

February 2024



February is Heart Month and it made me think about all we do as a system and a team to keep hearts healthy in our communities.

System-wide, through the work of the Cardiovascular Center of Excellence, HonorHealth provides the most personalized and innovative cardiovascular care available. In great part, that exemplary heart care is made possible through the heartfelt generosity of donors like you. Which leads us to the hearts of neighbors we haven't met yet, giving us the ability to deliver the highest level of heart care. Right here in their own back yards. It's a steady, rhythmic beat we count on to deliver our best to you.

Hearts need care in other ways, too. They need to be nourished by the kind words of friends, families, loved ones and co-workers. They grow stronger through meaningful work that gives back, inspires passion and is valued by those they serve. It's a pulse we must check frequently.

In our case, what makes hearts beat steadily is the work we do *with* you and for you. It's working and living with intention, a [Blue Zones](#) mantra, if you will. Our partnership is

building a bridge to a healthier, more vibrant community that keeps hearts beating stronger and longer. For us, it's heart month all year long.

In gratitude,

Jared A. Langkilde, MBA, CFRE
President & CEO

Your philanthropy makes 2023 a year to remember

We are extremely proud and humbled to announce that 2023 was a record-breaking year for donor generosity at HonorHealth Foundation!

Your vision and trust in us combined with powerful and innovative programs is establishing an unprecedented new level of care for patients living in the Valley of the Sun.

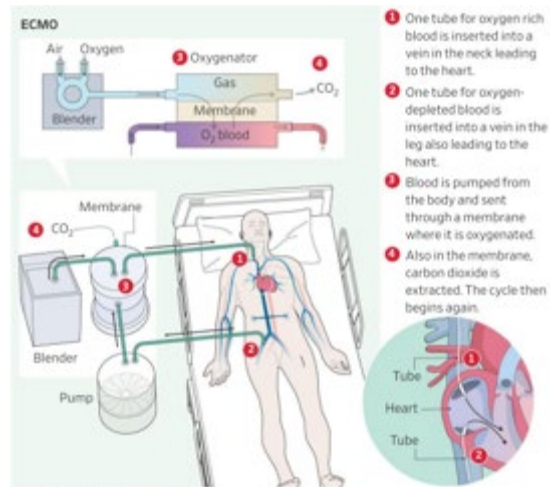
"It is always our patients and the people we serve that are the true beneficiaries of our donors' immense generosity," states Joanne Smith, SVP of Fundraising and Development.

Highlights of the programs that you supported in 2023 were the [HonorHealth Center for Interventional Endoscopy](#), the [Cardiovascular Center of Excellence](#) and the [Greatest Needs Fund](#). All these priority programs address community demand, elevate patient outcomes and allow the system to provide the best care possible while ensuring a nimble environment that can respond to the changing healthcare landscape.

Thank you for allowing us to help accelerate and advance your philanthropic visions for the highest good of all. We are excited to share the final tally with you as soon as our 2024 financials are official.

Advanced technology does the lung work for critical patient

After COVID-19 ravaged his lungs in the summer of 2023, 51-year old Ryan's life was saved by an Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) machine used at HonorHealth John C. Lincoln Medical Center. The ECMO machine, simply stated, allowed Ryan's lungs to rest and regenerate.



Sources: New England Journal of Medicine; dsmel.com
Kevin Hand/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Ryan's condition was bad, but his wife Melanie never gave up, saying she "could sense him respond when singing and reading to him."

The ECMO machine is used in severe cases and is considered a truly "out of the box" medical protocol. The device removes blood from the patient's body, pumps oxygen into the blood, then pumps it back into the body, helping relieve strain on damaged lungs and hearts.

Being a patient on an ECMO machine can be an intense process, but as Ryan will tell you, "It is a long recovery, but I am blessed to no end."

Stories like these are examples of the critical, personalized care made possible by HonorHealth's stellar medical teams and the generous support of donors who make advanced technology possible.



Derek's Closet keeps the legacy alive – you can help, too

This cabinet in the hallways of the Craig and Karen Stull Emergency Department at Scottsdale Thompson Peak Medical Center looks different than the others. That's on purpose, as it's an ongoing tribute to one of our own who was always willing to give the shirt off his back to help someone in need.

Derek Polson was a patient care technician and one week shy of graduating from nursing school when he passed away in 2021.

Tragically, his life ended way too soon, but his impact lives on through [Derek's Closet](#), a collection of clothes and necessities for patients in need after



Join us *fore!* great play and a day of fun

Join us for a sun-soaked round of golf at Grayhawk Golf Club and support [HonorHealth Desert Mission](#) and the Sports Medicine program at the HonorHealth Foundation Pro-Am.

Each golf team will be comprised of an amateur foursome plus a golf professional playing in a shamble format. Teams may choose between a morning or afternoon shotgun start.

The Southwest Section PGA is sanctioning this year's HonorHealth Foundation Pro-Am and will serve as rules officials and scorers. The professional golfers will be playing 36

treatment in the Emergency Department. [You can help too!](#)

holes for a \$20,000 purse! (The field will be flighted by Team Handicap.)

Friday, April 26

[Registration, sponsorships and more information](#)

Family health journey inspires calling

Mindy Dygert found her calling in neuroscience during college after watching her niece's journey back to wellness from a pediatric brain tumor.

"I knew then that, not only did I want to work in neuroscience, but set a goal to one day be part of a research team, working on a cure for high grade and recurrent brain tumors," said Mindy, reflecting on her professional journey.

Mindy has been a dedicated member of the [HonorHealth Research Institute](#) for more than five years. She currently works as a lead Clinical Research Coordinator in brain cancer research, a role she considers one of her proudest accomplishments.



Highlighting the critical importance of encouraging diversity in research, Mindy emphasized, "Research is an incredibly challenging and rewarding field, always in need of new ideas and different perspectives." She firmly believes that the energy and fresh perspectives brought by younger and diverse groups can be the catalyst for innovative breakthroughs, driving the continuous advancement of research.

Mindy is grateful to the many people who support HonorHealth Research Institute. "You are helping us meet our mission to advance health and wellness."

The beating of healthy hearts

February is American Heart Month and here at HonorHealth Foundation, our hearts are grateful for the world-class talent and technology assembled in our [Cardiovascular Center of Excellence](#) (CVCOE). Because of you, this renowned center of excellence is a leading destination for cardiovascular care in the country.



We are also grateful for the overwhelming donor and community support for our [Blue Zones - Scottsdale Project](#). With a vision for healthy longevity, the very core of this

effort is lifestyle choices that [improve your diet](#) (think heart healthy), activity, community and mindfulness.

As spring training soon gets underway, we remember the iconic message in the Field of Dreams, “If you build it, they will come.” Through the compassion and generosity of our donors, we’re able to attract and retain elite cardiologists to treat patients right here in our community. We’re also preparing the next generation of clinicians to develop new approaches to treatment and advance medical knowledge.

Innovation has enabled the physicians at the CVCOE to replace many open chest, open heart surgeries with interventional techniques that reduce the chance of infection and healing time. That progress requires an investment in the right team, the right technology and the right environment.

Our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who [supports the CVCOE!](#)

[Donate Today](#)

