



**Spectrum Health**  
Foundation

# United and Kelsey Hospitals **YOUR EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT | 2021**



**YOU are making a difference.**

On behalf of our patients, families and team members at Spectrum Health United and Kelsey Hospitals, it is with great pleasure that we share this impact report with you. The program updates and stories you will read could have never been possible without your kind and compassionate generosity. Thank you for your dedication to making our communities healthier and bringing care close to home. You are increasing access to mental health care for the next generation, enhancing the virtual health care environment, and reducing barriers that often prevent individuals from getting the care they need.

**Thank you for your loyal and steadfast investment in the health and well-being of others. Together we are improving health, inspiring hope and saving lives.**

Jon Aylsworth  
Board Chair

Shelly Westbrook, CFRE  
Foundation Director



# YOUR EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT | 2021



## CATCH Program

Combating childhood obesity through education, nutrition and physical activity.

*You are inspiring children toward a healthy lifestyle.*

Thank you for supporting the Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH) program. This evidence-based model provides health education in the school environment and throughout the community. It has been proven to be a cost-effective means of preventing childhood obesity in a fun and sustainable environment. CATCH uses easy-to-understand, hands-on lessons that enable children to identify healthy foods and ways to increase physical activity. There is also guidance for the schools’ wellness committees to help address larger environmental and cultural challenges within the schools.

CATCH is currently in Sand Lake Elementary and MacNaughton Elementary, reaching just over 600 students. This past year, due to COVID-19, the CATCH program went virtual with interactive content that included information sharing, quizzes, trivia, polls and exercise videos.

### Want To Eat Healthy?

Follow the colors to get you there

GO

Eat **GO** foods anytime

Fresh fruit and vegetables, whole grains, low fat yogurt

SLOW

Eat **SLOW** foods sometimes

Granola bars, animal crackers, pretzels, reduced fat cheese

WHOA

Eat **WHOA** foods once in awhile

Fried foods, cupcakes, ice cream, donuts, candy

## Project ASSERT

An alcohol and substance abuse program in United and Kelsey Hospitals’ emergency departments.

*You are providing substance recovery and treatment for those struggling with behavioral health issues.*

Our emergency departments see patients who have overdosed or have arrived with an injury or illness directly related to their substance use. Some are even seeking drugs for their habit. Project ASSERT is an evidence-based program that provides screening, resources, referral and continued involvement in the patient’s recovery process. Through this program, a peer recovery coach is placed within patient care areas with the goal of meeting with patients who are misusing substances. These coaches have been successful with recovering from alcohol and substance abuse themselves.

To date, Project ASSERT has reached over 80 individuals. The program started in United’s emergency department, expanded to Kelsey’s emergency department, and in June of 2021 expanded to the OB-GYN office. Project ASSERT is reducing reoccurring emergency department visits by 6.4%—and visits were reduced by 50% for patients with 10 or more visits per year. Referrals to services include peer support, outpatient treatment, mental health counseling, medication-assisted treatment, detox and residential treatment.

## Education

Supporting future health professionals

*You invested in the future of health care professionals.*

We were able to provide scholarship funding for future health professionals. Six students received \$1,000 college tuition scholarships based on academic achievement, community involvement, and acceptance to an approved college or university medical program.

### 2021 Scholarship Recipients:

**Claire Akin**, from Central Montcalm High School, plans to be a nurse practitioner and will attend Davenport University.

**Allyson May**, from Belding High School, will attend the University of Michigan and plans to become a pharmaceutical researcher.

**Alivia Nelson**, from Greenville High School, is attending Grand Valley State University to pursue a nursing degree.



**Molly Peasley**, from Lakeview High School, will pursue a nursing degree while attending Belmont University.

**Abigail Schuster**, from Tri County High School, plans to study medical laboratory sciences.

**Cecilia Smith**, from Cedar Springs High School, plans to attend University of Detroit at Aquinas College to pursue a nursing degree.





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## More About Education

### Supporting current health professionals

The education department at United and Kelsey Hospitals deeply appreciates the recent gift of the advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) manikins and cardiac rhythm simulators.

The ACLS manikins have been a blessing, as they are used in every ACLS class and are now being used for other classes to support further staff education. “Larry the Airway” manikins provide a more realistic ability to insert oral and nasal airways and observe the results of their bag/mask techniques. We also use these manikins

for their basic life support (BLS) compression and ventilation scenarios, as well as ACLS testing. These manikins are connected to a computer to evaluate compressions and respiratory breaths in order to evaluate CPR performance. This technology enables our staff to enhance their skills through highly targeted computer feedback.

The cardiac rhythm simulators work in tandem with the “Larry” manikins and the Zoll defibrillators. By training with these simulators, staff members are able to see the rhythms and treat them during their ACLS class and testing. Simulation is a highly effective technique for reducing errors in real-life situations, and it gives staff members extra confidence during high-pressure situations. The cardiac simulators are also being used for BLS mock codes within the hospital. We attached these simulators to the Zoll defibrillator and manikin, assisting in the response to a cardiac arrest or arrhythmia in a real-time scenario.

Thank you for playing a part in the leading-edge care provided at Spectrum Health United and Kelsey Hospitals!

## Adolescent Behavioral Health Telemedicine Clinics

### *You are making a difference in the lives of our youth.*

It’s no secret that the past year and a half has been very difficult for people’s mental health, and that’s especially true in our adolescent and young-adult population. In addition to spending more time away from their peers, youth are challenged as they transition back and forth between virtual and in-person learning. Because of philanthropy, there is help on the way!

Greenville High School, Tri County High School, Montabella High School and Vestaburg High School are currently utilizing on-site telemedicine clinics for behavioral health, and clinics are in the works for Carson City and Central Montcalm High Schools. These rooms will offer a convenient, confidential and secure opportunity for our youth to receive the care they need right where they are, without requiring them to travel to a provider facility. Your support has made these clinics possible!

Thank you for helping us create a safe space for this next generation.

## Transportation Assistance

### Improving access to care

#### *You are putting gas in the tank.*

Thanks to your support, qualifying patients at Spectrum Health United and Kelsey Hospitals have access to free transportation services, giving them access to medically necessary, life-prolonging treatments they might otherwise forgo because of inadequate transportation.



Sometimes an emergency-room patient arrives in an ambulance but has no way to get home. Other times patients may need to transfer to Grand Rapids for specialty or psychiatric care. And due to the area’s poor cellular and internet coverage, virtual visits are often not a viable option, requiring in-person appointments with providers. Whatever the circumstances, lack of transportation is sometimes a massive stressor for patients. Miranda, one of the social workers in the emergency department, says, “Patients are usually struggling

emotionally, so they feel stranded here at the hospital. Especially when they come in by EMS, their night is already traumatic and the last thing they should be worrying about is transportation home.”

Compounding patients’ difficulty to sometimes pay for transportation is a shortage of available transportation services for smaller communities. Both of these concerns weigh heavily on the care management team. Thankfully, philanthropy removes barriers to payment for transportation services, releasing the care team to obtain the services, knowing funding has already been secured.



Thank you so very much, from the care management teams at United and Kelsey Hospitals.

In 2021, we were able to transport ...



115

people from United Hospital

11

people from Kelsey Hospital



... to home or another facility. We also provided gas cards to patients who had transportation but couldn’t pay for gas.



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## Maternal Infant Health Program

Giving babies a safe and healthy start

*You are a lifeline for new moms and their babies.*

The Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) offers personalized services to expectant women and new moms and their infants who have or are eligible for Medicaid. This compassionate program gives these women the tools necessary for a healthy, safe environment that allows their babies to grow and thrive, which ultimately reduces infant mortality. Philanthropy has provided over 200 services to these women and children, including car seats, baby gates, pack-and-plays, sleep sacks, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, diapers, gas cards and care kits.

**This program is meant to give these new moms not a “handout” but a “hand up.” A few examples include:**

- Transportation for employment that is insured and legal. Not only did this help our patient’s journey toward self-sufficiency, but it also helped her conquer fear and provided security when commuting to work and personal appointments. Another benefit is decreased stress, allowing her to focus on professional performance and employment retention. And lastly, the auto insurance assistance has allowed her family to utilize their income toward housing and other necessities that might otherwise go unpaid. The family is very grateful for the assistance.
- Assistance for loan payments. Our patient is in the process of a divorce. Her financial situation is complicated due to the divorce. She has transportation and works full-time. Due to COVID-19, her work hours were decreased, and she was not able to make her loan payments while keeping up with her other bills. Self-sufficiency support allowed her to create a budget and stay on track with her finances. She is very thankful for the assistance. She continues to work full-time too.
- Car expense support. Another patient was sleeping on a relative’s couch and looking for a permanent home. She is pregnant and only able to work part-time. She bought a new car but did not have enough money for repairs and registration, which were covered by MIHP support, allowing her to save money for her auto insurance. She was very excited and grateful. The support allowed her to continue working.

## Event Updates

### Charity Ball 2021 “unGala”

Providing free flu vaccination to students in Montcalm County

*You are helping lower school absenteeism rates, reducing school closure days, preventing illness and possibly even saving lives.*

Our schools, like our communities, have been through a lot this year. From the uncertainty of how the schools would open safely to moving to virtual learning, our children and our school systems have dealt with many disruptions. Our “unGala” combated another disruptor, the flu, by raising funds to provide free school-based flu vaccinations. We are grateful to have raised more than \$42,000 from our community members and local businesses who saw the need and, despite not having a party to go to, wanted to support this endeavor.



Proceeds from the un-gala were used to purchase standard and high-dose influenza vaccine for a combined total of 1,150 doses; a specialized portable refrigerator allowing the vaccine to stay within safe storage range at all times; and clinic supplies like Band-Aids, gloves, hand sanitizer, transportation containers, carts and distraction devices. A student favorite for vaccine administration is “Buzzy,” pictured here.

Offering the annual influenza vaccine to all of the schools in Montcalm County this flu season is a step forward in improving the health of the community. School-based vaccine clinics remove barriers of lack of transportation, time off work and lack of access. The program has been successful in reducing school absenteeism.

**Thank you for making the students in our community a priority!**



## Golf Day 2021

*Improving access to care – You are teeing up for TytoCare*

The 2021 Spectrum Health United and Kelsey Hospitals Golf Day raised more than \$31,000 to subsidize TytoCare, an exciting new technology to support fully virtual visits, in which providers can examine patients’ hearts, lungs, throat, ears and more; keep an eye on chronic conditions; and monitor health after a medical procedure—all while the patient remains in their own home. Lack of transportation is a barrier to accessing health care, and your participation has helped to provide access to this critical—and potentially lifesaving—device for those who need it most!







**Spectrum Health Foundation  
United and Kelsey Hospitals**

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Thank you for giving a Spectrum  
of Hope to our patients and families  
at Spectrum Health.