



## Leprechauns step up to help...



May 18, 2020

The Leprechaun Foundation  
c/o Debbie DiBlasi and Jean Dunbar  
7035 Columbia Rd.  
Olmstead Falls, OH 44138

Dear Debbie and Jean,

We wanted to send a heartfelt thank you to you and the Leprechaun Foundation for your very generous donation of gift cards for pediatric patients and families at MetroHealth. During an especially tough time, your continued support is beyond appreciated. Because of your thoughtfulness and commitment, pediatric patients and families that need support with groceries will be able to receive that support. This will allow families to focus on their families and child's health. Being in the hospital is scary enough for a child and their family, but even more frightening now. You continue to touch our families each step of the way on their journey – making such a difference for them. On behalf of the Department of Pediatrics and Child Life and Education, we can't thank you enough! We hope you are staying well!

Sincerely,

Jessica Chupnick, MS, CCLS  
Manager, Child Life and Education

During this difficult time when families have lost income and jobs, and are in need of food and medical treatment, the Foundation has contributed gift cards for distribution to pediatric families and patients who are seeking help at area hospitals.

The inside article has information furnished by MetroHealth as to how families, hospital personnel as well

as the community at large are in dire need of assistance. As I write this, I am overwhelmed at the need as well as to the amount of people who are affected.

While I was working a seasonal job we were instructed on how to sanitize, to keep safe distance and ultimately, to stay home. I am safely at home, have stayed away from grocery shopping and restaurants. Now, even as businesses are opening up, this information is still very disturbing.

We still need donations to help the hospitals we serve, and prayers that this pandemic will stop taking lives. Thank you for your continued support, and please stay safe!

Jean Dunbar  
President

# MetroHealth's leading the way to a healthier you and a healthier community during our current health crisis...

For the first time since mid-March, when MetroHealth began preparing for an influx of patients with COVID-19, we're starting to return to a "new" normal. During the week of April 27 many of the services that had to be put on hold, such as preventive screenings and some elective surgeries, started to be phased in slowly. Patients have been greeted with heightened precautions in place to keep them and our employees safe.

The MetroHealth System has been challenged by the Coronavirus spread and resulting COVID-19 illnesses. It has tested our flexibility, creativity, financial strength and endurance. But more than that, it has underscored why MetroHealth is so essential to Northeast Ohio.

This pandemic has reminded each of us why we do what we do, for our patients, our employees and our community. Quite simply, we provide an array of services that keep people alive and give them hope. We provide services that no one else in the community can.

Our resolve remains strong to continue to provide quality healthcare to our community in all its forms – such as caring for COVID-positive patients on ventilators, driving fresh fruit, vegetables and prescription medication to patients who are quarantined, establishing a free COVID hotline for all members of our community (whether or not they have insurance or are even MetroHealth patients), screening and testing people at homeless shelters and group homes, developing models that far more accurately project the rate of infection across Ohio than other institutions, ramping up innovative offerings like telehealth and Hospital at Home, writing guidelines for testing that were adopted by the Ohio Department of Health, providing test results faster than other hospital systems, advising Governor DeWine, Dr. Acton, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and others on best practices, or working to make sure preventive screenings, wellness visits and other important services continued, and so much more.

MetroHealth physicians began preparing for COVID-19 in early January, with both clinical and supply plans. Our Supply Chain team began ordering additional personal protective equipment, ventilators and other equipment, ensuring that MetroHealth had an adequate supply when others scrambled. In fact, MetroHealth was eventually able to support other healthcare providers with PPE.

As Ohio's only Ebola treatment center, MetroHealth was well-positioned to lead the community conversation about Coronavirus transmission and treatment. It's one of the reasons why MetroHealth was selected as the site for Governor DeWine and Dr. Acton to hold their first press conference about COVID-19 in late February.

In early March, as deaths increased in the Pacific Northwest and began spreading to New York, Dr. Boutros activated the Incident Command System and hospital leadership began implementing MetroHealth's Surge Plan. This plan was built to accept a 250

percent increase in inpatient and ICU activity. This included putting two beds and a ventilator in rooms in the Critical Care Pavilion. Various stages of the plan included flexing to an additional 250, 500 and up to 1,000 critical care beds.

Preparing for this anticipated influx of COVID patients was accompanied by a related need to shut off services to create space and conserve PPE. MetroHealth suspended elective surgeries, dental and ophthalmology appointments even before the state mandated the move on March 16. Additionally, the vast majority of routine in-person acute and wellness visits were converted to telehealth visits.

In early March, the community (and nation) was filled with questions and concerns about COVID-19, MetroHealth established a COVID hotline (440-59-COVID). It went operational on March 13 and took calls from anyone, regardless of insurance status or even if they were MetroHealth patients.

This hotline filled a massive gap in the community. Through early May, the hotline received approximately 10,000 calls from people who were connected to MetroHealth caregivers. Approximately 4,000 people were directed to self-quarantine, which Dr. Boutros said undoubtedly contributed to reducing community spread and infection.

Many of those who were quarantined lived alone or did not have other family or community support. The Institute for H.O.P.E. mobilized and made more than 350 deliveries of food, including fresh fruit and vegetables, around Greater Cleveland.

MetroHealth played an essential role in reducing community spread in other ways. MetroHealth physician Julia Bruner, who serves as Medical Director at the Cuyahoga County Jail, realized in early March that the Jail – with patients living in crowded cells – was a prime breeding ground for COVID-19. Not only could the coronavirus spread quickly among the inmates, the lack of space meant effectively treating infected patients would be nearly impossible.

Dr. Bruner presented her concerns to Administrative Judge Brendan Sheehan, who asked Dr. Bruner to address all the judges the following day. Dr. Bruner spoke in blunt terms about her concerns, and she also offered solutions. Dr. Bruner and her staff pulled together a list of approximately 400 inmates who had underlying conditions, such as diabetes or hypertension, that put them at high risk if they were to contract COVID.

At the meeting, the judges, MetroHealth's medical staff, the jail staff, prosecutors and public defenders all agreed to work together to reduce the inmate population at the jail, either through early release or electronic monitoring. Weekend hearings were scheduled and over the course of about 10 days, the jail population was

reduced from nearly 2,000 inmates to less than 1,000. Not only did this remove 1,000 people who could become infected with the coronavirus inevitably came to the jail, but freeing up the space meant there was now space to isolate, quarantine and treat inmates when they became infected.

“Dr. Julia Bruner is one of the unsung heroes in this community,” MetroHealth President and CEO Akram Boutros, MD, said on WCPN’s The Sound of Ideas on April 10. “If not for her, you’d be seeing deaths at the Cuyahoga County Jail.”

Similarly, teams of MetroHealth physicians and nurses in March began visiting homeless shelters, camps, and people living on the streets to identify those who had underlying conditions. Working with city and county officials, MetroHealth personnel were able to move these high-risk people into motels. Our caregivers also screened and, when appropriate, tested residents. Doctors also worked with city and county officials to draft guidelines on medical care for homeless patients upon discharge, as well working to establish temporary housing for them during their full recovery.

As calls poured in and the hospital (and nation) braced for an anticipated surge of patients, the decision was made to transfer residents of the Prentiss Skilled Nursing Center to other nursing homes in the area. It was a tremendous logistical undertaking, but more than 100 people were moved in five days so the hospital system could set up an additional 138 beds to treat patients.

Considerable public discussion and debate focused on the need for testing, which took place in the context of limited testing supplies and analytical capability. MetroHealth reserved testing for patients in the hospital, symptomatic patients with underlying health conditions that put them at risk, and frontline caregivers. This testing protocol, written by Infection Prevention Chair Amy Ray, MD, was adopted by the Ohio Department of Health as the statewide guidance.

Through the outstanding work of our lab team, MetroHealth was able to obtain by March 17 the ability to test swabs in-house and get lab results in two hours – the fastest in the state.

Fortunately, because Ohioans followed ODH guidance and washed their hands, kept appropriate social distance, stayed home and other related steps, the wave of patients did not come. On April 7, when other health care organizations continued to predict a large bell curve of widespread communal transmission peaking at thousands of infections, MetroHealth released its own projections. MetroHealth’s projections, developed by Dr. Boutros and Dr. Brook Watts, predicted a far lower peak, coupled with jagged spikes of infection centered around clusters.

For comparison, Ohio State projected a peak of more than 1,200 cases a day across the state and the Cleveland Clinic projected a peak of more than 600 cases a day. MetroHealth projected fewer than 500 cases a day in Ohio. This shift garnered significant attention and the statewide conversation immediately changed. ODH revised its projections to fall in line with MetroHealth’s figures.

MetroHealth also led the way on serology testing, taking blood samples from workers in the Emergency Department and COVID

unit and testing to see if they had developed antibodies. The hospital also is conducting a study taking blood samples from hundreds of Cleveland EMS and Fire Department workers. These tests can be useful in determining who might have contracted Coronavirus, even if they did not develop symptoms of COVID-19.

The hospital was the first in Greater Cleveland to require, and provide, masks for anyone entering our facilities. This was made possible because of the innovative use of technology the hospital already had on site as Ohio’s only Ebola treatment center. Technology originally developed post-9/11 to clean spaces contaminated by Ricin were eventually adapted to disinfect ambulances and hospital rooms used by Ebola patients. MetroHealth personnel decided to put used PPE in a room and run the disinfection process, which uses highly concentrated hydrogen peroxide to treat the used masks for two hours. The process killed 99.999999% of all bacteria on the masks. This allowed MetroHealth to reprocess up to 50,000 masks a week – and provide PPE to all employees and surgical masks to all people entering its facilities.

Re-sterilizing used PPE is just one example of the numerous innovative steps taken by MetroHealth personnel to reduce costs and safeguard the hospital’s financial standing, even as revenue was reduced due to the inability to perform surgeries, outpatient procedures and other patient visits. The financial team worked diligently to get advance payments from insurance partners. As a result, MetroHealth was one of the few hospital systems in the region that was able to avoid layoffs or furloughs of staff – despite an average loss of revenue of \$1.5 million a day.

Our Human Resources team immediately began to address the stress and anxiety of workers, who often were providing care to patients but also worrying about parents, spouses, and kids trying to learn from home. Several employee assistance programs were put in place, including group resiliency sessions and over the phone or virtual one-on-one counseling. Recognition programs with lunches, flowers and other treats were implemented to brighten the day of employees.

In April, MetroHealth formed a team to reach out to underserved populations, such as group homes for developmentally disabled adults who were unable to adhere to social distancing. This expanded in May into an agreement where MetroHealth began testing in a variety of congregate living settings – nursing homes, shelters, group homes and others.

Although advance planning ensured we had enough essential equipment it didn’t lessen the impact of donations we received from the community. We’ve received donations of much-needed personal protective equipment along with countless food deliveries for our front-line staff. The public also made gifts to funds that made sure the hospital’s greatest needs were being met as well as the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Chupnik, MS, CCLS  
*Manager, Child Life and Education*  
*MetroHealth Medical Center*



# How Adopt-a-Family made Christmas brighter in 2019



There were Xbox games, L.O.L. Dolls and Superhero action figures! There were games, books, learning toys for preschoolers and so much more! We supplied it all this past Christmas with our Adopt-a-Family program.

It's not hard to picture how excited the children were at the thought of getting new toys. Or how excited the teens were to be getting new clothes. And parents who were so grateful that their families were able to have a Christmas, even with all the financial hardships and chronic medical issues.

In 2019 our Adopt-a-Family program served 36 families. There were 17 from

MetroHealth, 10 from University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Sickle Cell Specialty Care and 9 from the Cleveland Clinic Hospital for Rehabilitation. Adopt-a-Family wouldn't exist without the support of everyone.

We rely on the Child Life Social Workers at the hospitals who screen family information and relay those family's needs to us. Our donors and shoppers who contribute their time and money to buy all the gifts and wrap them. And the delivery people to insure everything arrives in time. It all performs like a finely tuned machine, it's amazing to see it all come together.

This past holiday season our donors went above and beyond with their monetary donations, allowing us to serve even more families. The volunteer shoppers also went above and beyond to locate the hottest "in demand" toys and the many necessity items that were needed, including beds and even a crib! Every family's needs are different, and our shoppers tirelessly worked to fulfill as many requested items as humanly possible.

But we couldn't do any of this good work without YOU! So, thank you all for supporting the Adopt-a-Family program. We're looking forward to another successful year in 2020!

# Leprechaun Memorials

A memorial contribution to the Leprechaun Foundation is a wonderful way to honor the memory of a friend or family member and benefit the children and families we serve. Many remember loved ones on an annual

basis and with gifts donated for special occasions.

It's so satisfying to know your gift will help chronically or terminally ill children experience the thrill of a dream come true. ❁

❁  
*Donations were made*  
**IN THE HONOR OF**

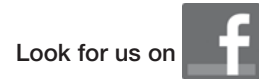
*Jean Dunbar* for her many years with the Leprechaun Foundation! Bless you!

*Tavon Nolen*

Dorothy Ahrendt	* DiGeronimo Families	Tom Kelsey	* Kenny Murton	* James Silbaugh
Kenneth Alperin	Albert DiMinico	Thomas Kiczek	* Pearl Murton	Louise Silbaugh
Santo "Sandy" Amodeo	* Angelo Joseph DiStena	Ryan King	Marion Naples	Frank Simmons
Molly Anderson	* Eleanor D. DiStena	Edward P. Kirkpatrick	Catherine Needham	George Simmons
Jane Andrews	Eugene Doherty	Teresa Kittelson	Mae Rose Negrelli	* George R. "Red" Simmons
Petronella Appleton	Samuel W. Doig	* Gregory N. Klepach	Isabelle Nelson	* Howard E. Simmons
* Mary Armenio	Mary Doyne	Olga Klepach	Frank F. Nicholson	* Lucy Simmons
* Kathleen Marie Armstrong	Frank Dragolich	Dovie Knight	Patricia Ann Oberrath	Kathleen Simon
Jeanette Arnold	* Ralph M. Dunbar Jr.	Murnan/Kobman Family	Earl Olsen	Madeline Sliva
Paul Asadorian	Philip Epstein	Betty Konrad	Jake O'Malley	Joseph Skala
Don Atton	Mary Ann Faitz	* Hilary Kosicki	* Jean Osborne	Rosemary Skala
Sonny Bain	Constance Mary Morgan Falasco	Deborah Kosla	Jan Pagenkopf	Allan Skiba
Sandor Balazs	David G. Faulhaber	Frances Kowalski	Evelyn Panek	Bernard Skiba
Melvin Bateman	Donald P. Faulhaber	Gretel Krajtor	Edith Pannetti	Joan Skiba
Joseph A. Bayhurst, Jr.	Dori Faulhaber	Edward Kral	Pat Pannetti, Sr.	Kenneth Skiba
Edward Bebenroth	Edwin "Bud" Faulhaber	Stella Krey	Leo Paridon	Gertrude Smith
Frank J. Becka	Nancy H. Faulhaber	Edward Krystosik	Brian Park	Laura Smith
Josephine L. Becka	Louis Ferfolia	Bruce Kucharski	Arthur Pasek	James Sparano, Sr.
* Kyle M. Beigie	Marie Ferraro	Edward Kucharski	Josephine S. Paterniti	* Jean M. Sparano
* Charles Benes	Helen Fiorilli	Lottie Kucharski	Michael Patton	* Jeffrey Sparano
Maria Benya	Mike Fitzgerald	Robert Kuhn	Henry Peller	Jerry Sparano
Opal Berila	Colin J. Planagan	John Kuluris	Robert Peska	* John W. Sparano, Sr.
Bertram Bernhardt	Rose Folk	Genevieve Kuper	Lena Pester	* Donald Spencer
Pat Bernhardt	Angela Fowler	Gaspere LaBianca	Renesme Peters	Joan Spilka
Rose Bertocci	George Frank	Drew Lahmers	* George K. Pethel	Gust Geore Spiros
S. Michael Bevis	Jean Fraunfelder	Steve Lee	* Evangeline Phillips	* Sylvia Starr
Hinda Bilenker	Josephine Gatusso	* Harry M. Leitch	* Jan Phillips	Frank Stella
Mary Bircher	Ruth Gatusso	* James W. (Bud) Lowery	Geraldine Pisani	Evelyn Sternad
Tammy Blasko	Matilda (Tillie) Gelsimino	* Walter Lukachinsky Jr.	* Charles Platt	Mary Jane Stevens
Mildred Blauch	Rose Gilbert	Virginia Luzar	Lois Platt	* Maxine Stoller
Sam Bloom	Homer W. Giles	* Anne B. Lynch	Dan Pokorny	Ryan Stoltz
Eugenia Bobkins	Ab Glickman	Robert MacLaren	Chris Pontcer	Marie Stolzman
* John J. Bohdan	* Jim Goglin	* Betty Anderson MacLean	John Porto Sr.	Alan Strazzanti
* Julia D. "Aunt Babe" Bohdan	* Jon Gordon	Carol Magdalenz	* Danny Racic	Gisella Tamaro
* Michael Bohdan	* Mimi Gordon	E. J. Maksymiak	Ivan and Josephine Racic	Rosalie A. Taylor
Irene Brandt	David Greenspan	Mary Mallchok	* Rory Patrick Reese	Bert K. Thompson
Sandy Brass	Walter Groth	Ron & Rose Mamula	Red Reider	* Frederick Tight
* Jim Brendorfer	* Grace S. Grove	Leonard A. Marcello	Ruth Reimer	N.C. Tight
Rita Brenner	Kenneth Haas	Pauline J. Marek	Carl K. Rimner Sr.	Dorothy Titus
Margaret Brunskole	Gregory J. Haase	* Paul Margreta	Carl K. Rimner Jr.	Catherine Trinetti
William Burget	Juanita Haley	* Regina Margreta	Hedwig Rimner	Bobby Tripodi
Alan Burke	James Hanna	Henry Marquardt	* Elaine J. Ripley	Rebecca Truelsch
Karen Buryanek	Louise Hanousek	Ronald Mascillino	* William A. Ripley	* Ray Truman
* Louis Busi	Clarence Harrington	Dane Mathews	Mary Robejsek	Janet Turcoliveri
Charles Calovini	Maxine Harris	Bradley Mayer	Margaret (Peg) Robillard	Dorothea N. Varnes
* Anne Campbell	* Suzie Hedge	Joseph James Mayer	Donald A. Robinson	* Tony Vespoli
* Patrick J. Campbell	Lillian Heeley	Charlotte Mayeros	William J. Roble	Maria Angela Vitale
Mary Jane Cannon	Baby Hipp	* Edward Mayeros	Violet A. Rogel	Walter Vitou
Vincent M. Capello	* Emil Horvath	Helen Mayeros	Bernice M. Ronay	Eric N. Wahter
* Louis Carouse	* Sarah M. Horvath	* Walter Mayeros	Gertrude Rosbasch	Elizabeth Waid
* Lily Chech	Norm Hradek	Patricia McCallister	Bob Rose	* Ethel Webb
Constance Cifani	Florence Hromadka	Mary Jane McGreevey	Ray Roth	Alex Weil
Audrey Clapp	* Sara Hudson	Betty McHale	Robert Roth	Mike Weinhardt
Mrs. Harold (Janet) Clark	Goldie Hull	Glenda McLaren	* Dr. Edmund Rothschild	Sidney Weisberg
Thomas E. Cogan	Patricia Hull	Rangfrid S. Meeth	* Helene Rothschild	Donald A. Werner
* Robert S. Cook	* Paul Hunt	Helen Mele	Howard Rothstein	Henry Werner
* Alfred Corrado	Blanche Hunter	Jill Dobrin Menachem	Warren Rothstein	Roddy Whelan
Christopher Corrado	Dr. Harold Hunter	Dolores Merrick	* Audrey Russell	John (Bud) Wilber, Sr.
George Corrado	* David Allen Intihar	Thomas Mewhinney	* Kurt Russell	Julie Aubrey Wilber
Amelia Corral	Lillian Jablonowski	Ann Micatroto	* Suzanne Russell	Marcia A. Williams
Rob Cowan	Adeline Jackson	Daniel Mihovk	* Willard (Bud) Russell	Kent Scott Williams
* Sara E. Craig	Bill Jacobs	Betty Miller	Grace Ryan	Stan Wilmoth
Mary D'Amicone	William L. Jacobs	Helen Miller	Andrew Rypien	Ann Wismar
* Frank Danek	Walter Jagniszczak	Hiker Miller	Barry and Mary Ellen Sabol	Phyllis Wittmer
Julia E. Dasch	Martha Jenks	Donald E. Mills	Martha Sabol	* Carl Woldin
Rebecca Marie Dasch	William Jenks	Lee Mintz	Immocolata Sainato	Jane Wolf
Nelson Davis	Edwin "Bud" Jennings	* Charles Andrew Moore	Charles Salvo	Robert J. Wolf
John DeJovine	Elsie Jennings	John Morris	James J. Samardge	Eleanor Wolodzko
Paul Delbo	Geraldine Jones	David Mosher	Joseph Saus	* Bernard C. "Bud" Wooster
* Robert Devecki Jr.	Muriel Jones	* Dennis Mozser	Bert Schaefer	Rita Wroblecky
Lucia DiBlasi	* Michael Joyce	Stephen Mulloy	Walter H. Scheutzow	Marilyn Zupal
Augustino DiFiore	Doug Kancler	* James B. Murphy	Beverly Schroedel	Henry Zuchowski
Wedo DiFrancesco	Barbara Kanyok	Elsie W. Murray	Nancy Seelig	
* Dominic A. DiFranco	Rose Kapusinski	Howard W. Murray	Walter Sibits	

\*Memorial gifts are received on an ongoing basis in remembrance of anniversary dates.

# Wish List Connection



## I want to help make children's dreams come true!

- Friend .....up to \$10.00
- Patron .....\$10.00 and over
- Sponsor .....\$100.00 and over
- Benefactor .....\$500.00 and over
- Other.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to know more about becoming a Leprechaun. Please send a volunteer application.
- Please be sure to send me an invitation to The Leprechaun's Night at the Races.
- I would like to make a contribution to the toy chests: Enclosed is my check for the amount of:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ .
- I would like to help a single mom in a special way by enclosing my check for the amount of:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ .
- I would like to help with:
  - Food Gift Certificates during the year (in off-holiday times)
  - Night at the Races
  - Adopt-a-Family
- I can help with the following:

---



---



---

We also welcome Gifts, Legacies and Memorials. Call (216) 970-0618 or email [info@leprechaunfoundation.org](mailto:info@leprechaunfoundation.org)

Make your checks payable to:

The Leprechaun Foundation  
7035 Columbia Road  
Olmsted Falls, Ohio 44138

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

The Leprechaun Foundation is incorporated in the State of Ohio under Charter 553129, and the IRS has determined that The Leprechaun Foundation is a nonprofit, tax exempt, 501(C) charitable organization. A letter of designation is on file. All donations are tax exempt.

**THE LEPRECHAUN FOUNDATION**  
7035 Columbia Road • Olmsted Falls, OH 44138

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CLEVELAND OH  
PERMIT NO. 1723

### Adopt a family—and celebrate this holiday season Leprechaun style!



## Matching Gifts—Twice As Nice!

Many Leprechaun friends double their gifts by sending us the necessary matching gift paperwork when they send their donation.

We send this to your company and receive a gift equal to your donation. If we're not on your company's matching gift program list, let us know so we can contact the appropriate person—sending the required information and paperwork. Or show them this newsletter, it may provide all the information to answer any questions they have about the Foundation.

Thanks for keeping the children on your gift list.

### Officers

- President*  
Jean Dunbar
- Vice President*  
Anne Followell
- Treasurer*  
Jennifer Pederson
- Secretary*  
Jan Margreta
- Corresponding Secretary*  
Sister Lenette Marcello
- Fund Raising*  
Debbie DiBlasi
- Hospital Wish Chairperson*  
Debbie DiBlasi

### Hospital Contacts

- Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital*  
Debbie DiBlasi
- MetroHealth Medical Center*  
*Cleveland Clinic*  
Debbie DiBlasi
- Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation*  
Emma Corrado
- Toy Chests*  
Carla Kuhn

### Volunteers

- Jean Driggs
- Emma DiBlasi Suhaj