

ISSUE 28 • JANUARY 2022

Making a Difference

Foundation news from Cass Regional Medical Center

Giving Back to the Community

Bill Mills has always had Harrisonville's best interests at heart. As a businessman, civic volunteer, and former mayor, he has continually invested in the strength and vitality of the community. Late last year, when asked by leaders at Cass Regional Medical Center to consider a charitable investment in the future of cancer and rheumatology care at the medical center, he didn't hesitate.

"The community has been so good to me and my family that it seemed a perfect way to give back when Cass Regional approached me about this project," said Mills.

Mills' \$250,000 gift to Cass Regional Medical Center Foundation will be used to underwrite construction of the Mills Cancer and Rheumatology Center. The center will be constructed on the first floor of the hospital, and the present treatment area will expand from what was previously known as the Specialists Clinic into the corridor that extends along the windows facing the Healing Garden.

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Katherine A. Collins, DNP, NP-C (oncology); Jaswinder Singh, MD (oncology); Kim Blankenship, RN, BSN, OCN (center manager); Bill Mills, Donor; Kevin Latinis, MD, PhD (rheumatology); Chris Lang, Cass Regional CEO; Hasan Bit-Shawish, MD (oncology); Moeid Riaz, FNP-C (oncology); Gina Accurso-Lee, MSN, APRN, FNP-C (rheumatology); and Sonya McLelland, Cass Regional Foundation director. Not pictured: Preethi Ramachandran, MD (oncology).



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Giving Back to the Community, cont.

Infusion therapy capacity will expand from five bays to eight bays, and from two private infusion rooms to three rooms, one of which will be designated for patients requiring isolation.

Two new exam rooms will be added, increasing the number of rooms to six, and an additional shared provider office will be built. The space will also include an office for the patient navigator, who is a resource for newly-diagnosed cancer patients as they embark on their treatment journey.

"Cass Regional has been blessed by this extremely generous gift from the Mills family," said oncologist/hematologist Jaswinder Singh, MD, who leads the cancer care team at Cass Regional. "Our staff will continue to provide comprehensive, caring treatment. And now, through support like this, we will be able to focus efforts on making our equipment and facilities the best they can be. Gifts like this one help us on our journey to realizing this goal for Cass Regional," Dr. Singh explained.

"This is a very exciting time for the rheumatology clinic at Cass Regional," added rheumatologist Kevin Latinis, MD, PhD. "We have grown to serve the community with two providers and a full complement of excellent nurses and infusion services. Our growth has mirrored the growth in oncology, and we definitely have a need for increased clinic and infusion space. We are very thankful to Mr. Mills and proud to be a part of the Mills Cancer and Rheumatology Center."

Work on the new center is scheduled to begin in February 2022, with completion in the second half of 2023. The project will be done in phases so that patient care can continue uninterrupted.

"I have always used Cass Regional for my health care needs when possible," Mills added. "To be part of expanding services to ease the stress and manageability of cancer and related treatment is rewarding, and I hope my gift will bring great benefit to the area."

Spring into Action for Patients

Cass Regional Medical Center Foundation will host its annual fundraising dinner and auction, Spring into Action for Patients, on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at Beck Event Space in Harrisonville. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Patient Assistance Fund. The fund is used to assist disadvantaged Cass Regional patients with urgently needed items such as transportation, medication, and home care supplies. The fund also provides assistance with certain therapies, such as physical and occupational therapy, speech therapy, cardiac rehabilitation, diabetes education and wound care. Your support will ensure that more patients will receive the therapy they need to recover successfully!

For more information, contact Kristen Rew at (816) 380-5888, extension 4810, or email krew@cassregional.org.

OUR MISSION

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The mission of Cass Regional Medical Center Foundation is to support the medical center in its quest to provide exceptional quality health care for the community. The foundation encourages private philanthropy to further the vision, values, and goals of the medical center, especially in community outreach.

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Gifts received January 1, 2021,
through December 31, 2021

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Cleo McCoy Society*

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Kidd Scholarship Awarded



Hailee Ricker of Harrisonville, Missouri, has been selected to receive the Geraldine Kidd Scholarship from Cass Regional Medical Center Foundation.

Ricker is a graduate of Harrisonville High School. She is studying athletic training at Central Methodist University.

The Geraldine Kidd Scholarship was established by friends and family in memory of "Gerri" Kidd, who worked as a licensed practical nurse at Cass Regional Medical Center. The Kidd Scholarship award of \$1,000 will be paid directly to Central Methodist University on Ricker's behalf.

*If you have included Cass Regional in your will or other estate plan, and would like to be listed in the Cleo McCoy Society, please notify Sonya McLelland at (816) 380-5888, ext. 4650, or email at smcllelland@cassregional.org.

Rew Joins Foundation Staff



Cass Regional Medical Center Foundation is pleased to welcome Kristen Rew to its staff.

Rew was a stay-at-home mom to three young children for the last seven years. Her most recent experience comes as a secretary in the Ray-Pec School District. Prior to that, Rew worked in customer service as a receptionist and account manager for Mazuma Credit Union.

“On behalf of our board of directors and staff, I am delighted to welcome Kristen as our new foundation assistant,” said Sonya McLelland, administrative director. “She brings a wealth of customer service experience to our organization, and I am looking forward to working with her to advance our mission.”

Rew works with the board of directors and McLelland to support administrative functions of the foundation, including the maintenance of donor and financial records. She can be reached Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at (816) 380-5888, extension 4810. Her email address is krew@cassregional.org.



Cass Regional Medical Center Foundation

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- Donate online at www.cassregional.org/forms/make-a-donation/
- Consider becoming a monthly donor
- Include Cass Regional Medical Center Foundation in your estate plans, living trust or will

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Scholarships opening February 1, 2022. For more information or to apply, please visit <https://cass-scholarships.smapply.org/>.
- **Spring into Action for Patients**
Thursday, April 7, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
Beck Event Space, Harrisonville

Thank you for your support! We hope you have enjoyed this issue of “Making a Difference.” If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please email krew@cassregional.org or call (816) 380-5888, extension 4810.