

ISSUE 26 • JULY 2021

Making a Difference

Foundation news from Cass Regional Medical Center

Favorite Events Return This Fall

Plant Sale

Join our VIGs (very important gardeners!) for the annual Plant Sale and shop for perennials, houseplants, mums and more! Proceeds from the event benefit the Gardens Fund, which is used to support improvements and ongoing maintenance to the Cass Regional gardens.

The sale will be held in the Healing Garden courtyard at Cass Regional on Friday, September 24, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Saturday, September 25, from 8 a.m. until sold out.



Celebration Basket Raffle

This year's Celebration Basket Raffle will take place October 11-15 in the Cass Regional Medical Center Rotunda. Since 2011, this annual event has raised more than \$122,000 to help fund hospital equipment, the Patient Assistance Fund, and other foundation programs. Baskets are created and donated by various hospital departments, board members, and friends from the community.

Tickets will be sold on site each day starting October 11, and the cost is \$2 for one ticket or \$5 for three tickets. The drawing will be held Friday, October 15, at noon. Need not be present to win. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Patient Assistance Fund.



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Grand Opening Celebration Held for Community Trail

Approximately 75 people gathered June 4 to celebrate the grand opening of the Floyd and Franceline Parris Community Trail, located behind the Cass Regional Medical Center campus.

The ceremony began with a welcome from Gina Smith, vice president of the Cass Regional Medical Center Foundation board of directors, followed by an invocation led by Brad Ratliff, city administrator of the City of Harrisonville. The national anthem was sung by Serenity Rodgers, a 2021 graduate of Harrisonville High School, and special recognitions were given by Sonya McLelland, administrative director of the foundation. The program ended with a ribbon cutting conducted by the Harrisonville Chamber of Commerce, after which guests were invited to explore the trail and visit with area wellness-related businesses. Participating vendors included Harrisonville Parks & Recreation, the Harrisonville Community Center, A Balanced Mind, LLC, and Cass Regional Medical Center rehabilitation services.

The trail features two quarter-mile loops that wind through a natural setting. Benches are placed along the path for resting places, and a gazebo provides visual interest as well as additional seating and protection from the elements. The trail is paved in order to better accommodate visitors who use assistive devices such as wheelchairs and walkers. A small parking area is located at the trailhead, which can be accessed from where Healing Way ends on the northwest side of the Cass Regional campus.

The trail was built and will be maintained with donated funds. Franceline Parris, who was a member of the Cass Regional Auxiliary for nearly 25 years before her death in October 2017, named the foundation as a beneficiary of her trust. In January 2019, the foundation board voted to allot \$150,000 of her gift to the trail project, and to name it in honor of Franceline and her husband, Floyd, who passed away in 1993.

“We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Parris and her husband for making the trail possible,” said McLelland. “It’s a tremendous honor for us to be stewards of their life’s work, which has become a legacy that will benefit the community for years to come.”

The eight acres on which the trail is located were donated to the foundation by Cass Medical Center Improvement Corporation, and other major donors to the project include Cass Regional Medical Center (\$100,000) and The Sunderland Foundation (\$50,000).

“We were pleased to partner with the foundation on the community trail through our donation,” said Chris Lang, CEO of the medical center. “We feel that our investment in the project demonstrates our commitment to promoting wellness. The trail invites people to be active and enjoy nature, which can help address some of the physical and mental health challenges that have been identified in our community health needs assessments.”

More than \$385,000 was donated for the trail, which was designed by C.L. Maurer of Landplan Engineering, Lawrence, Kansas, and built by Howco Utilities, LLC, Pleasant Hill, Missouri. The five benches along the path were donated by the family and friends of Becky Beeman, Country Club Bank, Fred V. Kidd, Jr., the family and friends of Jamie Schlotzhauer, and Drs. Viseslav and Marija Tonkovic-Capin.

Several individuals and businesses also contributed through fundraising events that were held in 2019, as well as through the purchase of engraved pavers for a commemorative brick plaza that is located at the trailhead.

For more information, or to purchase a paver for the trail’s commemorative brick plaza, please visit www.cassregional.org.

New Wind Sculpture Placed in Cass Regional Medical Center's Healing Garden

A new wind sculpture, titled "Counterpoint", was placed July 6 in Cass Regional Medical Center's Healing Garden. The sculpture was selected by the foundation's board of directors in recognition of the gift the organization received from the Franceline Parris Trust, and was placed in memory of Franceline and her husband, Floyd.

"Counterpoint" is one of several wind sculptures that have been installed on the Cass Regional campus to honor and/or memorialize individuals. All of the sculptures have been designed and built by artist Lyman Whitaker.

For more information, contact the foundation office at (816) 380-3474, extension 4650.



Cass Regional Medical Center Foundation

Making Lives Better Since 1989

DONATE

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Plant Sale**
8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Friday Sept. 24
8 a.m. - sold out, Saturday, Sept. 25
Cass Regional Medical Center
- **Celebration Basket Raffle**
Proceeds benefit the Patient Assistance Fund
October 11-15, Cass Regional Rotunda
- **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 smclelland@cassregional.org or call (816) 380-5888, extension 4650.