

# Donors Make a Difference

2020 COMMUNITY UPDATE

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Mission:

To improve  
the **health** of  
the **people** and  
**communities**  
we serve



# Dear Friends,

It hasn't been easy keeping pace with the dynamic events of 2020. I had no idea what to expect as I stepped into my new role with the Decatur Memorial Hospital Foundation during a global pandemic. As I reflect on the past year, I am positively amazed that Decatur Memorial Hospital—our community hospital—is not only unbroken, but stronger than ever! Weathering the storm of COVID-19 has been a challenge for all and it has been truly incredible to witness my colleagues tirelessly fighting to slow the spread of the virus, care for those affected and begin to distribute a lifesaving vaccine.

During this past year, our community showed up—to volunteer, to offer support and to give gifts—all of which equipped the Foundation with the ability to provide help to our colleagues and exceptional care to the community we serve! With your philanthropic support, we were able to equip our Emergency Department and COVID-19 unit with additional lifesaving equipment, provide meals and support to our frontline workers and establish a COVID-19 Colleague Assistance Fund to help with items like groceries, utilities and child care payments.

Even though much of our efforts throughout the year were focused on the pandemic, the Foundation was still able to provide funding and support for other healthcare-related initiatives. In this first edition of our new annual Community Update, you'll learn more about these efforts and the amazing people who helped to make them possible.

Thank you for investing in the health of our community through your generous support. You are true heroes!



*Julie Bilbrey*

Julie Bilbrey  
Executive Director

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Pictured Left to Right: Megan Schniederjan, Foundation Donor and Database Coordinator, Ryan Aupperle, Foundation Board Chair, Julie Bilbrey, Foundation Executive Director, Drew Early, President and CEO





*“Lucky doesn't know it's therapy; he just knows it's fun to climb on things.”*



# Lucky McMahon is a Very Determined 5-Year-Old

To see evidence of that determination, you don't have to look much further than the child-sized climbing wall at the Decatur Memorial Hospital Sports Enhancement Center. The wooden wall, which can be adjusted to meet the needs of patients up to age 10, is emblazoned with stickers reading "LUCKY'S WALL." That's because the wall—which has the potential to help many young patients in the years to come—is the direct result of Lucky's persistence.

Lucky, who was born with hydrocephalus, or excess fluid in the cavities of his brain, has been working with pediatric physical therapist Lindy Miller at Decatur Memorial Hospital for nearly two years. Children with hydrocephalus can experience mental and physical delays, and the therapy sessions are aimed at helping Lucky improve his balance, gait and coordination.

When Miller mentioned that a climbing wall might help him build his strength, Lucky was immediately fascinated by the idea. "He would not stop talking about it," said his mother, Paula McMahon.

Pediatric physical therapy helps children build their strength and skills, with an added emphasis on fun. A climbing wall, for example, can build core and upper-body strength while also improving balance. "Children learn through play, so we have to make everything we do play-based and functional," Miller said.

That attitude helps make what might otherwise be a frustrating experience for children into a fun opportunity to play and try new things. "Lucky doesn't know it's therapy," his mom said. "He just knows it's fun to climb on things."

Each week at his therapy sessions, Lucky began asking Jeff Brown, executive director of the Rehabilitation and Wound Center at DMH, and Denise Crutcher, manager of Rehabilitation, to acquire a kid-sized climbing wall for the Sports Enhancement Center.

But he didn't stop there. Before long, he'd made the same request of Santa Claus. During a special visit to Wrigley Field to see his beloved Chicago Cubs, he even asked player Ben Zobrist—who wryly referred Lucky back to Santa Claus.

When Miller heard that Lucky's quest for a climbing wall had now reached major league baseball, she knew he wasn't going to stop asking anytime soon. "I turned to Jeff and Denise and said, 'This is getting serious—we have to get this child a climbing wall,'" she joked.

**Physical therapy staff were able to make the purchase thanks to a \$1,750 grant from the DMH Foundation. The money came from a fund established in memory of Fannie Bassett, a former DMH colleague who worked with pediatric patients. The Foundation is able to help DMH staff with purchases that might otherwise fall outside their usual budgets.**

Unfortunately for Lucky, the new climbing wall was delivered at an inopportune time—the week that Illinois began a stay-at-home order aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19. So it wasn't until late June that Lucky first got an opportunity to climb the wall. Now, as he gains confidence, climbing it is a highlight of his therapy sessions.

"He's pretty excited," Miller said. "He always gives a thumbs-up when he likes something, and I've gotten several thumbs-up." She added that many of the other children who attend therapy at the facility are excited about this new addition as well.

The therapists at DMH are "like a second family" for Lucky, who also receives speech and occupational therapy. His mom credits that team—and her son's own fierce determination—for helping him exceed all the expectations that doctors and experts have set for him. "If it wasn't for the therapists and the help they've given him, he wouldn't be where he is today," Paula McMahon said.



*Paula Hall, Volunteer Services manager, with Margie Silver*

## DMH Auxiliary Raises \$90,000 for Lobby Remodel

The Decatur Memorial Auxiliary has been a crucial part of DMH history for more than 65 years. The Auxiliary is made up of nearly 300 volunteers ranging in age from 15 to 95 who spend their time giving back to the hospital in countless ways. Their main goal is to help ensure a wonderful patient experience by serving as a resource to patient families and providing comfort as needed.

In addition to serving families, the Auxiliary raises funds to support special projects throughout the hospital. Over the years they have manned the DMH gift shop and hosted book, craft and bake sales. Their fundraising efforts in 2019 resulted in a \$90,000 donation to DMH, which was used to remodel the Volunteer Services lobby, locker room and conference room.

The remodel replaced outdated furniture, lighting and décor to create modern, fresh and inviting spaces that our Auxiliary members can spend time in before and after their volunteer shifts. "It's such a wonderful addition!" said Auxiliary member Margie Silver. "The architecture was already beautiful, and now the space is truly inviting and workable."

The Decatur Memorial Auxiliary volunteers are truly selfless with the donation of their time and resources. With 25,720 hours of volunteer time logged, they prove time and time again how well they show up to serve the community through their work at DMH.





## Great Food, Great Cause at Hearts Around the World

Since 2010, Decatur Memorial Foundation has celebrated an event that highlights an array of global cultures and cuisine. Along with raising money to support the DMH Heart & Lung Institute, guests enjoy culinary favorites from around the world. A bonus of friendly competition is sprinkled into the mix too.

DMH CEO Drew Early and DMH Chef Jaroslav “Jerry” Tkac were the highlight of the 2020 event as they competed to create the judges’ favorite dish. While the results were close, Drew, a cooking enthusiast, took home the judges’ hearts and stomachs with his dish. The tasty cuisines from around the world that were served that evening were prepared under Chef Jerry’s oversight with assistance from Richland Community College’s (RCC) Chef Brain Tucker and RCC Culinary Institute students.

The biggest winner of the evening was the Heart & Lung Institute. They were blessed with the event proceeds which were used to purchase needed equipment; including an electrocardiogram machine, a treadmill and an arm ergometer.

## Grant Funds Purchase of Ultrasound Machine

The Decatur Memorial Foundation granted \$110,000 to the DMH Emergency Department for a new portable ultrasound machine that will allow emergency medical staff to quickly guide patient treatment plans. This new ultra-small, portable, advanced ultrasound machine can easily maneuver around beds and exam tables, aiding staff in treating trauma patients. It can save precious time for critical patients by:

- Aiding the provider in finding blood vessels to place central lines for IV access
- Allowing the provider to administer a FAST exam (Focused Assessment with Sonography for Trauma) which essentially looks for internal bleeding or unseen injuries
- Allowing the provider to quickly assess pregnancy, ocular damage, appendix ruptures, gall bladder problems and more in emergency situations

The Sonosite X-Porte ultrasound system has the capability to evolve with the hospital’s needs, has a customizable touchscreen, helps to improve decision-making with better image visualization and has education-focused tutorials built in.





## Cancer Funds Benefit Patients, Community

Cancer patients at Decatur Memorial Hospital benefit from the generosity of donors and community organizations who give their time and resources to raise funds and spread a message of awareness.

A special thank you goes out to Coziahr Harley-Davidson, Roadrunners Motorcycle Group, The Great Pumpkin Patch, the Decatur Athletic Club, Par for the Cure and the Southside Women's Golf League for contributing to Decatur Memorial Foundation's restricted cancer funds in support of the fight against cancer.

These organizations, as well as many individual donors, allowed us to provide the following to nearly 2,000 patients and community members in 2019:

- Free mammograms for underinsured patients
- Breast self-exam shower cards
- Pink Link breast cancer support groups and activities
- Breast health awareness programs
- Specialty garments for post-mastectomy patients
- Cancer treatment handbooks for newly diagnosed cancer patients

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## The KerbyStrong Foundation supports DMH Cancer Patients

The KerbyStrong Foundation works to support the whole patient as they face their fight against cancer. The organization has established two restricted cancer funds within the Decatur Memorial Foundation—KerbyStrong Treatment, which provides financial assistance to patients receiving cancer treatment at DMH, and KerbyStrong Navigation, which helps patients navigate the complex healthcare system that makes up cancer treatment.

In 2019 alone, KerbyStrong presented the Decatur Memorial Foundation with a \$12,750 gift in support of their two funds. This donation allowed us to provide gift cards to cancer patients to help with things like transportation, prescriptions, household expenses and groceries.

Nikki Damery, executive director of KerbyStrong, started the nonprofit in memory of her late husband, Kerby Damery. Kerby was diagnosed with appendix cancer in 2007 and fought the disease for eight years until he passed away in February 2017. As they were navigating Kerby's battle with cancer, they recognized the severe financial burden that cancer treatment causes and they vowed to help ease those burdens. KerbyStrong raises money through the KerbyStrong 100 Race Day at Macon Speedway and through various other efforts throughout the year. Their mission is to inspire others to never give up and have a winning attitude, to educate about cancer awareness and screening and to support patients through their cancer journey.





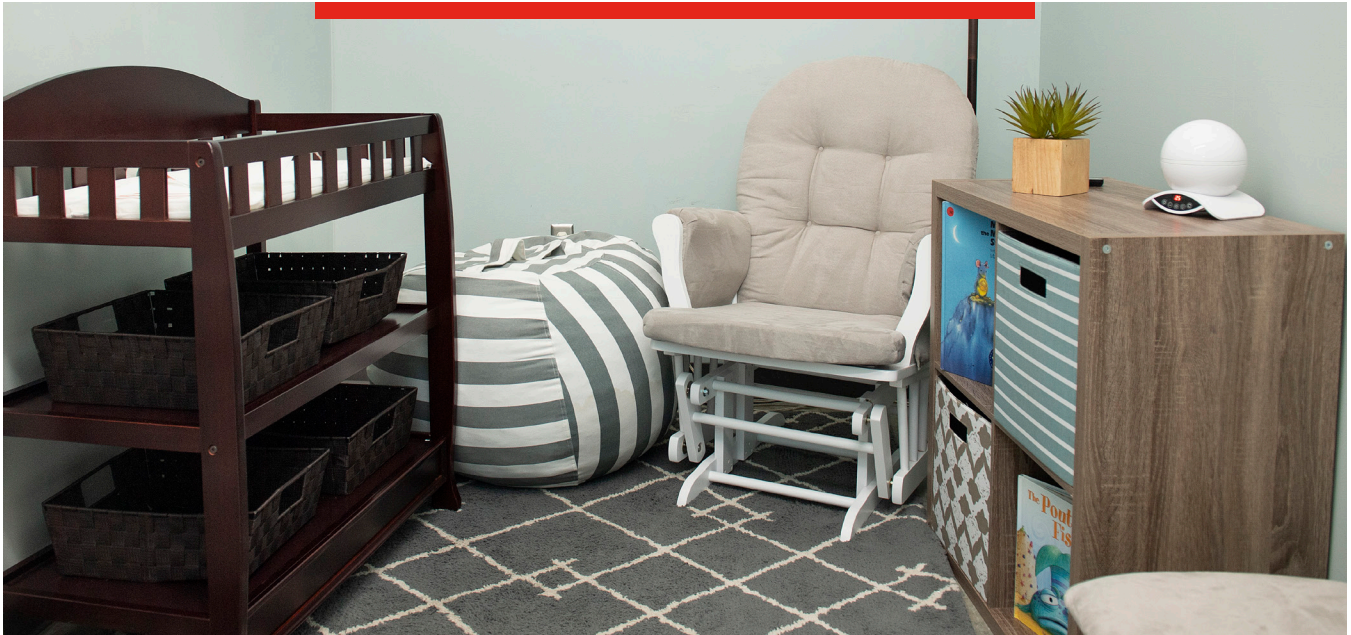
## Three Decades of Support for Baby TALK

A \$15,000 annual grant from Decatur Memorial Foundation helps Baby TALK provide their Newborn Encounter program to every baby born at DMH. Baby TALK, a local nonprofit whose mission is to “positively impact child development and nurture parent-child relationships” has been coming alongside new parents who give birth at DMH since the program’s inception in 1986.

Baby TALK uses a strength and relationship-based approach to demonstrate a baby’s competencies and individuality by promoting sensory brain experiences. Baby TALK experts teach parents about the amazing skills their child is born with – did you know that newborns can respond to a rattle, track a red ball with their eyes and even hug your fingers if placed on the palm of their hand or foot?! These important experiences promote early engagement and discovery!

Baby TALK experts also use this newborn encounter to teach parents about important development milestones to watch for and provide resources, curriculum and baby board books for parents to take home. As they build a trusting relationship with parents through this encounter, the experts are also able to identify gaps in their system of support and refer parents to Baby TALK’s more intensive services if needed, including home visits, Early Head Start, Teen Parenting Alternative Education and a Family Literacy Program.

In 2019, Baby TALK experts provided this vital newborn encounter to 758 new families at Decatur Memorial Hospital.



## Support for Children's Museum Quiet Room

The Children's Museum of Illinois received a Decatur Memorial Foundation grant to help bring their Quiet Room to life! The Quiet Room is a small, dimly lit space with a rocking chair, several simple toys, books and a locking door for privacy. This new room is meant to support nursing mothers, museum guests who have a sensory processing disorder or anyone who needs a few minutes away from the hustle and bustle of the museum exhibits. The interactive exhibits featured at the Children's Museum create an exciting, yet loud atmosphere. If a guest needs to take a moment to process the overwhelming stimulation, they are encouraged to step into the Quiet Room to find their peace again. This space is located on the second floor and is intentionally tucked away in the back corner to provide extra solitude.

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## Meet LUCAS

A \$50,000 grant from the Decatur Memorial Foundation brought a new, hands-free lifesaving CPR device to the DMH Emergency Department. The LUCAS Chest Compression system hooks up to a patient quickly and performs consistent chest compressions in lieu of manual CPR.

This high-tech machine helps emergency care teams do what they do best—save lives! CPR is difficult to do well, and even professional rescuers can suffer from CPR fatigue. A machine doesn't get tired or slow down; it is consistent, and consistency is key when performing CPR. The LUCAS also frees up hands so that medical professionals can perform other lifesaving measures for their patients. With high-quality chest compressions and fewer interruptions than manual CPR, this machine is the perfect partner for emergency care teams.

The LUCAS was originally brought to DMH during the COVID-19 pandemic to help decrease the number of medical staff present in a patient's room at one time and limit exposure risk.





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Hawthorne Suites	Taco Bell
Linda and Mike Kehart	TCR Systems
Little Caesars	Texas Roadhouse
McAlister's Deli	Dr. Zia

We made our best effort to capture all donors to DMH during the COVID-19 pandemic, if we inadvertently omitted your name/business, please accept our apology.

## By the Numbers

DMH Foundation assisted **85** colleagues with a total of **\$33,148** in bill assistance through our three Colleague Assistance Programs

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**\$128,345.86** provided for patient assistance with medical bills

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DMH Foundation provided **8** colleagues with education grants/certification reimbursement

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DMH Family Lodge hosted **127** guests who stayed for free or at a discounted rate while their loved one was hospitalized

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DMH Thrift Store helped **306** individuals through free voucher program providing **\$11,955** worth of clothing/shoes

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*\*The DMH Family Lodge and DMH Thrift Store both closed March 2020 due to COVID-19.*

# Founders Circle

*The following donors have preserved the mission of Decatur Memorial Hospital through cumulative lifetime giving totals of \$10,000 or more through Dec. 31, 2020. Their generosity is also recognized on the Founders Circle wall display in the Barnes Lobby at Decatur Memorial Hospital.*

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Gale & Lois Hedrick  
Zola Hendricks Estate  
The Hickory Point Mall  
Dr. Sam Holtzman  
Houdaille Hershey Corporation  
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Robert & Di Anne Olivia Howie  
Robert & Phyllis Howie  
Jack & Ann Hunter  
IBEW Local No. 146  
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J.C. Penney Co. Inc.  
J.D. Johnson & Son, Inc.  
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Dr. Jon Jacoby  
John L. Simmons Construction  
Company  
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William C. Johns  
Johnson Controls  
Robert & Debi Johnston  
Jones & Sullivan Enterprises, Inc.  
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Ronald & Nancy Koopman  
Robert G. Kowa  
Dr. Robert & Alexandra Kraus  
Dr. Robert & Kari Kraus Jr.  
Barbara Jean Kretzer  
Mary Safford Kuny  
Patrick & Cindy Laegeler  
Lincoln Laboratory, Inc.  
Lincoln Trail Rally of Taylorville  
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lululemon usa inc.  
Macon County Eye Center, PC  
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Maude Bridges Trust  
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David & Rosemary Meek  
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Midwest Center for Plastic Surgery  
Emma F. Miller  
Millikin University Pink Zone Event  
Bernice H. Milner Estate  
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Golfers  
Gladys & Robert Murphey  
Terry L. Myers  
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Mrs. Nelson & Dr. Boyd Nelson Sr.  
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Donald & Jane Nordlund  
Norfolk & Western Railway Company  
Dr. Sterling & Margery Parker  
Joseph A. Parks  
Perkinson Company  
Pfizer Inc.  
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PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
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Ralph Rannebarger  
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Mr. E.K. & Mrs. Scheiter  
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Security Savings & Loan  
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Wood  
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