CARING

touching lives & improving health

Walking Trail Dedication for Carol J. Turner

The Promise of Hope Campaign

Legends Issue 16: The Levey Family

Pictured: Carol J. Turner, Atrium’s retired president and CEO, at the dedication of Atrium’s walking trail named in her honor.
Coming Full Circle

The walking trail is now complete – and it has a terrific name! This lovely addition to our campus, which meanders around the perimeter of our campus, is now the Carol J. Turner Trail, to honor Atrium Medical Center’s former president and CEO. Creating a walking trail for people to use for enjoyment and fitness was one of Carol’s goals, and she requested that any funds donated upon her retirement after 37 years of service be used for the trail.

It’s fitting that the Turner Trail be completed as we celebrate two milestones: the 10th anniversary of Atrium’s opening and the 100th anniversary of our hospital serving our community. Within the trail, the men and women of Atrium serve patients who come from Warren and Butler counties and beyond to receive an impressive range of medical services at our beautiful facility. These services and programs are ever expanding. For instance, in this issue of Caring, you’ll read how a new program at Atrium called CenteringPregnancy® cares for the highest risk cases.

Centennial Garden Opens on Completed Walking Trail

Whether you seek mindfulness or distraction, a dose of serenity or a boost of energy, walking is a step in the right direction. That’s why during the capital campaign to build Atrium Medical Center, hospital employees made a three-year pledge to help fund a walking trail around the perimeter of the hospital’s buildings. That was just the beginning.

As construction continued, Carol J. Turner, Atrium’s then-president and CEO, remarked: “Once complete, the trail will be a lovely place for employees, visitors and the public to walk, jog, exercise and focus on their wellness.” From the first turn of a shovel until her retirement late last year, Carol remained a passionate supporter of the project.

GETTING STARTED

The first 0.9-mile segment of the path stretches alongside Campus Loop Drive from the Emergency Trauma Center to Hilltop Drive. In 2016, a 0.3-mile addition, funded by a grant from Interact for Health, extended the trail along the south end of the campus.

The trail connects a series of gardens, water features and benches, all the result of generous gifts from Foundation donors. These oases include:

- The Caregivers Memory Garden, established by employees in 2013 to honor deceased hospital employees, medical staff members and volunteers
- The Cancer Survivors Memory Garden with a water feature
- For grieving parents, the HEAL (Help Endure a Loss) Garden with its dramatic bronze Angel of Hope sculpture by Richard Paul Evans
- The Legacy Garden Path, paved with bricks salvaged from Middletown Regional Hospital
- The Centennial Garden, newly added with completion of the walking trail
pregnant women in our community. The goal? More beautiful, healthy babies.

Helping people get healthier is an ongoing goal of Atrium and the supporters of this Foundation. I sincerely thank donors to our current campaign, The Promise of Hope. Emotional disorders and addictions are difficult subjects, but our donors – including generous Atrium employees – are saying “yes” to raising funds to make needed improvements in our Behavior Health Unit.

I invite you to take a walk on the Turner Trail soon, which is putting many people on a new road to wellness. Enjoy the view of Mother Nature – and a hospital dedicated to positive outcomes for you and your neighbors.

Michael D. Long, Chair, Board of Directors

CLOSING THE LOOP

In 2017, construction was completed on the final 0.4-mile phase of the walking trail along the west and north sides of the campus. This portion was supported by Gemma Power Systems and approximately a dozen of its subcontractors. Gemma is building the Middletown Energy Center, a 475-megawatt natural gas-powered electric generating facility. As a temporary corporate citizen of Middletown, Gemma was seeking a way to contribute to the community. Completing Atrium’s walking trail was a win for the hospital and community, as well as for Gemma.

IN HONOR OF CAROL J. TURNER

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the last segment took place on October 10. After a decade of determination and hard work by the Foundation and others – fueled in large part by the dream and steadfast vision of Carol Turner – Atrium’s walking trail is complete and its gardens are flourishing. It seems fitting, then, that Atrium Medical Center and Foundation are proud to welcome all visitors to step right up to the newly christened Carol J. Turner Trail.

On October 10, community members, Atrium employees and friends of the Foundation celebrated the completion of Atrium’s walking trail, which was named in honor of Carol J. Turner, retired president and CEO.
DONORS STEP UP TO GIVE
The Promise of Hope

The growing number of people with substance abuse and mental health issues is skyrocketing—and Atrium is the only comprehensive health care facility in the area for those who are struggling.

The Promise of Hope campaign to meet the need and enhance behavioral health services at Atrium has great momentum. To date, more than $230,000 has been raised, working toward the goal of $400,000.

With a successful campaign, we can double the number of intensive care rooms in Atrium’s Behavioral Health Unit and provide a nurse trained in behavioral health to be on Atrium’s Emergency Trauma Center team. In addition, a bereavement room and a sensory room can be created, as well as other important outpatient and inpatient services.

“Those who contribute to this campaign show their understanding of behavioral health problems and the urgent need for more help in this area,” says Amy Newland, a physician advocate at Atrium who’s co-chairing the campaign with Charles Anderson, owner of Anderson Funeral Homes. “We thank each donor for their much-needed support. These are difficult issues to face, but contributors are showing how much they want to help with this growing problem.”

Amy adds that she has been touched by the kind words of her fellow Atrium employees who reacted to her story about her son, Chad, and his struggles with mental health issues. “More than ever, we realize that people with substance abuse and mental health issues live throughout our communities,” Amy says. “Even if you don’t personally know someone struggling with these problems, it might be the person driving the car next to you.”

“With the support of our generous donors, Atrium can offer more individuals the promise of a future and a life that can be restored,” says Michael D. Stautberg, president of Atrium Medical Center Foundation. “Emotional disorders and opiate and other substance abuse problems are impacting lives in every one of our communities. We are deeply grateful to our donors who are giving the promise of hope to their neighbors.”

Won’t you help bring hope to those who are suffering—and their families? Please use the enclosed envelope or make your donation online. Thank you for sharing The Promise of Hope.
Bereavement Room So Needed

When a large family faces a loved one’s crisis, finding a space for them at Atrium to gather in privacy is a challenge. The Promise of Hope campaign hopes to change that.

“When loved ones are learning distressing news about a patient, they need privacy to absorb what they’re hearing and, often, to cling to one another,” says Marquita Turner, RN, BSN, CEN, MBA, Atrium’s chief operating officer and chief nursing officer. “Right now, in the Emergency Trauma Center (ETC), we have only a small consultation room that serves two or three people at a time, not large enough for even a medium-size family. Plus, it’s a noisy room with little privacy.”

That’s why Marquita and others are pleased that part of the funds raised by The Promise of Hope campaign will include the conversion of a small consultation room to a more spacious, comfortable and private bereavement room. Funding for this room – on Atrium’s second floor – is also provided in part by the Piccioni Family Foundation, Wilbur and Miriam Cohen, Atrium Auxiliary Middletown and the Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty.

“When loved ones are learning of a death, a medical crisis, or a surprising diagnosis or outcome, they’re often stunned by the news and need the right setting to begin to understand what’s happening,” Marquita says. “This new bereavement room is another important way we at Atrium and our Foundation donors can take care of our patients and their families.”

Sensory Room Provides the Right Environment

As you can imagine, people arriving at Atrium with behavioral health issues or addiction problems are often agitated and even harmful to themselves or others. Our health care providers work hard to calm the person down and use restraints only as a last resort.

Remarkably, a specific environment can go a long way to soothe patients. Letting the person “de-escalate” in what’s called a sensory room has been shown to be very helpful in bringing calmness and peace, and helps decrease the need for restraints. That’s why, upon recommendations from Atrium’s Behavioral Health Unit team, creating a sensory room in the unit is part of The Promise of Hope campaign. Funding for the room will also be provided in part by Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties and Atrium Auxiliary Middletown.

In the sensory room, the patient controls the lighting, music and aromas. Even this activity gives the individual a focus, which is very helpful. The materials used in the room, including a shag rug, have carefully chosen tactile surfaces that encourage the de-escalation process, as do the room’s other visual calming features.

Research has shown it’s a single room that works wonders.
I wish you could see the faces of people who bring a loved one to a trauma or emergency center because the person is suffering from an emotional disorder or addiction problem. Perhaps the family has been trying for years to get medical help for their son, their daughter, their parent, their sibling – but the person has refused.

It might be 2:30 in the morning when the suffering person says, “Yes, okay, I need help,” and how lucky the family is that there’s a hospital open 24/7, ready to help. If the family must delay until morning to call a medical office or another facility – if they can even find one willing to take new patients – the wait could be weeks or months.

But they come to Atrium and find the promise of hope.

The role of hospitals in treating people with emotional disorders and addictions has dramatically increased. In this region, at the same time the number of people affected has increased dramatically, the number of places offering help has dwindled.

That’s why I eagerly join with the other medical professionals at Atrium Medical Center to thank everyone who’s contributing to The Promise of Hope campaign now underway. Because Atrium’s Behavioral Health Unit is usually filled to the maximum, we’re so grateful that the Foundation’s campaign wants to double the number of intensive care rooms located in this peaceful, healing area of the hospital.

Also, with your support of the campaign, a nurse trained in behavioral health will be on Atrium’s Emergency Trauma Center team. He or she will evaluate patients with emotional disorders and move them into appropriate care more quickly. In addition, the campaign seeks to fund additional recreational amenities in the Behavioral Health Unit, increase outpatient behavioral health services, and create private bereavement rooms in the hospital for grieving families and friends.

Yes, I wish you could be there to see the faces of the suffering person and their loved ones, seeking help for emotional problems, addictions, or both. You might be surprised to see it’s your neighbor, a co-worker, a parent of your child’s friend. I also wish you could be there as they receive – thanks to you – the promise of hope by being admitted to the hospital.

I am supporting this important campaign and ask you to consider joining me in making a contribution. Thank you.
An innovative idea for helping pregnant women have healthy babies has come to Atrium. A new program called CenteringPregnancy®, which began in September, can help reduce the number of premature births, infant mortality and low birth weights occurring in this area, especially to women who often do not receive complete prenatal care.

The Centering program brings together eight to 10 pregnant women, living in Butler County and receiving Medicaid health care services, who are due around the same time. The women meet on a regular basis at the Maternal Child Health Center at Atrium. During these visits, patients talk and bond as they share experiences with one another. They also see health care providers for much-needed prenatal care and education.

The women meet during the pregnancy and postpartum period, promoting support and friendship among group members. The total time spent with the health care provider averages 20 hours, compared with two hours for the traditional model of prenatal care.

The Centering program, offered in select cities around the country, has been shown to improve outcomes, including:

- Fewer preterm births
- Fewer low birth weight babies
- Better breastfeeding rates
- Reduced racial differences in preterm birth, affecting many newborns in the Middletown community

The program is the result of a partnership between Atrium and Butler County Partnership to Reduce Infant Mortality (PRIM). Funding is provided by a grant from the Butler County Family and Children First Council.

“Infants are dying in our county at rates higher than other counties around the state and the nation,” says Jenny Bailer, Butler County health commissioner. “Our African-American babies are being hit especially hard by low birth weights and prematurity.”

Priority for enrollment in Atrium’s Centering program goes to African-American women, as they suffer the highest rates of infant deaths before their baby’s first birthday, according to the Ohio Department of Health. Statewide in 2015, the infant mortality rate was 7.2 deaths per 1,000 live births for all races — but 15.1 deaths per 1,000 live births for African-American infants.

“I’m always pleased when we find a way to help the youngest members of our community. The Centering program brings together women who might not otherwise access the full spectrum of prenatal and postpartum care,” says obstetrician/gynecologist Rhonda Washington, MD, Centering program medical director. “We thank Foundation donors for their support that enables us to help fund the Centering program.”

Dr. Rhonda Washington, right, obstetrician/gynecologist and Centering program medical director, shares the joy of a healthy baby with a patient and family.
Celebrating 10 Years at Atrium

By Michael R. Uhl, President, Atrium Medical Center

2007 and 1917 were two very good years here in southwest Ohio. Ten years ago — on December 9, 2007 — Atrium Medical Center opened in our beautiful, patient-centered building located on our new, spacious campus. Atrium succeeded Middletown Regional Hospital, which opened on March 5, 1917, and served our community for 90 years.

The new hospital was the result of many years of planning how we could make health care easier for those who rely on us. As our building rose near I-75 and SR 122, we realized our vision of partnering with the City of Middletown to become the anchor for a health care, technology, research and education campus that would spur development in the Renaissance district in Middletown’s east end. We welcomed patients and their loved ones to a comfortable, light-filled environment with single-bed rooms, larger operating rooms with the newest technology, convenient parking and so much more.

What a great decade it’s been! Thanks in part to support from generous donors, our services continue to grow to meet the pressing health care needs of our neighbors. As a certified member of the MD Anderson Cancer Network®, Atrium and Premier Health offer our patients access to nationally recognized cancer care.

A Year of Centennial Events

A century of caring service deserves a year of celebration. Beginning in September 2016 with the Memories Are Made of This – Celebrating 100 Years gala, our community has looked back at the hospital’s remarkable legacy of care and looked ahead to new opportunities for health and wellness.

On September 24, 2016, more than 1,000 guests – the most ever for an Atrium event – gathered for Atrium Medical Center Foundation’s fourth triennial gala. The hospital’s founders were honored for their foresight and perseverance, and 100 years of history were on display.

We welcomed the community to Atrium on March 5, 2017, the actual anniversary of the opening of the first, 28-bed Middletown Hospital. Descendants of our founders, along with community and hospital leaders, marked this important day with neighbors, donors and hospital employees.

To thank southwest Ohio residents for all their support through the years, Atrium sponsored fireworks for the 2017 Middletown Independence Day Festival on July 3. We had fun making a “big bang” with the thousands
who gathered. Throughout the year, we were pleased to extend our centennial celebration by sponsoring a variety of other events throughout the hospital’s service area in Monroe, Franklin, West Chester/Liberty, Lebanon, Mason and Springboro.

Dedicated caregivers are the heart and soul of Atrium. To thank them for all that they do for our patients every day, the hospital gave each a fleece jacket embroidered with Atrium’s centennial logo. Caregivers and their families also were treated to a Dayton Dragons game at the end of May, with opportunities to participate in on-field fun, and a relaxing picnic with their families in July at Stricker’s Grove. Atrium’s caring physicians were honored for their commitment at an appreciation event in October.

“Our remarkable history is so inspiring,” says Michael R. Uhl, president, Atrium Medical Center. “It’s been a joy to celebrate all the people and events that have played a role in creating today’s medical center. With gratitude for the first 100 years, we move ahead committed to serving our community with caring and innovation for another century.”

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NEW HEALTH CENTERS COMING IN MONROE, LIBERTY

We understand that whenever possible, you want high quality care close to home or work. That’s why we’re growing with new health centers coming to Monroe, about two miles west of I-75, and Liberty Township, near Lakota East High School. We hope to open both centers in 2018, with physician practices and other services to simplify your busy life.

On behalf of our entire team of more than 2,000 employees, physicians and volunteers, we’re deeply honored to be part of your life at the times you need us most. We’re grateful for your trust in us and for all you do to make our hospital — and our community — a better place. Thank you!

From open heart surgery to expanded stroke and neuroscience services to our new Senior Emergency Center and Natural Beginnings Birth Center, Atrium serves not only patients from the Middletown area, but also attracts residents of Dayton and Cincinnati, as well.

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Among the events celebrating the hospital’s 100th anniversary were a medical staff appreciation evening in October, an employee picnic in July and a Dayton Dragons game in May. In addition, every employee received a blue fleece jacket with Atrium’s centennial logo.
Creating Our Future

Heritage Society members have included Atrium Medical Center Foundation in their will or estate plans. Members are as of November 1, 2017. If you’ve included the Foundation in your estate plans, please notify us so we may recognize your generosity. Thank you!

Join Us to Honor the Legacy of G. Robert Gage

Atrium Medical Center Foundation’s endowment program gives everyone an opportunity to create an endowment or contribute to an existing one targeted toward improving health care and education for generations to come. For example, after G. Robert Gage’s sudden death at age 73 in 2005, family members and friends established two memorial endowments in his name: one to support Atrium’s cardiology services and one to provide scholarships for hospital employees wishing to further their training.

Bob was a longtime friend and champion for Middletown Regional Hospital and Atrium Medical Center. Those who knew him say he was a wise man who dreamed big dreams and made them come true. Due in large part to Bob’s vision, leadership, business savvy and sheer determination, Atrium Medical Center and its health and technology campus went from dream to reality. Although Bob passed away before the new hospital opened, his legacy of service lives on in the endowments established in his name. Last year the scholarship fund granted three awards totaling $4,000 to Atrium employees. The cardiac fund helps to support expanded heart care services.

“Bob was a visionary leader and great friend to so many in the community. Please join us in celebrating his legacy by giving to the Gage endowment funds. What a fitting way to remember Bob and mark two big anniversaries: 10 years since Atrium’s opening and 100 years of hospital service,” says Bill Hardin, Bob’s friend and business associate.

Bill and Kitty Hardin urge you to give so that these endowments can do even more good. Please contact the Foundation to make your gift.
CHARITABLE LEAD TRUSTS:
Leveraging Generosity

Joel S. Brant, Katz Teller

Jody Brant is an attorney specializing in estate and wealth planning with Katz Teller. He serves on many community boards and is a graduate of Dartmouth College, Georgetown University and New York University School of Law.

A charitable lead trust (CLT) is a valuable estate planning tool for charitably inclined individuals. A CLT allows the grantor to make annual gifts to charity while effectively transferring wealth to heirs largely free of estate and gift taxation. This irrevocable trust is designed to distribute an annual income interest (the lead interest) to at least one qualified charity for a period measured by a fixed term of years or the lives of one or more individuals. At the end of the term, the balance of the trust assets (the remainder interest) is distributed to non-charitable beneficiaries, such as the family members of the grantor.

Due to the value of the lead interest passing to charity, the length of the term of the trust, and low applicable federal interest rates, the CLT can be structured so that the value of the gift to the grantor’s family at the end of the CLT’s term may be close to zero for transfer tax purposes. The grantor may transfer assets to the remainder beneficiaries of the CLT with minimal or no gift tax consequence, and the transferred assets are excluded from the grantor’s estate. The grantor may simultaneously meet his or her personal charitable giving goals.

The income tax benefits of a CLT vary depending on its precise form. For example, a CLT may be designed so that its income is taxed to the grantor, making the grantor eligible for an upfront charitable income tax deduction when the CLT is created, subject to applicable percentage limitations. Alternatively, the income may be taxable to the trust as it is earned, and the trust may take the charitable deduction for amounts passing to the charitable beneficiaries.

Your estate and tax planning advisor can help you determine the best charitable lead trust structure for your individual situation. For more information about making a charitable gift to Atrium Medical Center Foundation, please contact Michael D. Stautberg, Foundation president, or Samuel R. Lobar, director of major gifts.

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