We’re on a Mission
Gifts to Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation support the mission of Alton Memorial Hospital - to improve the health of the people and the communities we serve. To join us, contact Foundation and Development Office manager Kristen Ryrie at 618-463-7701 or kristen.ryrie@bjc.org.

As we reflect on the past year, it is hard to put it into words. We faced a new challenge, unlike anything we had ever seen - COVID-19.

Despite this health crisis, our community united and rose up against the virus. Fear transformed to love and kindness for one another, and people sought new ways to support local businesses.

Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation also received an overwhelming amount of support from corporations, businesses, churches, individuals, schools and leaders. Meals, masks and supplies served as the perfect medicine for the hospital staff as they transformed patient care, hospital operations and policies and procedures – to keep our community safe, healthy and a wonderful place to live.

As we look back on 2020, there are a lot of things that will come to mind, but we hope we will remember how we endured with great resolve while being united.

In this year’s annual report, you will hear more about the hearts you warmed, how your gifts directly impacted health care heroes and how you enriched the lives of our patients.

We can’t say thank you enough for helping us to fulfill our mission during an extraordinary time. We encourage you to continue to take care of yourself and each other.

Sincerely,

Dave A. Braasch, RPh., FACHE
Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation Board Chairman

George S. Milnor
Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation Board Chairman

David A. Braasch
AMHSF BOARD MEMBER AND AMH PRESIDENT

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Remarkable people, organizations, community groups, small businesses and corporations did more than just make a difference. They stepped forward to support the first responders, front-line health care workers and staff at Alton Memorial Hospital through their gifts to the Foundation.

Phillips 66 donated $25,000, which will be invested in critical tools to equip the ambulance fleet.

“Giving back to our community where we operate has always been a priority, but now more than ever, we need to make sure we support our health care and emergency responders on the frontlines as well as our families throughout the region,” said Melissa Erker, director of Government and Community Affairs for the Wood River Refinery.

At the beginning of the pandemic, there was concern about access to critical supplies. The Riverbend community put its collective talents to work and dozens of groups delivered hand-sewn masks. Staff throughout the hospital wore them when a mask mandate went into effect. When schools abruptly closed in the spring, they turned over their supplies to hospitals.

“I must have taken hundreds of calls from community members asking what do you need, and how can we help support the front-line staff and first responders,” said Rusty Ingram, director of business development at AMH. “Every donation, from PPE to food to cards of encouragement from elementary students, each was heartfelt.”

Like schools, many non-profits put things on hold. Givin’ It All for Guts, a non-profit organization based in Bethalto, suspended its fundraising efforts for the year but continued its mission of supporting individuals seeking a cure for Crohn’s Disease and Colitis. They delivered bags for patients to the AMH Outpatient Infusion Center filled with snacks, a water bottle, gift cards and other treats.

“There are many individuals receiving vital treatments via infusion and oncology centers,” said Angela Richards, president of Givin’ It All for Guts. “The care bags and snacks are a small token to educate patients about the organization, Givin’ It All for Guts, and the research we support at Washington University.”

The Foundation also received dozens of deliveries which fueled the staff during long days and nights. Among those were 20 pizzas for 10 weeks from the Alton Little Caesars location as part of the corporation’s goal to deliver 1 million pizzas to health care workers and first responders throughout the country.

Little Caesars provided pizza for staff six days a week, so each department would be excited to reach out to get on the delivery list,” said Kristen Ryrie, manager of Foundation and Development at AMH. “It lifted their spirits to know people were thinking of them.”

“Our team has been working around the clock to deliver excellent patient care,” said Dave Braasch, president of AMH. “Far too many people and items to list, but a huge thank you to all who reached out. Your generosity and kindness truly inspired our care teams.”

Crisis Inspires a Community

When a worldwide health crisis hits your community, it’s hard to wrap your mind around it, know what to do, and if you can make a difference.
Crisis Inspires a Community

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, our local communities were here to support us. Thank you for rising to the occasion to support those on the front lines. The Foundation and staff at Alton Memorial Hospital will continue to focus on providing excellent care for when you need us most.

1. Members of Girl Scouts Service Unit 101 delivered more than 100 hand-painted rocks (see on the ground) to AMH on July 8, placing the rocks near the Duncan Wing entrance. Left to right from the Girl Scouts are Karie Preston, Elisabeth Preston, KayLee Melton and Jennifer Melton. The Prestons are with Troop 792 out of St. Ambrose Parish, and Karie is the recording secretary for Service Unit 101. The Meltons are with Troop 130 out of Wood River, and Jen is the Service Unit manager. In the back, left, is Kristen Ryrie, AMH Development officer, and at right are AMH Vice Presidents Debbie Turpin and Brad Goacher.

2. AMH Operations Manager Ben Monson wheels a pallet of gowns in the hallway.

3. Angela Relford of Registration thanks the community for their support during the pandemic.

4. Nearly 100 vehicles parked outside Alton Memorial on Easter Sunday evening for a drive-in prayer service to pray for the staff and patients battling the pandemic. Leaders Matthew and Samantha Vonwald and others aimed their prayers toward the Duncan Wing.

5. Staff of the Intermediate Care Unit get ready to enjoy donated pizza from Little Caesars. Pictured, Unit Secretary Karla Lindsey and RNs Julie Zippmann and Jamie Winship.

6. Some talented artists used sidewalk chalk to write positive messages to patients and health care workers to read as they entered the hospital.

7. AMH Hospitalists show their love and appreciation for the donations, prayers and well wishes from the community.

8. Staff took temperatures of patients coming to the hospital during the pandemic as a part of AMH’s commitment to keeping everyone safe.

9. Emergency Department staff hold a sign that was made by a veteran who wanted them to know each day that he appreciated their service and sacrifice.

10. Members of the AMH leadership team showed some love to Mac’s Downtown Alton for providing meals for staff.
Nicole (Guess) and Neal Hamilton are originally from Jerseyville, Ill., but now live in Brooklyn, NY. Nicole gave birth to their beautiful daughter, Willa, in February 2020; however, she was stillborn due to a placenta abruption the prior day.

After Willa was born, she was placed in a Cuddlecot, which looks like a bassinet and includes a cooling unit that regulates the baby’s temperature so the family can spend more time together.

“We’d never have known to ask for it if not for a close friend who knew of another family that used it,” said Nicole.

The Cuddlecot allowed the Hamiltons to spend two full days holding, loving and creating memories.

“Willa’s grandparents were able to fly in to meet her,” Nicole said. “Over a dozen friends met/held her, some twice. We changed her, bathed her, rocked and sang to her, took pictures with her and even spent an hour with a hospital staff making plaster handprints that we will cherish for the rest of our lives.”

Nicole and Neal want other families to have a chance to create memories and not just experience the trauma of loss, so they created the Willa James Foundation in their daughter’s honor. Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation was the first recipient of a Cuddlecot from the Foundation.

“Spending two full days and nights with Willa allowed us to slowly, and with her, process the devastating reality of losing her,” Nicole said. “Without that slow and unrushed time, we would not be in the place we are today and we wouldn’t be turning her loss into something of purpose like we are now with the Cuddlecot.”

The Hamiltons’ new mission is to bring awareness and place Cuddlecots in all U.S. labor and delivery hospitals so that families can have sufficient and medically supported time with their babies after birth.

> To learn more about the Willa James Foundation, visit thewillajamesfoundation.org.

Couple Gives Families the Gift of Time

Alton Memorial Hospital’s Women’s Health and Childbirth Center received a donation from a couple committed to giving others the gift of time.

Nicole (Guess) and Neal Hamilton were able to cuddle and hold Willa for two days due to the use of a Cuddlecot.
Helmkamp Construction Goes the Extra Mile for Cancer Patients

Helmkamp Construction presented Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation with its Maximum Impact Award to ensure patients undergoing cancer treatment at Alton Memorial Hospital receive financial support when they need it most.

In January 2020, leadership from Helmkamp Construction and members of the Helmkamp Cares Foundation presented leaders from Alton Memorial Hospital and Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation with a check for $20,000 for The Extra Mile and You’ve Got a Friend funds.

The funds can help pay for patients’ expenses such as: rent or mortgage payments, utility bills, insurance bills, medical bills, auto loans, or home or car repairs. The goal of the funds is to relieve financial burdens, so the patients and their families can focus on treatment, healing and recovery.

“It was important to us when creating the program that we found meaningful ways to help out local organizations where we live and work,” said Jen Jackson, Marketing Director & Chair for the Helmkamp Cares Foundation. “That’s how the Maximum Impact Awards were created.”

Helmkamp Construction employees were surveyed about causes that meant the most to them, which resulted in Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation being one of the first recipients of the 2019 Maximum Impact Awards.

“When patients are undergoing treatment at our Cancer Care Center, which is a member of the Siteman Cancer Network, we are focused on treating a person’s whole health,” said Dr. Gregory Vlacich, clinical director of Radiation Oncology at Alton Memorial Hospital. “This investment from Helmkamp Cares will relieve a financial burden for many families and provide them some additional peace so they can focus on healing.”

AMHSF Board Chairman Retires After 29 Years of Service

The chairman of Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation board of directors retired after more than 40 years of service as a community leader. Paul R. Lauschke Jr. made the announcement in June of 2020, and the board appointed George S. Milnor as his replacement.

Lauschke served as chairman of the Foundation for 19 years and contributed much during that time to the mission and successes of the organization, to Alton Memorial Hospital and to the communities it serves. His advice, counsel and experience was indispensable to the Foundation and was regularly sought by other members of the leadership team and Board of Directors.

“Initiatives and challenges, too many to count, were put before Paul during his noteworthy tenure,” said Milnor. “In taking those on, all who worked with him easily recognized and respected his quick mind, magnetic personality and decisiveness as he so effectively brought professional, administrative and community interests together to lasting solutions,” said Milnor.

Lauschke also served on the Hospital Board of Directors for 29 years, starting in 1970. During that time, he was chairman for 14 years and represented the hospital on various BJC Health System boards and committees.

“Perhaps his most significant contributions were the many considerations surrounding Alton Memorial’s affiliation with Christian Hospital, followed by integration with BJC. In those transitions, Paul provided outstanding leadership, judgement and relationships long benefiting Alton Memorial and AMHSF,” said Milnor.

“Paul’s vision and leadership positioned Alton Memorial Hospital for exceptional delivery of care and its success well into the future,” said Dave Braasch, president of Alton Memorial Hospital. “We are grateful for his dedication and advocacy of our mission.”

As the torch passes to Milnor, the Foundation remains well-positioned for the future. Milnor is intimately familiar with the workings of the hospital and Foundation, having having served as co-chair of the capital campaign to build the Duncan Wing. The campaign raised more than $27 million.

“Going forward, we are working to update the positioning of AMHSF relative to Alton Memorial, BJC and our communities. These efforts affect each of our talented board members, AMHSF committees and staff as we challenge ourselves to not only sustain, but to improve the relevancy and effectiveness of AMHSF for the benefit of all our constituencies,” Milnor said.
The Foundation and Alton Memorial Hospital staff would like to thank the 2020 Duck Pluckers planning committee and the remarkable people, organizations, small businesses and corporations who supported the 2020 Duck Pluckers Ball:

**Bull’s-Eye Sponsors**
The Honorable Barry and Gaye Julian
Simmons Hanly Conroy

**Trophy Duck Sponsors**
Tech Mahindra

**Bass Buster Sponsors**
Alton Memorial Hospital Medical Staff
Helmkamp Construction
TEAMHealth
The Gori Law Firm
Werts Welding & Tank Service

**Poacher Sponsors**
1st Mid American Credit Union
American Response Vehicles
Anders CPAs + Advisors
Bethesda Health Group/Alton Memorial
Rehabilitation & Therapy
Carrollton Bank
The Homr Clark Family
Healogics
HeplerBroom, LLC
JEN Mechanical, Inc.
Kane Mechanical
Krilegy Financial
Lewis & Clark Community College Foundation
George and Laurie Milnor
Olin Corporation Winchester Division
Chad M. Opel, CFP of Visionary Wealth Advisors
Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery
Piasa Motor Fuels
Roberts Motors
St. Louis Trust Company

**Special Thanks To**
Aerie’s Resort
ALLGLASS Window Cleaning
Altitude Trampoline Park - Glen Carbon
Alton Cracker Factory
Alton Farm & Home Supply
Alton Haunted Odyssey
Alton Refrigeration
Backyard Dreams
Bluff City Grill
Bollini Taxidermy
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CNB Bank & Trust
Chameleon Integrated Services
Clayton Valet & Parking Management
Colman’s Country Campers
Cope Plastics
Dick’s Flowers
Donnewald Distributing
Duke Bakery
Edison’s Entertainment Complex
Freer Auto Body
GCS Credit Union
The Glendale Riders
Brad and Jeanne Goocher
Grafton Trail Rides
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Keith Jackson
K&K Metal Works
Loading Dock
Lockhaven Golf Course
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My Just Desserts
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Phoenix Textile Corporation
Pope Animal Hospital
Premier Rentals
PRP Wine Tasting
Ringneck Ranch, Inc.
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Schlafly Tap Room
Schneider Graphics
Sievers Kennels
Southwestern Archery
St. Peters Hardware
State Street Market
Tarrant & Harman Real Estate
The Magic House
Tractor Supply Alton
United Site Services
West Star Aviation
Woodlands Golf Course

The pandemic forced Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation (AMHSF) to cancel the 12th annual Duck Pluckers, Deer Skinners & Fish Hookers Ball, originally scheduled for June and then August. “We were hopeful that we’d be able to gather again at NILO Farms to raise money to purchase a new ambulance for the hospital,” said Kristen Ryrie, manager of Foundation and Development at Alton Memorial. “During this evolving health crisis, the planning committee and the Foundation have been encouraged and humbled by the outpouring of generosity and support.”

Even without an event, $66,299 was raised for the Duck Pluckers Ball fund. The donations will be used to purchase an ambulance for Alton Memorial Hospital, or if approved by the Foundation Board of Directors, for immediate patient care needs at the hospital. “Our Duck Pluckers donors and supporters are true heroes,” said George Milnor, chairman of AMHSF Board of Directors. “There’s no finer proof of that than their continuing, tremendous financial support — even during this pandemic. We thank you for helping us meet the unique and stressful challenges of the time so that we may continue assisting the hospital in providing excellent care for the communities it serves. Truly, this is impressive support at a critical time.”

Thanks To You:
66,000+ Reasons to Smile

While staff at Alton Memorial Hospital focused on responding to COVID-19 and protecting patients, staff and the community, the Riverbend, once again, responded with overwhelming support.

The EMS staff at Alton Memorial Hospital want to thank all of the sponsors, donors, volunteers and supporters of the 2020 Duck Pluckers, Deer Skinners & Fish Hookers Ball for their unwavering support. Pictured from left to right are EMS Squad Leader Jared Brooks, Paramedic Travis Bryson, EMS Manager Jason Bowman, EMT Tanner Smith, EMT Melissa Mike, and Paramedic Mike Akers.
Memorial Honors Longtime AMH Volunteer with More Than 40,000 Hours of Service

Carl Draper wasn’t a millionaire, but he was worth all that and more to Alton Memorial Hospital staff and physicians.

Carl, 82, died Jan. 30 at his Asbury Village home. To some, it might be surprising that he didn’t die while volunteering at AMH. Carl didn’t spend every waking hour there -- it just seemed like it. At the 2019 volunteer appreciation luncheon, Carl was honored for surpassing 40,000 volunteer hours in his 22 years at AMH.

Based on the average hourly wage at AMH through the years, Carl might have been worth somewhere close to $1 million to the hospital. He finished with 40,585 hours.

“Carl was buried in his AMH windbreaker, wearing his 40,000-hour pin we had given him at that luncheon,” said Kathleen Turner, volunteer coordinator at AMH. “Carl also helped me every month with collecting the volunteers’ time cards and adding up everyone’s hours, then putting out new cards for everyone. AMH was his home away from home and we will all miss him very much.”

“When he wasn’t here you would worry something was wrong,” said Irene McLaughlin, who retired as volunteer coordinator in 2016 but still volunteers at AMH. “Several years ago he had surgery. He showed up to volunteer before he was released from the doctor. I had to explain to him that I needed his release from his doctor. Needless to say, he was not happy to have to leave and go home.”

“I enjoy being a small part of the hospital, getting to know several of the doctors and having the satisfaction of helping the staff,” Carl once said. “I have friends in all areas of the hospital. I’m also involved with the group at my church who makes care bears for patients. I am just trying to be of help, and hopefully not getting in the way.”

No one at AMH ever considered him “getting in the way.” In fact, staff wanted a way to ensure Carl was permanently part of the AMH family. More than $1,600 was donated to the Foundation in his memory to purchase a beautiful maple tree outside the Ambulance Bay entrance and a weeping Japanese maple and a wind spinner for the Healing Garden.

“Forty thousand hours,” Irene said. “There will never be another Carl Draper!”

Carl Draper fills the blanket warmer in the Alton Memorial Hospital Emergency Room in a 2018 photo.

Volunteer Carl Draper spent most of his time helping in the Emergency Department. Members of the ED and EMS crews admired the newly planted tree in Carl’s memory planted by the ambulance bay. Pictured from left to right Emergency Department Manager Megan Fitzgerald, EMS Manager Jason Bowman, Robin Powel, Nikki Brunaugh, Toni Smith, Dr. Tim McCullough, Nurse Practitioner Katie Krueger, Courtney Somraty and Sydney Mossman.
Donation Honors Sister’s Legacy

A woman’s legacy will continue to support patients at Alton Memorial Hospital thanks to a gift from her sister to AMHSF.

In May 2002, the estate of Vera Bock made a generous donation to the Diabetes Management Center at Alton Memorial Hospital to establish the Vera Bock Diabetes Fund. Since then, patients who are newly diagnosed with diabetes or have complications related to diabetes can apply to receive financial assistance from the fund to cover the cost of insulin or insulin delivery supplies.

One of Vera’s sisters, Alta Tuetken, passed away in August 2019. One of her requests was for her husband, Robert, to give $10,000 to the fund so it could continue to support her sister’s legacy.

“She had heard from the family that Vera’s fund was doing a lot of good still, so she wanted to support it,” said Robert Tuetken.

Through the years, the fund has prevented hospital readmissions by ensuring patients are sent home with the right resources. This year, $3,000 from the Vera Bock Fund paid for life-saving medication and supplies for patients.

If you would like to support the Vera Bock Fund, please contact Kristen Ryrie at 618-463-7701 or Kristen.Ryrie@bjc.org.

Let’s Connect!

Our mission remains the same, but now it is easier than ever to support the mission of Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation. We launched a new website and want to introduce you to some exciting features!

- More information about the funds you can support
- Designate your gift
- Set up automated gifts monthly, quarterly, annually (whatever works best for you)
- Check us out on your phone, we are mobile-friendly
- Sign up to receive Foundation news in your inbox

Visit altonmemorialhealthservicesfoundation.org

“Everyone treated me with dignity and respect. Thank you for making a difference!”

Foundation Supporters
Financial Highlights

Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation

FUND DISTRIBUTED IN FISCAL 2019* $512,249
- Diabetes, Stroke and EMS navigators/educators $268,661
- Athletic Trainer Program $100,000
- Community Schools Outreach $35,000
- Mary Alice McCarthy Fund $51,372
- Templin Education Fund $54,966
- Healing Garden $2,250

SOURCES OF SUPPORT IN FISCAL 2019* $161,246
- AMH Medical Staff gift for Healing Garden $2,500
- Community support through the Annual Appeal $92,447
- Duck Pluckers, Deer Skinners & Fish Hookers Ball $66,299

*Gift transactions between Oct. 1, 2019 - Sept. 30, 2020

Alton Memorial Hospital White Cross Auxiliary

The purpose of the White Cross Auxiliary is to stimulate interest in the activities of Alton Memorial Hospital and to advance its welfare. This is accomplished through volunteerism, development and fundraising. Proceeds from the hospital gift shop; Girls on Grapes, Boys on Brew event; and the various lobby sales make these grants to enhance patient care possible.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, lobby sales were suspended in March and the gift shop closed for six months. The WCA was unable to hold the GOGBOB event and instead launched a new mail campaign to raise funds to be awarded through grants to hospital departments.

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED IN 2020
- Administrative Supplies $448.97
- Illinois Hospital Association Dues $75.00
- Birth Center Budgeted for Sleep Sacs $12,000.00
- Patient Tray Favors $561.85
- Coffee and Filters $4,033.90
- Volunteer Recognition $200.00
- Volunteer Apparel $273.90
- Lobby Sales $20,000.25
- IHREF Scholarship $150.00

SOURCES OF SUPPORT IN 2020* $11,163.00
- Girls on Grapes, Boys on Brew $11,163.00
- Lobby Sales Payroll Deductions $46,615.14
- Direct from Vendor $2,854.92
- Volunteer Dues $15.00

*As of August 30, 2020

ADDITIONAL FUNDS DISTRIBUTED IN 2020: DEPARTMENT GRANTS
1. Physical Therapy $12,709.85
2. Cancer & Infusion Center $2,800.00
3. Emergency Medical Services $4,871.90
4. Intensive Care Unit $4,000.00
5. Digestive Health $1,650.00

Foundation Supporters

(continued)

Dr. Thomas J. Fowler
Gamblers Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Goacher
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Goodwin
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Heitzig
Dr. Laura P. Hill
In support of the Mary Alice McCarthy Fund
Joseph R. Hughes Trust
Mr. Shane Isken
Mr. Clarence Jabusch
Mr. and Mrs. William Kodros
In memory of Margaret Kodros
Dr. Salvador Lo Bianco
Mrs. Carolyn Lutz
In memory of her granddaughter
Sophia Carson
Dr. Laura P. Hill
In memory of Dick Massey
Network for Good
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Norman
Mrs. Joan Norman
Dr. and Mrs. Quentin Pletsch
In memory of Eileen Martin and Mabel Pletsch
Mrs. Tish Preston-Stubbels
Mr. and Mrs. Rohland Pruetzel
In memory of Alton Memorial Hospital employees
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Reilly
Tony and Margie Wells
Mr. and Mrs. Payson Wild
White Cross Auxiliary
In memory of Paul R. Lauschke Jr.
Bertha Yoxall Estate
$500-999
Alton High School
In support of the You’ve Got a Friend Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hartrich
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Kamler
In honor of Edith Luddeke
Mr. Francis Martin
In memory of Penny Martin
Dr. Mary Schinkel
Mr. Arthur Williams
Dr. and Mrs. Myles Yanta
In support of Pictures with Purpose
$1000-4999
AMH Medical Staff
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Balsters
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Helmkamp Jr.
Jacoby Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Michael P. Tchoukaleff II
$5000+
Helmkamp Cares Foundation
Mid-America Transplant Foundation
Schrimpf Family Foundation
Mr. Robert Tuetken
Wood River Refinery Phillips 66

“My husband speaks about his experience, the three words he uses to describe his care are teamwork, professionalism and kindness.”

“I have been a patient in hospitals, I have worked in a hospital; I cannot truly give enough praise or believe I have ever seen such a TEAM.”

“Our family can never thank you enough for the attentive, loving care you have shown our mother and family in these many weeks of illness and long recovery. You are a huge blessing!”

“...and the gift shop closed for six months. The WCA was unable to hold the GOGBOB event and instead launched a new mail campaign to raise funds to be awarded through grants to hospital departments.”