



Hope in action, building a healthier tomorrow

100 years ago,
health care in
Southwest Michigan
was limited to homes
with just a few
hospital beds
available.



[Click here to view a video highlighting the history of health care in southwest Michigan](#)

Happy Fall from Corewell Health Foundation Southwest Michigan. Because of your generosity, healthier futures are taking shape across our communities. Your support strengthens wellness programs, advances education and innovation, prepares caregivers and provides comfort for patients and families facing cancer and hospice journeys.

In this issue, you'll discover inspiring stories of impact, donor highlights, event updates and opportunities to continue making a difference. As we reflect with gratitude this season, we're proud of what we've accomplished together.

Read more about community impact:

- Six local organizations supported through community wellness endowment
- 2,500+ healthcare professionals trained through simulation programs in 2005
- Challenge grant of \$50,000 matched for simulation lab
- Challenge grant of \$100,000 matched for behavioral health

Thank you for helping turn hope into action across Southwest Michigan.

Celebrating compassion at Haven Market

Local Care Local Love brought together donors, friends and community members at Haven Market to celebrate the generosity that helps sustain compassionate hospice and palliative care services in South Haven.

A special thank you to Michelle O'Neil, Haven Market owner and hospice nurse, whose hospitality helped create a warm and meaningful evening. Her firsthand understanding of end-of-life care made the gathering especially impactful.

We're grateful to everyone who attended and to the donors whose continued support helps provide comfort, dignity and specialized care for patients and families when they need it most. Together, you make a lasting difference throughout our community.



Why Kathy Zerler invests in care close to home

For Kathy Zerler, supporting Corewell Health Foundation Southwest Michigan is about ensuring exceptional healthcare is available close to home. A longtime Southwest Michigan resident, author, educator, and Gentle Yoga instructor, Kathy has supported hospice services for more than seven years, helping patients and families access compassionate care when they need it most.

When knee pain began limiting her daily activities, Kathy experienced that same exceptional care firsthand through a total knee replacement. From her first appointment through recovery, Kathy was grateful for the compassion and expertise of her care team.

She especially credits Dr. Nicolaus Loafman, pre-op nurse Kim Fox, and the surgical team for helping her feel supported every step of the way. Thanks to their care, Kathy is back to teaching yoga and enjoying the activities she loves. Her experience reinforced her belief in supporting local healthcare.



"We are blessed in this community with an excellent hospital system," Kathy said. "The more each one of us supports our hospital, schools, service clubs, and nonprofit organizations, the better our community can be."

For Kathy, giving back is a way to express gratitude for a community that has given so much to her. Whether as a donor or a patient, she believes that supporting local health care is one of the most meaningful ways to care for one another.

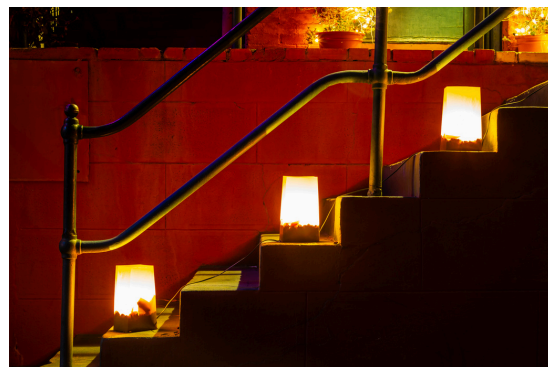
Light the way, support hospice care

On December 5, 2026, the South Haven Luminary Evening of Remembrance and Hope will unite our community in honoring loved ones while supporting compassionate hospice care through Corewell Health Hospice and Palliative Care South Haven.

As part of Holiday in the Haven, luminaries dedicated in memory or honor of family and friends will light downtown South Haven in a moving tribute of hope, love and remembrance.

Every luminary purchased helps provide comfort, dignity and compassionate care for patients and families facing life's most difficult moments. Businesses, organizations and individuals can deepen their impact through event sponsorships, helping ensure hospice care remains available for those who need it most.

Light the way with your gift



\$162,500 Invested in healthier communities



Corewell Health Foundation Southwest Michigan awarded \$162,500 in Community Wellness Endowment Grants to six local organizations working to improve health and well-being across our region.

These investments support innovative programs that address community needs, expand access to resources and create healthier futures for individuals and families throughout Southwest Michigan.

A grant to LOGAN Community Resources will help expand support and services for individuals with autism and their families.

A grant to the Region IV Area Agency on Aging will strengthen programs that help older adults remain healthy, independent and connected to their communities.

Additional grant recipients include BEST, Disability Network Southwest Michigan, Krasl Art Center and the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber Foundation.



Training today. Transforming care tomorrow.

Every day, Corewell Health caregivers use simulation training to prepare for critical moments and improve patient safety. The new Education, Innovation & Technology Center will expand hands-on training opportunities for caregivers across Southwest Michigan.

Thanks to generous donor support, the Frederick S. Upton Foundation \$50,000 matching challenge has been completed. Additional funding is still needed for advanced simulation mannequins and technology that provide realistic, state-of-the-art training experiences.

See the impact firsthand. To learn more about the project and tour the current simulation facility, please contact Melinda Gruber at melinda.gruber@corewellhealth.org.

Support the technology that helps prepare caregivers for critical moments and advances patient care across our region.



Help train tomorrow's care givers

Opening doors to better behavioral health care



Access to mental health care remains a critical need in Southwest Michigan. We are pleased to share that patients have moved into the newly renovated space as part of Phase 1 of the Behavioral Health Facilities renovation, expanding access to high-quality care close to home.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the \$100,000 matching challenge from Fred and Amey Upton has been successfully completed, helping enhance the care environment and support the growing need for behavioral health services in our community.

Support hope and healing

Together, we are helping ensure more individuals and families have access to the care and support they need.

Your continued support can help expand access to compassionate behavioral health care across our community.

Dig Pink makes a difference

The St. Joseph High School and Lakeshore High School Dig Pink Volleyball Game raised approximately \$4,500 for the Marie Yeager Cancer Center. Thanks to the generosity of players, families and fans, these funds will help provide compassionate care and support for local cancer patients and their families. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated. Your generosity is bringing hope and healing to our community.



Hope Club: Giving That Changes Lives



Hope Club members are making a lasting difference across Southwest Michigan. Through annual gifts of \$1,000 or more, these generous donors help expand access to care, support innovation and strengthen programs and services that benefit patients and families throughout our communities.



**Join a
community
of giving**

By highlighting Hope Club members, we celebrate the individuals whose philanthropy helps make exceptional care possible and inspire others to join them in creating a healthier future. Their stories demonstrate the power of giving and the impact one person can have on the lives of many.

Together, Hope Club members are advancing healthcare close to home, providing hope when it's needed most, and helping ensure that compassionate, high-quality care remains available for generations to come.

Light a life, give hope

Honor or remember a loved one through the Midge Tyler Tree of Love. A gift of \$10 or more dedicates a light in their name while supporting Hope Grows and cancer care services for local patients and families.

Your generosity helps provide comfort, support and hope when it matters most. Join us for the lighting ceremony on December 2 at 5:30 p.m. at Corewell Health Hospital Niles.



Honor a loved one

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