

Why care.

Every gift has a story behind it.

As MHN Foundations enters a new season of growth and impact, our purpose remains rooted in a shared commitment to improving lives across the region – work made possible through the generosity of our supporters and the many people who answer the question, “Why I Care.”

MHN Foundations is a family of foundations united in support of Marshall Health Network and the patients and communities we serve throughout West Virginia, southern Ohio and eastern Kentucky. Together, our teams connect generosity with meaningful impact – supporting patient care, expanding access to services, investing in innovation and helping meet needs that often extend beyond the walls of a hospital or clinic.

At the heart of this work is a simple truth: every gift has a story behind it. Some contributions come from grateful patients and families. Others come from community members who believe in strengthening local healthcare and ensuring quality care remains available close to home. Each act of generosity reflects a deeply personal reason for giving – a reason to care and a desire to make a difference.

The stories in this section of *Marshall Health Network Magazine* reflect the power of that generosity in action and the



Back row (L-R): Rebecca Gray, Mary Ann Duncan, Izzy Cross, Beth McCulloch, Rory Chapman, Beth Hammers, Nicole Bright, Kyle Coleman **Front (L-R):** Beth Sparks Collins, Alexis Leach Wilson, Matt James, Sara Shultz-Britt

many ways our communities continue to support one another.

Because of the generosity of our donors, volunteers, caregivers and partners, hope is reaching further, healing is happening faster and lives are being changed every day. We look forward to making an even greater impact together. 

The iCare Impact

iCare is a monthly giving program created for people who believe that caring for one another is a shared responsibility. With a simple gift of \$20 per month, you become part of a community that ensures our hospitals are ready – today, tomorrow and for years to come. Joining iCare is simple – and the impact is lasting.

Give now



HOME TOWN *health* CARE

Scholarships allow nurses like Karen Meadows to care for patients in Point Pleasant.

For years, Karen Meadows has quietly met the needs of her community – one person, one moment at a time.

Meadows, who was born at the then-Pleasant Valley Hospital in 1970, has spent her entire adult life working for what is now Marshall Health Network-Rivers Health. Meadows, wife to Steve and mother of Lexi, graduated from Point Pleasant High School and then from St. Mary's School of Nursing before going to work at her hometown hospital.

A small portion of the favor was returned a few years ago when Meadows was awarded the Hartley Scholarship by the Rivers Health Scholarship Foundation to complete her bachelor's degree in nursing from Ohio University. The Hartley Scholarship, named after Vitus Hartley Jr., is given annually to students in the healthcare field and was created to help encourage students in the Point Pleasant area to return home to work in healthcare.

"It was an honor to get the award," Meadows said. "The Hartleys are a great family, and it was nice to be recognized. We need people to stay here and work. We need people to stay and care."

Meadows is the epitome of staying and caring. She

began her career on the surgical floor and spent time in the operating room and recovery. Now she is the director of quality and risk management.

In short, she's making sure everyone is taken care of, including the hospital.

"My main goal is to keep our patients and our staff safe while producing the best outcomes," she said. "Patient safety is my first priority, and I make sure that we meet all regulatory guidelines."

Today her role is more administrative, but Meadows has remained committed to caring for patients in their most vulnerable moments.

"I developed a real love for surgery patients," she said. "When they came out of surgery, they needed a lot of support – and then as days passed, I could see them getting better. I spent much of my time in recovery where patients needed me most because they were still under anesthesia. It was incredibly rewarding work."

As her daughter, who was also born at Rivers Health, grew more active, Meadows transitioned into case management because it allowed for a more predictable schedule. While the work shifted, her focus remained the same: advocating for patients and helping them navigate their care.

She found herself working through insurance challenges and helping patients access the resources they needed to manage their care and meet their needs. Each step, she said, has been a learning process, grounded in her desire to help others.

"I do feel pressure," she said. "It's a stressful job, but it's also very gratifying. I've spent my entire 32-year career here, and I take our success personally. Rivers Health is my home. I want us to succeed and achieve the best outcomes possible. Every day here, you make a difference, even if it's small."

Meadows said she's been surrounded by great teams at Rivers Health, and she volunteers outside of the hospital as well to help her community in whatever ways she can.

"You see how you can help, and it just makes you want to do more," she said.

Now, looking back on the impact the Hartley Scholarship has had on her career, Meadows offers simple words of wisdom for others looking to give back to their community, whether through time or resources.

"Step outside the box," she said. "Do one small thing and build from there. Don't worry about whether it's big enough. Every little bit counts."

Over time, those small acts add up to a lot. 

Nurse Karen Meadows in front of
the Point Pleasant Rail Bridge

*More to
explore*



Gifts at Work

John and Linda Williams built a thriving business and are now helping nursing students and people struggling with food insecurity.

John Williams is the very definition of a “pull yourself up by the bootstraps” success story, which is why he understands not only how to give, but also why it matters.

“If you can’t help your fellow man, what are you even working for?” asked Williams, who with his wife of 52 years, Linda, owned and operated John and Linda Home Builders Inc., based in Hurricane, West Virginia. “You just have to figure out where you want to give.”

Through their company and personal connections, the Williamses decided to support the Marshall Health Network Foundations, establishing an endowed scholarship for students at St. Mary’s School of Nursing and the John and Linda Williams Center for Education Food Pantry Endowment Fund.

Substance use ran strong in Williams’ family and ultimately forced his mother to separate from his father. She moved Williams and his younger brother from Marlinton, West Virginia,

to St. Petersburg, Florida, when Williams was a boy. With money scarce and hunger a constant reality, Williams went to work at an early age to help his mother pay the bills. He ran a newspaper route, mowed yards and rode his bike 6 miles to a job at a golf club.

He later held a steady job at the grocery store Publix as a teenager. He worked hard for tips and learned who gave them

and how to earn them. During the summers, he would visit his dad back in West Virginia and work in the hay fields.

After high school and a brief stint at junior college, Williams spent time in Wisconsin, California and Virginia before returning to West Virginia to work in road construction. He worked hard and quickly developed a talent for managing people. It was during this time in his mid-20s that Williams fortuitously met his future wife, Linda, the child of a church pastor, who was helping Williams’ mother, who had returned to West Virginia with substantial health problems. The two married on Williams’ 28th birthday, and they built a good life together in the Kanawha Valley, from Dunbar and Teays Valley to Hurricane and Milton.

“It’s been hard work, and we’ve had our share of trials and tribulations,” Williams said. “You know those wedding vows, ‘for better or for worse, in sickness and in health’ – well, we’ve been there and done all that.”



St. Mary’s School of Nursing students utilize the school’s new food pantry, a resource designed to support student well-being and success.



John and Linda Williams established scholarships for nursing students as well as a Food Pantry Endowment Fund.

In their early years of marriage, the Williamses wanted to buy a home together, but they couldn't find one they liked until they saw an advertisement for one in 84 Lumber. They built it and someone wanted to buy it. They sold it and built another.

"We just kept building and selling them," Williams said. "Then we started buying up all the available lots. We were building five or six houses a year. I found a banker I trusted, Jack Wilson, who lent us the money to build our first subdivision, and we were on our way."

They eventually got into building and leasing office buildings, including one to St. Mary's Family Care Center, which

marked the beginning of an important relationship.

"It worked out well, and we've been able to give back and leave something for others," Williams said. "That's how the St. Mary's nursing scholarship began. We're getting ready to endow a scholarship at Marshall, too. We have no children, and it's not just about us. We don't do it for any attention; we just wanted a way to give back. You know what they say: 'You can't hitch a U-Haul to a hearse.' I just thank the Lord that we've been able to do it and we were frugal enough to save a little."

The food pantry endowment grew out of a continuing desire to help those who struggle with hunger — a feeling Williams

personally remembers. He said he hopes others will continue to support it and prays it makes a meaningful difference for struggling students, helping them persevere through tough times.

Williams credits his wife, hard work, surrounding himself with quality people, self-control and God for his success.

"One thing often leads to another, but you just give back what God gives you," he said. "When you give, it doesn't have to be a lot. It can be tithing a little more, giving to Little League, making a cake for a bake sale for the Girl Scouts. Whatever it is, it's just good to give."

That is something John and Linda Williams know well. 💚



Team members from across Marshall Health Network participated in the American Heart Walk at Ritter Park.



The Rivers Health Golf Tournament raised funds to support the Rivers Health Good Samaritan Fund.



Edward's Cancer Institute honored cancer survivors during its annual Survivors Day celebration.



Huntington's Kitchen Kids Camp teaches children how to prepare healthy meals and snacks.



Local first responders shared stories and smiles with patients at Hoops Family Children's Hospital

ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY



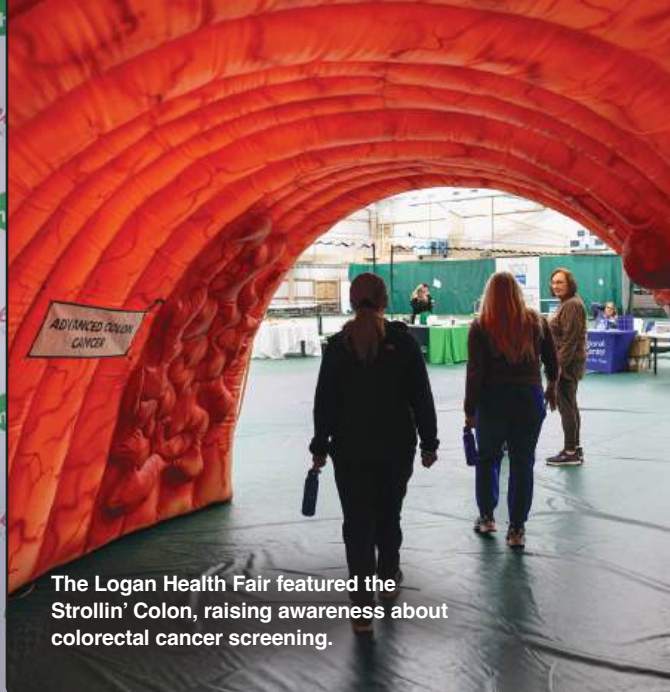
MHN leaders cheered on the Thundering Herd during a home basketball game against Georgia Southern.



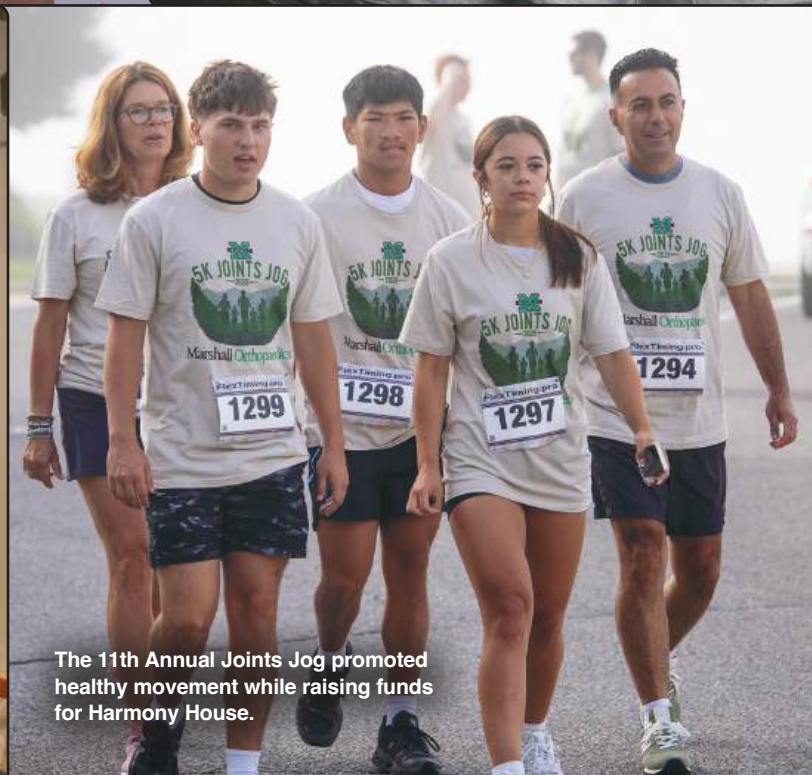
MHN President and CEO Scott Raynes and Chief Engagement Officer Beth Hammers joined Dr. Larry Dial as he was inducted into the 2026 West Virginia Executive Magazine Health Care Hall of Fame.



The 26th Annual Women's Philanthropy Society Luncheon honored women making a lasting impact in our community.



The Logan Health Fair featured the Strollin' Colon, raising awareness about colorectal cancer screening.



The 11th Annual Joints Jog promoted healthy movement while raising funds for Harmony House.



The 2026 MHN Foundations Gala, *Western Sky*, raised more than \$600,000 for the St. Mary's Regional Heart Institute.



Hope Blooms "Planting the Seeds of Hope" brunch and fashion show raised funds for Project Hope for Women and Children.



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Every gift helps advance care across Marshall Health Network, from new technology and expanded services to the compassionate support that surrounds every patient experience.

**Every gift has a story.
What's your why?**

 Foundations

