

FOUNDATION FALL 2020 IN FOCUS

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF



BAY MEDICAL FOUNDATION

FROM THE FRONTLINES



Dr. Arshid Pandit, Dr. Elizabeth (Libby) Pionk, Brian Watson, PA-C, and Dr. Andrew Gregson

How important is personal protection equipment?

It is ESSENTIAL! Just ask our team of 23 providers (doctors, physician assistants and nurse practitioners) who have been giving COVID-based care 24/7 since April at McLaren Bay Region. They are thankful for all the community donations towards personal protection equipment (PPE).

Dr. Elizabeth Pionk, who leads McLaren Bay Region's Hospitalist group, says "we take safety and hygiene very seriously. The team is very meticulous about hand washing, sanitizing and safety. We value PPE and it feels good to know that the hospital and community values it, as well."

Dr. Pionk goes further to explain that ready access to daily masks and N95s gives her team the mental reassurance and confidence that they will be able to continue to provide care.

How much PPE do we use?

For patients with COVID, (plus those with symptoms and being tested for COVID), a new gown and gloves are worn every time someone enters their room. Besides the nurses that routinely checks on the patient hourly, other people gowning up and entering includes doctors, PAs, NPs, therapists, as well as environmental workers that clean each room daily with special disinfectants. Since April, McLaren Bay Region have used:

- 50,000 face masks
- 10,000 N95 respirator masks
- 172,000 isolation gowns

In addition, disposable stethoscopes are kept in each room to prevent possible spread of the virus from room to room. Other PPE includes hair coverings, eye shields, sanitizer wipes and gallons of hand sanitizer.

Yes, it is safe to come to the hospital!

"As the pandemic continues, we will be here to take care of COVID patients, however, it is vital to take care of our non-COVID patients, as well. Because of all these safety precautions, we are able to deliver excellent healthcare in a very safe environment," explains Dr. Pionk.

We urge all people experiencing urgent health concerns to come to the hospital emergency room. If you are suffering with a chronic condition, you need to follow through with your primary doctor. We are seeing many chronic conditions go too far because patients defer going to the hospital.

"Please don't wait," urges Dr. Pionk. "Emergent and chronic conditions need to be seen. The safety and hygiene measures McLaren Bay Region has implemented enables all patients to be evaluated and treated safely."

WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND?

Gifts to the Emergency Response Fund allowed McLaren Bay Region to access and quickly deploy resources, including equipment and supplies to meet urgent and emerging needs that best served our community in this time of crisis.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) is essential to delivering any type of care to COVID patients to protect providers and patients. PPE includes:

- Procedure face masks
- N95 respirator masks
- Isolation gowns
- Gloves
- Hair coverings
- Eye shields
- Disposable stethoscopes
- Sanitizer wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Ultraviolet disinfectant units

Over \$131,000 in contributions from individuals and event fundraising has gone directly to help McLaren Bay Region caregivers and patients. Thank YOU!



LOCAL MEIJER STORES GIVES BACK TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE



Andy Picard, store director of the Bay City Meijer; Clarence Sevillian, CEO of McLaren Bay Region; Joseph Smith, store director of the Hampton Township Meijer and Lynn Weaver, director of McLaren Bay Medical Foundation

On May 7, Joseph Smith, store director at the Hampton Township Meijer and Andy Picard, store director at the Bay City Meijer, presented a check for \$10,000 to the McLaren Bay Medical Foundation in support of the Emergency Response Fund.

"We are so grateful for the generous donation from our community Meijer stores," said McLaren Bay Medical Foundation director Lynn Weaver. "Their donation helped secure an ultraviolet disinfectant machine for McLaren Bay Region."

"Meijer is focused on enriching lives in the communities we serve, and the Bay City and Hampton Township Meijer stores are pleased to support the McLaren Bay Medical Foundation's efforts to provide resources to support their essential frontline medical workers," Smith said. "We share a commitment to our team members, customers and communities in the fight against COVID-19."



The ultraviolet disinfection unit is a safe, high-powered, simple and effective tool that is now part of our infection control program. The unit was essential when there was a shortage of N95 respirator masks. The sterile processing staff was able to disinfect masks daily. The UV equipment can also be used to sanitize operating rooms and any other room where harmful bacteria and viruses may exist.

YOU ARE HERE FOR US AND WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

Right now, our healthcare workers are on the frontline of battling the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) still spreading through our nation and the world. Our doctors, nurses, technicians, transporters, EMTs, pharmacists, and everyone who supports the care of our patients have risen to the occasion in caring for our most vulnerable populations during this unprecedented time.



Rest assured; the doors of McLaren Bay Region remain open for our community. Every day, staff arrive at McLaren Bay Region with one intention – to care for patients. Please know that we remain committed to you and all our community members. We are here to ensure everyone can receive excellent, safe and accessible health services. Because of the support of all of YOU, we are able to do that!

GOLF FOR LIFE CLASSIC HONORS HEALTHCARE WORKERS



2020 Golf for Life Classic Co-Chairs: Dr. Rajesh Dandamudi, Dr. Daniel Lee, and David Dittenber

Bay Region) stepped up to be the Title Sponsor of the event. They, along with several local businesses, sponsored 36 frontline workers to participate in the golf outing at Maple Leaf Golf Course on August 5.

"All proceeds from the outing will go to the Emergency Response Fund, to ensure these workers have the tools they need to continue providing exceptional care," said Dr. Lee. "Along with social distancing, face masks, sanitizing and hand washing, we had a total of 148 people golfing. We are so pleased to announce that we raised \$74,000 in net proceeds."

Thank you again to the McLaren Medical Staff, all sponsors, golfers and volunteers. We look forward to the Golf for Life Classic in 2021.

The annual Golf for Life Classic took on a whole new meaning in 2020. Dr. Daniel Lee, David Dittenber and Dr. Rajesh Dandamudi took on the challenge of co-chairing our largest fundraiser of the year and changed the event's focus to honor McLaren Bay Region's incredible healthcare workers.

In a significant show of support, the McLaren Medical Staff (an independent association of medical providers who work at McLaren

HEARTSTRINGS CAMPAIGN... SAVING LIVES THROUGH TELEMETRY



The Need

Did you know cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in America causing one in every four deaths? However, in Bay County, the statistics are even worse – one out of every three deaths are due to heart disease.

Cardiac Telemetry

“Heartstrings” is a very simplistic description of a telemetry system that can ensure a patient’s heartbeat and other vital signs are monitored 24/7 without a nurse having to be at their bedside the entire time. Cardiac telemetry is modern, state-of-the-art science, that results in high quality, efficient and effective care.

Patients dealing with everything from stroke or vascular complications, to kidney failure or cancer... all benefit from telemetry monitoring.

Telemetry monitoring is especially important in the emergency room. People who come with chest pains, high blood pressure or a history of heart attacks all need immediate monitoring to help determine a diagnosis and/or prevent a cardiac event.

Goal and Project Plan

Our goal is to expand our cardiac telemetry to monitor even more patients. This technology is expensive. McLaren Bay Region has a centralized system of telemetry with two certified telemetry technicians and 112 monitors. The expansion and upgrade will add 32 telemetry units, which will allow 144 patients access to the vital heartstrings. All the monitors will be upgraded to high definition flatscreens.

The Result

The benefits of an updated, expanded and state-of-the-art telemetry system include:

- Increased patient safety
- Quicker diagnosis and/or treatment
- Ability to give high quality, efficient and effective care

How Can You Help?

Give. Please consider giving a generous donation to the Heartstrings Telemetry Campaign. Use the enclosed envelope, call the Foundation office at 989.895.4725 or give online at www.mclaren.org/baymedicalfoundation



McLaren Bay Region certified technician with the current cardiac telemetry system set up.

HOW CARDIAC TELEMETRY WORKS

The patient wears electrodes on the chest which are attached to leads and a telemetry transmitter. The transmitter sends the electrical activity of the heart to a computer screen, where the patient’s heart rate and rhythm can be monitored continuously and unobtrusively by telemetry technicians.

Wearing a portable transmitter allows patients to be mobile, which means they can be moved throughout the hospital as needed.

If the patient develops problems, staff are immediately notified and respond quickly. Abnormalities and arrhythmias can also be noted and brought to the attention of a cardiologist who can use this information in diagnosis and treatment. The sooner treatment is offered, the better the prognosis for the patient.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2019, McLaren Bay Region performed 349 open heart procedures?

That’s twice as many as any other hospital in the Great Lakes Bay Region!



“Telemetry acts as our eyes and ears – always watching the patient’s heart. No matter where I am or what I’m doing, I know exactly what is going on with the heart.

We are proud to be the premier cardiovascular center in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Additional telemetry beds allow us to take care of even more sick patients and continue to be THE heart and vascular center for our community.”

Dr. Nicolas Mouawad
Chief of Vascular & Endovascular Surgery
McLaren Bay Region



BAY MEDICAL FOUNDATION

1900 Columbus Ave
Bay City, MI 48708



"I would like to thank you all for providing the necessary PPE via the emergency response fund donations to help keep our hospitalist team, our patients, and our community safe."

Will McCadie D.O.
McLaren Bay Region Hospitalist

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



OUR COMMUNITY ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE - THANK YOU!

Face masks, hand sanitizing, social distancing... oh, how life has changed in our community. To say 2020 has been a challenging year would be an understatement. The pandemic has tested all of us, especially our healthcare workers.

I am so proud of how the McLaren Bay Region staff steps up, shows up and scrubs up to make sure our community stays safe and healthy.

I am equally proud of our community members who have given love, time, support and financial resources in response to this community emergency.

In this issue, we want to show you the impact made by YOUR donor dollars to the Emergency Response Fund, which is dedicated to providing equipment and supplies our healthcare workers need to fight the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Also, in this issue, we will reintroduce you to our Heartstrings Telemetry Campaign. The campaign was put on hold so we could focus on raising funds for critical pandemic supplies. However, the upgrading of our telemetry system is needed more than ever to ensure constant monitoring of our sickest patients. Please learn more about it on page 3 and consider supporting the campaign.

On behalf of all the board members of McLaren Bay Medical Foundation, thank you again for standing by the healthcare workers of McLaren Bay Region. We could not do it all without YOU!

Lynn Weaver, Director
McLaren Bay Medical Foundation

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