Leadership, fiscal oversight and strategic vision are all provided by the Wooster Community Hospital Health System’s Board of Governors, who give freely of their time and talents to advance our mission.

Mayor Robert Breneman..............................Chairman
Dan Wakefield, Chester Twp. ........Vice Chairman
Jerry Packard, ESQ .......................................Secretary
Tammy Brooks, Franklin Twp.
Tom Capek, East Union Twp.
Tod Carmony, Wayne Twp.
Craig Forcell, Clinton Twp.
Charles Kiper, Wooster Twp.
Greg Long, CPA
David Reynolds, MD
Gary Thompson
Yvonne Williams, PhD

Bill Sheron ................................................President/CEO

Charitable estate planning creates an opportunity to make a meaningful commitment, leaving a legacy that can honestly change the lives of real people for the better: better care, better outcomes, new hope and new strength throughout our community.

The Sapphire Legacy Society recognizes and celebrates those foresighted individuals and families who have made endowed, estate or other planned gifts to The Wooster Community Hospital Foundation.

If you would like more information on how you can become a Legacy Society Member, please contact Angela Rincon at arincon@wchosp.org or call 330.263.8701.

2021 Community Partners

- Albright Welding Supply Co. Inc.
- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- American Red Cross
- CAMO (Central American Medical Outreach Inc.)
- The Children’s Advocacy Center
- The College of Wooster
- Covelli Enterprises
- Grace Church
- Joyful Cafe
- The Karen Wellington Foundation
- LifeCare Hospice
- Main Street Wooster
- Nick Amster
- OneEighty, Inc.
- United Way of Wayne and Holmes Counties
- The Viola Startzman Clinic
- Wayne Center for the Arts
- Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Wayne County Committee for Crippled Children & Adults Inc.
- Wayne County Community Foundation
- Wayne Economic Development Council
- Western Reserve Group
- Whit’s End Community Place
- Wooster Chamber of Commerce

In 2021 the Society Honors:

Audrey Beaverson
Flo Gault
Justine Geiser
Marilyn Lawrence
Maxine Loehr
Lula Mann
Dorothy Marshall
Nancy McKee
Lawrence Reed
Glenn Sell
Frances Schoolroy
Donna Smetzer
Richard Smetzer
Esther Wolbaugh

Introducing the WCH Endowment Fund.

While all gifts to the Hospital contribute to the high quality of care we provide, the recent creation of the Wooster Community Hospital Endowment Fund is particularly meaningful in that it will provide a dependable, continuously growing source of funding.

The total amount of any gift to an endowment fund is invested. Each year, only a portion of the income earned is spent, while the remainder is added to the principal for growth. A gift to an endowment fund can thus return many times its original value over time, making it truly “a gift that keeps giving.” In this respect, any gift to the WCH Endowment Fund becomes a perpetual gift.

Our Endowment Fund will allow the Hospital to use annual investment income for programs, operations, or specific initiatives that will advance our mission and so the health of our entire community.
When asked recently to describe the last two years at the Hospital, I chose the term rollercoaster. Since 2020, we have had four COVID-19 surges, and the uncertainty of each day or week has been extremely difficult on all of us.

Today, several things stand out to me. First, that no one truly understood this virus and its transmission. We spent tens of thousands preparing for worst case scenarios based on government data that often proved to be questionable. We were forced to stop many elective services for a time... all of which confused our patients, but worse, created a fear in the general public of necessary doctor appointments and hospital visits. Two years on, we are still experiencing this to an extent... and wonder what a return to normal will be like.

That said, what never changed was the dedication of our employees. Many were fearful of this unknown virus, and how it might affect them. Though WCH routinely treats patients with severe respiratory conditions, we never prepared for this on a pandemic level. Our staff and physicians bravely went about their jobs knowing they had to take care of their patients. We witnessed patients that we could not save. Families were separated due to safety precautions.

In retrospect, what is most remarkable is that patient satisfaction ratings actually increased – well up into the top 10th percentile in many areas. Despite surges in patient volumes, dealing with the unknown, limiting family visitation, stress, fatigue, etc., our patients told us clearly that they appreciated and valued the care they received.

The full credit goes to those who unselfishly went about their jobs during this COVID-19 rollercoaster ride. They are remarkable and deserve our praise and thanks. Thanks also to the many individuals, businesses, churches and organizations who supported our employees during this time. It was visible and much appreciated. It is an honor to serve this community.

Welding together cancer care and team spirit for WCH.

It all began as a good-natured team-building exercise at Albright Welding Supply. Founded in Wooster in 1928, Albright today has offices in Orrville and Canton... and a new perspective on how small businesses can make a big difference.

“It started out when one of our guys noticed the 'Male Health Awareness Month' thing where everybody grows beards and moustaches and we said, let's do it!” according to Steffan Horst, Vice President of Albright. “Then one employee's mom was diagnosed with breast cancer, and we realized we could turn it into something more.”

They decided to support different cancer programs month-by-month, and to keep the money local, so they reached out to WCH. In just a few days, Albright’s Office Manager Anita Kesner ordered T-shirts, donation buckets for every cash register, set up bar coding for credit card donations, made up signage... and it snowballed from there.

“By end of November we raised $475, and Albright matched it to make an even $1000. We made it as fun as we could, our team had their own competitions and from every point of view, it was well worth it. We plan to do it again next fall. Hopefully other Wooster companies will join us. It brought our team together for sure, and we helped out the community at the same time... something the world needs more of.”

At WCH, even small donations make big impacts. And in this case, weld us all closer together.
When last you met lifelong Woosterites Dick and Donna Smetzer – in our 2019 Annual Report – they were living in their beautiful family home, walking over a mile a day together... and had just made a generous gift in support of WCH’s upcoming major renovation of the Emergency Department.

Now, two years on, they’ve relocated to their new retirement home. And are even more deeply committed to their vision for Wooster Community Hospital.

“We just wanted to say, we intend to keep gifting to the Hospital’s Emergency Department,” they wrote. “The more we’ve gifted, the more we want it to happen. We’re going to keep gifting until it’s done! Our goal is to see WCH has the very best Emergency Department possible, for Wooster and the surrounding counties, very soon. That’s what we want to see someday.” Their daughters are on board as well, to help make sure Dick and Donna’s vision comes to fruition.

The Smetzers’ remarkable generosity will name the new Patient Access and Emergency Center: not only the ED itself, but what amounts to a “new front door” for the entire Hospital. Its design will include lessons learned from the pandemic. It will be more patient-sensitive and patient-responsive, more centrally located with access to every Hospital service, and better suited to meet Wooster’s evolving needs for emergency care.

And while the project has been delayed due to COVID-19 and supply chain disruptions, the plan is for Dick Smetzer to engage with our working group as it moves forward again, lending his wisdom, expertise and leadership.

So committed as they’ve always been to each other (recently celebrating their 71st wedding anniversary) and to Wooster, the Smetzers are simply making sure everyone gets excellent care when they need it most... just like Dick received back in 2019.

And today? Dick and Donna are still walking in their new facility. “Yes, I think we’re the only people who walk up and down those stairs every day!”
While 2021 was clearly another difficult year for our community, the cornerstones of our strategic plan – excellence, engagement, growth and alignment – are still firmly in place. Leadership and staff persevered with great resilience even as COVID-19 continued to create a very stressed environment for our entire team. (In Q3, for example, our inpatient satisfaction scores exceeded the 95th percentile.) And in 2021, WCH was awarded an unprecedented seventh IBM/Watson award for quality improvement.

In truth, we endured an operational rollercoaster as the pandemic ebbed and flowed throughout 2021, yet WCH remained financially stable even as we took a clear leadership role supporting our public health entities in vaccination and treatment. And continued to add needed services and capabilities, including:

- Bringing gastroenterologist Dr. Rahsaan Friend to Wooster to meet growing demand. And in 2022, updating surgical systems and expanding our capacity to perform endoscopy procedures to meet community needs.
- Addressing employer health costs with the hiring of Dr. James Mooney, who is helping local companies reshape and better manage their health plans and delivered care. (Since a small number of individuals tend to drive the majority of costs in any health plan, he is working to help employees change lifestyle behaviors to hold the line on health care expenses.)
- Starting construction on the new Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic (in the former Western Reserve Group building at the corner of Winter Street and Cleveland Road)... a critical community need.
- Expanding Primary Care Physician office space.
- Acquiring a DaVinci XI surgical robot... our newest platform for advanced urology, general surgery and OB/GYN procedures.
- Continuing study and planning for the Hospital's new Patient Access and Emergency Center facility to address pandemic lessons learned as regards patient flow and patient volumes.

Most importantly, WCH continued to provide outstanding care, more essential services close to home, and all with a compassionate culture that literally differentiates our Hospital from others in the region.

Table 1

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<th>2021</th>
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<td>Total Net Revenue</td>
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<td>Salaries &amp; Wages</td>
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<td>$69,940,000</td>
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<td>Number of Employees</td>
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Table 2

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<td>Local Vendor Capital</td>
<td>$1,680,000</td>
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<td>and Operating Purchases</td>
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<td>Wooster Income Taxes</td>
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<td>Paid by WCH Employees</td>
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<td>Real Estate Taxes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paid by WCH</td>
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When the Seamans moved the family business to Wooster from Millersburg in the mid-'80s, they brought not only a thriving enterprise, but a culture of continuous collaboration and innovation that continues to this day. Which helps explain, in part, why Richard and Judy Seaman have chosen The Cardiovascular Institute not only for their own care, but for their philanthropy. (Another part, of course, is the fact that all three Seaman children were born at WCH.)

“I had a pacemaker implanted 13 years ago at The Cleveland Clinic, but always wanted another cardiologist closer to home,” Richard explains. “Dr. Cyril Ofori took me on as a patient five years ago, and since then we’ve watched as he’s continued to build the Institute’s capabilities, expertise and resources. His leadership, vision and genuine patient concern is why we’re so comfortable gifting to WCH and the Cardiovascular Institute.”

That’s only half the story. Judy Seaman admitted herself to WCH in 2020 (under COVID protocols) at Dr. Ofori’s urging. “I honestly didn’t know how sick I really was,” she recalls. “It wasn’t a cardiac issue, but Dr. Ofori was so vigilant... over-the-top attentive and careful and encouraging. He was always there, stopping by early mornings to see how I was doing.

“I’m also a patient of Amelia Ofori now. They’re both such generous, concerned spirits... so dedicated to their work.”

Along with the Seaman Family Foundation, WCH has also benefitted from gifts through The Burton D. Morgan Foundation of Hudson OH, where Richard Seaman serves as Chairman of the Board. Their philanthropy is primarily directed to areas of greatest need within the Cardiovascular Institute.

“The culture Dr. Ofori is building here – to look beyond patients’ diseases with a more holistic approach – is rare and a treasure,” observed Richard. “We’re hopeful the community recognizes and supports that philosophy as it continues to grow throughout the Hospital as well.

“The Institute is so impressive, especially considering the size of the Hospital. The emphasis on collaboration, on excellence without overreaching combined with relationships with specialists in places like the Cleveland Clinic and Ohio State... that’s why you can be confident that WCH can be the first place to go for cardiac care.”
Founded in Wooster way back in 1906, Western Reserve Group has developed quite a partnership with Wooster Community Hospital.

Serving together on the Wooster Chamber of Commerce Board, Western Reserve Group CEO Kevin Day and WCH CEO Bill Sheron discovered their strong mutual interests in community outreach and improvement. (And turns out they’re both Irish, so there's that.)

Which led to the acquisition of the Western Reserve Group building across the street from the Hospital – now the Beall Professional Center.

More recently, it sparked support for the Wooster Community Care Network: a remarkable collaborative between Wooster Community Hospital and The College of Wooster which has supported hundreds of homebound patients in managing their chronic conditions, achieving healthier lifestyles and reducing rehospitalization rates.

In this case, WRG donated funds to purchase eight handheld tablet computers to facilitate the remote monitoring of homebound patients who can’t afford to purchase their own. (When no longer needed, the tablets are returned to WCH for other patients’ use.)

“Supporting patients in their home settings is so vital here in Wooster,” according to Kevin. “Our family has been touched by the issue, so we truly understand how the program helps patients and families – especially folks by themselves, and of limited means.

“Over the last decade we’ve really focused on community engagement,” he observed. “So our partnership with WCH is a perfect fit.”

Lifelong friends. A life-affirming tribute.

Naomi Lawler and Cathy King met as children, on neighboring family farms (dairy and crop) near Blachleyville/ Funk in Wayne County. Played together. Literally grew up together. Both had babies within 6 months of each other: Naomi’s son Tom and Cathy’s son Nick.

When Naomi was diagnosed with cancer in early 2021, her lifelong friend Cathy – now one of our extraordinary nurses – would join her at WCH for doctors’ appointments, and to keep her company during chemotherapy. After infusions, she and Naomi would peer at WCH’s Healing Garden together and talk about how nice it would be to sit outside and watch the soothing fountain.

Instead, they sat in Tom’s truck.

After Naomi’s passing, Cathy searched for a way to memorialize a woman who loved water, the open sky, poetry and Pink Floyd. Her answer is found in our Healing Garden: two custom-made wrought iron benches, one gifted by Cathy King, the other with funds designated to our cancer care programs from the Hospital’s Annual Campaign. So patients, friends and family can find moments of tranquility in nature right here.

And read Cathy’s message to her dearest friend, who loved Pink Floyd, on the benches’ little plaque.

“Wish you were here.”
Community.

After all, we are the Wooster Community Hospital Health System. Independent. And so totally focused on the health and wellness of the communities we serve.

We provide multiple programs and services throughout Wayne and Holmes counties... including many initiatives directed at helping our residents remain healthier in their homes and out of our Hospital.

Along with helping us lead the way in community access to health care, your generosity will enable more lifesaving medical treatment options, upgrades to our technology, expansion of our facilities and so much more.

Every donation, no matter how large or modest, is important in helping us advance our mission to provide unsurpassed care, closer to home, whenever you need us.

For more information or to discuss a gift, please contact Angela Rincon, Director of Development, at 330.263.8701

This year’s design inspired by Wooster artist Janice Gallagher.