



Medina Hospital Advocate

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Community Steps up for Medina Hospital During Pandemic

By Elaine DeRosa Lea

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, Cleveland Clinic Medina Hospital's caregivers have felt the community's love and support.

A 55-gallon drum of sanitizing fluid. Hundreds of boxes of Girl Scout cookies and snack packs. Restaurant vouchers. A portable X-ray machine. Gloves, face masks and extenders. Small cash gifts. Colorful, heartfelt notes from children.



Girl Scouts of USA drawings

"I was surprised by how quickly the community members began stepping up to think about us at a time when it was very easy to worry about themselves," says Richard Shewbridge, MD, President of Medina Hospital.

He says he was especially touched by a thank-you card. "It was from a young lady in Medina and said, 'Dear Medina Hospital, thank you for all your help during this difficult time. I hope you are well. Please be safe. Love, Adelaide.' We also saw signs thanking medical workers, and people were donating and making masks for us and offering to donate meals. It's a warm community feeling to know that people were thinking about us and wanting to help us out."

One of the first businesses to reach out was Bil-jac Foods Inc., says Randy Fuerst, Executive Director of the Medina Hospital Foundation. "They offered us a 55-gallon drum of concentrated sanitizing fluid that could create 14,000 gallons of sanitizer when mixed with water and was approved for hospital use. Harbor Freight, a hardware supply chain, dropped off 80,000 gloves. MXR Imaging donated a portable X-ray machine for use with patients being treated for COVID-19."

Some of these gifts were sent on to Cleveland Clinic's main campus. "If we can't use them here, we send them to Cleveland Clinic's shipping and receiving

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A Note from our CEO and President Tomislav Mihaljevic, MD

Beautiful summer days are ahead. Many regions across the country have flattened the curve. Businesses are reopening with safety measures in place. These are all positive things, but this pandemic isn't over yet. Now is not the time to let our guards down. We must remain vigilant in taking steps to protect ourselves and each other.

Over the past few weeks, we've been pleased to welcome many of you back to our Cleveland Clinic locations. We continue to adapt to remain one of the safest places in healthcare. You are an important part of this.

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Medina United Methodist snack baskets

Community

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distribution point,” Mr. Fuerst says. “They then go to where they are needed most in our healthcare system.”

Julie Fetto, BSN, RN, Chief Nursing Officer at Medina Hospital, says the community’s support came at a critical time for the nursing staff.

“When the pandemic started, everyone was feeling a lot of fear and uncertainty about how many patients we would have and how sick they would be. To have the support of our community was comforting, to say the least – the heartfelt thank-yous in the form of cards and signs, for instance. When we came to work one day, we saw a house across the street with a big sign in the window saying, ‘Thank you to the heroes.’ We are all in it together, and we’re definitely in it with our community. Most of our caregivers live here in Medina, so they’re caring for their families, neighbors and friends. This support made us want to do even more.”

To show their own gratitude, during Nurse’s Week May 6–12, the nursing staff made luminarias – paper bags with lights inside – displaying messages such as “We are here for you, Medina, and always will be.”

What especially strikes her, Ms. Fetto says, “is how brave our nurses have had to be. It’s not just themselves they have to worry about, but their own families. When they come to work, they have to put all that aside.”

At all times, the hospital’s caregivers and patients have the benefit of spiritual counseling when needed, says Medina Hospital Chaplain Dennis Wendling.

“What I do is listen to their emotion and support them wherever they are,” he says.

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A Note from Our CEO

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Temperature checks: What to expect

When you enter a Cleveland Clinic facility, you’ll have your temperature checked for a fever. This is an additional step to help keep our patients and caregivers safe. In some locations, we use no-contact, hand-held thermal scanners. In other places, we use a thermal imaging system that you walk through (you might not even notice it).

When we all wear masks, we protect each other

We are strongly encouraging patients and visitors to wear a mask when coming to any Cleveland Clinic location. We’ll offer you a mask to wear, or you can bring a mask with you.

Why do we encourage masks?

Masks play a key role in controlling the spread of the coronavirus in our communities. They help prevent people who don’t know they’re infected from potentially exposing others to the virus.

Do caregivers wear masks?

Yes, all of our Cleveland Clinic caregivers also wear masks. Their masks protect you, and yours protects them.

Is social distancing still important?

Yes. Masks don’t cancel the need to practice social distancing, but they do provide an extra layer of protection.

As we all resume some of our pre-pandemic activities, we must not take our eyes off of COVID-19. When you’re considering whether an activity is safe to do, it comes down to three main factors: time, space and people. Carefully weigh how much time you’ll be spending there, how enclosed or ventilated the space is, and whether the people you’ll be interacting with are practicing the same safety measures.

We can all play a role in keeping our communities safe and healthy. We are all on this journey together.

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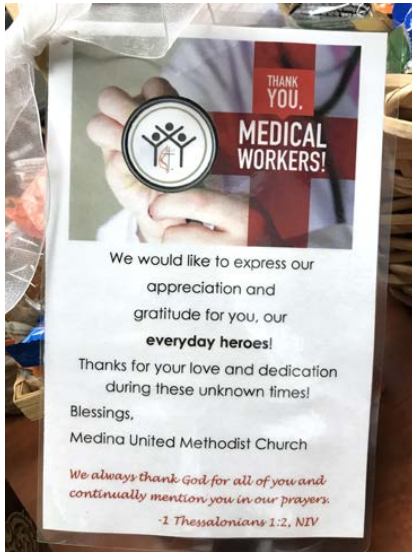
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He notes that what he sees now, not only at the hospital but in the world at large, is a response to grief.

“Through a chaplain’s eyes, I’m seeing people grieving the America that was before the pandemic. People are grieving loss of income, mobility, not being able to see their family



Medina United Methodist Church note

members. They are showing grief responses of shock, denial, bargaining, anger. Grief comes any time we have suffered a loss, and everyone in our society is going through a grief process right now.”

Community support at such a time makes a “huge difference,” he says.

“Once a week, I go through the hospital with a cart offering a variety of donated snacks, masks, extenders, and aromatherapy supplies. When the caregivers see me approaching with this cart, you can see some of the weight falling off of them. And when

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What Legal Documents Should I Have in the Midst Of Covid-19?

“What a crazy time we are experiencing.” I hear this from so many people. The coronavirus pandemic is an unanticipated circumstance that shows why we all need to have certain legal documents in place.

Many people have found themselves or a loved one suddenly incapacitated by COVID-19. They then might need a durable financial power of attorney, which is a document allowing someone you appoint to make financial decisions on your behalf. Another document, a healthcare power of attorney, allows someone you choose to make healthcare decisions on your behalf if you are unable to do so. In addition, a living will is an advanced healthcare directive that communicates your wishes in an end-of-life situation. All three of these documents can prove to be crucial during a time in which you are incapacitated or nearing the end of life.

Even if you become ill, your bills will need to be paid and financial and healthcare decisions still must be made. If you have not appointed a power of attorney, a probate court might have to appoint a guardian to make these decisions for you, or to handle financial transactions on your behalf. A guardianship is not

an ideal scenario, particularly if you already have someone in your life whom you trust to appoint as your power of attorney. By executing the appropriate documents, you can choose whom you want to make decisions on your behalf and eliminate the need for a court-appointed guardianship.

These uncertain times spotlight the need to establish your estate plan. You should consider executing a will and/or trust to implement a plan for distribution of assets upon your death. You also should revisit whom you have designated as beneficiaries for life insurance, IRAs, annuities, 401k funds, etc. Even if you already have a will or trust in place, these types of assets are controlled through beneficiary designations, which should be reviewed regularly.

This also is a good time to consider your philanthropic goals. As you review your beneficiary designations, you could think about naming a charity as beneficiary for an IRA or a life insurance policy. While current economic conditions might cause you to hesitate in making contributions now, a charitable gift designated for when you pass away is an ideal means of accomplishing your philanthropic goals.

Ann E. Salek is an attorney with the Medina office of Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston. She is certified by the Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA) in estate planning, probate and trust law and is a Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Association of Elder Law attorneys and the OSBA. She also is a Medina Hospital Foundation Board member.



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Feed the Frontline Cleveland with Rev. Wendling



Lydia and Madelyn Rhoden

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I tell them the items were donated by the community, there's a wash of relief. It affirms that this relationship is there. Not just that we feel ownership of the community, but vice versa."

Dr. Shewbridge agrees.

"Our caregivers are part of the Medina community," he says. "I am amazed by their dedication and bravery. They have stepped into an uncertain situation and learned what they needed to do to take care of themselves, our patients and each other."

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