GEISINGER REPORT ON PHILANTHROPY 2010 - 2011

because of you...



LIVES HAVE BEEN CHANGED





Pennsylvania. BECAUSE OF YOU, innovative medical advances discovered at Geisinger are improving care here – and at medical centers nationwide. BECAUSE OF YOU, breakthrough research is under way that will reshape the way we treat some of the world's most devastating diseases. Your generosity endures in the people and families who turn to us for compassionate, quality care. BECAUSE OF YOU, we are fulfilling our healthcare mission to enhance the quality of life through integrated health services based on a balanced program of patient care, education, research, and community service.

4
BECAUSE OF
THE HENRYS ...
Jennifer received the latest
cancer treatment

6
BECAUSE OF
THE GRAHAMS ...
Dennis is a heart disease
survivor





LIVES HAVE BEEN CHANGED







8
BECAUSE OF
WILLIAM JEFFREYS, MD ...
Sonja no longer has
seizures

BECAUSE OF
PATRICIA McDOWELLGOULSTONE ...

Kathleen is going back to nursing school

BECAUSE OF
FRONTIER
COMMUNI
Deanna ha neonatal constances

BECAUSE OF FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS ... Deanna has expert neonatal care

PHILANTHROPIC HIGHLIGHTS

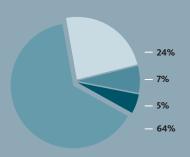
Donations from the community provide Geisinger Health System with the critical resources it requires to grow and deliver advanced quality healthcare. In the 2010-2011 fiscal cycle, charitable gifts to Geisinger totaled \$10.5 million, from 8,162 donors.

LEVELS OF GIVING

- 2,173 - 260 - 108 - 108 - 91 - 5,422

	NUMBER OF DONORS		
\$10,000+	91		
\$5,000 – 9,999	108		
\$2,500 – 4,999	108		
\$1,000 – 2,499	260		
\$100 – 999	2,173		
\$1 – 99	5,422		
TOTAL	8.162		

GIFTS BY CONSTITUENCY



	PERCENT OF DONORS	
Individuals	64%	
Corporations	24%	
Foundations	7%	
Other Organization	s 5%	
TOTAL	100%	

GEISINGER HEALTH SYSTEM FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JULY 1, 2010 TO JUNE 30, 2011

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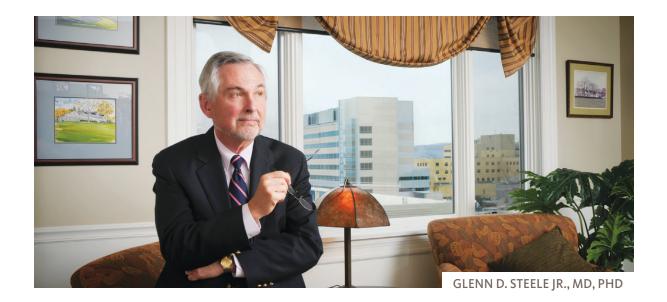
Glenn D. Steele Jr., MD, PhD

Robert L. Tambur

Gail R. Wilensky, PhD

* Denotes deceased on the following pages

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It all started with one philanthropic woman.

Geisinger's story is rooted in the vision and generous spirit of one determined woman, Abigail Geisinger. Nearly a century ago, Mrs. Geisinger's philanthropy and her mandate to make her hospital the best made a positive difference in the lives of her contemporaries. Today, that same mandate continues to make a difference in our lives.

As a Geisinger supporter, you, too, make a positive difference for people in need throughout central and northeast Pennsylvania. In the last year alone, you've helped us to open the first neonatal intensive care unit in Luzerne County and expand cardiology, obstetrical, and oncology programs at Geisinger Wyoming Valley (GWV). You have helped us further advance eICU capabilities at the Hospital for Advanced Medicine at Geisinger Medical Center and GWV and pilot an innovative adolescent behavioral health program, along with continued expansion and renovation at our Marworth Alcohol & Chemical Dependency Treatment Center.

Your generosity has resulted in Geisinger adding some of the country's best and brightest physicians and researchers. Your philanthropy has helped us earn a national reputation as a model of excellence, quality, and value – while redefining how healthcare will be provided to residents in the Commonwealth and beyond.

It all started with one woman, but it certainly does not end with Mrs. Geisinger. Today, there are thousands of generous donors whose steadfast personal commitment and giving help support Geisinger's unwavering dedication to quality, innovation, and leadership. This Report on Philanthropy recognizes the many donors who touch the lives of the men, women, and children who count on Geisinger every day. Because of you, Mrs. Geisinger's legacy will continue for generations to come. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support.

Mm Hal)



VICTOR G. VOGEL, MD, MHS, DIRECTOR GEISINGER CANCER INSTITUTE

Because of people like the Henrys, patients in the Wyoming Valley no longer have to travel far for sophisticated cancer treatment.
But this is only part of the Geisinger story.

Whether it is at Geisinger Wyoming Valley in northeast Pennsylvania or Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Geisinger is distinguished by its breadth of cancer services, which rivals those offered at leading metropolitan medical centers. We dedicate enormous resources to ensure that our patients receive the most up-to-date cancer care. This includes on-site clinical research that gives patients access to the latest therapies and disease-specific multidisciplinary teams that collaborate to provide optimal care.

But we also do more than treat cancer; we treat people and their unique needs during cancer treatment. Our patients have personal nurse navigators who help them traverse their care and a team of professionals who provide dietary, emotional, and lifestyle support. At Geisinger, we strive to make a patient's experience as seamless, comfortable, and supportive as possible.





High-quality cancer care is comprehensive and centralized

Battling cancer is one of life's most challenging experiences. Through the **visionary support of the Henrys**, some of the most difficult aspects of the disease are alleviated. Because of the Henrys, **patients in the Wyoming Valley have the Frank M. & Dorothea Henry Cancer Center**

- an epicenter of excellent cancer care, innovation, collaboration, and comfort.

Since the Henry Cancer Center opened in 1992 and expanded its services in 2009, countless cancer patients and their loved ones have received advanced cancer treatment without needing to travel long distances. The Henry Cancer Center, part of Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, brings together all of the components needed to diagnose, treat, and manage cancer in one convenient location.

"We decided to support the building of a cancer center at Geisinger Wyoming Valley because cancer was and still is a dreaded disease," says Frank, who with his wife, Dottie, fueled the construction of the building with a generous gift. In addition, their ongoing commitment to the Henry Cancer Center has included several recent building enhancements.

"Having a friendly, yet medically advanced cancer center in the Wyoming Valley gives people top-of-the-line medicine, without having to travel," says Frank. "Before this hospital existed that's what they had to do."

"Everywhere I go in the Valley," says the Dallas, PA, resident, "people come up to me and tell me how fortunate

they feel to have this second-to-none cancer center near their homes. When patients feel good, we feel good. That's been our goal."

This patient-centered approach is Geisinger's philosophy in treating all of our cancer patients, wherever they may live.

IENNIFER'S STORY



"While pregnant with my third son, I was diagnosed with breast cancer that had to be treated right away with surgery and chemotherapy. My Geisinger Medical Center surgeon and oncologist knew exactly how to time the treatment in a way that would not hurt our baby. Kenny was born healthy. I breastfed him, my twin girls, and another son who followed, which was very important to me. Today, I am a cancer survivor and proud mother of six, all thanks to high-quality cancer care at Geisinger."

JENNIFER HOOVER OF SELINSGROVE, PA



ALFRED S. CASALE, MD, DIRECTOR
GEISINGER HEART AND VASCULAR INSTITUTE

Because of philanthropists like the Grahams, Geisinger patients have an excellent chance of surviving a cardiac episode. Sophisticated nearby facilities, novel medicines, innovative techniques, and advanced research are saving countless lives.

Geisinger offers an integrated cardiovascular care program that emphasizes prevention, early detection, innovative non-invasive treatment techniques, and traditional surgical care. Our 40-step ProvenCare® model for coronary artery bypass surgery provides a precise methodology to achieve the best outcomes. Our Acute Heart Attack Program delivers top-ranked emergency response times. And our cardiovascular researchers are exploring new ground in cardiac disease prevention.

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Richard and Marion Pearsall Heart Hospital, and the 2010 opening of the Hospital for Advanced Medicine, we are proud to be on the forefront of the battle against cardiovascular disease.





More people are surviving cardiovascular disease

Patricia and John Graham are **champions of high-quality cardiac care**. Ten years ago, the Grahams joined their close friends, Richard and Marion Pearsall, in funding the construction of the Pearsall Heart Hospital, which is one of the **region's top cardiac centers** and ranked among the 50 Top Cardiovascular Programs in 2011 in the nation by Thomson Reuters.

As head nurse in the Emergency Department at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center from 1981 to 1994, Patricia (Pat) Graham saw many lives destroyed by cardiac disease. She and her husband, John, of Shavertown, PA, were determined to help with a donation to build the Richard and Marion Pearsall Heart Hospital.

"I knew that we could treat patients more successfully if we could deliver complex cardiac procedures right here at Geisinger Wyoming Valley without moving patients to other facilities for specialized care," recalls Pat.

Pat's vision has been fulfilled for the patients and families who are treated by the Geisinger Heart and Vascular Institute team. Although the national average is 55 percent, today, 90 percent of acute heart attack patients at Geisinger are treated within 90 minutes.

Geisinger holds a special place in the Grahams' hearts. In 1991, when the couple got married, they designated Geisinger as the recipient of wedding gifts. Then, in 2011, they established the Rose M. Reckner Nursing Endowment to honor Pat's late sister. The endowment supports nurse education in

critical care areas such as cardiac. They also have made a multi-year pledge to support the Pearsall Heart Hospital.

"We lost Rose to leukemia six years ago," says Pat.

"I know she is smiling knowing that her endowment is helping students attend nursing school."

DENNIS' STORY

"In 2010, my heart was in trouble. I had serious cardiac disease plus a tumor attached to my heart. I had three procedures, angioplasty and cardiac bypass surgery, to open up blockages in my heart, and a tumor biopsy. Thankfully, the tumor was non-cancerous and did not require more surgery. The Geisinger team helped me make important lifestyle changes – such as eating healthy foods and exercising at a gym. Today, I've turned my life around. Thanks to my cardiac team, I am a heart disease survivor."

DENNIS DODSON OF MONTOURSVILLE, PA



FRANK GILLIAM, MD, MPH
DIRECTOR, NEUROLOGY
STEVEN A. TOMS, MD, MPH, FACS
DIRECTOR, NEUROSURGERY
GEISINGER NEUROSCIENCES INSTITUTE

Neurologic diseases and conditions are among the most complex to diagnose and treat, requiring a high level of expertise. This is something William Jeffreys, MD, realized many years ago. Because of his lifelong efforts and those of his colleagues, our neurological services today integrate compassionate care with cutting-edge treatments.

We diagnose and treat a range of disorders such as stroke, Parkinson's disease and movement disorders, Multiple Sclerosis, brain tumors, spinal disorders and epilepsy.

Geisinger Neurosciences Institute blends superior patient care with sophisticated research, providing patients with access to the latest treatment options and a team of highly specialized neurosurgeons, neurologists, and researchers.

But there is much more to be uncovered. We are optimistic that through research into the molecular and genetic origins of neurological disorders, such as epilepsy, new technologies and innovative ways to treat epilepsy and other devastating neurologic conditions will emerge.





Education fuels cutting-edge neuroscience and research

In 1957, when the **vast complexities of the brain** were scarcely understood, William Jeffreys, MD, and his friend and colleague, Henry Hood, MD, saw the possible. Thanks to their early insight and direction, Geisinger neurosciences have evolved from a two-doctor department to a **leading center for patient care, research, and education**.

Dr. Jeffreys is a man on a mission: To bring the latest advancements in neurosciences to physicians on the frontlines.

"Back when I started, we didn't have all the medicines and procedures that we have now," says Bill. "Today, we can help patients who 50 years ago would have been lost."

The 85-year-old physician who lives in Riverside, PA, knows that excellent healthcare starts with knowledge. For decades he has funded the Jeffreys Neurological Library Fund and the Neurosciences Lecture Series, which invites internationally renowned neuroscientists to Geisinger to share their knowledge with Geisinger physicians and residents. This year will mark another fulfilled mission for Bill: The start of a four-year neurology residency training program at Geisinger led by Jonathan Hosey, MD, director of the Neurology Residency Program.

"As doctors, our gifts should include time spent teaching," says Bill. "It is our responsibility to make certain that

students are prepared to practice 21st century medicine. That is what the residency program will do."

"Educating our own residents will raise the bar for high-quality patient care and perhaps attract them to stay here after graduation," adds Dr. Hosey.

SONJA'S STORY



"For 11 years, my seizures were misdiagnosed by doctors up and down the East Coast. I was afraid to shower, shop, or drive alone. Then I discovered the Geisinger Neurosciences Institute. My neurologist found the answer – epilepsy – after I spent several nights in Geisinger Medical Center's inpatient monitoring unit. In February 2010, I had surgery to remove the part of my brain responsible for the seizures. My life was changed. With no more worries about seizures, at age 37 I finally became independent. Geisinger's care returned my life to me!"

SONJA MACDONALD OF MILTON, PA



SUSAN M. HALLICK, RN, MSN, MHA, NEA-BC EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND SYSTEM CHIEF NURSING OFFICER

Education is an essential component of healthcare excellence. It is the vehicle through which we attract, recruit, and retain quality nurses. By offering advanced education opportunities, we ensure our nurses stay current on the latest nursing practices. Continuing education courses and higher degree or certification in a specialty are two ways our nurses can advance their knowledge.

Thanks to Patricia McDowell-Goulstone and others like her, nursing scholarship endowments are a lifeline for those without the means to attend nursing school.

Our patients are *always* the focus of best practices and the recipients of our best efforts. Geisinger's nurses play a crucial role in providing exemplary care. Patient care at Geisinger is among the best in the country. Among our many awards and accolades, in 2011, Geisinger Medical Center Emergency
Department received the Emergency
Nurse Association Lantern Award.

Our nurses are critical healthcare partners, and endowment funds help them fulfill their passion.





A passion for nursing elevates patient care at Geisinger

Fifty-four years after graduating from the Geisinger Medical Center School of Nursing, Patricia "Petey" McDowell-Goulstone continues to **inspire others to join her beloved nursing profession**. An endowment she started in 1992 provides nursing **scholarships to college students** who without this assistance may never have been able to afford college.

Whether it was a calling or fate, Petey McDowell-Goulstone of Bloomsburg, PA knew she would become a Geisinger nurse since she was a little girl. Standing in a hallway of the medical center in Danville while waiting to bring home her newborn baby sister, 5-year-old Petey felt at home.

"I told my parents that night that I would be back someday as a Geisinger nurse," recalls Petey.

Years later, as a young adult, Petey did just that. She attended Geisinger's School of Nursing, an experience she treasures. She notes her instructors were excellent. She enjoyed a flourishing career before retiring to raise a family.

Funds from the Patricia A. McDowell Endowed Nursing Scholarship can be used by eligible Bloomsburg University students to help pay for tuition and books.

"Over the years, some of the scholarship recipients have written or called to thank me," says Petey. "It is enormously fulfilling." "Nursing was one of the best experiences I ever had," says Petey, "The endowment enables me to give back to Geisinger Health System and give someone who has enthusiasm for nursing an opportunity to be a Geisinger nurse."

KATHLEEN'S STORY



"Today's healthcare environment is increasingly complex. Thanks to nursing endowments, I am advancing my knowledge by pursuing a master's degree in nursing. Through continued education, I'm able to stay on top of the latest trends in nursing and bring that knowledge to my patients. For every nurse who furthers his or her education, studies show that countless patients benefit from that extra expertise. At age 54, I am still learning and trying be the best nurse that I can be for my patients."

KATHLEEN BEDNARZ, RN, BSN, OF WILKES-BARRE, PA



JOHN D. NASH, MD, CHAIRMAN WOMEN'S HEALTH

Geisinger connects with women throughout all stages of their lives. Thanks to philanthropic partners such as Frontier Communications, we are able to continually address the unique needs of women and expand our services to meet those needs.

Our women's and children's programs in Danville and Wilkes-Barre are two exemplary hubs for superior care for women and their newborn children. Each offers welcoming birthing centers and state-of-the-art neonatal intensive care units that give critically ill newborns specialized care.

But we realize there's more to women's health than having a child. Women's health is complex, with specific needs at different stages of life. That is why, in addition to general obstetrics and gynecology, we have specialists in areas such as breast care, heart health, and cancer.

No matter how old, no matter what the concern, we're here to stand alongside our patients throughout their lives.





Vulnerable newborns have a fighting chance close to home

Through one of the largest gifts in its history, Frontier Communications is ensuring that **premature** and seriously ill newborns stay close to home while receiving life-saving treatment. Frontier's support of the Tambur Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center helped to open Luzerne County's only Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Geisinger and Frontier Communications share a common mission: delivering expert services to the people of rural Pennsylvania. Since 1983, Frontier Communications has been a passionate supporter of Geisinger initiatives, most recently making a major gift toward the Tambur Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, which opened for patients on October 17, 2011. This intensive care unit was made possible through the generous support of Robert and Virginia Tambur and family.

"Frontier is committed to the betterment of the communities we serve. The majority of our employees live and work here, so we like to partner with and invest in local organizations," says Frontier Communications Vice President and General Manager of Pennsylvania, Frank Joanlanne. "We know that having the Tambur NICU right here in Luzerne County spares parents the emotional and financial burden of making long commutes to participate in their baby's care."

Frontier Communications' national leadership believes that having easy access to highly specialized pediatric services, such as neonatal intensive care, makes communities stronger. "Through our support of Geisinger Wyoming Valley, we have been privileged to give children a healthy start in life," says Frontier's Northeast Region President Ann Burr. "We have confidence in Geisinger. We know if Geisinger does something in our community, it will be done right."

DEANNA'S STORY



"In my 35th week of pregnancy an ultrasound revealed serious risks to my twins: Erik's weight was low and there was a decrease in blood flow to Timothy. At that time there was no neonatal intensive care unit in our area, so we made the hour-long car ride to Geisinger's Janet Weis Children's Hospital in Danville, where I had an emergency C-section. After 10 days in the NICU, our babies were ready to go home. Now, families that live in the Wyoming Valley can receive the same advanced care right here in Wilkes-Barre."

DEANNA NICKAS OF WILKES-BARRE, PA



Thanks to the giving hearts of thousands of individuals, Geisinger Health

System is able to deliver the full breadth of healthcare services that people

and families in our communities need to achieve and sustain good health.

We are honored to recognize our family of supporters in the following sections.

Because of you, Geisinger is making a difference in the lives of countless people.

ABIGAIL GEISINGER CIRCLE

The Abigail Geisinger Circle allows Geisinger Foundation to honor individuals who have thoughtfully provided for the future in their own estate plans.



Mr. and Mrs. William D. Beecham Mr. G. Allen Blakeslee

Mr. James L. Deegan

Dr. Donald Egan and Dr. Gillian Hollands

Mr. Albert T. Fecko

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Mrs. Helene M. Youskites

BEQUESTS

When you make a designation in your will, you maintain the full use of your gift assets during your lifetime. Generous gifts from these donors and their families ensure their wishes and interests live on for generations.

ESTATE OF MARGARET S. CLINGER

Clinger Cardiology Research Fund

ESTATE OF MARJORIE J. DIETTERICK

Supporting Geisinger Medical Center Priorities

ESTATE OF JEAN A. KERSTETTER

Janet Weis Children's Hospital

ESTATE OF EDWARD S. ROSENBLUM

Supporting Mental Health Programs at Geisinger

ESTATE OF BURRELL C. AND FRANCES C. STAMBAUGH

Adult Intensive Care Unit

ESTATE OF JANET C. WEIS

Supporting Janet Weis Children's Hospital and Research at Geisinger

ENDOWMENTS

By establishing an endowment beginning at the \$25,000 level, the donor-designated purpose is permanently supported by an annual disbursement from the fund while the fund balance remains in perpetuity.

PAIN MANAGEMENT ENDOWMENT

Established in December 2010 by individual donors and matched by Charles B. Degenstein Foundation

ROSE M. RECKNER MEMORIAL NURSING ENDOWMENT

Established in March 2011 by Mr. and Mrs. John H. Graham

Lifetime Giving

Our Lifetime Giving Societies thoughtfully recognize individuals, corporations, and foundations whose cumulative gifts to Geisinger Health System Foundation exceed \$100,000 in total. The following societies were named to honor influential individuals and moments in our history, which have enabled us to be the healthcare system we are today. This historical listing reflects the original names of individuals, foundations, and corporations as they were brought into the Geisinger Family.

HAROLD L. FOSS CIRCLE \$1,000,000 AND ABOVE

In honor of Geisinger's First Surgeon-in-Chief

Ms. Mary* E. Benjamin

Charles* A. and Dorothy* K. Boleske

Henrietta and Frederick Bugher Foundation

Charles B. Degenstein Foundation

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1915 CIRCLE \$100,000 - 499,999

In honor of the year the George F. Geisinger Memorial Hospital opened its doors to the community

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Ms. Winifred* Wood

WTAJ-TV 10

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

because of ARTHUR M. PETERS JR., ESQ.

A Lifetime of Giving Continues



Arthur M. Peters Jr., Esq. 1928 – 2011

Arthur and Georgene Peters led adventurous lives. Art was a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Georgie was a wildlife painter. Art was a photographer. Together they piloted their own plane. And when they could no longer travel the skies due to their advanced age, they took to the waters and became avid boaters.

When they were not exploring the world outside their hometown of Danville, PA, Art and Georgie would turn their energies to civic causes within their community.

Art, who passed away at age 83 on September 4, 2011, served on the Geisinger Health System Foundation Board for 13 years. He was a member of the Geisinger Advisory Board and several board committees, including serving as Chairman of the Development Committee. Georgie, who passed away in March 2010, graduated from Geisinger's School of Nursing and enjoyed many years working as a Geisinger pediatric nurse and volunteer.

In addition to the time and energy they gave to Geisinger, Art and Georgie were generous donors to the Henry Hood Center for Health Research and the Janet Weis Children's Hospital.

They witnessed firsthand the impact their charitable support had on providing quality care for patients at Geisinger. To ensure that future patients continue to receive the best care possible, Art and Georgie left a significant bequest to the Departments of Ophthalmology and Orthopaedics. The Peters were grateful for the care Georgie received as a result of a childhood eye injury requiring multiple surgeries over her lifetime and for the knee and hip replacements that enabled her to remain physically active.

Geisinger Health System is enormously grateful to Art and Georgie for their gifts during and after their lifetime. Their generous support of Geisinger will live on in the lives of countless people who turn to Geisinger for quality patient care.

2010 – 2011 Gifts to Geisinger

Geisinger Health System is grateful to the thousands of donors both large and small who made gifts over the past year.

These gifts help support clinical programs and projects throughout the system. It is our pleasure to thank and recognize the individuals, corporations, and foundations for sharing in our mission and vision through their generous support. During the past fiscal year, more than 8,000 individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts and grants totaling \$10.5 million.

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Services are Expanding in Sullivan County



and Jim Rogers are photographed outside the Sullivan County Medical Center with David Wood, DO, Medical Director for PCOM's Sullivan County Medical Center.

Known as the "Gem of the Endless Mountains," Sullivan County is an entirely rural community. Amid the splendor of this beautiful area is one medical clinic with one full-time physician for the county's 6,428 residents. Without this clinic, patients would have to drive 45 minutes to see another doctor.

Until recently, access to dental care has also been difficult, with only one full-time dentist practicing in the county. Now through the advocacy of Jim and Annabelle Rogers of Laporte, PA, and the support of the community, Sullivan County Action, Inc., opened a dental clinic in donated space at the medical clinic. Staffed by three volunteer dentists and a full-time hygienist, the clinic provides cleanings, screenings, and dental care education for patients of all ages and all incomes.

The Rogers have been Sullivan County Action, Inc., volunteers for the past two decades. In cooperation with board members of Sullivan County Action, Inc., Jim led the effort that helped foster a partnership between Geisinger Health System and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), which owns and operates the medical clinic.

Recently, he and his wife made a five-year pledge to support health and dental care in Sullivan County. In addition to the Rogers, additional donor monies are currently supporting the operations of the dental clinic and providing the groundwork for other critical programs in the county, such as ongoing training for EMS providers, tele-videoconferencing for offsite training, and the potential for telemedicine programs and digital X-rays.

"Our partnership with Geisinger impacts the health of our residents," says Jim. "Annabelle and I have pledged to support this commitment because of a lack of services in our county."

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Leading Wound Care Experts Come Here



The inaugural Visiting Orthopaedic Surgery Lecture on May 4, 2011 featured world-renowned speaker Christopher E. Attinger, MD, from Georgetown University. L-R: Salvatore Ramondelli, MD; Christopher E. Attinger, MD; Arturo Porzecanski, PhD (seated); Nina Porzecanski; and John Parenti, MD. In November 2005, Arturo Porzecanski, PhD, a well-known economist and distinguished American University professor, was admitted to Geisinger's Intensive Care Unit. He was stricken by an exceedingly rare disease called Systemic Capillary Leak Syndrome during a Thanksgiving visit with his brother-in-law's family in State College, PA.

The syndrome triggers the sudden leakage of plasma from blood vessels into adjacent body cavities and muscle compartments. By the time Arturo was airlifted to Geisinger Medical Center, his body was in severe shock, his kidneys were failing, and his arm and leg muscles and nerves were sustaining considerable damage. If he survived, his family was told, the amputation of his legs was likely.

After Geisinger ICU doctors saved his life and Arturo stabilized, orthopaedic surgeon John M. Parenti, MD, discussed with Arturo and his wife, Nina, a different course of action that might spare his legs. Rather than amputate them, Dr. Parenti would attempt to remove all damaged muscle tissues in a series of delicate operations which entailed risks to the limbs and to Arturo's life. Arturo and Nina placed their trust in Dr. Parenti and decided that the risks were worth taking, and after a dozen

operations over several weeks, he was on his way to recovery. After a long period of healing, physical rehabilitation and with the help of leg braces and a cane, Arturo was able to walk again and to resume his teaching duties and normal life.

To honor Dr. Parenti's courage and expertise in saving Arturo's legs, the Porzecanskis established the John M. Parenti, MD, Annual Visiting Orthopaedic Surgery Lectureship at Geisinger, for the purpose of bringing to Danville leading-edge experts in wound care from around the country. The inaugural lecture was held May 4, 2011, and featured world-renowned plastic surgeon and wound-care expert Christopher E. Attinger, MD, from Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

"Dr. Parenti left his comfort zone and had faith in my survival," says Dr. Porzecanski, who has homes in Washington, D.C., and New York City. "With this endowment, we seek to ensure that Geisinger physicians are exposed to all advancements in wound care, so that patients with burns, diabetes, and other limb-threatening diseases will receive the best available care before having to undergo any amputation of their limbs."



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Calli I. Walter Jason C. Walter Phoebe Walters Honora R. Warren Nessie S. Watson Emily A. Hartman Watts Velma R. Weed Janet C. Weis Charles H. Welle Eleanor Welle Anne M. Wells Lori Wells Chase Wertz David L. West Derek Wiedwald Jacob Wilde Violet R. Williams Carl Wolever Jr. David L. Wolfe Leah M. Woodruff Gary Yagel Malcolm E. Yaple Sr. Lois R. Yeager Roy C. Young Robert Zaremski Craig Zechman Pierce S. Zehner II B. Seth Zendt Frank J. Ziarkoski

because of THE GEHRERS

Millions are Raised for Janet Weis Children's Hospital



Longtime volunteer Harold Gehrer at the 2011 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® Celebration Weekend broadcast.

As the curtain goes up each spring for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® Celebration Weekend broadcast to benefit Janet Weis Children's Hospital, Harold Gehrer of Lewisburg, PA, takes his spot at the phone bank. For the next 24 hours, Harold will honor the memory of his son, Shawn by taking pledges from callers. Shawn passed away in 1985 at age 15 from a cancerous brain tumor.

"My wife, Gayle, and I do this so that someday no one will have to lose a child to cancer as we did," says Harold.

Shawn had been a member of Geisinger's pediatric "chemo team," supporting children undergoing treatment at the hospital. Just one week before he died, he

was interviewed for a television spot that aired during the 1985 Children's Miracle Network broadcast.

Since its inception in 1983, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® has raised billions of dollars for 170 children's hospitals nationwide. Donations are kept within the communities in which they are raised to help local children with chronic and lifethreatening illnesses. Items purchased include not just medical equipment and supplies, but toys and games that lift the spirits of hospitalized children.

Harold, who has not missed the annual television broadcast in 27 years, says he has no intention of slowing down: "I will be here every year until I can't make it anymore."

our mission

Enhancing quality of life through an integrated health service organization based on a balanced program of patient care, education, research and community service.

