



Medina Hospital Advocate

A Publication of the Medina Hospital Foundation

Summer 2022

Foundation Gift Assists First Responders Support Team

Thanks to a generous gift from the Medina Hospital Foundation, Medina County fire fighters, EMS and law enforcement personnel will be trained to help their colleagues who experience mental and emotional trauma.

This fall, the Medina County First Responders Support Team will train 30 first responders to take on the roles of debriefers and/or peer supporters. One group leading the effort is Alternative Paths, an outpatient behavioral healthcare organization that provides a wide array of behavioral health services. Gail Houk, Director of Forensic Services at Alternative Paths and a licensed professional clinical counselor, has been with the organization for over 30 years. She has worked in crisis services throughout her career, has a strong interest in aiding law enforcement and other first responders who are coping with trauma, and will assist in training the support team.

Ms. Houk says. "In recent years, we have seen a huge rise in the number of calls that officers receive for people in mental health crisis. I have had the opportunity to see first-hand during ride alongs with officers, the nature of the calls coming in. As I watch the officers respond, I am truly humbled by the high quality of men and women who are first responders in our community. We are very blessed."



Life Support Team at Medina Hospital

Nationally, first responders increasingly are experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and are at a higher risk of suicidal behavior, she says.

"What we hope to accomplish is to have a team that can provide debriefing to responders in an effort to minimize the long-term effect from a critical situation," Ms. Houk says. "Responding to critical incidents can have a different impact on different people. While some can process the event and move on, others may endure a cumulative effect that can have a significant emotional impact such as PTSD."

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Gift

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A second focus for the upcoming training will be to train peer supporters within each fire, EMS and police agency across the county. “We want to create an array of options for first responders, including prevention initiatives, peer support, and, if needed, access to counseling or other behavioral health services,” she says.

First responders who are interested in learning skills in critical incident stress debriefing and/or peer support are being recruited for the team, which also will have behavioral health clinicians who will play a supportive role during debriefings. “We want the first responders themselves to lead and guide the structure of the team, developing the policies and procedures,” Ms. Houk says “We have asked them to choose the individuals they think would be good candidates as peer supporters or debriefers.”

Medina Sheriff Terry Grice says that the Medina Hospital Foundation’s support for the program “is certainly welcome.”

“Their willingness to partner with us to provide this extremely vital opportunity for all of our staff is greatly appreciated,” he says. “Peer-to-peer support provides an opportunity for team members to help one another, to go to someone they trust after a critical incident, such as a pediatric death, a suicide situation or an officer-involved shooting. They also might need help with stress at home.”

Until recently, he says, there has been a stigma related to seeking help. “This is slowly breaking down, but it still exists,” Sheriff Grice says. “We as law enforcement leaders understand there is nothing wrong with seeking guidance. We often see horrific incidents that most people never see, and that goes for dispatch staff, also. They handle difficult

calls but don’t get to learn what happens [once the call is addressed] and so don’t have closure. The benefit of having a program like this in place is that we will have a support team ready to go.”

Medina Hospital Foundation funding also is important because “every agency is always trying to do more with less, and this funding allows our agencies to participate without a big impact to our own budget,” he says. “It shows us that the hospital and hospital foundation appreciate what we do and want to be involved.”



First responders providing care. Photo taken prior to 2020.

Ms. Houk notes that going forward, additional funding will be needed to sustain and grow the program. “Many people may not have a lot of contact with first responders until the day comes that they have to call 911,” she says. “If we all knew the quality of people we have in these roles, we’d realize that we’re extremely fortunate. They give up a lot for us. We expect them to take care of our community and, in turn, we need to take care of them.”



Memorial Listing

In Memory of Thomas George

*Laura and Dale Filous
Kathy Palker
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Ronald Maley
Derrick Maley
Alan and Rosemary Cooksey
Kent and Judy Daughtery
Hazel Fay Hildebrand
Beverly Rice*

In Memory of Theresa Reynolds

Mary Beth Isaacs

In Memory of Tammy Springer

*Susan and Daniel Plumb
Marcella and David Dionisio
Gary and Sandra
Vandergriff
Henry and Betty Huffman
Erich and Melissa Huebner
Lois Boone
Kevin and Ginger Tracz
Marcella Dionisio
Melissa Huebner*

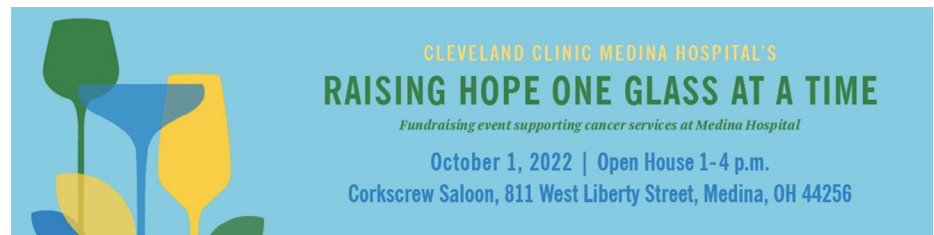
Charitable Gift Annuities Payout Rates Have Increased!

Gift annuity payout rates have been generously increased. If you have charitable objectives, by establishing a charitable gift annuity with Cleveland Clinic, it can provide benefits to you, and also will support its mission of caring for patients.

A charitable gift annuity (CGA) often is the gift of choice because it is an uncomplicated agreement between you and Cleveland Clinic. By establishing a CGA, you would be guaranteed income for yourself, and/or one other person, for life. That income would be based on a payout rate specific to your age. Older beneficiaries will enjoy a greater percentage than younger ones. As of July 1, gift annuity payout rates were increased. For example, an 80-year-old previously would have received a payout rate of 6.5 percent, and now the payout rate is 7 percent. The previous rate for a couple ages 76 and 75 would have been 4.7% and after July 1 it became 5.3%. Additionally, the payout rate is most likely much higher than other popular income-producing investments such as CDs, money market funds or bank savings accounts.

For tax purposes, your contribution for a gift annuity is treated as two transactions: one portion is a gift to Cleveland Clinic, and the rest is an investment in an annuity. The additional tax advantage is that for your expected lifetime, part of your income will be tax-free. Also, you would receive a charitable deduction in the year your contribution is made.

If you would like to learn how a charitable gift annuity can benefit you and Cleveland Clinic, please call 330.721.5941 or send an email to medhospfound@ccf.org. The gift planning team looks forward to assisting you.



Raising Hope Fundraiser

Raising Hope Wine Tasting is October 1 at the Corkscrew Saloon. Hosted by Medina Hospital oncology team members, this casual afternoon open house features wine and beer samplings, appetizers, beverages and desserts. Raising Hope includes live music and a gift basket raffle. Proceeds from the event are used by oncology staff to improve patient experience. Examples include pharmacy copayments for patients in need, treatment milestone celebrations and additional patient care "extras." Scan QR code for tickets and more information.





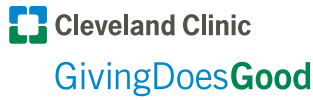
Medina Hospital Foundation

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Medina OH 44256

medinahospitalfoundation.org

Medina Hospital Foundation realizes that individuals would like to learn more about its particular programs, services or developments. However, if you do not wish to receive information relating to your philanthropic objectives at this time, please call the Medina Hospital Foundation at 330.721.5941 or send an email to medhospfound@ccf.org.

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SAVE THE DATE
MEDINA HOSPITAL'S
BASH
Join us for the Medina Hospital BASH on
October 15 at Weymouth Country Club.
The evening features cocktails, appetizers and gaming
from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. This will be followed by
dinner, a raffle, and dancing with live music.
Proceeds from this event go towards
Medina Hospital's strategic priorities.

