2023 Philanthropy Report

Sharing our impact at the hospitals of Morton Plant Mease

Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation

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Letter From Our Foundation Chairwoman

Sydney Niewierski

Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation Supporters,

As we embark on another year, I'd like to acknowledge what we accomplished in the last 12 months. We reinforced and grew many hospital programs, expanded into new spaces and added many renowned clinical experts to our team. It's these thoughtful initiatives that affect patients and patient satisfaction in all areas of the communities we serve.

Reflecting on our accomplishments in 2023, I'm reminded of just how important the community's role has always been to the not-for-profit hospitals of Morton Plant Mease. Knowing each other's stories and our connections to these extraordinary hospitals is important. It connects us to our common goal of supporting high-quality, compassionate health care.

Two common themes you'll see in this year's Philanthropy Report are "high tech" and "high touch." While you'll read about some of the most advanced medical technology in the coming pages, all funded by the community's philanthropic support, those themes are also a fitting way to describe our culture. While our community has helped outfit the hospitals with the latest equipment and tools (high tech) to care for patients, they've also helped maintain a high-touch culture. I believe there's a personal touch to everything we do. I appreciate how much these hospitals have grown, not only in size, but in our emphasis on personalized connections.

As dedicated supporters, you understand that innovation is rooted in the generosity of our community. I'm thankful to you for our past and recent successes and for positioning our hospitals at the forefront of advanced, compassionate health care. I look forward to what we'll accomplish together going forward.

With great appreciation,

Sydney Niewierski
Chairwoman, Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation

Board of Directors

Reflections From the President

Ernestine Morgan

Dear Foundation Friend,

What's your superpower? As we navigate the daily challenges of modern life, I think it's important to reflect on our inner strength and unique abilities. There are so many ways to be involved in our communities and each of us, in our own way, has a superpower that can make a positive impact.

In my nearly 25 years of serving at the Foundation, I've witnessed the power of philanthropy firsthand. Whether you're a member of one of our esteemed donor societies, have sponsored or volunteered for one of our many events, volunteered your time on one of our committees or volunteered to share your leadership skills on our Foundation Board of Directors, you've helped us continue our mission to improve the health and wellness of our community by inspiring people to invest in extraordinary, compassionate care.

Philanthropic support ensures that our hospitals stay at the forefront of innovative health care. And while the not-for-profit hospitals of Morton Plant Mease have certainly grown, evolved and innovated throughout their rich history, they have remained true to the values on which those hospitals were founded. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to transforming health care in our communities.

Let us all identify our own superpowers and use them to build a healthier future for the next generation. Your philanthropy matters!

Forever grateful,

Ernestine Morgan, CFRE
President and CEO, Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation

Team Member Giving Campaign

In 2023, the Caring for Our Community team member giving campaign collectively raised nearly $320,000. Caring for Our Community is an annual campaign in which the hospitals' team members, volunteers and medical teams can support the United Way, Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation and/or the Family Care Fund. The Family Care Fund provides financial support to hospital team members who have experienced an emergency. The team member giving campaign celebrates a long-standing culture of philanthropy at our hospitals and sends a profound message to the community that our team members not only work here, but also truly believe in our mission.

The 2023 team member giving campaign was titled "Peace, Love and Philanthropy."

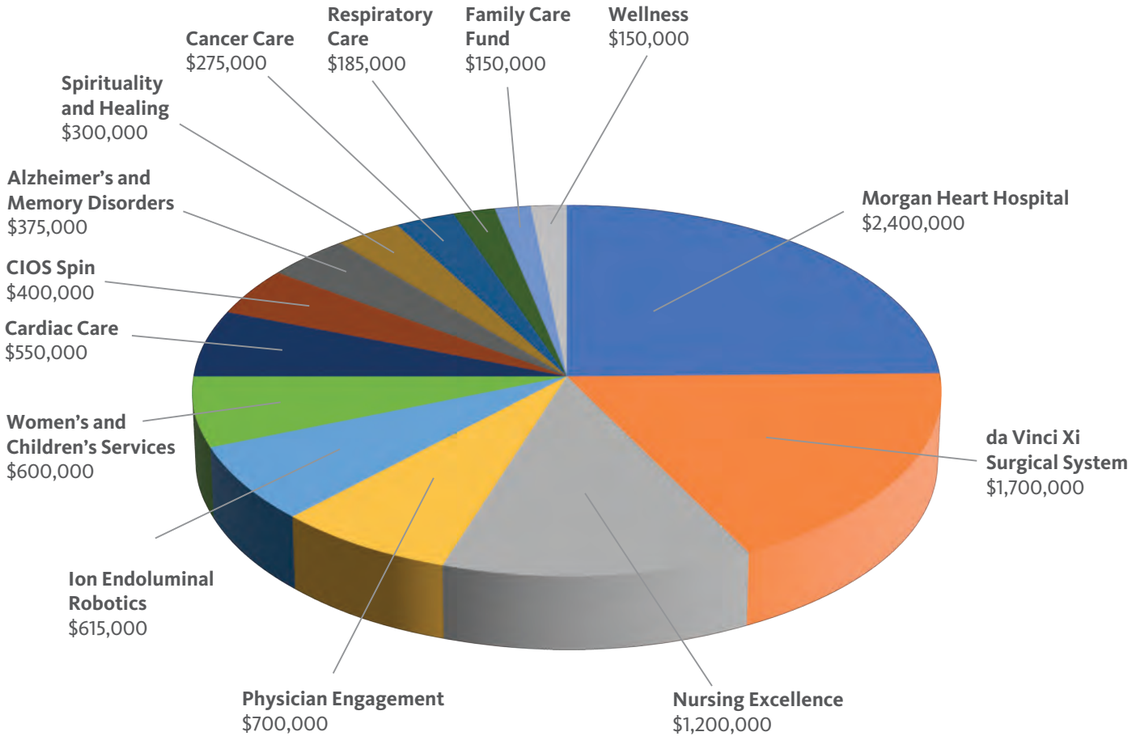
Members of the Foundation team helped kick off the team member giving campaign with department champions at each hospital campus.

Transforming Health Care Through Philanthropy

Thanks to the community's philanthropic generosity, Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation granted $9.6 million in 2023 to the not-for-profit hospitals of Morton Plant Mease.

Your philanthropy helped upgrade the cardiac catheterization labs at the Morgan Heart Hospital at Morton Plant with next-generation technology, fund the latest in minimally invasive robotic surgery at Mease Dunedin Hospital with the hospital's first da Vinci® Xi Surgical System, grant an advanced high-definition video strobe at Morton Plant North Bay Hospital to better evaluate vocal cord movement and assess for laryngeal abnormalities and fund the Ion Robotic Endoluminal System at Mease Countryside Hospital for minimally invasive lung biopsy. Your gifts continue a legacy of excellence and contribute to lifesaving programs and technologies that have revolutionized patient care.

Foundation Grants to Morton Plant Mease in 2023: $9.6 million



da Vinci Xi Surgical System

Philanthropy helped fund Mease Dunedin Hospital's first da Vinci Xi Surgical System—the latest technology in robotic surgery that's used across a wide spectrum of minimally invasive surgical procedures including bariatric and general surgery.

Electronic Fetal Monitors

Funded for Mease Countryside Hospital, these monitors let caregivers determine infants' well-being quickly. They're essential to providing safe care to our antepartum and intrapartum patients.

Simulation Training and Education

Simulation technology gives our nursing education team the opportunity to practice skills needed to be able to perform the difficult and critical care that's necessary to be a safe practitioner.

Medical Fitness Program

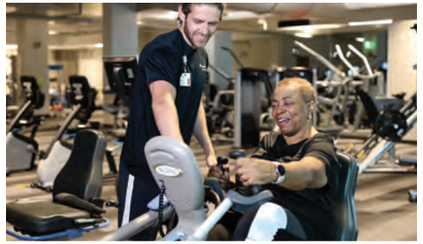
Designed to address chronic diseases, this program focuses on patients with diabetes, bone loss prevention, balance programs and Fit-4-Surgery—a presurgical and postsurgical exercise program.

Living Springs Cancer Retreat

This adult cancer survivor weekend retreat features entertainment and spa services for adult cancer survivors and their caregivers to promote camaraderie while nurturing the spirit of those touched by cancer.

Pediatric Monroe Bed

This specialty bed for toddlers helps maintain a safe recovery environment, allowing parents and the clinical team at Mease Countryside Hospital to care for children using proper body mechanics.



Distinguished Physicians and Pioneer Philanthropist Celebrated at Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting celebrates donors of all levels and shares the impact that our community's investments have at the hospitals of Morton Plant Mease. On January 13, nearly 300 guests joined us in honoring members of our Foundation family for their commitment to improving the health of our community.

We proudly presented benefactor Zena Lansky, MD, with the Golden Flame Philanthropy Award, the highest honor given by Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation. Dr. Lansky became board certified in general surgery at Morton Plant Hospital in the early 1970s and was the first woman in the department of surgery at Morton Plant Hospital to become chief of surgery.

This year's Annual Meeting also awarded four outstanding physicians with distinguished physician leadership awards. These physicians exemplify unparalleled excellence in clinical practice, leadership and outstanding service to the hospitals and community. Nominations were made by members of Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation and health system boards and the medical executive committees. Congratulations to these physicians.

Zena Lansky, MD

"I'm so proud and humbled as a recipient of the Golden Flame Philanthropy Award to join all the wonderful people who previously won this award. Passion and commitment to philanthropy for an organization that does so much for our hospital system, patients and community is a milestone in my life. I hope me being honored with this award will inspire others to do the same."

Zena Lansky, MD

Distinguished Physician Leadership Awards

Mease Hospitals
Dr. Bernard A. Macik Jr. Distinguished Physician Leadership Award
Monica Kharbanda, MD, Pediatrics

Morton Plant Hospital
Dr. Leslie L. Weiss Distinguished Physician Leadership Award
John E. Kilgore, MD, Orthopedic Surgery

Morton Plant Hospital
Dr. Mitchell M. Weiss Distinguished Physician Leadership Award
Robert "Smitty" Howard II, MD, Diagnostic Neuroradiology

Morton Plant North Bay Hospital
Distinguished Physician Leadership Award
Jennifer C. Swaringen, MD, Orthopedic Surgery

A focal point of the Annual Meeting is presenting the distinguished physician leadership awards and the Golden Flame Philanthropy Award.

Dr. Zena Lansky was presented with this year's Golden Flame Philanthropy Award.

Connected With Our Community

Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the public good. Gifts from individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations have a profound impact on the ability of our hospitals to carry out their mission. We appreciate the generosity of all community members who have helped support one of our fund-raising events over the past year. These events present an opportunity to not only raise important resources, but bring greater awareness to the programs we support.

Presented by the Morton Plant North Bay Hospital medical staff, our 1920s inspired gala, "A Roaring Good Time," welcomed 170 guests to the Spartan Manor and raised nearly $60,000 for Morton Plant North Bay Hospital.

Runners and walkers battled the bridge at our Rock the Ribbon 5K, 10K and Kids Dash benefiting the comprehensive cancer care programs at the hospitals of Morton Plant Mease.

Skip Cline Society hosted their 13th Annual Seawall Rodeo and Inshore Fishing Tournament at the Carlouel Yacht Club to help raise funds for pediatric programs at the hospitals of Morton Plant Mease.

The Clearwater Threshers helped us strike out breast cancer at the 18th annual Pitch for Pink baseball game at BayCare Ballpark, raising $13,457 to benefit our hospitals' breast health services and programs.

Planters 30th anniversary fall luncheon, with special guest speaker Nora McInerny, featured the presentation of the Lois Odence Nursing Scholarship to 13 Morton Plant Mease nursing students.

The 34th Annual Dr. George Morris Memorial Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation Golf Tournament was presented by Superior Group of Companies and benefited the Dr. Morris Earn As You Learn Nursing Program.

Our Planned Giving Advisory Council expert panel event featured, from left to right, Ryan Hayden, Michele Schneidenbach, Michael Faehner, Nancy Croy Ramey and Jon Brethauer.

Moderated by Paul Friedlander, the Spartan Manor hosted our first "Coffee and Conversations" panel event featuring Dr. Robert Kopec, Brandon May, Ernestine Morgan and Ellie Paladine.

Members of the Skip Cline Society gathered at the Fenway Hotel in Dunedin for their annual holiday party benefiting a new pilot program that helps children with special health care needs.

Sharing Our Impact at the Hospitals of Morton Plant Mease

New Technology Keeps Parents Connected to Newborns

When parents have to leave their newborn in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), the separation can leave them feeling overwhelmed and anxious. Thanks to the philanthropic support of our community, new technology is now available at Mease Countryside Hospital (MCH) and Morton Plant Hospital (MPH), making it easier for families to watch over their babies when they can't be there in person.

AngelEye is a visual monitoring system offering 24/7 live streaming video of a baby in the NICU to family members any time through a secure app on their phone, tablet or computer. In addition, the PatientConnect app enables doctors and nurses to easily share information about their baby's care and memorable moments with texts, photos and recorded videos, giving families a view into the treatment plan and progress their baby is making when they can't be there physically.

"We understand how stressful it is for parents when their newborn requires the expert care that only a NICU can provide," said Brenda Carvalho, director of patient care services for the NICUs at MCH and MPH. "Adding the AngelEye technology is one of the ways we can help make their NICU journey more meaningful and create stronger bonds for our most fragile patients and their families."

The Foundation helped fund the AngelEye technology in the NICUs at MCH and MPH.

AngelEye gives families 24/7 access to view their babies in the NICU.

"Adding the AngelEye technology is one of the ways we can help make their NICU journey more meaningful and create stronger bonds for our most fragile patients and their families."

Volunteer Nurses Keep Practicing Their Passion

Donna Renna spent most of her career as a nurse and only retired in 2021 when her husband was diagnosed with cancer. In 2021 and 2022, he was often a patient on Morton Plant Hospital's Witt 6 floor, and Donna was right by his side. During the many days and hours she spent at her husband's bedside, she learned about the Volunteer Nurse Program that provides an opportunity for retired nurses or those taking a career break to continue to pursue their passion for patient care, while also helping the nursing team.

Donna knew that the program was for her. "I love nursing, and I wanted to give back because the team had been wonderful to me and my husband," she said. "He passed away in May of 2022, and I began volunteering in July 2022."

The program allows retired nurses to stay active and engaged in a career they love and provides extra hands to improve a patient's stay in our hospitals. They typically work one four-hour shift a week and help the nursing team with basic skills such as taking vital signs, assisting patients with feeding and ambulation, changing ostomy pouches and removing IVs.

"Sometimes I sit with patients simply to listen and provide emotional support," Donna said. "As a volunteer, I have the time. I've been in the nurses' shoes. I know how much they care but also how busy they are."

The Foundation has funded the Volunteer Nurse Program every year since 2009.

Volunteer nurse Donna Renna assists the team and patients weekly at Morton Plant Hospital.

"Sometimes I sit with patients simply to listen and provide emotional support. As a volunteer, I have the time. I've been in the nurses' shoes. I know how much they care but also how busy they are."

Sharing Our Impact at the Hospitals of Morton Plant Mease

Early Detection Saves Lives at Lung Nodule Clinic

At the start of 2023, 66-year-old Al Parker felt fine. He had no idea he was sick, much less had cancer. Al had never heard of Morton Plant Hospital's lung nodule clinic because he hadn't needed its services. He now sings the praises of physicians and clinicians at the lung nodule clinic because, unknowingly, he began last year with lung cancer, but now he's cancer free.

Al's journey to the lung nodule clinic began with his annual visit to his cardiologist. His doctor told him everything looked good but recommended having a CAT scan done to check a heart condition.

"I got the call, 'You've got a blocked artery, and by the way, there's a spot on your lung,'" said Al, recalling the conversation. He wasn't expecting to hear about anything behind his lungs. But to be safe, Al decided to get the spot biopsied at Morton Plant Hospital's Lung Nodule Clinic. His procedure was performed by Dr. Joseph Romero, the lead pulmonologist at the clinic, where biopsies are done on nodules, lesions and masses to see if they're cancerous.

"We created the clinic four years ago to meet the need we see from patients who are diagnosed too late," said Dr. Romero. "We know that early diagnosis and treatment change outcomes for those diagnosed with cancer, and that's our goal."

Thanks to the philanthropic support from the community, the Foundation helped fund an ION robotic-assisted surgical system for Morton Plant Hospital's Lung Nodule Clinic. The ION robot allows doctors to biopsy smaller tissue in more difficult-to-reach places in the lung to help find and treat lung issues in the earliest stages.

Dr. Joseph Romero, Al Parker and Dr. Michael Kayatta inside the Lung Nodule Clinic. Photo courtesy of Erin Murray, Spectrum Bay News 9.

Once the biopsy results came back showing that Al's nodule was cancerous, Dr. Michael Kayatta, a cardiothoracic surgeon, was the one to surgically remove the spot. Dr. Kayatta said the early diagnosis saved Al.

"It's often diagnosed in the later stages when there really isn't much chance of a cure. But if we can find it in an early stage, like stage 1 lung cancer, we can cure those patients," said Dr. Kayatta.

Al was discharged the next day and quickly returned to his normal activities, including playing golf. His margins were clear, and he needed no further treatment. Al knows how lucky he is that his first heart CAT scan showed that spot on his lung.

"I'm so thankful that everything fell perfectly into place. Every day is a blessing now. Every day that I wake up is a great day. I don't have bad days anymore," said Al.

Last year, the Foundation also funded an ION robotic-assisted surgical system for Mease Countryside Hospital.

Meet Your Foundation Team Members

Our extraordinary Foundation team works together toward a shared mission to inspire the community to invest in the not-for-profit hospitals of Morton Plant Mease.

Eric Barsema

Vice President of Philanthropic Impact

Eric joined the Foundation in 2007 and is responsible for leading the organization's granting process to the hospitals of Morton Plant Mease by tracking more than $10 million annually in program and capital grants. He received his MBA from the University of Tampa and his bachelor's from Northern Illinois University. Eric enjoys spending his spare time with his family, traveling and running.

Gerard Bribiescas

Manager of Philanthropic Relations

Gerard came to the Foundation after 12 years in Surgical Services and Interventional Radiology at Mease Countryside, Mease Dunedin and Morton Plant hospitals. His role with hospitality services blends his past nonprofit, health care and hospitality work experiences. Gerard enjoys cooking and gardening and spending time with his husband and their three Florida Poodle Rescue dogs.

Lindsey Daniel

Manager of Annual Philanthropy

Lindsey joined the Foundation team in 2019 and is now responsible for developing various fund-raising programs and initiatives while managing the annual giving program. She also helps in the planning of donor cultivation and recognition events. Lindsey was born and raised in Arkansas and enjoys spending her free time with her husband and their four-legged child, Yogi.

Christy Flees, bCRE

Director of Philanthropic Analysis

Christy has been involved in fund-raising for nearly 30 years, serving in various roles, including administrative support, special events and data management, all while using the Raiser's Edge software, in which she holds a Pro-level certification. She's a "Morton Plant baby" and currently resides in Palm Harbor. Christy enjoys spending time with her adult daughters and her husband.

Katie Howard

Manager of Philanthropic Operations

Katie joined the Foundation in 2014 and is primarily responsible for handling the day-to-day financial duties and managing the front office, including our volunteers, external vendors, supply orders and facility projects. She received her associate degree from Pasco–Hernando Community College and her bachelor's degree from Valley City State University on an athletic scholarship.

Kathryn Lane

Vice President of Philanthropic Operations

Kathryn spent more than five years specializing in nonprofit organizations as an auditor in a regional public accounting firm in Clearwater before joining the Foundation team in 2011. She has her bachelor's degree in accounting with a minor in political science from Florida State University. Kathryn is a member of the American and Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants and is an alumna of the Phi Mu fraternity.

Meet Your Foundation Team Members

Kimmy May
Coordinator of Philanthropic Communications
Kimmy joined the Foundation in 2020 as a development associate before transitioning to Corporate Giving manager. She now leads the Foundation's marketing area, including content creation for social media, event invitations, Philanthropy Report publication and campaign impact reports. Kimmy has a bachelor's degree in modern dance from Texas Tech University and is a CrossFit level 2 trainer.

Yvonne Mayorga
Associate of Philanthropy
Yvonne began her career at the Foundation in 1997 and retired in 2015 with vast experience in planned giving and development. She returned in October 2019 on a part-time basis, assisting with hospitality services and various projects. Yvonne and her husband were business owners after moving to Florida in 1982 from Ohio before she joined the Foundation team. In her spare time, she enjoys fitness classes and boating.

Ernestine Morgan, CFRE
President and CEO of Philanthropy
Ernestine joined the Foundation in 2001 as the special events coordinator and has held several roles, including director of Corporate Giving, director of major gifts, and vice president of development. She was named president and CEO in 2013. Ernestine received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Eckerd College and her Certified Fund-Raising Executive designation in 2010. She's also a member of the Association of Healthcare Philanthropy. Ernestine recently announced that she'll be retiring in February 2025.

Ashley Murnane
Manager of Philanthropic Events
Ashley joined the Foundation in 2021. Her duties include managing logistics for development-focused events, assisting with special events and being a liaison for external community events. Ashley also manages all event marketing collateral, which includes creating invitations, sponsorship recognition materials and programs. In her personal life, she loves spending time with her husband, daughter and newborn son.

Jane Parker
Director of Philanthropy
Jane is a graduate of Indiana University and completed postgraduate work at the University of Mississippi and Pace University in New York. Following graduation, she began a teaching career, followed by leading capital campaigns in higher education. Jane uses her philanthropic experience to focus on our major gift fund-raising. She enjoys church, family and friends, sports and traveling.

Yvonne Posey
Director of Philanthropic Relations and Board Liaison
Yvonne is originally from Kentucky and moved to Florida in 2008, joining the Foundation team shortly thereafter. She began her career as an executive assistant and the liaison to our board of directors. Yvonne recently completed her bachelor's degree at Eastern Kentucky University. She enjoys traveling with her sister and brother in-law, along with being an active member of Chapel By The Sea community church.

Meredith Reagin, CFRE
Director of Philanthropy
Meredith joined the Foundation in August 2023, focusing on corporate giving initiatives and connecting with our Corporate Associates members. She graduated from the University of Central Florida and earned her Certified Fund-Raising Executive certificate in 2021. Meredith was born at Morton Plant Hospital and enjoys playing tennis and golf, cooking and spending time with family and her dog.

Michele Schneidenbach
Director of Philanthropy
Michele Schneidenbach joined the Foundation team in 2015 with her main responsibilities focused on planned, annual and major gift donations. She also manages the Planned Giving Advisory Council and the Adler Legacy Society. Michele earned her bachelor's degree from Montclair State University and enjoys spending time with her husband and three sons, traveling and cooking.

Mary Toll
Manager of Philanthropic Recognition
Mary joined the Foundation in 2022 and is responsible for database management and donor recognition throughout the hospitals of Morton Plant Mease. Before joining the Foundation, she had a 34-year career in the hospitality industry and owned two restaurants. Mary was born at Morton Plant Hospital and is the second generation to work there, following in her father's footsteps.

Welcome New Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation Board Members

Steven L. Cass, *Wealth Advisor*
Steve Cass is a wealth advisor and certified financial planner with Truist Bank. He has over 25 years of experience working with current and retired business owners and executives, along with multigenerational wealth families who require complex investment, business succession and estate planning services. Steve joined Truist in 2000 as a portfolio manager in the personal asset management group and has served as a client advisor since 2005, coordinating a team of experts to prepare his clients for whatever life brings. In 2007, he was appointed city president of the Clearwater and North Pinellas market where, in addition to his role as a client advisor, he represented the bank in marketing and community development. Steve is a former Foundation Board of Directors chairman and currently serves on the Foundation Community Impact committee. He received his Bachelor of Science at Florida State University. Steve lives in Dunedin with his wife, Kimberly, and is a past president of the Pinellas County Estate Planning Council and a member of the Pinellas Community Foundation and Moffitt Pinellas Partners.

Lisa W. Johnson, RN
Retired Chief Nurse Executive, BayCare
Lisa Johnson has been part of BayCare for 35 years, serving in various nursing leadership roles from nurse manager at Morton Plant Hospital to vice president of Patient Services for Morton Plant Mease to finishing her career as BayCare's Chief Nurse Executive. She's the past chair of the Florida Organization of Nurse Executives Council and also holds an honorary faculty appointment within the University of South Florida's (USF) College of Nursing and is active in the USF College of Nursing Roundtable discussions. Prior affiliations include being chair of the Tampa Bay Organization of Nurse Executive Council and membership in the St. Petersburg College of Nursing Advisory Committee. Lisa previously served as the executive champion of the hospitals' team member giving campaign that raises more than $300,000 each year. She lives in Palm Harbor with her husband, Larry, and is currently a member of the Foundation's Women in Philanthropy, Planters and the Nurses Giving Society.

Welcome New Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation Board Members

James A. Ostrosky, *Management Consultant*
Jim Ostrosky is an honors graduate of Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science degree. His career spanned 37 years as a management consultant with USC Consulting Group. Jim began as an entry-level consultant in 1979 and retired in 2016 as president and co-CEO. He believes strongly in volunteering and has been actively involved with several organizations. Jim was elected to the Board of the Belleair Country Club and served as the Belleair Country Club president in 2023. In addition to volunteering, he supports the following charitable organizations: ARC, RCS, Charity Works, Friends of Island Parks, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and Concerns of Police Survivors. Jim and his wife Patricia have been involved with the Foundation since 1995 and are grateful patients of Morton Plant Hospital. They grew up near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, before moving to Florida in 1985. They live in Belleair where Jim has been president of their homeowner's association for the past five years.

Kirksak "Jay" Poonkasem, MD
Integrative Medicine
Dr. Jay Poonkasem specializes in integrative medicine as part of BayCare Medical Group. This program focuses on the individual needs of patients by helping them improve their nutrition, fitness and mental wellness. Services that may be offered include medical acupuncture, auriculotherapy, cupping, coaching, healing touch and stress management. His greatest passions are lifestyle medicine, medical acupuncture and integrative medicine. Working in the hospice field, Jay saw the long-term implications of poor lifestyle choices, including numerous chronic diseases. He believes in an integrative approach to health and wellness, taking into account the mind, body and spiritual connection and getting back to the basics of nutrition, sleep, exercise and other modalities to rebuild health through lifestyle modifications. Jay is a member of the Foundation's Spirituality and Healing in Medicine committee.

Haley B. Todsen, DO, *Emergency Medicine*
Dr. Haley Todsen has been a partner with Bay Area Emergency Physicians serving the Bardmoor Emergency Center and Morton Plant Hospital for the last 17 years. She grew up in Clearwater and attended St. Cecelia Catholic School and Clearwater Central Catholic High School. Haley's educational background started with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Florida State University. She then attended the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Kansas City University, followed by an emergency medicine residency at Michigan State University. Haley serves on the board of Bay Area Emergency Physicians as the director of Recruitment and Business Development. She's a graduate of the Physician Leadership Institute. Haley always knew she wanted to return to the area and work with BayCare. She lives in Belleair Beach with her husband and 11-year-old son. Haley has served on the Planters executive committee in the past and is a former Skip Cline Society member.

Ruth L. duPont, *Emeritus Member*
Ruthy duPont and her husband, Tommy, are Foundation Benefactors. Their journey of involvement with the Foundation began in May of 1976, when they moved to Tampa Bay with their three daughters. As a former Foundation board member, she's also a member of Women in Philanthropy, has volunteered on Morton Plant Hospital's oncology floor and chaired the duPont Family Challenge and Foundation's Campaign to Transform Cancer Care that raised $10 million. Perhaps what's nearest to Ruthy's heart has been chairing Planters and supporting the Lois Odence Endowment, which is named in memory of her mother and provides need-based scholarships for aspiring nurses at our hospitals. Since its inception, the Lois Odence Endowment has awarded over $450,000 to more than 200 nursing students.

2023: Our Impact by the Numbers

$9,600,000
Total granted in 2023

450
Bereavement resources distributed to families

4
Hospitals served

40
Patients enrolled in a medical fitness program

25
Adult cancer survivors attended Living Springs Retreat

100
Car seats donated that grow with an infant into childhood

13
Lois Odence Nursing Scholarships awarded

318
Underserved patients treated by the Mammography Voucher Program

6,700
Patients touched by the palliative care program

524
Patients seen at Madonna Ptak Center for Alzheimer's and Memory Loss

200
Home sleep tests purchased for the Sleep Disorders Clinic

Donor Bill of Rights

Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. It's a tradition of giving and sharing that's primary to the quality of life. To ensure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the nonprofit organizations and causes they're asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

I. To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes

II. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities

III. To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements

IV. To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given

V. To receive appropriate acknowledgment and recognition

VI. To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law

VII. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature

VIII. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors

IX. To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share

X. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers

The Donor Bill of Rights was created by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP), the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), and the Giving Institute: Leading Consultants to Non-Profits.

Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation

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mpmhcfoundation@baycare.org

Mission

Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation is committed to supporting the hospitals of Morton Plant Mease and improving the health and wellness of our community by inspiring people to invest in innovative, cutting-edge programs/technology delivered by compassionate care.

Vision

Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation will be the leader in promoting initiatives that deliver innovative health care in Pasco and Pinellas counties. We will be a catalyst for improving the health of the communities we serve.

Values

The values of the Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation family are integrity, respect, responsibility, trust and excellence.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services on their website (fdacs.Gov/consumerservices) or at (800) 435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state. Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation, Florida registration #ch321, receives 100% of all contributions and does not use professional fund-raising solicitors. Please write, email or call us if you wish to have your name removed from the list to receive fund-raising requests supporting the hospitals of Morton Plant Mease Health Care and their affiliates.

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