Employee generosity

Dedicated, compassionate and generous. These words describe The University of Kansas Hospital’s employees, who care deeply not only about our patients, but about our community. In 2012, staff donated record amounts to worthy causes and organizations, including our hospital.

$216,743
Hospital campaign’s all-time record donation to United Way

$130,000
Record-setting amount nonphysician employees donated to the hospital through our annual Employee Campaign

1,247
Number of hospital employees and family members registered as walkers in the American Heart Association’s Kansas City Heart Walk

Hope and healing

Turning Point inspires seriously and chronically ill patients to live their lives to the fullest

Leticia’s world shattered when her son, Santos – her shining star, not yet 4 – was diagnosed with brain cancer.

Through Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing she found a lifeline, support and community. Headquartered in Leawood, Kansas, the community-based patient support organization provides educational classes, skills, innovative support services and resources for chronically and seriously physically ill patients and their families, all at no charge.

Compassionate support

“Turning Point came into my life when I was overwhelmed with my son’s diagnosis,” said Leticia, who soon left her job to become Santos’ full-time caregiver. “It is a place for healing and comfort where I can express what is going on inside of me without reservation. The place and the people are so welcoming and compassionate.”

Santos was nearly 9 when he died in 2012. “Turning Point has meant so much,” Leticia explained. “I keep returning for classes, for the people and relationships, and because Santos loved it there. I come to continue to honor him and his legacy.”

Life-changing programs

For more than a decade, Turning Point has provided life-changing programs for thousands of individuals and families battling cancer, chronic heart failure, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, kidney disease, diabetes, fibromyalgia and other illnesses. By addressing the psychological, social, emotional and physical needs that can accompany such conditions, Turning Point inspires people to take charge of their illnesses and live their lives to the fullest.

continued on Page 4
Save the date:
Hall of Fame

The University of Kansas Hospital’s third Hall of Fame Dinner and Awards Ceremony, set for June 5 at The Intercontinental, will honor individuals and organizations that have been integral to the hospital’s success over the years.

Honorees for 2013 include former Kansas Governor Bill Graves; Burns & McDonnell Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Greg Graves and Deanna Graves; the hospital’s Chairman of Cardiovascular Diseases William Reed, MD, and Mary Reed; Lockton Companies and Standard Beverage Corporation.

The event is open to the public. For reservations, call 913-588-8888.

Expanding patient support

A message from Janice Benjamin, vice president, Development

The University of Kansas Hospital has a successful history of partnering with other great organizations to enhance patient care. Our partnership with the highly respected patient support organization Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing is a recent example.

Since 2001, Turning Point has provided the highest quality social, emotional and psychological support and educational programs to individuals and families living with serious or chronic physical illness. Turning Point collaborates with more than 20 area organizations to offer year-round programs in convenient locations at no charge.

Treating the whole person

This exciting new partnership benefits both our organizations. Adding these innovative support programs and services further helps our hospital treat the whole person and completes our continuum of care. As for Turning Point, partnering with the region’s premier academic medical center provides the opportunity to expand programming and extend its reach to even more people across our region.

Turning Point retains its name, outstanding staff and headquarters in Leawood, Kansas. Its status as a nonprofit organization remains the same, as does its mission: To empower and transform the mind, body and spirit of individuals, families and friends living with serious or chronic physical illness.

Ongoing support needed

Ongoing financial support from advocates, donors, friends and our community continues to be needed to make Turning Point’s life-changing programs possible and available at no charge. To learn more about how your gift can provide hope and healing, contact Julie Mulhern, development director, at 913-383-8700, extension 18, or julie@turningpointkc.org.

We welcome Turning Point’s boards, staff, volunteers and other supporters and look forward to working with them as we move forward together. Watch future issues of Good Medicine for more news from Turning Point.

And as always, our Hospital Fund Development team is eager to talk with you about giving opportunities at The University of Kansas Hospital. Contact us at 913-588-2800 or funddevelopment@kumc.edu.

Good Medicine shares information about successes at The University of Kansas Hospital with those who support our mission to improve the health of the communities we serve.

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Volunteer your time! Call 913-588-6528.

Visit kumed.com/give to learn how your gift can make a difference in the lives of our patients.

Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing recently joined forces with The University of Kansas Hospital. With Hospital Vice President of Development Janice Benjamin (left) is Turning Point Development Director Julie Mulhern, a founding board member.
I ♥ your kidney: A love story

Woman saves boyfriend’s life by donating kidney

Travis Spire-Sweet describes his sweetheart, Taesha Benson, as one in a million, his perfect match.

To get technical, Taesha is 1 in approximately 30,000: the chances of her being a perfect match for Travis as a live kidney donor. To put this into perspective, Taesha had a 10-times greater chance of being struck by lightning (over her lifetime) than of being a perfect donor match for Travis.

The ultimate gift

On Feb. 5 at The University of Kansas Hospital’s Center for Transplantation, Travis’ perfect match gave him the ultimate gift of one of her kidneys. Transplant surgeons Timothy Schmitt, MD, and Sean Kumer, MD, PhD, made it happen. Caregivers ensured the couple recovered side by side, even helping them pass love notes.

Born with chronic kidney disease, Travis had spent his life managing pain and side effects from his condition.

Sporting matching Donate Life bracelets, Travis Spire-Sweet and girlfriend Taesha Benson now share a lifetime connection: She donated a kidney to save his life.

William G. McGowan Charitable Fund donates to transplant resource center

When a patient desperately waits for a lifesaving organ transplant, the whole family waits.

Gift will help build patient resource center

The McGowan family understands this from personal experience. So the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund made a gift to help others on the transplant journey by providing information and resources through a new patient resource center.

Tim McGowan’s health was in decline before his liver transplant at The University of Kansas Hospital in 2012. Bill McGowan remembers the anxiety. “Sure, we’re grown men, but he’s still my big brother,” he said, “and to see him really hurting like that ... it was tough.”

Six months post-transplant, Tim’s condition is dramatically improved.

Your gift empowers patients, families

The McGowan fund’s donation is the first toward building a patient resource center at the new Center for Transplantation, set to open this summer on the hospital’s first floor. Your gift will help provide educational materials, information technologies and more. An envelope is enclosed in this issue for your convenience. Or contact Lindsay McPhail, Hospital Fund Development, 913-588-5971 or lmcpail@kumc.edu.
Teri is a five-year breast cancer survivor.
“Turning Point has helped me to grieve and release the life that was, to understand my lack of control over most things and to not let fear run my life. I have a greater understanding for those things over which I do have control, which has given me the freedom and joy to choose to live my life in each moment more fully alive and grateful.

“A few weeks ago I awoke on the morning of Turning Point’s Metastatic Cancer Support Group feeling a bit tired. Thinking I might go back to sleep, I realized this isn’t just about me – it’s about showing up for others. Community is what keeps me coming back.”

Judy lives with progressive multiple sclerosis.
“Due to my MS, I can't walk and have to hire help when my husband is at work. So many of Turning Point's classes have brought my life greater meaning and focus. Nutrition classes guide me on the healthiest ways to eat. Classes on the brain are so informative in showing me how I think. Meditation classes helped my mind to slow down. The biofeedback course offered me new and interesting ways to learn and breathe more easily. Turning Point is a continual blessing in my life!”

R. Wentworth is a seven-year prostate cancer survivor.
“Turning Point came into my life when I attended an Alzheimer’s disease conference after caring for my father with Alzheimer’s. I was later diagnosed with prostate cancer. As a retired Unity minister, keeping my spirit up mentally, physically and emotionally with joy is an integral part of keeping myself healthy and alive. Coming into Turning Point, I always feel uplifted by the welcome I receive.”

Participants share their Turning Point stories
(These are excerpts. For complete audio stories, visit kumed.com/turningpoint.)

(Photos by Glow Imagery)
sands across the region

Turning Point joins forces with hospital

In fall 2012, Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing joined forces with The University of Kansas Hospital. Since 2001, thousands of individuals and families living with serious and chronic physical illness have benefited from the patient support organization’s programs and services at no charge.

“In keeping with our commitment to doing what is best for the patient, Turning Point’s services will remain available to anyone who needs them, regardless of hospital affiliation.”

The new relationship is a win-win, agreed Moira Mulhern, PhD, Turning Point’s chief executive officer and co-founder. “The hospital is providing the infrastructure and support we need to expand our programs and reach more patients and families throughout the region.”

Page noted Turning Point also will play a key role in helping The University of Kansas Cancer Center become a Comprehensive Cancer Center, which is the next level of National Cancer Institute designation.

Your donation makes hope and healing possible

Turning Point provides high-quality educational programs and support services to individuals and families facing serious or chronic physical illness – at no charge. Ongoing financial support from participants, families, organizations and businesses makes these programs possible. You can make a gift online at turningpointkc.org or use the enclosed envelope. Contact Julie Mulhern, development director, 913-383-8700 or julie@turningpointkc.org, to learn more about giving opportunities.

Support for children of seriously ill parents

Whimsical murals cover rooms designed for children at Turning Point, which is the only Kansas City organization with support programs for children with a seriously ill parent. Activities including art, music, play therapy and relaxation help children understand and deal with the illness and its effect on the whole family. Through these activities, children develop coping skills and gain a much-needed sense of control over their lives.

Learn more about Turning Point’s programs and services at turningpointkc.org. Or call 913-383-8700.
The eighth annual Girls’ Night In, A Celebration for the Heart, raised an estimated $72,500 for the University of Kansas Hospital’s women’s heart health programs, including A Change of Heart®.

Held Feb. 19 at Portfolio Kitchen & Home, the girlfriends’ event featured four area restaurant chefs and a best-selling cookbook author creating heart-healthy bites for about 300 attendees.

Civic sous chefs
In addition, civic leaders teamed up as sous chefs to earn bragging rights as the Top Civic Sous Chef Team, competing to raise top dollar for women’s heart health programs. Ellen Merriman and Debbie Kennedy claimed the honors with $9,431.

Together, the teams raised more than $22,000. Other teams: Sondra Estes, Pharra Mucke and Kim Yuille; Sharon Lindenbaum and Anita K. Parran; and Gregory Muehlebach, MD, and Mark Wiley, MD.

Top restaurant chefs
Featured chefs were Matt Arnold, Webster House; Michael Foust, The Farmhouse; Nina Gann, The Westside Local; and Jonathan Justus, Justus Drugstore. Celebrity cookbook author Anne Byrn demonstrated recipes from Unbelievably Gluten-Free!

In addition to raising funds, Girls’ Night In raises awareness about women’s heart disease and promotes heart-healthy lifestyles. Visit girlsnightinkc.org for a photo gallery and recipes.

Past chairs of Girls’ Night In include (from left) civic sous chef Sharon Lindenbaum, Katie Van Luchene, civic sous chef Anita K. Parran and Merilyn Berenbom.
Healing journey inspires gift
Grateful family endows memorial fund to ensure advanced training for burn nurses

When Bob Evans, at 83, was badly burned in a household accident, the care team at The University of Kansas Hospital’s Burnett Burn Center provided what his wife, Susie, describes as “phenomenal physical and emotional care.”

Diabetes and other serious health conditions made Bob’s recovery especially challenging. Susie Evans says she marveled at the dedication, expertise and compassion of the burn unit nurses and the rest of the care team as they tended and encouraged her husband day after day. After three months, her dream of getting Bob back home came true.

Gift benefits burn nursing
Now, his family is giving back. They donated more than $60,000 to establish the Evans Family Burn Unit Nurse Education Fund in his memory. The endowed fund ensures the burn center can send a nurse to the American Burn Association conference each year.

“The effects of further educating one already highly motivated nurse to become even more passionate about burn care means that nurse will come back and share knowledge with the entire center,” said Maria Pena, RN, burn care nurse manager. “Ultimately, that significantly increases our potential to help our patients.”

Accredited by the ABA and the American College of Surgeons, the Burnett Burn Center is the only adult burn center in the Kansas City area.

A long journey
“Burns are different,” Susie Evans said, “because the effect is just so immediately traumatic. It’s so painful, and the recovery is so long.” A few months after his discharge, Bob died at home, surrounded by his family.

Susie says her family was incredibly moved when four burn center nurses attended his funeral.

Support burn nursing
Your gift to the Evans Family Burn Unit Nurse Education Fund will help ensure the most advanced care and expertise in burn nursing. This issue contains an envelope for your convenience, or contact Hospital Fund Development, 913-588-2800 or funddevelopment@kumc.edu.

Focus on the future
Postsurgery, they’re eager to focus on their recovery and their future. Thinking about the future is a new concept, Travis admits. “I’ve always focused on making it to the next day. This is the first time I’ve thought about living beyond 45.”

And while Taesha saved Travis’ life, he profoundly changed hers. “He’s provided me a new love of life,” she said.
Supporting cancer care

12th annual Treads & Threads is September 6 at Kansas Speedway

Longtime supporters of Treads & Threads, The University of Kansas Hospital’s annual benefit for cancer care, lead this year’s gala September 6 at Kansas Speedway.

Terry Dunn, JE Dunn Construction, and his wife, Peggy Dunn, mayor of Leawood, Kansas, are event chairs after many years on the steering committee. The Sunderland family, Ash Grove Cement Company, are honorary chairs. John Holt, Fox 4 News co-anchor and a cancer survivor, will emcee.

Big & Rich to headline
Country music showstoppers Big & Rich have just been signed as headliners. As always, the gala will feature delicious fare from more than 20 top area restaurants and amazing fireworks. Back by popular demand, Emerald City Band of Dallas will pack the dance floor until midnight.

Supporting personalized care
Proceeds from the 2013 gala support personalized care, which makes cancer treatment and care more effective by customizing it to each patient. Education, symptom management, support for the patient’s every day needs and survivorship programs are also part of personalized care.

A party with a purpose, Treads & Threads has contributed nearly $6.4 million to provide more options – and more hope – to patients at The University of Kansas Cancer Center since 2002.

Event details: treadsandthreads.org
To sponsor: 913-588-2800

Terry & Peggy Dunn
Event chairs

Kent Sunderland & Charlie Sunderland
The Sunderland Family
Honorary chairs

Big & Rich
Headline entertainment