

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION



NORTHERN MICHIGAN
FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2025



YOUR GIFTS MAKE NORTHERN MICHIGAN HEALTHIER

Your support helps us recruit new providers by offering incentives, advanced tools and technology, and a state-of-the-art facility to treat patients.

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OUR MISSION

To receive and administer funds to support the mission of McLaren Northern Michigan and support programs that enhance the well-being of the community.

ON THE COVER



Four generations of the Fisher Family - see story pages 8-9

HOW YOUR GIFTS HELP

Your gifts make a difference in patients' lives. Your gifts provide support for staff and patients every day.

The entire team at McLaren Northern Michigan appreciates your support — as does every patient who relies on McLaren Northern Michigan for their care.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and share our stories with your friends and family to encourage them to give back as well!



Friends of the Foundation Newsletter is a publication of the McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation and is produced three times a year.

Dear Friends,

Our beautiful and busy summer season is here and we hope you are enjoying it. This time of year brings a vibrant energy to our region and we're grateful for the opportunity to share it with you.



Thanks to your support, we are making remarkable strides. President & CEO, Gar Atchison shares how we are enhancing patient care and expanding vital services.

Next, we'll introduce you to our talented and growing Orthopedic team. They're an impressive group with a wide range of specialties — and a great example of McLaren's efforts to expand access to care. You'll learn how your gifts are helping recruit these new providers.

We are truly grateful for every gift we receive and over the years our hospital has benefited greatly from multi-generation leadership and giving. The Foundation wishes to celebrate these families and inspire you with their stories. One of us is proud, and the other honored and humbled by the family selected for this issue.

Warmly,

Elise Fisher
Board Chair
McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation

Julie Jarema
Vice President, Chief Philanthropy Officer
McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation

2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elise Fisher, Chair | Ham Schirmer, Vice Chair | Courtney M. Font, CFP®, Treasurer
Miriam Hollar, Secretary | Gar Atchison, President and CEO
Robbie Buhl | Steven C. Cross | David Crouse
Matthew J. Frentz, CPA | Matthew Krieger | Patrick Leavy
Kathie Nihls | James Riehl, III | Rogan L. Saal
James C. Schroeder, PhD | Tracy Souder, MA CCC-SL | Maggie Steffy
Julie Jarema, Vice President and Chief Philanthropy Officer

CEO UPDATE

Gar Atchison, President & CEO, joined McLaren Northern Michigan in November 2023. As a northern Michigan native with family and life-long friends in the area, he has deep roots in the region and is committed to ensuring our hospital thrives for generations to come.

Every day, we're working to ensure you and your family have access to exceptional health care right here in northern Michigan. We've made significant strides in expanding our services and growing our practices this past year, including:

- **Recruiting top specialists** in orthopedics (see page 4), cardiology, pain management and rehabilitation, family medicine, emergency medicine, and urology (see below)
- **Partnering with the Batra Cardiothoracic Surgery Group**, further expanding our cardiac program, including open heart procedures
- **Extending the Stroke Network** to critical access hospitals in the Upper Peninsula
- **Opening McLaren Northern Michigan Urgent Care** in Petoskey

Health care is complex and one of the most challenging industries to operate within. As we strive to provide the very best care for our patients, we face rising costs, shrinking reimbursements, workforce shortages and shifting regulations.

That's why your support is so important — your generosity significantly impacts our ability to meet the health care needs of our community.

Last fall, Dr. Aaron Brown joined the urology team. Generous gifts helped with recruitment efforts, including purchasing new surgical tools and equipment.



As the region's largest employer, McLaren Northern Michigan delivers more than health care—we also drive economic growth. It's critically important to our region that our hospital thrive.

- Gar Atchison, President & CEO

2024 Community Impact

- 1,500+ employees and 200+ providers serving our region
- 7,400 surgeries and 33,000 emergency room visits
- \$165 million annual economic investment in our community.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Matthew Rohloff, Joshua Wyeth, PA and Dr. Aaron Brown

McLAREN NORTHERN MICHIGAN ORTHOPEDIC SERVICES

Donors Help Build a Talented Team of Specialists



Generous donors have played an integral role in expanding McLaren Northern Michigan Orthopedic Services. From purchasing advanced diagnostic tools and surgical equipment to funding recruitment initiatives, donors have helped McLaren achieve its goal of building a talented orthopedic team.

Our fellowship trained orthopedic surgeons deliver comprehensive orthopedic care using the latest medical innovations for bone and joint injuries and disorders, such as osteoporosis, arthritis and spinal degeneration. They provide our patients with extensive and highly skilled care in convenient and comfortable environments in Petoskey and Cheboygan.

McLaren Northern Michigan Orthopedic Services has offices on the Petoskey and Cheboygan campuses. To contact them, please call (231) 487-5400 or visit [McLaren.org/NorthernOrtho](https://www.McLaren.org/NorthernOrtho).

Thank you for helping to recruit and retain providers!

Over the past few years, gifts from donors have helped to attract and recruit our top notch orthopedic team by funding:



New tools, orthopedic drills, saws and an integrated power system for the Petoskey and Cheboygan campuses



Mini C-Arm for Cheboygan Campus operating room (a second coming soon to the Petoskey Campus)



Sign-on bonuses

MEET OUR McLAREN ORTHO TEAM

McLaren Northern Michigan is proud to employ a growing and dynamic group of orthopedic providers to serve our northern Michigan region. The Orthopedic Services group includes physicians pictured to the left (*from left to right*): Matthew Mead, MD, Lawrence Colby Ward, Jr., DO, Patrick O'Callaghan, MD, Jason Dieterle, DO, and Christopher Kennedy, DPM, as well as Sharnée Mead, DO, pictured below. Physician assistants Alisha Cole and Amber Rhadigan, and nurse practitioner Sara Belopavlovich complete the team. Information on the physicians is shared below.

Dr. Jason Dieterle is an orthopedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine and shoulder surgery. He brings expertise in advanced shoulder replacement and reconstruction, along with specialized skills in knee ligament, meniscus, and cartilage repair. His sports medicine background includes serving on the medical staff for the Detroit Lions during his fellowship, when the team drafted quarterback Matt Stafford.

Dr. Christopher Kennedy is a podiatric surgeon specializing in sports-related injuries, fracture management, total ankle replacement, bunion repair and deformity corrections, as well as diabetic limb preservation and reconstruction. He completed his fellowship for complex limb salvage and reconstruction and performs foot, reconstructive rearfoot, and ankle surgery.

Dr. Matthew Mead completed his fellowship in adult reconstructive surgery. Dr. Mead specializes in anterior total hip replacement, robotic total knee replacement, revision hip and knee replacement, partial knee replacement, patellofemoral replacement and knee arthroscopy.

Dr. Sharnée Mead specializes in sports injury management and rehabilitation, concussion treatment and management, bone stress injury evaluation and treatment, and comprehensive joint care. She offers fluoroscopic guided injections for sacroiliac joint pain and low back pain and performs radiofrequency ablation treatment for chronic pain.

Dr. Patrick O'Callaghan is an orthopedic surgeon with fellowship training in hand and upper extremity surgery. He brings several innovative techniques, including endoscopic carpal tunnel release, wide-awake hand surgery, less invasive thumb arthroplasty, and total elbow arthroplasty. Dr. O'Callaghan provides comprehensive care for sports injuries and fractures of the hand, wrist, and elbow, including pediatric patients.

Dr. Lawrence Colby Ward, Jr. is an orthopedic surgeon and completed his fellowship in orthopedic trauma and advanced reconstruction and arthroplasty. Dr. Ward has a passion for primary and revision adult hip, knee, and shoulder arthroplasty as well as all orthopedic trauma and general orthopedic procedures, including shoulder and knee arthroscopy.



INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY TO EXPAND CARE



As shared in the previous story, McLaren Northern Michigan is expanding its Orthopedic Services, including care at the Cheboygan Campus. In support of these efforts, donors recently funded a state-of-the-art imaging device.

The new OrthoScan mini C-Arm is a compact, high-resolution imaging system that provides real-time X-ray capabilities during surgery. It gives orthopedic surgeons greater precision and efficiency and is ideally suited for extremity procedures, such as hand, wrist, ankle, and foot surgeries.

With crisp detailed images, minimal radiation exposure and advanced controls, the mini C-Arm enhances resolution and safety, reduces the need for repositioning, and saves time. Previously, the equipment used in Cheboygan required radiology staff to run it — now it can be operated directly by surgeons, creating even greater efficiencies.

The surgical team (*pictured above with Dr. O'Callaghan*) is thrilled with the new equipment. In fact, because the orthopedic surgeons operate on both campuses, the Foundation will be funding a second mini C-Arm for Petoskey!

THANK YOU RENKER FAMILY!

National Nurses Week is celebrated every year from May 6-12 (Florence Nightingale's birthday). For the past 19 years, a highlight of the week has been the delivery of gift bags filled with pampering and self-care items donated by Greg and Stacey Renker. Nurses love the bags and it provides a meaningful moment for leadership to echo Greg and Stacey's gratitude for the important work that nurses do.

On behalf of our 650+ nurses and everyone who relies on them as a colleague, patient, or patient's loved one, we thank the Renkers for honoring our nurses in such a generous and thoughtful way.

Right: Chief Nursing Officer David Monan, MSN, RN delivers the first Guthy-Renker gift bag to Christel Brewbaker, RN.

Below: Cath Lab nurses are happy to receive their gift bags.



Please consider donating to the Unrestricted Fund to support health care in northern Michigan. Every gift, big or small, has a real and meaningful impact.

Scan this QR code to donate online.



GENERATIONS OF GIVING AND LEADING

Along with abundant freshwater lakes, natural areas and an enviable climate, northern Michigan is fortunate to have multi-generation families committed to stewarding what makes our region so special. For decades, these families — including the Walter W. Fisher Family — have invested their time and resources to build a bright future for all who live, work, and visit here.

In the 1950s, the Fisher Family came to northern Michigan as seasonal residents and quickly became active members in the community. Perhaps their most visible endeavor is Nub's Nob. Acquired in 1977, the Fishers expanded it from 12 to 53 runs, making Nub's a top ski area in the Midwest. Its positive economic impact is far reaching, as an employer and as a source of revenue for regional businesses.

Equally inspiring is the Fishers' impact on health care in northern Michigan. Now spanning three generations, their time, leadership, and generosity have helped to ensure that high-quality care is available close to home.

Three Generations of Service

In 1967, **Walter Fisher** was elected to the Lockwood-McDonald Hospital (LMH) board. As chairman, he was instrumental in merging

LMH with Little Traverse Hospital in 1977 to become Northern Michigan Hospital (now McLaren Northern Michigan). Walter remained active on the board until retiring in 1998.

Elise Fisher, Walter and Sis' daughter, has continued this legacy. With a fresh perspective and the same unwavering commitment, Elise joined the Foundation board in 2003, serving as its chair for 13 years (and counting). In 2005, she expanded her service and was elected to the hospital board and is now serving her fifth term. Membership on both boards gives Elise a unique and valuable view of the opportunities and challenges in running a hospital and raising funds to support it.

Like her father, Elise has experienced many changes in health care during her tenure. She too remains steadfast in supporting our hospital while



Over the years, the Fisher Family has supported the hospital in many ways— as volunteer leaders and through generous giving.

In 2011, Walter was recognized with the Jack Clark Philanthropy and Service Award. A few years later, in 2015, Elise was honored with the same award. Together, Elise and Walter have served over 40 years as board trustees!

Pictured from left to right: Walter, Elise and Sis Fisher

shaping its future to meet the needs of our northern communities. Elise shares,

It is an honor to steward my father's passion and values for health care in our community while being mindful and resilient in aligning our mission to the changing environment.

As a hospital trustee, I see firsthand how the challenges in our industry—rising costs and shrinking margins—make it harder to reinvest in the care we want to provide. But I also see the incredible impact of philanthropy. It's what helps us keep moving forward, and we're so fortunate to live in a community that gives so generously.

This past May, the third generation of Fishers was elected to the Foundation Board. Elise's daughter **Logan Lauterbach** will begin her term later this summer, carrying on her family's legacy with new energy and ideas. Similar to her mother's and grandfather's first years as trustees, Logan spends part of the year in northern Michigan, and loves it with her whole heart.

I am honored to join the Foundation board, following the path of my grandfather and mother. Their dedication to this community has always inspired me, and I am proud to continue that legacy of service. I hope my involvement helps show my daughters - and future generations - the importance of staying connected, giving back, and investing in the well-being of our special community.

Three Generations of Philanthropy

For decades, the Fisher Family has generously supported McLaren Northern Michigan in every way possible — as donors and as philanthropic ambassadors.

The Fishers have contributed consistently and significantly to the area of greatest need, major campaigns and projects. They have hosted parties at their homes and at Nub's Nob, authored appeal letters asking the community to join them in donating, and attended countless



Pictured left to right: President Gerald Ford, and hospital trustees Walter Fisher and Jack Clark attend the 1979 ribbon cutting for the new wing at Northern Michigan Hospital.

hospital and Foundation events. They have shared their support publicly by funding and naming the new Fisher Chapel on the Petoskey Campus, and have included the hospital in their estate plans.

Sis Fisher, the family matriarch, explains why the hospital continues to be a priority for her.

Supporting our hospital has always been important to Walter and me. I feel fortunate to witness my daughter, and now granddaughter, follow in my husband's role of giving back to our community.

As business owners, volunteer leaders, and generous donors, the Fishers' level of commitment and engagement is truly rare and remarkable. We are deeply grateful for everything the Fishers have accomplished for our hospital and look forward to our continued partnership.

Front cover photo: Four Generations of Fishers (left to right): Hayes, Elise, Logan, Sis and Helen.

CONNECTING YOU TO CARE

We wish you and your family a wonderful, injury- and illness-free summer.
If you should need care, the following services are available to you.

Emergency Room Check-In Near You

Wait at Home, Not the ER. Reserve
your spot now!



Petoskey, MI

416 Connable Ave.
Petoskey, MI 49770

10 - 20 Minute Wait

[Check-In Now →](#)



Cheboygan, MI

748 S Main St.
Cheboygan, MI 49721

15 - 25 Minute Wait

[Check-In Now →](#)

EMERGENCY ROOM | FOR EMERGENCY CARE OPEN 24-HOURS

McLaren's Emergency Rooms have the highest level of care for any emergency, including stroke, heart attack, burns, and broken bones.

As a Level 2 Trauma Center, we are staffed around the clock with emergency-trained physicians and nurses with the highest levels of emergency medicine certification and on-call specialists ready to care for you. The physician group rotates between Petoskey and Cheboygan so you can expect the same excellent care no matter where you decide to go.

McLaren Emergency Room - Petoskey Campus

416 Connable Avenue, Petoskey, MI

McLaren Emergency Room - Cheboygan Campus

748 S. Main Street, Cheboygan, MI



**CURRENT WAIT TIMES and
ONLINE CHECK IN**

McLaren.org/NorthernER

URGENT CARE | WALK-IN NON-EMERGENCY CARE

Monday - Saturday | 8 am - 6 pm

Treating sprains, earaches, cuts, fevers, minor illnesses and injuries, flu, and cold symptoms. Onsite imaging services coming summer 2025.

McLaren Northern Michigan Urgent Care

1890 US-131, Suite 4, Petoskey, MI
231-487-2000

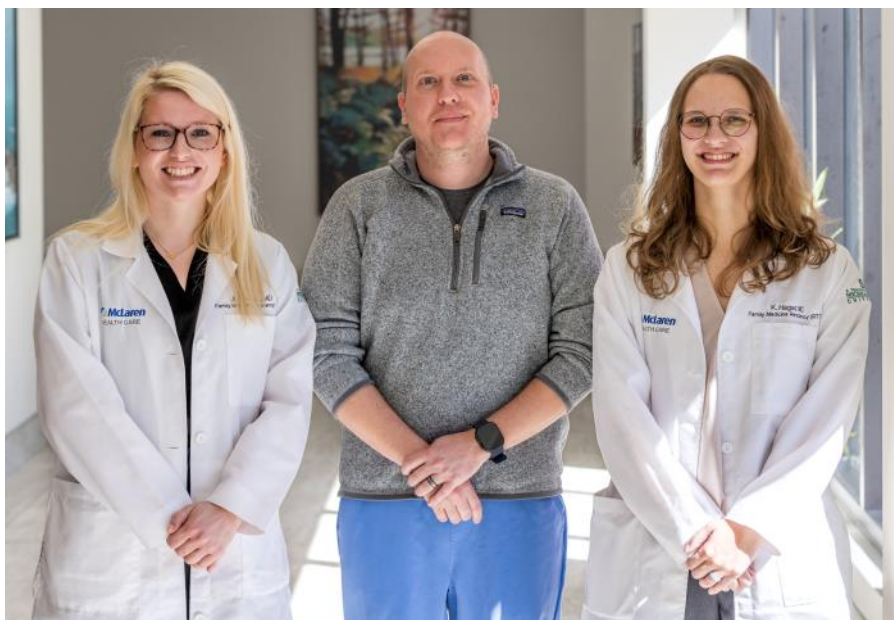
McLAREN NOW | ANYTIME, ANYWHERE CARE

McLarenNow.org

See a board-certified physician using secure video on your webcam computer, smartphone, or tablet for care such as cold, flu, minor injuries, illness, or skin conditions.

PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

PARTNERS TO HELP MANAGE, MAINTAIN,
AND IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH



McLaren Family Medicine

Demmer Wellness Pavilion
820 Arlington Ave.
Petoskey
(231) 487-9355

McLaren Mitchell Park Family Medicine

Offield Family Pavilion
560 W. Mitchell St., Suite C70,
Petoskey
(231) 487-7200

McLaren Internal Medicine

Medical Office Building
560 W. Mitchell St., Suite 300
Petoskey
(231) 487-2460

McLaren Northern Michigan Primary Care

1890 US-131, Suite 4, Petoskey
(231) 487-2000

McLaren MedCenter

1249 M-75, Boyne City
(231) 582-1515

McLaren Internal & Family Medicine

740 S. Main St., Suite 3A
Cheboygan
(231) 627-1282

McLaren Family Medicine

740 S. Main St., Suite 3B
Cheboygan
(231) 627-4364

ACCESS YOUR CARE THROUGH MY McLAREN CHART

SECURE ONLINE PORTAL FOR ACCESSING YOUR MEDICAL
INFORMATION | [MyMcLarenChart.org](https://my.mclaren.org)

View your visit summaries, lab and radiology results, and access educational information. Download the HealthLife app from your mobile device app store for easy access or use your web browser.

IMAGING SERVICES*

WALK-IN X-RAYS

Monday - Friday | 8 am - 6 pm
Other services by appointment
(800) 625-2736

McLaren Northern Michigan- Petoskey Campus

Offield Family Pavilion
416 Connable Ave., Petoskey

McLaren Northern Michigan- Cheboygan Campus

740 S. Main St., Cheboygan

WALK-IN EKG

Monday - Friday
10:30 - 11:30 am & 3-4 pm
(231) 487-2490

McLaren Northern Michigan Heart & Vascular

560 W. Mitchell St., Suite 400
Petoskey

LABORATORY SERVICES*

WALK-IN BLOOD DRAW

Monday - Friday | 7 am - 5 pm

McLaren Northern Michigan- Petoskey Campus

Offield Family Pavilion
416 Connable Ave., Petoskey
(231) 487-3426

McLaren Northern Michigan- Cheboygan Campus

740 S. Main St., Cheboygan
(231) 627-1469

* A physician order is required for EKG, imaging and lab services. Bring a paper copy with you, if possible.



NORTHERN MICHIGAN
FOUNDATION

360 Connable Avenue
Petoskey, MI 49770

JOIN US FOR Lavender Goes Pink!

Join us for a summer evening when Nashville recording artist and “The Voice” Season 22 finalist Morgan Myles takes the stage at Lavender Hill Farm. A portion of the proceeds from this special benefit concert supports breast health services for patients in northern Michigan.

Guests can enjoy themed beverages while browsing unique items in the silent auction – all set against the backdrop of lavender fields. Morgan Myles, known for her powerful vocals and country style, will deliver an intimate performance supporting this important cause.

Friday, July 25, 2025

**Lavender Hill Farm
Boyne City**



**Don't miss this evening of music and
community under the summer sky!**

Use this QR code to purchase tickets.

