

December 2018  
Munson Healthcare Foundations

Inside:  
*Our Largest Expansion Project to Date*  
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# FOCUS



Brothers Steve and Kevin Johnson, owners of Johnson Oil Company in Gaylord, are honoring their late father with a gift to Munson Healthcare Otsego Memorial Hospital. The family and the business gave \$750,000 to the hospital for its new emergency department. The Dale E. Johnson Emergency Department is part of an overall \$15 million renovation and expansion project at OMH. The project is expected to be completed by December 2019.

# Gaylord Businessmen and Brothers Honor Father with Gift to Otsego Memorial Hospital



Dale and Beverly Johnson in front of the original Johnson Oil Company service station. (Right) Steve and Kevin Johnson.

**This gift was the single largest gift in the history of the Otsego Memorial Hospital Foundation and was the cornerstone of the capital campaign. The OMH emergency department will proudly be renamed The Dale E. Johnson Emergency Department to honor their generosity.**

Kim Biddinger, Leadership Giving Officer,  
Munson Healthcare Foundations

Each morning, around 9 o'clock, Steve and Kevin Johnson joined their dad, Dale, for a cup of coffee and conversation at Diana's Delights in their northern Michigan hometown of Gaylord. After starting the day at the office, the trio took a coffee break at this downtown fixture.

Over breakfast, the sons heard their father share "the same stories over and over again," as the brothers recalled with a smile – stories of growing up part of a farming family on the outskirts of Gaylord, of dropping out of school in the seventh grade to do his part on the farm, to later raising a family of his own in this working-class town, not long after serving as a staff sergeant during the Korean War, and of slowly building an expansive oil and gas company that began with a single service station.

Steve and Kevin, who now operate Johnson Oil Company, say it was their late father's humble beginnings, strong work ethic, and giving spirit that helped shape them as individuals and business owners. To honor him, they decided to give back to the com-

munity they all have loved so much, with a gift of \$750,000 toward the renovation of the Munson Healthcare Otsego Memorial Hospital Emergency Department.

"This gift was the single largest gift in the history of the OMH Foundation and was the cornerstone of the capital campaign," said Kim Biddinger, Leadership Giving Officer with the Foundation. "The OMH Emergency Department will proudly be renamed The Dale E. Johnson Emergency Department to honor their generosity."

## **Building a Business**

The brothers recalled how their father, upon returning from the war and learning his previous job was no longer available, took out a loan to open a service station in 1954. He worked hard to pay off the loan as quickly as he could, his sons said.

"He was just very humble – that's just the way our dad was," said Kevin, 53. "I think what happens, when you're self-made, you go get that loan, and then everything is, 'How many gallons of gas do I need to sell to pay for dinner tonight? How much do I need

to sell to pay for this?’ And still to this day, I think, if I get a new truck, we’ve got to sell this many gallons of propane or whatever it is to pay for it. That was the mentality when you build it from nothing. I think it’s important that Steve and I grew up with that. It’s tough when you get to the third and fourth generations that didn’t see that dedication and didn’t put as much work into it, to get it to the level to be successful. My dad would always say to us, it took 50 years to get it to this level. You boys can lose it in two if you’re not careful.”

Today, Johnson Oil Company includes home fuel oil delivery, propane delivery, and additional gas stations, convenience stores, and Johnson Oil card fuel centers in Gaylord as well as Lewiston, Kalkaska, Grayling, Petoskey, Boyne City, Waters, and Lake City.



### **Commitment to His Community**

Supporting Gaylord and its residents was important to Dale Johnson, who died in 2004 at Otsego Memorial Hospital following a battle with pancreatic cancer. Though he’d never let on to others, his sons knew that he often helped families in need stay warm throughout winter.

“He would have someone call, saying they’re out of fuel oil,” said Steve, 62. “They didn’t pay their bill and that’s why they don’t have fuel. But they have two little kids in the house. It was 10 o’clock at night and he didn’t call somebody. He got into the truck himself and drove out there and took him 100 gallons of fuel.” “Knowing he wasn’t going to get paid for it,” Kevin added.

“He couldn’t stand to have those kids being cold,” Steve said. “It’s not the kids’ fault,’ – that’s what he would always say.”

### **Honoring a Humble Man**

Communities are stronger when high quality health care services are available, and Steve and Kevin wanted to do their part in ensuring this is the case in their hometown.

“Steve and I have been so committed, even through the tough times, to make [the family business] work because of our dad and his heritage,” Kevin said. “Our dad would probably be, I know for a fact, embarrassed to have his name on the front of a hospital because he was such a humble person. He’d be honored but at the same time feel awkward. But we got to make that decision and we’re really proud of a seventh grade drop-out who worked so hard that we’re able to give something back to the community.”

“And as we get older, it’s important we have good health care in our community,” he said. “That seemed like the most logical place to give to, to give to health care, for the people in our community.”



In September 2016, Otsego Memorial Hospital leaders announced a \$15 million renovation and expansion project of the Emergency Department, Surgery, and Ambulatory Care Departments. The OMH Foundation began the “quiet phase” of its fundraising campaign in November of 2015 and has since reached its \$4 million goal, said Kim Biddinger, Leadership Giving Officer with the Foundation. Local businesses, community members, and OMH employees and auxiliary members all contributed to this project.

“This \$15 million project includes 17,000 square feet of heavy renovation and 15,000 square feet of new construction,” Biddinger said. “It will increase the size of the Emergency Department, Ambulatory Care, and Surgery Departments.” The expansion also will increase the number of exam rooms in the Emergency Department from 12 to 18, including two new trauma bays. It will also add a new and larger operating room to accommodate the da Vinci® surgical system for minimally invasive robotic-assisted surgeries. Ambulatory Care will change to all private patient rooms, enhancing privacy and security.

*Phase 1 of this project will be complete next month, with the overall project expected to be complete in December 2019.*

# A Big Launch for Munson Healthcare Foundations



Munson Healthcare Foundations has launched a public fundraising campaign for Munson Medical Center’s largest expansion project to date, which began this fall.

This campaign aims to generate support and donations for the next expansion of services at Munson Medical Center — health care services that will help community members of all ages and at every stage of life throughout our health care system. The project is estimated to cost \$80 million. Our fundraising goal is \$36 million, with \$27 million raised so far.

## *This project includes:*

- Constructing a new Family Birth and Children’s Center consisting of a neonatal intensive care unit as well as maternity and pediatrics units
- Expanding surgical services and cardiovascular services
- Growing our regional cancer care
- Enhancing services in the areas of patient needs and community health, and updating Munson Manor Hospitality House

## **A hub of family-oriented care**

Once complete, the \$36.8 million Family Birth and Children’s Center will serve all of northern Michigan — replacing an aging facility with outdated specialty units for maternity, neonatal intensive care, and pediatric care.

The new Family Birth and Children’s Center will serve as a hub of family-oriented, team-delivered care. Here’s what it will include:

- A new 15,750-square-foot **Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)**, providing space and technology required for the advanced care that our babies and their families need in a setting that promotes privacy and comfort. Last year, 330 critically ill infants were cared for in the Munson Medical Center Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Ours is the only NICU north of Grand Rapids.
- A 33,000-square-foot **Maternity Unit** to meet the needs of northern Michigan families as they experience one of life’s greatest events — the birth of their child. Patients in our Maternity Unit typically give high marks to the care they receive, but note that the facility is lacking. The unit is greatly outdated and often filled to capacity, causing many new mothers and their newborns to be moved to another unit shortly after birth. About 2,000 babies are born at Munson Medical Center each year.
- A family-centered approach to care will be at the heart of our new, child-friendly 11,200-square-foot **Pediatrics Unit**. Munson Medical Center provides “intermediate pediatric care,” meaning a higher level of care than a community hospital, but short of the

intensive care provided at a children's hospital. We most often treat children who are hospitalized with respiratory disease, trauma, ingestion, infection, or childhood illness. Munson Medical Center does not have a dedicated Pediatrics Unit. Hospitalized children are cared for on a unit that also cares for adults recovering from surgery — this is not ideal for patients, families, or staff. Munson Medical Center is becoming a regional center for pediatric care in northern Michigan as the number of pediatric patients and the level of care being offered is increasing.

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## Why I Give

**"I've been a long-time contributor to this fundraising campaign as it is an opportunity to give back for all the blessings in our lives. These expanded areas of service at Munson have touched us all in some way by serving our patients, community, and our own families. I am proud to be a part of that effort."**

—Margaret M. Podworski, Clinical Pharmacist, Munson Medical Center

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### A better patient experience

MMC's 17 operating rooms are reaching full capacity, which can cause longer wait times for patients and delayed care. Expanding surgical services space will allow us to fulfill our commitment to delivering the right care at the right time, in the right place.

Having adequate operating room space also will boost recruitment of surgeons and physicians. It's critical that we update our facilities to provide the best patient care and remain competitive in recruiting outstanding health care professionals.

Plans call for building four new operating rooms and upgrading two existing rooms. In addition, the estimated \$30.4 million surgical services expansion will include the purchase of an additional da Vinci® robotic surgical system, which allows surgeons to perform complex procedures through just a few tiny incisions — roughly the diameter of a pencil.

### Improved heart care throughout northern Michigan

Cardiovascular disease accounts for 17 percent of our nation's health care expenditures and is the leading cause of death in the U.S. — someone dies from heart disease, stroke, or other cardiovascular disease every 43 seconds. Our beautiful region is popular among retirees, who look to us for advanced cardiovascular services. Munson Healthcare currently provides outpatient clinics at 10 sites throughout northern Michigan.

Expansion plans call for adding more well-equipped clinics close to local Munson Healthcare hospitals, with the capability of electronically connecting to the Webber Heart Center at Munson Medical Center. At a cost of \$4.1 million, the expansion will include new outpatient clinics, diagnostic equipment, catheter lab updates, and information technology enhancements.

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## Why I Give

**"My wife and I gave to the Family Birth and Children's Center because my daughter gave birth 11 weeks early and experienced great care in very trying times. It was evident to us that more room is needed for neonatal care. I also donate through payroll deduction for the Hospice House to support the important care they give."**

—James Dudek, Power Plant Operator, Munson Medical Center

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### Enhanced cancer care for our region

The Cowell Family Cancer Center, which opened in 2016, serves individuals living within a 24-county area of northern lower Michigan. Patients, families, and providers benefit from the expertise of the staff, the support services, and the advanced technologies available at our center.

The estimated \$3.9 million improvements to cancer care will include meeting ongoing needs for programs and services such as financial assistance to patients, advanced technologies, and new software. Expansion of our cancer research program is also part of that plan.

If you are interested in supporting this project or would like more information, please contact Kelli Kaberle, Munson Healthcare Foundations Leadership Giving Officer, at **231-935-7901** or **kcravey@mhc.net**.

## Community Events: Having So Much Fun for a Cause



The 3rd annual **Mohawks for Munson**, held May 19 at North Peak Brewing Company, raised nearly \$15,000. The event supports our local cancer community and the Cowell Family Cancer Center at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City.

This family-friendly event features a BBQ, live music, free Moomers ice cream, a bounce house, face painting, crafts for kids, Mohawk shaving, and a faux-hawk styling station for kids. All participants get mohawks shaved at our event to show off all their hard-working fundraising efforts and as a symbol of their support of local cancer patients.

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors who make this event possible: The Larkin Group; Traverse City State Bank; Bulldogs Barbershop; The Hair Code; Moomers Ice Cream; Underground Printing; and Custom Stems.



The 15th annual **Munson Healthcare Cadillac Hospital Golf Ball** took place June 8, 2018 at the Cadillac Country Club. About 130 golfers participated, helping raise \$30,000 for the Rzepka Family Pediatric Fund and new equipment for Munson Healthcare Urgent Care.



The 29th annual **Munson Healthcare Grayling Hospital Golf Classic** took place June 15 at the Grayling Country Club and raised more than \$19,000.



The 21st annual **Munson Healthcare Otsego Memorial Hospital Foundation Golf Outing** took place June 14 at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. This is the premier fundraising event for the OMH Foundation, and this year's event registered 260 golfers and raised more than \$96,000 to support programs and services for patients at OMH. Golfers enjoyed both the Fazio Premier and Smith Signature courses on a beautiful, sunny day.

The Foundation would like to extend a special thank you to Fifth Third Bank, the premier event sponsor, along with new and returning sponsors and golfers, and the volunteers who helped make the event a success. Since inception, the golf outing has raised more than \$1 million in support of the patients and communities served by OMH.

The event concluded with an awards banquet luncheon and raffle. Prizes included overnight stays on Mackinac Island, Detroit Lions tickets, a Bennethum's Northern Inn wine dinner, and more, all generously donated to the Foundation.



The 8th Annual **Chip in Fore Munson Hospice**, presented by Schmuckal Oil Co. and LochenHeath Golf Club, raised \$152,000 for Munson Hospice. The event took place Sept. 20-21 at LochenHeath Golf Club.

# Community Events: Having So Much Fun for a Cause

The 6th annual **Power of the Purse** took place Aug. 16 at the Cherry Grove Event Center in Cadillac and featured 250 participants and 200 raffled and auctioned purses. A \$1,000 pink gem from Wexford Jewelers was given away to one lucky winner. The \$27,000 raised went directly to the Family Birth Center at Cadillac Hospital for the purchase of a new infant warmer and infant bassinets.



The 11th Annual **Paint the Town Pink** event on Oct. 4 raised nearly \$13,000 for women's services at Munson Healthcare Manistee Hospital. Nearly 300 people attended the event along the Manistee Riverwalk.

Community members could purchase bows in honor of a loved one to display throughout downtown leading up to the event.



**Munson Healthcare Foundations** kicked off a comprehensive fundraising campaign for the largest expansion in Munson Medical Center's history on Aug. 30 in the Park Place Hotel's new conference and events center. This \$36 million campaign will support the new Family Birth and Children's Center, surgery services, cancer and cardiovascular care, and enhancements to community health and wellness services.

Judson Laipply, an inspirational comedian best known for his YouTube hit "The Evolution of Dance," performed, and remarks were given by Munson Healthcare President and CEO Ed Ness, Munson Healthcare COO and Munson Medical Center President Al Pilong, and Munson Healthcare Foundations Chief Development Officer Des Worthington. More than 200 people attended the event.





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## You Can Make the Gift of a Lifetime

Did you know that you can create a legacy at Munson Healthcare without changing your will or parting with any assets now?

You can designate your Munson Healthcare local hospital or Munson Hospice as a beneficiary of your retirement plan assets. You do not need to modify your will or living trust, and you can name Munson Healthcare as the sole beneficiary or one of several. This allows you to give while still providing for family or loved ones.

If you are over 70-1/2 years of age and do not need your required minimum distribution, you can make a tax free gift from your traditional IRA. Thanks to a tax law extension passed in December 2015, the "IRA Charitable Rollover" option has become permanent. You can transfer up to \$100,000; it must come directly from your IRA administrator to the Munson Healthcare Foundations. The gift will not be taxed as income to you.

Staff members at Munson Healthcare Foundations are available to answer your questions about gifts of retirement assets. Please contact us at 231-935-6448 or [legacy@mhc.net](mailto:legacy@mhc.net).

## Legacy Society Members

*The Legacy Society represents a list of donors who have named Paul Oliver Foundation or Munson Healthcare Foundations in their will or estate plans to support Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, Munson Hospice, Munson Medical Center, or Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital. It also includes those who have made a Charitable Gift Annuity or other life income arrangement. If interested in becoming a Legacy Society member, call our office of Legacy Giving at 231-935-6448.*

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Jay & Judy Zrimec

# Leaving a Legacy

By Glenn C. Zaring, Munson Healthcare Donor



Glenn Zaring

“So, we agree? We leave it all to Munson, right?” In the fall of 2017, this was the conclusion of a conversation I had with my wife Catherine. The

discussion centered on getting our act together with our final wishes. She said, “Yes, let’s put the money where it will do people good.”

Having retired in 2016, we decided it was a good time for a conversation regarding our end of life. I was 70 years old and Catherine was 63. Not too old by today’s standards, but definitely time to be realistic about the fact that our string was going to be up before too long.

We didn’t realize at the time how prophetic those thoughts were.

In early 2018, Catherine was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer, which metastasized to her brain. She passed away in May after a brief, intense struggle with the disease. She was a trouper to the end and had a bit of a Facebook “final journey with God.” Catherine kept a running journal of her impending passing as a testament to her faith ... a journey which has served as a wonderful witness for others.

As a long-time board member with our Munson Healthcare Manistee Hospital Foundation (formerly West Shore Hospital Foundation) and then on our board of trustees through the time we joined with Munson Healthcare, it only seemed natural to me to honor those joint wishes and become a Legacy Donor

for the Munson Healthcare family.

My family had a long-term relationship with Munson Healthcare. My father, G. Franklin Zaring, DO, my mother Inez Lee, and my wonderful stepfather Eugene Courtade all had spent time relying upon the hospital and receiving wonderful care. Across the board of Munson Healthcare services, we had been well taken care of.

It has always been a comfort knowing of the level of professional, compassionate care available here in our area. Knowing we could help support that care and the wonderful system made our decision easy.

Our estate is not a large one, but it will help. And that is the message I wish to convey here. Yes, we and our insurance agencies pay for our care, but there is more to consider. With us, our family is pretty much gone. So instead of leaving property for remaining family (and lawyers) to carve up, we decided to be proactive and put the money in a place to support something good in our lives.

Munson Healthcare does just that. The whole system works very hard to help the residents in our area. The entire health care team, in essence, is our extended family. This was a no-brainer decision for us. We love Michigan, particularly our little community of Manistee. We hope that others, upon hearing our story, also consider helping out a wonderful health care system.

***Glenn Zaring is a board member with Munson Healthcare Manistee Hospital and is a writer, columnist, and consultant. He is a retired office of public affairs director.***

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Rendering of the new Manistee Community Health Center

## Opening Soon!

The new Manistee Community Health Center is in the final stages of construction, with plans to open the fitness center this month and medical services in early January. Construction of the 45,000-square foot building began in September of last year.

The facility is a result of the partnership with Munson Healthcare and is being funded by the commitment Munson Healthcare made with Manistee County when it took ownership of the hospital.

It'll house several provider offices – Manistee General Surgery, Manistee Neurology, Manistee Orthopedics, and Manistee Urology – as well as Rehabilitation Services (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy), Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, and the full-service fitness center, Manistee Health and Fitness (formerly the Health Connection). Some administrative staff also will move to this building.

The Foundation contributed to this project by helping raise funds for equipment and other items.