The cancer awareness symposium has been offered to the public since 2001 and became the Bill and Ruth McGraw Cancer Awareness Symposium in 2006. It is held in honor of the late Bill and Ruth McGraw, parents of Bill McGraw III and his sisters, Karen McGraw and Chris Grilliot. Between them, Bill and Ruth McGraw had cancer five times, but neither died from the disease.

The awareness program is made possible by a gift from the McGraw Family Fund of The Troy Foundation and a grant from the UVMC Foundation.
It is remarkable what can be accomplished by those with vision and purpose.

In its eleventh year, the annual Bill and Ruth McGraw Cancer Awareness Symposium again brought an outstanding speaker to Miami County. Since 2006, this annual partnership between the McGraw Family Fund of The Troy Foundation, the UVMC Foundation and the UVMC Cancer Care Center has brought internationally recognized authors, public figures, highly respected local and national cancer specialists and physicians to speak to the members of our community on issues related to cancer treatment, prevention and awareness. Literally thousands of people in our community have had the opportunity to hear these speakers.

Since 2014, Rachel’s Challenge outreach program has been offered to all Miami County schools with the hope of combating bullying and feelings of loneliness and isolation among our county’s youth while teaching positive interpersonal skills. This program is making a difference in the lives of our youth. The UVMC Foundation thanks its funding partners: The Troy Foundation, Miami County Foundation, Piqua Community Foundation, Paul G. Duke Foundation, Tipp City Community Foundation, PNC Financial Services Group, the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio and numerous individuals for making this five year community health outreach project possible.

Kind regards,

August of 2016 will mark the beginning of the third year of the UVMC Foundation’s five year commitment to bring Rachel’s Challenge to Miami County schools.

The genesis of this five-year project began with a health needs assessment conducted by UVMC in 2012-2013. The results of a Youth Health Risk Behavior Survey conducted with a sample of 1,246 Miami County middle and high school students, as part of the health needs assessment, indicated that bullying and cyber-bullying were significant issues for youth in our county and we had a need to address and diffuse them.

The Rachel’s Challenge program was developed specifically for children and youth to motivate and equip them to start and sustain a chain reaction of kindness and compassion that transforms schools and communities. It does far more than discouraging bullying and cyber-bullying. It provides a framework for young people to reach out to others and make a positive difference in each others’ lives. The program was developed with input from health care professionals and educators.

Rachel Joy Scott was the first teenageer shot and killed in the April 20, 1999, Columbine High School shooting in Colorado. Her family started the Rachel’s Challenge program based upon Rachel’s writing and her philosophy of life to reach out to young people in our nation’s schools. Her story is one of inspiration, courage and kindness.

All nine county public school systems, plus the three faith-based schools in Miami County have had this programming offered to their students. Academic year 2015-2016 focused on middle and high school students. With Year 3 of this project, at participating schools we will again focus on all grades K-12 with the addition of enhanced programming for high school students that was introduced in Year 2.

“[Student’s name] thought you would enjoy Covington Elementary’s kindness chain. Our school year goal was to reach around the high school track with kindness loops. We made it around the track and 1/3 of the way back too! Students will be rewarded with a Rachel’s Challenge picnic in the park.”
Rick Fry
Covington Elementary School Principal
Operation Street Smart

UVMC Foundation Sponsors Drug Education Program

Operation Street Smart drug awareness program was designed to educate parents, health care workers, educators, DARE/school resource officers, law enforcement, social workers, etc., with up-to-date information on drug trends, terminology, paraphernalia, concealment techniques, and physiological effects of drug usage.

Created by the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, Operation Street Smart is a collaborative effort between DARE and the Special Investigations Unit (Sheriff’s Office undercover narcotics branch) to better arm adults with important information about youth drug abuse.

The program, sponsored by the UVMC Foundation, was held May 12 at the Crystal Room in Troy. Approximately 100 people attended the program which was free and open to the public.

Coming soon – Expansion and Renovation of the Emergency Department at UVMC. Project to be completed in 2017

Phase I - addition of 27,299 sq. feet - 2016

Phase II - renovation of 16,697 sq. feet - 2017

Our space is growing to better serve you - at final completion the UVMC Emergency Department will be more than 3 times larger than our current space.

Connor O’Leary continued from page 1

With that approach, a long-time desire to participate in The Amazing Race was resurrected. He convinced his father, a prostate cancer survivor, to apply as his teammate. In the Amazing Race television reality program teams of two people race around the world in competitions with other teams.

The O’Learys were selected but had to drop out of the competition when his father was injured. They got another chance later in The Amazing Race All-Star competition in 2013. This time the O’Leary team won and took home a $1 million prize to Salt Lake City.

“It was much harder than I ever thought. I thought ‘I am a little bit of an athlete, I may have a little edge,’ but it was hard,” O’Leary said. He is back into cycling with his next big challenge a 2,700-mile ride from Canada to Mexico, a feat he hopes to accomplish in 14 days.

His advice to others? Don’t ignore signs of possible trouble and live life to the fullest.

“I was an elite athlete, there was no way I could get cancer. I spent every day being as healthy as I could be. That (diagnosis) was a little tough to swallow,” he said. “I initially thought, ‘How did this happen to me and not one of my friends playing X-Box all day?’ You soon realize you can’t ask those kind of questions. You are dealt the hand you are.”
If you do not want to receive future fundraising requests supporting Upper Valley Medical Center, please call our office number at 937-440-7541 or send an email to uvmcfoundation@uvmc.com identifying yourself and stating that you do not want to receive future fundraising requests. You may also write to us at UVMC Foundation, 3130 N. County Road 25A, Troy, Ohio 45373. We will honor your request after the date we receive your direction.