

# FOUNDATION insider

## Donors Support Patients, Frontline Workers, and Vaccine Clinics in Fight against COVID-19

Donors contributed over \$400,000 to the COVID-19 Assistance Fund in 2020. Funds enabled Washington Health System to:

- Support our nurses and frontline staff as they care for COVID-19 patients
- Purchase Remdesivir and other necessary medications to treat COVID-19 patients
- Expand our diagnostic and testing capacity in Washington and Waynesburg
- Purchase essential equipment and protective gear, including N95 masks, general PPE, and other protective equipment
- Purchase new disinfecting equipment and products
- Expand the number of beds for COVID-19 patients and equip these rooms with necessary treatment supplies
- Expand telemedicine capabilities
- Operate vaccine clinics at Washington Crown Center, Peters Township Recreation Center and WHS Greene



### The COVID-19 Assistance Fund



## SPRING 2021



### In this Issue:

Donors Help School of Nursing Pivot to Remote Learning during COVID-19

Spooktacular See Saw Marathon: Teens Mobilize Community Donors to Keep Common Ground Teen Center Open

Sparking Improvements in our Health System

TCC Donation Helps Keep Families Connected During COVID Visitation Restrictions

## Letter from the Executive Director

**Heroes.** Who are they? What do they look like? What do they do? What do they wear? Do you envision a person in a cape? Wearing a mask? Flying in to save the day?

I think of heroes that do not wear capes...

Over the past year, the phrase **Health Care Heroes** has been coined to honor those who have given selflessly during the COVID-19 pandemic. I cannot think of a more fitting description. You may associate this term with doctors and nurses who have put their own safety, and that of their family, in jeopardy to care for us. Yet the term is much broader in its meaning. A **Health Care Hero** is anyone working in a health care setting. This could be a nurse, doctor, housekeeper, maintenance worker, food service worker, and more. These individuals work together each day to ensure your health, wellness and safety.

In this edition of the Foundation Insider, you will see examples of **Washington Health System Health Care Heroes**. You will also learn about donors like you who support our team's efforts to care for patients. We consider you a **Health Care Hero** for supporting us during this pandemic and every day.

**Thank you for your generosity. I hope you enjoy learning more about WHS Foundation and how your support helps move our health system forward.**

Sincerely,



Sara Schumacher, CFRE  
*Executive Director*

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In 2020, COVID-19 forced WHS School of Nursing to pivot the delivery of the curriculum - adapting lectures, testing, and clinical experiences - to a virtual reality... and it worked. Students adapted well, and there was no stoppage of the program.

Donors helped make faculty and student success possible. School of Nursing alumni helped purchase all-in-one computers for faculty, iPads for students, and software to facilitate remote instruction and testing during 2020 campus shutdowns. When school re-opened, students were back to learn

and complete clinical experiences in the hospital – clinical experiences that no other class of student nurses ever had.

The school has also received CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund grants to provide emergency financial aid to students and help purchase additional technology and equipment.

Founded in 1897, WHS School of Nursing proudly claims over 4,000 alumni and a reputation for a quality nursing program. For more information on the school, visit <https://whs.org/school-of-nursing/>.



## WHS Greene CHF Program receives CFGC grant

The WHS Greene Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) Program has expanded to enroll additional CHF patients in the once-a-week clinic thanks to a grant from the Community Fund of the Community Foundation of Greene County. The grant helped purchase supplies for the self-management bundles that each patient receives. As part of the CHF Clinic, two Heart Failure Navigators provide education and support to enrolled patients by telephone, helping patients monitor their weight, blood pressure, and medicine compliance. The program's goal is to prevent Emergency Department visits or hospital stays due to their chronic disease so CHF patients can maintain, improve, and enjoy their quality of life.

## Spooktacular See Saw Marathon: Teens Mobilize Community Donors to Keep Common Ground Teen Center Open

Washington County teens put together a unique and successful fundraiser – a see saw marathon - when funding for the Common Ground Teen Center in Washington was threatened in Fall 2020. Over 325 people donated over \$55,000 to keep the Center open.

The 24-hour See Saw Marathon was held October 30-31. It was a joint project of the WHS Foundation Students Helping Others Committee and the WHS Teen Outreach Peer Education program. Amy Podgurski-Gough, WHS Teen Outreach Community Coordinator, suggested the idea and provided support during the teen-run event.

“Our annual budget to operate the Teen Center is \$106,000. We received only \$25,000 for the first six months of the year,” Dr. Mary Jo Podgurski, Teen Outreach Executive Director, explained.

Alumni of the Center and Peer Educator programs donated, wrote testimonials, and volunteered during the See Saw Marathon. Teens of all ages donated in sums of \$10 - \$50 – a large gift from their often-limited means.

The Common Ground Teen Center is an incredibly successful, teen-driven center - a space created for and by young people, where all young people are respected. Young people run the Center with supervision by young adult alumni and students from W & J College. The Center hosts bi-monthly events like Rock the Vote, Art Night for the community, Games Night, Peer Education, Parent/Youth Programming, Respect Online workshops, and more. Dr. Podgurski opened the Center in 2008. In 12 years, over 2,500 unique teens have attended for over 33,000 visits!



Thank you for all you do to keep the community well & safe! You are real life super heroes!”

Mark Emerson, *Community Member*

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Every day, employees at WHS perform amazing acts of kindness. Another way our employees care for patients and their families is through the annual Employee Giving Campaign, "Giving Feels Good." Last fall, WHS employees generously contributed \$102,278.69 to support the programs and services listed below:

- Area of Greatest Need
- Children's Therapy Center
- Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) Program
- Donnell House
- Employee Assistance Fund
- Patient Assistance Fund
- Teen Outreach
- WHS Greene

Employee contributions have a significant impact on the health and well-being of our community. Since 1989, WHS Employees have donated nearly \$2.5 million back to the hospital and its programs.

Thank you to our  
extraordinary  
employees!



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July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2020

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## Mrs. Amy A. Paul

Ms. Roberta Anne Bonnet

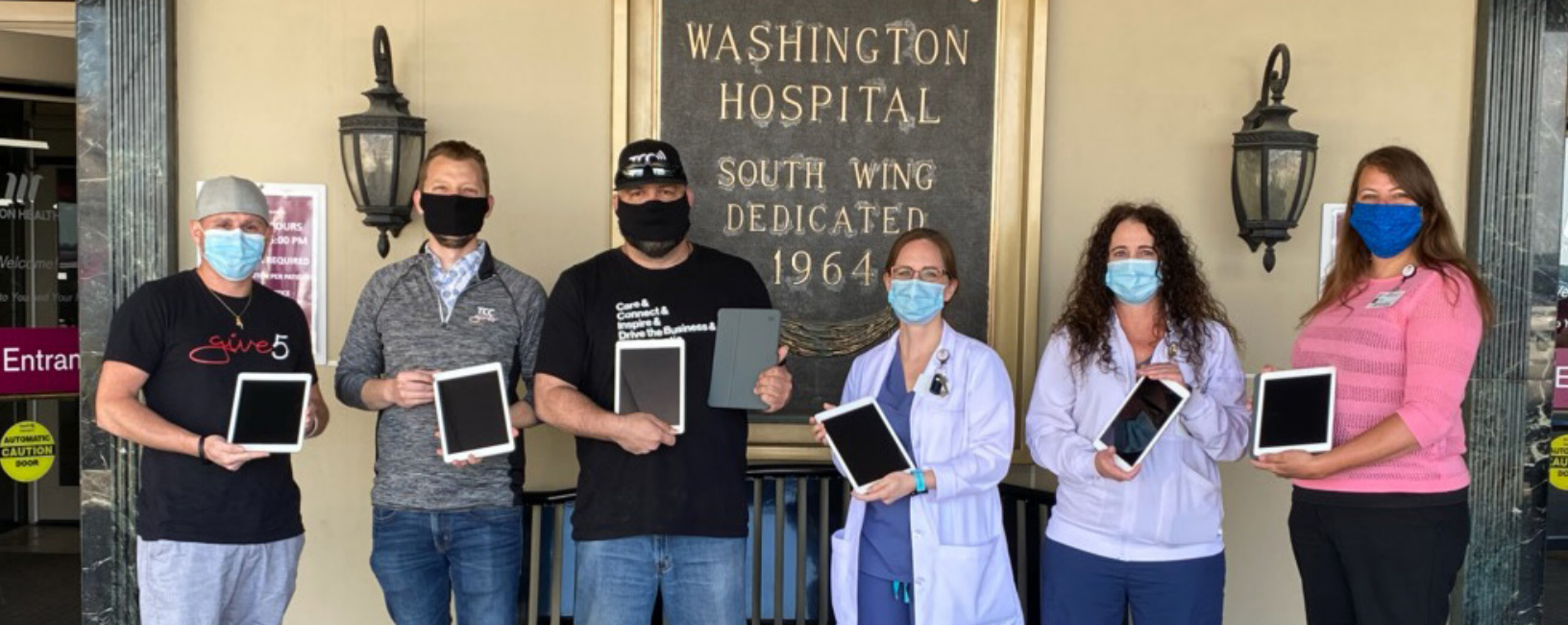
## Mary Jo Podgurski, Ph.D.

Anonymous

Gordon and Lois Core

Mrs. Rachel H. Gladden

Paychex



## TCC Donation Helps Keep Families Connected During COVID Visitation Restrictions

WHS received a generous donation which included 30 iPads and cases, from TCC, Verizon Authorized Retailer, & TCC Gives.

Dr. Sarah Scott Dietz (pictured in photo) initiated a conversation with Shane King, District Manager at TCC regarding a potential donation, and was blown away with their response. Regarding the donation, Dr. Dietz said, "This will have a great impact on many patients and their families in our Health System."

When visitation was suspended to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, TCC's donation enabled families to stay connected with their families. Not only are families able to "see" their loved ones, hospital staff is able to interact with families, keeping them updated on their loved one's progress.

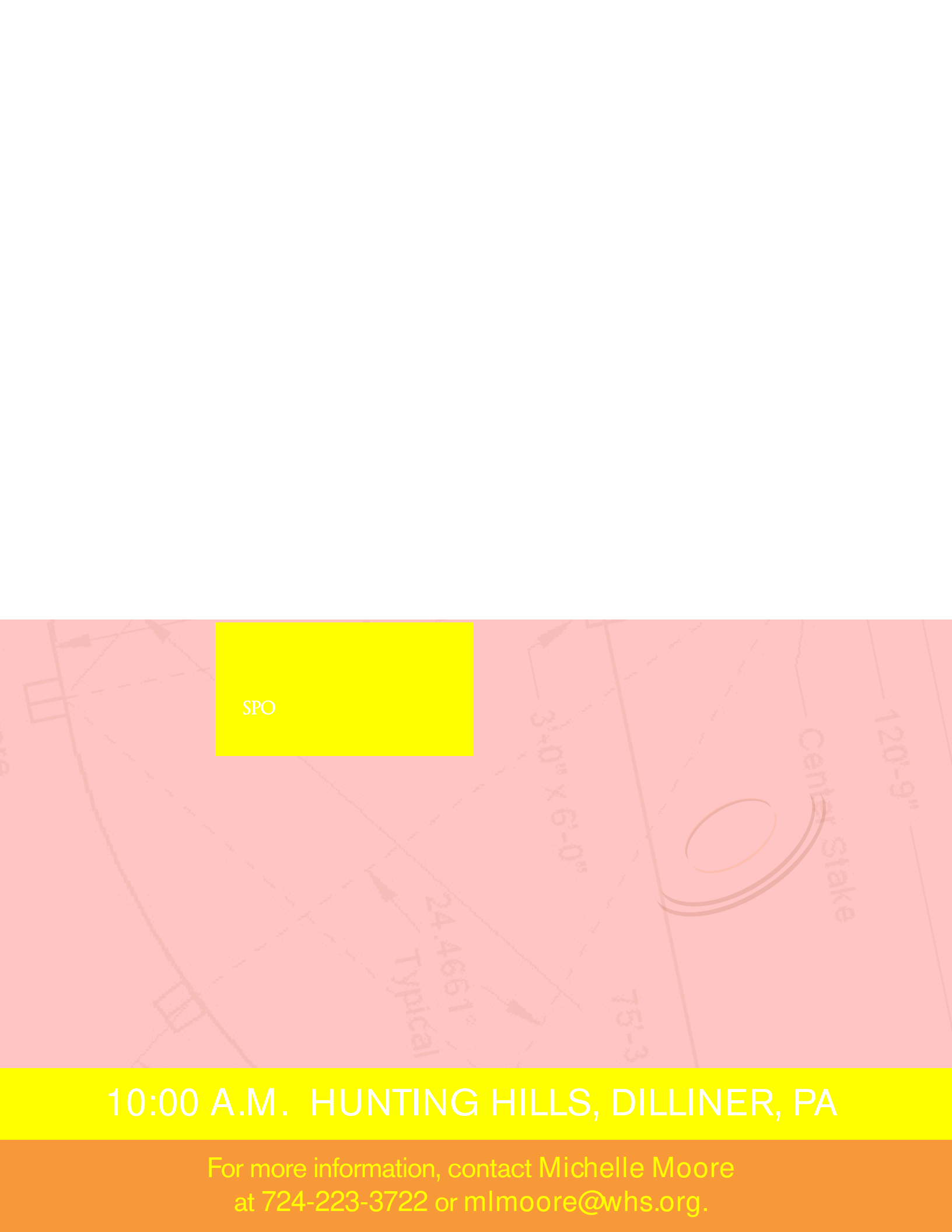


## West Tire donates tires to WHS employee's family

West Tire & Auto Center partnered with one of their tire distributors, Tire Hub, for Project Joy Ride. Melissa West, co-owner of West Tire said, "We found Project Joy Ride to be one way for us to give back to essential workers that have worked so hard throughout the Covid-19 pandemic in our community. We made the decision to pick an essential worker that had a need that we could assist with and could use a financial break. We immediately contacted WHS in search of a recipient knowing the effort that WHS employees had been putting forth through COVID."

The recipient of the tires was Karen Quinn, whose husband, Tom, recently passed away after battling COVID-19. Tom was a long-time employee of Washington Health System, having worked in the Maintenance department for 14 years.

West Tire & Auto has been in Washington since 1962 and is continuously looking for ways to give back to our community.



SPO

3'-0" x 6'-0"

Center Stake

120'-9"

24.4661'

Typical

75'-3"

10:00 A.M. HUNTING HILLS, DILLINER, PA

For more information, contact Michelle Moore  
at 724-223-3722 or [mlmoore@whs.org](mailto:mlmoore@whs.org).