Via Christi Hospital will unveil upgrades to Emergency Room during ribbon-cutting ceremony

After six months of construction and remodeling, Via Christi Hospital will unveil its new look during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 8 a.m. Nov. 16.

Via Christi’s ER, which hasn’t seen any upgrades in about 15 years, sees more than 15,000 patients each year. After the six-month, $846,000 project, Via Christi Hospital’s Emergency Department is almost completely upgraded. Upgrades include the addition of three “fast track” rooms, creating a safe space for patients with behavioral health needs and a full-scale face lift of most of the department.

“The upgrades not only benefit our emergency room team, but also our patients,” said Naomi Powers, RN, director of the ER. “Our ligature resistive room, which is used for our behavioral health patients, has been completely remodeled to ensure that patients can’t hurt themselves while in our care.

“In addition, about a third of our patients are what we would consider non-urgent, which means they often face longer wait times when trauma patients and those with emergent needs come in,” she continued.

The addition of the fast-track rooms brings the total number of treatment rooms to 13, which will result in a better patient flow and workflow for providers, Powers explained. Fast-track rooms will be used for patients with less urgent needs and will help get them in and out much quicker.

The renovation project was funded by the Mount Carmel Foundation’s fundraising efforts, according to Johnna Norton, executive director of the Mount Carmel Foundation.

“With an anonymous gift of $100,000, the Mount Carmel Foundation raised more than $250,000 during its fundraising efforts to help pay for this renovation project,” Norton added. “When you need emergency care, you want it to be high quality and updated. Our ER is designated as a Level III Trauma Center and is there to care for our most critical patients.

“The Foundation is proud to support a project that has a great impact on our community,” she said. “This project was made possible by our amazing community members and businesses and we can’t thank all of them enough.”

For more information about Via Christi Hospital in Pittsburg, visit viachristi.org/pittsburg.

Department Grants Program: Celebrating five years of success

The Mount Carmel Foundation has allocated up to $47,476 to department grants for 2018. There are exciting opportunities to help patient care in our hospital and also to assist associates in doing their work. Since the program inception in 2014, over $240,000 has been allocated to department grants which are needs identified by associates and directors. Thank you to all our associates and our foundation supporters who make these grants possible.

- Helping Hands Fund – Associate Assistance
- Personal Protective Equipment Supply Caddies
- Case Carts (Surgery Center)
- Patient Transport Stretchers (Ambulatory Care)
- Brain Injury Visual Assessment Battery (Rehabilitation Services)
- Arctic Sun Temperature System Pads (ICU)
- Patient Bed with Scale (Emergency Department)
- Upper Body Extremity Machine (Cardiac Rehab/Heart Center)
- Wound Specialist Certification (Wound Care)
- CPR Monitor (ICU)
- Employee of the Month and FUNding Our Team
- Prescription Assistance Program
- Transportation Assistance Program
- Diabetic Supplies Assistance Program

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Mount Carmel Foundation: Mission Statement

To secure and extend financial assistance to the operation, maintenance, facilities and services of Via Christi Hospital in Pittsburg, and to contribute to healthcare and maintenance of the people of southeast Kansas and the surrounding region.

2018-19 Board of Directors

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Our awesome associates and medical staff are taking care of our patients every day and supporting our foundation. We have a great team who already has raised $24,649 with 47% of all associates giving and associates can continue to give until December 31, 2018 to count towards this campaign. This shows our associates believe in our hospital and how the foundation supports their work each day. We ask our community to also believe and support by giving to the foundation.

“I know my gift will be used to make a difference in the care we provide to our community. The Mount Carmel Foundation makes a direct impact, I love that the funds stay right here!! I feel invested in our community, our facility, and our patients when I give back. The department grants provide an opportunity for service areas to identify needs specific to their programs- I am amazed each year at the amount distributed!!

-Julie Ibeh BSN, RN
Clinical Programs Coordinator

Emerald Anniversary: 35th Annual Gala

Gala underwriter opportunities are available from $1,750 to $5,000 that would include a table and many more amenities. All levels of donations are accepted including items for the live and silent auction. Contact the foundation for more information and to sign-up to support this important event.

For more information or to purchase tickets, search “Mount Carmel Foundation” at www.eventbrite.com.

Join us for our

Emerald Anniversary
Mount Carmel Foundation 35th Annual Gala
Saturday, January 26, 2019
Jack H. Overman Student Center Ballroom
Pittsburg State University

$150 per person
Cocktails 6 p.m. | Dinner 7 p.m.
Dancing 9 p.m. - Midnight
Black Tie Optional
Entertainment by “KC Lost Wax”
Live Auction | Silent Auction

Hosts:
Dr. Brett and Mrs. Clare Dunbar
Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Lacey O’Brien
Mr. Vince and Mrs. Theresa VanBecelaere

Associate Campaign: Team Via Christi All In as Champion Givers
Summer Nursing Externship: Planning for the future of nursing in Southeast Kansas

Nursing student externship programs give students a chance to investigate different specialty areas. They offer tremendous opportunities for personal, academic, and professional growth. They are designed to increase clinical confidence and competence of nursing students. The students can observe and participate in a variety of clinical experiences. Benefits include: hands-on practical education, experience working with health care professionals, gaining an inside perspective on full-time employment opportunities, and improved critical thinking. Students also learn necessary skills like teamwork, communication, and delegation. Additionally, externship programs serve as a great recruitment tool by identifying students who display attributes and possess values that align with our organization and encouraging them to seek full-time employment at the hospital. Via Christi Health Pittsburg is seeking funding to start an externship program. The current proposal for the program and request for funding is $9,575 for summer 2019 which would include four students working 36 hours per week for seven weeks.

In the past twelve months, Via Christi has experienced a challenge in recruiting nurses to work in the hospital. We are losing nursing students to hospitals who offer externship programs. Additionally, the nursing work force is aging; and we are experiencing a nursing shortage nationwide. The externship program will provide us with a new avenue to bring qualified nurses to our hospital. The students, hospital, and community would all benefit from an externship program. The students would gain valuable experiences; the hospital would have a great recruitment pool; and the community would gain good nurses to our hospital and beyond. Great nurses are a significant factor in great healthcare for a community and would improve the quality of life for those who live in and around Southeast Kansas. If you have any interest in donating to this program, please contact the Mount Carmel Foundation.

Helen Kriegsman Memorial Scholarship: Providing a legacy through our youth

Logan Sandifer is originally from Ashland, Missouri and in 2015 moved to Frontenac, Kansas. He graduated from Frontenac High School in 2018. He is now a freshman at Pittsburg State University located in Pittsburg, Kansas majoring in plastics engineering technology with a minor in business. He decided to major in plastics engineering because, since he was a kid, he loved creating and building things. There is almost unlimited potential in this field of study, and that excites Logan. After college, he plans on starting his career at a company that is environmentally friendly because he doesn’t want to be a part of a business that is hurting our Earth.

The Helen Kriegsman Memorial Scholarship was established in 2016 to help associates and children of associates of our hospital with their higher education. She believed in access to all and wanted to make sure all majors had an opportunity for scholarships. Helen Kriegsman, Ph.D. spent her career at Pittsburg State University. She continued her service to Pittsburg by volunteering for several organizations including the Via Christi Auxiliary. She was a past Mount Carmel Foundation Board Member and original member of the Legacy Society. Even in death, her legacy will live on through her estate gift to the Mount Carmel Foundation.

Gifts of Appreciated Marketable Securities: Plan for the year-end

As you are considering your year-end charitable giving plans, it may be advantageous to consider using appreciated marketable securities. Carefully selecting assets to fund your charitable gifts may provide extra tax benefits. Using marketable securities that have appreciated in value, may allow you to avoid the realization of long term capital gains while providing a deduction of the fair market value of the property, all while providing vital support to the Foundation. As every situation is unique, we encourage you to consult with your tax advisor or accountant with questions. If you would like instructions on how to make a gift of appreciated marketable securities to the Foundation, please contact Johnna Horton at (602) 235-3512.

Grants: Working together to do better

There are an estimated 3,200 surgical patients per year at the Via Christi Surgery Center. The center was in need of new beds or stretchers and the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas (CFSEK) stepped up to provide a General Grant of $9,294 to provide three new stretchers to better serve our community. This project is to better service Surgery and Ambulatory patients by obtaining new stretchers that have thicker mattresses for their comfort. The new stretchers are easier for staff to navigate and more ergonomically designed for them. Please thank the CFSEK for assisting in the medical needs of community, benefiting the common good, and increasing the quality of life in our area.

Medical Staff Campaign: Leading the way for giving

The medical staff campaign also kicked-off on September 14, 2018 runs through June 30, 2018. The leaders of the campaign this year are Dr. Tim Stebbins, Dr. Mindi Garner, Dr. Bashar Marji, and Dr. Brett Dunbar. Our medical community is very generous as last year 48% of our active and honorary medical staff donated or pledged $41,000 to our hospital. We anticipate a successful campaign this year too as their goal is 100% giving to support the patients of our community.

Giving Tuesday and Year End Giving: Make the holiday season a time of giving back

Mark your calendars for Giving Tuesday on November 27. Giving Tuesday is a national movement to encourage everyone as they do their holiday shopping to remember that it is a great time to pick a special charity to donate. We hope you consider a gift to the Mount Carmel Foundation. Giving takes all forms including cash, check, credit card, stocks, and planned gifts. You can easily give online by using the donation button on our Facebook page. Also, get your gift in by December 31, 2018 for 2018 taxes. All gifts are tax deductible.

We also encourage you to consider participation in the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas (CFSEK) Match Day on Giving Tuesday. It allows the Mount Carmel Foundation the opportunity to grow our endowed fund by receiving donations and a monetary match from the CFSEK.

Februray Heart Health Awareness: Take time to care for your heart

Kansas City University of Medicine and biosciences Joplin Campus plans to partner with Via Christi Hospital, Pittsburg State University, the Mount Carmel Foundation, and others to offer a women’s heart health screening for the Pittsburg Community on Tuesday, February 19, 2019. According to the American Heart Association, heart disease and stroke cause more deaths among women each year than all cancers combined and 80% of heart disease and stroke events may be prevented by lifestyle changes and education. Watch for more information locally and on our Facebook page to get the details.

On Friday, February 22, 2019, the Mount Carmel Foundation will host the 4th Annual Dress Red Luncheon. The event is open to all, but focused on women and their heart health. There will be a raffle, prizes and entertainment. Over the years, there has been several thousand dollars raised for the Via Christi Heart Center.

Keep in Touch

Would you like to learn more about your Mount Carmel Foundation? Would you like to learn about what the foundation is, what it does, and where the funds raised go?

LIKE US on Facebook at facebook.com/mtcarmel.foundation.

There you will get almost daily updates on the great works of your foundation with article links, photos, and brief updates.
Upcoming Events

November 16 - Emergency Department Blessing and Dedication, 8-9 a.m.
The public is invited to a ribbon cutting, tours, and celebration of this project.

November 27 – Giving Tuesday
Visit us on Facebook to see how you can get involved or just take time to make a donation.

December 10 – Remember Me Tree, Meadowbrook Mall, 6 p.m.
The Remember Me Tree is a beautiful way to honor a loved one during the holiday season. The tree will be on display at Meadowbrook Mall starting November 22 and names read at the ceremony. To purchase your ornament, contact the Foundation office or use the form below.

December 15 – Breakfast with Santa, Pittsburg High School, 9 a.m.
Pittsburg High School performs a great Christmas show and breakfast is provided for all guests. Santa will be on site and other special treats are planned. There is no cost for this event and reservations are not required.

January 26, 2019 – 35th Annual Gala: Emerald Anniversary, Pittsburg State University
Dinner, dancing, auctions, and more.

February 19, 2019 – Heart Health Fair
Sponsored by many local organizations offering women’s health screenings in Pittsburg.

February 22, 2019 – Women’s Dress Red Luncheon
Join us for lunch, games, and more as we raise funds for our Heart Center.

More details on these events can be found online, on Facebook or by calling the office at 620.235.3512.

Contact Information Update
If you have moved, changed jobs, have a new phone number or email, please let us know so we can update your information.

The Mount Carmel Foundation Presents the “Remember Me Tree”
A Christmas Tree will be on display throughout the holidays at Pittsburg’s Meadowbrook Mall with decorations hung in memory and honor of loved ones.

Remember Me Tree Contributions:
Bows $5  Hearts $25  American Flag Heart or Star (In Honor of Our Military) $15  Doves $10  Angels $50

The donation must be received by December 5 in order for the name to be included at the tree lighting ceremony on December 10 at 6 p.m.

Enclosed is $ for ornaments.

It is to be placed on the tree in memory/in honor of ________________________________

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________ E-mail Address: ________________________________

Account Number: ___________________________ Security Code: __________________________

Expiration Date: ___________________________ Signature: ______________________________

Please make checks payable to the Mount Carmel Foundation.
Return to the Mount Carmel Foundation, PO Box 1173, Pittsburg, KS 66762 | Pay online via “Donate” button on Mount Carmel Foundation Facebook page