of the elderly sisters who spoke fluent Italian. Sam said she scolded him because he could not speak or understand the language, even though his family had emigrated from Italy. “I loved talking with her and taking her for walks around the grounds, even if she was a little bossy,” he added.*

Predicting the Weather *Another colorful resident was Joe Sopko (father of Dr. Joe Sopko from the front page.) Sam recalls Joe telling him that he was a young recruit in the U.S. Army, and was given the job of meteorologist for the Normandy Invasion. That set him up for a job out of the army as a meteorologist at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. Sam said, “He was a very interesting man to talk with.”*

Sam enjoyed being around all of the residents and helping in any way he could, which often meant keeping them company. He would transport many within the facility to and from Mass or to therapy appointments.

Sam saw and experienced many things throughout his 25 years at RHC. He said the staff is wonderful and they care so much about the residents. As a resident of Richfield for most of his life, he was around when Mount Augustine, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine was being built. In 1993, they converted a large portion of the motherhouse to establish Regina Health Center.

“It just seemed natural that this would be a good place to volunteer,” he said. “One of the hardest things about volunteering and befriending so many residents was watching them decline in health and pass away.”

After 25 years of volunteering, Sam will be spending more time with his wife Genevieve, three grown children and seven grandchildren.

His good friend and fellow volunteer Laddie Hula said of Sam, “Sam was an icon here. He genuinely cared about the residents. He is the cream of the crop and a gem.” Sam said he misses his Thursday morning coffee talk with his pals, Laddie and Gene Yurick. ♦

RHC EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR DEDICATED SERVICE

Without a dedicated, caring staff, RHC would not be the exceptional 5-star facility that it is. Thirty employees were recognized in December for their many years of service. The following 12 staff members were also recognized for being chosen as “Employee of the Month” during 2018: Lisa Acker, Nursing; Susan Orians, Nursing; Bojana Gajic, Laundry; Jacinth Hails, Nursing; Chris Mis, Communications/Library; Karen Kaufman, Activities; Theresa Mulanax, Nursing; Stephen Gentner, Dining Services; Sue Brewer, Fiscal Services; Laura Salvaggio, Activities; Diane Nagy, Dining Services; and Dave Buechele, Maintenance.

Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA, congregational leader of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Tom Strauss, president & CEO of the Sisters of Charity Health System, and Mark Yantek, RHC executive director, began the evening with an opening prayer and remarks, followed by dinner from Augie’s Catering of North Royalton. There were many highlights during the evening, including the service award presentation to Bill Vorndran, RHC maintenance director, for 45 years of service, as well as to Sue Brewer, fiscal services, who was chosen as “Employee of the Year.” Congratulations to everyone for their commitment to resident care.

Thank you!

The Newly Expanded Benefit of the Qualified

The following article was excerpted from Jason Lina, Lead Advisor of Resource Planning Group with permission. rpgplanner.com/qcd

What do Arnold Schwarzenegger, Steven Tyler, Stevie Nicks and Billy Crystal have in common? At least two things. They celebrated their 70½ birthdays in 2018 and joined the ranks of approximately 25 million others in the United States over this age.

Two important things changed in 2018. Celebrate or not, all four reached the important age of 70.5 at which point they become eligible for the qualified charitable distribution (QCD). The second big change transpired on January 1 when the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act became law. This new law initiated many consequential changes, including the dramatic expansion of individuals who directly benefit from utilizing the QCD. The qualified charitable distribution instantly transformed into a tax-saving opportunity for most of the 25 million Americans over age 70.5.

Why the change? The biggest factor in the QCD's newly increased reach was the expansion of the standard deduction on January 1 by 75 percent for married couples over age 70.5 (technically, for filers age 65 and over) from \$15,200 in 2017 to \$26,600 in 2018. Moreover, for single filers over age 70.5, the standard deduction increased from \$7,900 to \$13,600. These changes, plus the new limits on property and state tax deductions, mean that most retirees will use the standard deduction and, resultantly, get no tax benefit from charitable contributions.

Example 1:

Consider the case of a 71 year-old married couple, Jack and Diane, who have taxable Social Security income, dividends and interest of \$90,000 plus another \$35,000 of required minimum IRA distributions from Jack's IRA for total adjusted gross income of \$125,000. They pay \$5,000 of state taxes and \$7,000 of property taxes, and have no mortgage or major medical expenses.

This year, they moved \$35,000 from Jack's IRA to their joint bank account to fulfill the required minimum distribution. Later in the year, they will write a check from their bank account for \$15,000 to their favorite charity. Based on all their income and deductions, they will owe \$11,607 in federal taxes.

Charitable Distribution

Example 2:

Now, assume everything stays the same except for the way in which Jack and Diane make their \$15,000 charitable gift. Instead of moving \$35,000 from Jack's IRA to their bank account, they move \$20,000 from the IRA to their joint bank account. Additionally, they give the same charity the same \$15,000 but these funds come directly from the IRA. That is, the charity gets the \$15,000 check directly from Jack's IRA instead of going from Jack's IRA to the bank account and then to the charity.

Financially, nothing changes for Jack and Diane and nothing changes for the charity. Check that—one thing changes for Jack and Diane. Instead of paying \$11,607 in taxes in our initial example, they pay \$7,557 in the second case. Their tax liability drops by \$4,050 or 34.9 percent simply because they were wise enough to make use of the qualified charitable distribution.

What caused this significant reduction in federal taxes?

In example 1, Jack and Diane made \$15,000 of charitable contributions, but they did not get any benefit from these contributions because their total itemized deductions of \$25,000 were less than their standard deduction of \$26,600. Had they given away \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000 or zero to charity, they would have faced the exact same federal tax liability.

In the second example, because they made the gift directly from their IRA and utilized the qualified charitable distribution, what would have been a taxable \$35,000 mandatory IRA distribution was reduced to a \$20,000 taxable distribution. In turn, their adjusted gross income and taxable income in example 2 were both \$15,000 lower than in example 1. Yes, their itemized deductions were also \$15,000 lower because they didn't get to claim any charitable contributions, but that's the whole point. Reducing their income by \$15,000 was far more valuable than increasing their itemized deductions by \$15,000.

This is going to be the new reality for a lot of people over 70.5. A married couple without major medical expenses or without a primary mortgage interest expense that exceeds \$16,600 per year are likely to benefit from utilizing the qualified charitable distribution for the same reasons as Jack and Diane. It is a tax savings tool, unavailable to anyone under age 70.5, that effectively allows for the shifting of charitable deductions from the Schedule A, where they may not be entirely useful, to the front page of the Form 1040, where they're going to be useful for anyone who pays taxes.

Closing Comments

Taxpayers over age 70.5 have a unique tax saving opportunity that deserves more attention than it has received. The QCD opportunity was somewhat limited before 2018 but materially expanded with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 so that most individuals above age 70.5 who have the desire to give money to charity would now be well-served to use the qualified charitable distribution.

We know that Regina Health Center donors make regular contributions because they believe in this ministry of care and compassion. Taking advantage of the QCD does not change how much you care; it immediately returns something back to you because YOU care.

Thanks and Gratitude

Regina Health Center celebrated a phenomenal year of giving thanks to those listed on these pages and to the extraordinary \$1 million matching gift initiative by six donors. Regina Health Center is proud to announce that our generous donors gave \$1.7 million in 2018 for the annual appeals and for the 25th Anniversary Renovation. We thank you for your tremendous support of this ministry. Know that you and those listed as deceased are prayed for at daily Mass in the Holy Family Chapel at Regina Health Center.

THANK YOU 2018 DONORS

The donor listing on these pages represents Circle of Giving Society members of \$100 or more who made gifts in 2018, as well as those whose continued support has accumulated to milestone levels.

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We thank our many other donors who made thoughtful gifts to Regina Health Center in 2018. Please consider joining one of our Giving Circle Societies in 2019. We regret if we have inadvertently excluded or misspelled any names. Please call the mission support and donor relations office at 330.659.5132 so that we can correct any errors. Thank you.

Farewell: MAUREEN O'NEILL-LASZLO RETIRES



Dear Regina Health Center Family,

What a great ride this has been! What more can one ask than to share lunch with a great group of co-workers, to walk the halls with the sisters who presided at my birth and the other sisters who gave me a great education from grades 1-12, and to spend time with the wonderful donors who really are the Regina Health Center family.

After almost nine years as the director of mission support and donor relations with Regina Health Center and the Sisters of Charity Health System, it is time to write a new chapter, and spend more time traveling and doing other things with my husband, Chuck.

I couldn't possibly leave without giving thanks to all of you who made my job not just a job. It certainly wasn't difficult asking supporters who LOVE this place to help out with the 25th anniversary renovation. They wanted the renovation just as much as anyone, including the residents, many who are now happy in their new 'digs.' The spring and Let There Be Light Appeals were always a success because the donors who give want this special place to be successful.

The residents will always be the focal point here because that's why we are all here. Our residents are the greatest, and the impact that they have made on others is coming back to them ten-fold.

You can't ask for a better Holy-In-One committee or 25th anniversary committee. The volunteers who spend their whole day at Firestone County Club ensuring a smooth Holy-In-One Golf Outing are phenomenal.

Here we are almost nine years after my hire, and time to leave this wonderful place. This place has been very special to me and I was blessed with wonderful co-workers, volunteers, generous donors, the residents and the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. My prayers are with you all, and for a strong future for this ministry of care and compassion.

Sincerely,

Maureen O'Neill-Laszlo



Former RHC Executive Director Brian Flannery (standing in background) and his wife Sheila won the Holy-In-One sausage making lesson and dinner prize auction. Here, Bishop Roger Gries, OSB, oversees making 25 pounds of sausage with help from fellow Benedictine monks.

Sausage Dinners and Holy-In-One are a Perfect Pairing

Links is the oldest style of golf course, first developed in Scotland. It's only natural that one of the most popular auction prize offerings at the annual Holy-In-One Golf Outing involves another kind of links—sausage links. The auction prize includes an in-home sausage making lesson and dinner for eight to 12 people.

The idea for this novel prize came from RHC volunteer Carl Liccardi. He approached Maureen O'Neill-Laszlo, RHC director of mission support and donor relations, to offer homemade sausage samples for a donor event. Maureen happily accepted his offer and the samples went like hotcakes. That led to offering the sausage making lesson as one of the big ticket prizes at the Holy-In-One auction. To top off the prize, the late, Most Reverend A. J. Quinn, was the celebrity sausage maker who also celebrated Mass in the winner's home before rolling up his sleeves to make 25 pounds of sausage.

After Bishop Quinn's death in 2013, Most Reverend Roger W. Gries, OSB, took over the reins. "Bishop Roger is always doing something to help the mission

of providing excellent health care to our retired, local religious, priests and laity at Regina Health Center. He almost never says no, unless he has a prior commitment. He is also a member of the Regina Health Center Board of Directors," said Maureen.

Last year's high bidder was former RHC Executive Director Brian Flannery and wife Sheila. They chose to have the dinner take place at RHC. Bishop Roger participated with four Benedictine monks from St. Andrew's Abbey. The monks, Brian and his family, and Carl Liccardi had a great time making sausage and enjoying the fruits of their labor in the private dining room at RHC. Since 25 pounds of sausage was a bit much for 12 people to eat, Brian and Sheila took home their share and offered some to the others in attendance.

Special thanks to Carl Liccardi and Rocco Esposito for donating all of the sausage, their display of expert sausage making and their years of service to Regina Health Center, and to Bishop Roger for his ongoing support. ♦

RHC *upcoming events*

Hope Springs Eternal: Holy-In-One Turns 20 *By Gene Kramer*



Gene Kramer

One January day 20 years ago in Brian Flannery's office [former RHC executive director] while looking over the snowy expanse that would become a green lawn in a few months, I recalled having seen amateurs trying without much success to win big prizes by making baskets from mid-court or kicking field goals. It occurred to me that golfers harbor similar fantasies about making a hole-in-one and winning a large prize. Brian and I talked about how we could set up a golf tee and hole and attract golfers to come and experience Regina Health Center firsthand while trying to win a new car, and supporting RHC in the process. With lots of help from the staff and volunteers, we built it, and they came, and they still keep coming to what has become the much larger Holy-in-One annual event.



Editor's Note: The 20th Holy-In-One Golf Outing is June 17 at Firestone Country Club. Gene Kramer, former board chair, started what has become RHC's largest annual fundraising event with the first Holy-In-One Shootout on June 6, 2000. The first outing attracted 80 golfers and guests and raised \$20,000 as golfers tried their skill at one makeshift 165-yard par 3 golf hole on the grounds outside RHC. In 2018, the event raised more than \$219,000 and hosted 218 golfers and 290 dinner guests. Since its humble beginnings, the event has raised \$2,671,900.

May 7

CIRCLE OF ABIDING LOVE
MASS AND DONOR RECOGNITION CEREMONY 5:30 PM
(by invitation)

June 17

20TH ANNUAL HOLY-IN-ONE GOLF OUTING AT FIRESTONE COUNTRY CLUB
Registration begins at 10 a.m.
Tee-off at Noon. Call 330.659.5132 for sponsorship information or visit www.holyinone.com.

August 7

ANNUAL CAR CRUISE-IN (August 14 rain date); All are welcome at this popular annual event that features an assortment of polished classic and muscle cars (open to the public). A special donor picnic will happen at the Cruise-In (by invitation).

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Purchase Pebble Beach® raffle tickets for \$100 each. Only 200 will be sold. The drawing will take place at the Holy-In-One banquet reception on June 17.

Call Cheryl Dolego at 330.659.5142 to purchase tickets today.

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WISH *list*

The Wish List continues to be a success for those wanting to help in a specific way. We thank the Wish List donors who gave cash or gifts-in-kind in response to our last newsletter request.

TV REMOTES

Television remotes for resident televisions – 12 needed at a cost of \$10 each.

ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT - ORDER OUT/EAT IN

Residents continue to reap the rewards of our kind and generous donors with donations to our monthly, “Order Out/Eat In” program. To celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, residents enjoyed delicious corned beef sandwiches from Simon’s Deli in Brecksville. Gifts designated for the Order Out/Eat In program directly impact the residents where it counts—their stomachs! Although most believe John Bush’s’ dining staff can’t be beat, it doesn’t hurt to get a nice treat from outside. Any donations of restaurant gift cards or monetary donations, earmarked for this program are appreciated. Thank you so much, for your support of the Activities Department and the programs that we provide!

Thank you for supporting the Regina Health Center mission.



Please Like us on Facebook. We frequently share resident events and photos, organizational news and employee recognitions.

NEWSLETTER CREDITS

The *Heart of Regina Health Center* newsletter is published in the spring and fall to keep our supporters and residents updated on the many wonderful people and things that take place here every day.

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Diane Roberto



REGINA HEALTH CENTER
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