

Foundation Overview

Introduction

More than 100 years ago, the hospitals that comprise Corewell Health were founded by volunteers and community leaders through philanthropy. These women and men saw a need and an opportunity to make a difference in something far bigger than themselves—the health and well-being of others. Much of this originated from the hospitals' Auxiliaries—organizations of women who were hands-on volunteers and involved in raising funds and resources to care for the sick and injured.

During the 1980s, philanthropy efforts were formally structured as hospital foundations to better meet the rapidly expanding growth in scope and level of care, including advances in technology and specialties. The Butterworth Foundation was established in 1987 and the Ferguson-Blodgett Foundation was established in the early 1990s. In September 1997—following the merger of Butterworth and Blodgett Hospitals—the Spectrum Health Foundation (SHF) was created. The Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation was established in 1999 as a Board committee of Spectrum Health Foundation. In 2022, Spectrum Health and Beaumont Health came together to form Corewell Health. To reflect this change, the Spectrum Health Foundation is now called Corewell Health West Michigan Foundation.

Background

Corewell Health's primary goal is to help save lives and advance the health and well-being of adults, children, and families, through philanthropy. The foundation conducts a comprehensive program, including annual gifts, major gifts, principal gifts, grants, stewardship, finance and operations, marketing/communications and community engagement. Helen DeVos Children's Hospital (HDVCH) has been a Children's Miracle Network (CMN) hospital since 1990.

More than half a billion dollars has been given by individuals, businesses, foundations, and community groups to support programs, research and education, innovation, technology, and state-of-the-art facilities. Philanthropy comes in gifts of all forms, including loose change placed into canisters, radiothon pledges, sponsorships, and major gifts and grants. The Corewell Health Foundation team works collaboratively to deliver an exceptional donor experience by helping to match donor passion to giving priorities and opportunities. We are committed to accountability and stewardship, demonstrating to donors the impact of their giving.

The Foundation is governed by the Corewell Health Foundation (CHF) Board of Trustees, comprised of community and business leaders who are committed to health care excellence. The HDVCHF Board is a committee of CHF, made up of leaders who are passionate about supporting the unique healthcare needs of children. Each Corewell Health regional hospital has a Corewell Health Board Committee dedicated to philanthropic efforts to meet the health care needs of their communities and across the Corewell Health System.

Philosophy

We believe philanthropy is the initiative taken when people willingly give to help fulfill the mission of improving health, instilling humanity, and inspiring hope. Donors are invited to participate in programs that mirror their values, preserve their interests, and meet their desire for belonging and making a difference.