



Hope in action, building a healthier tomorrow

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Hope in Action Newsletter! As we continue sharing how compassion, dedication and innovation are shaping care across our Southwest Michigan community, this issue offers a glimpse into the momentum you make possible.

Inside, you'll find highlights from the 2026 Impact Celebration, our Scholarship and Awards Ceremony, the Volunteer Luncheon, Hope Grows, an update on our Behavioral Health Expansion, two matching opportunities and an exciting Donor Club coming soon. Thank you for helping bring hope to life, every day.



An update from our President, Dr. Melinda Gruber

Happy Summer from Corewell Health Foundation in Southwest Michigan! While the beaches are calling and the shoreline is in full swing, our work continues with purpose and heart. Each day, behind the scenes and across our community, we remain focused on creating meaningful impact—supporting patients, uplifting families and advancing care where it's needed most.

Summer is a season of energy and renewal, and that same spirit fuels our commitment to bring hope to life. Whether by expanding programs, engaging donors or celebrating the people who make this work possible, we're grateful to keep moving forward together—making a difference all year long.

Presented by Whirlpool Foundation

IMPACT

celebration'26

AN EVENING OF LEGACY AND PROGRESS



Because of the generosity of our community, the impact of the 2026 Impact Celebration will extend far beyond a single evening—advancing education, innovation and the future of healthcare in Southwest Michigan. On June 13, Corewell Health Foundation Southwest Michigan welcomed guests to the Corewell Health Care Center – Royalton for an inspiring celebration of philanthropy and partnership, where supporters came together to invest in the tools, training and technologies shaping the next generation of care.

Through immersive simulation experiences, guests saw how investments in advanced training and technology are strengthening care and preparing healthcare teams for the future. Proceeds support the Education, Innovation & Technology Initiative, including critical investments in the Simulation Training Center, ensuring providers have the skills and resources needed to deliver exceptional care. The evening's impact was amplified by **the Frederick S. Upton Foundation's \$50,000 matching gift—doubling every contribution and accelerating progress.**

We extend our sincere thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, Whirlpool Foundation, and our lead sponsors—Lakeland Care Network, Spectrum Health Lakeland Auxiliary, EPIC Corporation and Wales Wealth Management Group for making this impact possible.

Together, we are building a stronger, healthier future for our community. Click the link below to learn more and make a gift, and visit our Facebook page to view additional photos from the event.

[Learn more](#)



Celebrating the Future of Health Care



Investing in the future of healthcare starts with empowering the people who will lead it. Through the generosity of our supporters, Corewell Health Foundation Southwest Michigan awarded 25 scholarships this year—advancing the education and careers of individuals who will make a lasting difference across our region.

This impact was celebrated at the Celebrating Our Future: Allied Health Careers Scholarship and Awards Ceremony, an inspiring evening recognizing students, volunteers and team members taking meaningful steps to begin or grow their careers in healthcare. Their passion and dedication reflect both the strength of our community today and the promise of high-quality, compassionate care for generations to come. By supporting these emerging leaders, we are not only opening doors of opportunity, we are strengthening the future of healthcare in Southwest Michigan.



Celebrating the Heart of Our Community: Our Volunteers

Because of the dedication of our volunteers, care at Corewell Health in Southwest Michigan goes beyond medicine—it becomes deeply personal. Through their compassion and generosity, volunteers bring comfort, connection and support to patients, families and care teams every day.

To recognize their meaningful impact, Corewell Health Foundation Southwest Michigan recently hosted a special luncheon celebrating these remarkable individuals and their contributions to our community. Their presence enhances the care experience in ways that truly matter.

We invite you to see their impact in action by watching our featured video.

[Watch the video here!](#)



The Impact of Hope Grows

Because of our Hope Grows partners, no one in our community faces cancer alone. From diagnosis through survivorship, patients receive the care, connection, and compassion they need every step of the way. For more than 13 years, this support has made a lasting difference, bringing comfort and hope to countless individuals and families across Southwest Michigan.



Expanding Behavioral Health Care Close to Home

Access to mental health care is a critical need in Southwest Michigan, and with Phase 1 of our Behavioral Health Facilities renovation now complete, we are laying the groundwork for more accessible care.

A \$100,000 matching opportunity from Fred and Amey Upton means every gift will be doubled—expanding access, advancing innovation and bringing vital services closer to home. Together, we can meet growing demand and ensure more individuals and families receive the support they need.

Donate



Introducing The Hope Club

At the heart of a healthier Southwest Michigan is a community committed to caring for one another. The Hope Club brings together dedicated supporters who invest in the future of healthcare—expanding access to care, advancing innovation and strengthening services for patients and families.

Through annual gifts of \$1,000 or more, members play a vital role in making this impact possible. Your generosity helps bring hope and healing to our community while shaping a stronger, healthier future for all.

**How to
Donate**

Corewell Health Foundation Southwest Michigan Team

Melinda Gruber, PhD
Foundation President

Julie Elliott
Manager of Volunteer Services

Amanda English, MA
Foundation Specialist

Susan Burkholz
Foundation Specialist

Grace James, MPH, MSA, CHES
Foundation Specialist

Demi Jensen
Foundation Coordinator

Dean Napp
Foundation Specialist

CONTACT US

Website: corewellhealth.org/foundation/southwest

Phone: 269.927.5143

Email: chfsm@corewellhealth.org

Address: 1234 Napier Ave., St. Joseph, MI 49085

 **Corewell Health**
Foundation
Southwest Michigan