

ISSUE 27 • OCTOBER 2021

Making a Difference

Foundation news from Cass Regional Medical Center

Donation Received for Much Needed Equipment

Doug and Amy Catron of Harrisonville recently donated funds to Cass Regional Medical Center Foundation to underwrite the purchase of two new arm ergometers for the hospital's rehabilitation services area. The machines are used by patients undergoing cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, and replaced the former equipment that was in use for several years.

"This donation is a tremendous blessing, and we can't thank the Catrons enough for their generosity," said Terry Johns, RN, BSN, Cardiac Rehabilitation manager. "These new ergometers will benefit countless patients in our community as they recover from pulmonary and cardiac-related illnesses."

"Doug and I are thankful we were able to donate the funds needed to replace the ergometers," said Amy. "They definitely are frequently used!"



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Prairie Restoration Project Planned for Trail

In early September, members of the foundation's board of directors met with Andy Carmack, a private land conservationist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, to discuss possible projects at The Floyd and Franceline Parris Community Trail. The group toured the trail and Carmack pointed out some of the invasive species that were prolifically growing in the area, including ragweed, sericea, and poison ivy. Woody encroachment (primarily pear and ash) was also noted as a concern.

After the tour, Carmack proposed that the foundation undertake a prairie restoration project on the entire site, and the foundation board's Executive Committee has approved the project. Work will begin over the winter months with the removal of smaller encroaching trees and brush-hogging of the area to be restored. Next growing season, a herbicide will be used over the area to eradicate invasive plants, which will result in an unattractive landscape for several months. In late fall 2022, native wildflower and grass seeds will be plugged into the soil, resulting in beautiful blooms throughout the 2023 growing season and beyond. A wide variety of wildflowers will be selected to ensure season-long color and to provide food sources for insects such as the monarch butterfly. Grasses will take up to three years to establish. Once the prairie is established, it will be burned every three years to control invasive plants and reinvigorate the grasses.

If you have questions regarding this project, please contact **Sonya McLelland**, administrative director of the foundation, at (816) 380-5888, extension 4650, or email at smclelland@cassregional.org.



Atherton Awarded Jan Perry Scholarship



Colleen Atherton, LPN, has been named the recipient of the 2021 Jan Perry Scholarship for Cass Regional Medical Center employees. She will receive a \$2,000 award, which will be paid to her educational institution on her behalf.

Atherton lives in Pleasant Hill and has worked in the Medical Imaging department at Cass Regional since 2019. She is pursuing an associate's degree in nursing at North Central Community College.

The scholarship program was established at Cass Regional Medical Center Foundation in 2002 by the late Jan Perry of Harrisonville. Jan, who was member of the Cass Regional Auxiliary, was motivated by the gratitude she felt for the nurses who cared for her throughout her battle with cancer. She initially funded the scholarship by putting back a little of her grocery money each week until she had saved \$1,000. After her death in 2007, her husband, Wirt, made a donation to expand Jan's

scholarship program to two \$2,000 annual scholarships. Selection for the award is based on financial need and career goals.

Create a Lasting Legacy

Some of our scholarship programs have been established through a "planned gift." Planned gifts refer to donations that are made from a donor's accumulated assets and are part of the donor's overall estate plan. In most cases, these gifts come in the form of simple bequests provided for in the donor's will (such as a set amount of money or a percentage of the estate). Some donors will choose to notify us of their plans in advance, so that they can convey their wishes and discuss gift options, while others keep their plans confidential until after their death.

Below is sample language that you can use when including Cass Regional Medical Center Foundation in your will.

"I give, devise and bequeath [written amount or a percentage of the estate or described property] to Cass Regional Medical Center Foundation of Harrisonville, Missouri, to be used by the Foundation for the benefit of Cass Regional Medical Center. It is my desire that these funds be used for [specific purpose]; however, the use of such funds shall be entirely within the discretion of the board of directors of the Foundation."

If you would like to learn more about including a gift to Cass Regional Foundation in your estate plan, please contact **Sonya McLelland**, administrative director of the foundation, at (816) 380-5888, extension 4650, or email smclelland@cassregional.org.

Celebration Baskets Raise \$14,000 for Patient Assistance Fund

The annual Celebration Basket raffle was held in the Rotunda at Cass Regional from October 11 - 15. There were 18 baskets donated by departments within the hospital, as well as by the Cass Regional Board of Trustees, the Cass Regional Foundation Board of Directors, and the Cass Regional Auxiliary. A 50/50 raffle was also offered.

The raffles, along with donations that were received, generated \$14,100 for the Patient Assistance Fund. The fund is used to help Cass Regional patients in need with expenses related to transportation, medication, medical supplies, and therapy.

To learn more about how you can support the Patient Assistance Fund at Cass Regional, please contact **Sonya McLelland**, at (816) 380-5888, extension 4650, or email at smclelland@cassregional.org.



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 donor
- Include Cass Regional Medical Center Foundation in your estate plans, living trust or will

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **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.