

Linda Gross Brown shines as Philanthropist and Community Volunteer



Linda Gross Brown receives the Art of Caring Award and congratulations from (L to R) Dr. Ted Castele, Eóin Breadon and David T. Dombrowiak. Eóin created the stunning glass award.

and CEO David T. Dombrowiak quoted the words of George Bernard Shaw, playwright and essayist, and winner of the 1925 Nobel Prize for Literature who wrote, "Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got a hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it onto future generations." David added that "Linda is indeed carrying a splendid torch that is burning brightly."

Local philanthropy and community involvement have always been an essential part of Linda Gross Brown's family and life. Her long-time support of Fairview Hospital illustrates her qualities of leadership, loyalty, and love of children.

Linda began her service as a volunteer in the Pediatrics Unit at Fairview Hospital sharing her time and talents, and surely enriching the hospital experience of young patients. She was welcomed as a member of the hospital's Junior Board in 1990 and her service included the role of President.

The Junior Board helped to care for the children in Pediatrics, rocked the newborn babies and served up a special fundraiser. People still rave about the Junior Board's wonderful "Merrie Olde Christmas Shoppe," an annual holiday tradition which included a collection of local unique shops and vendors from the West Shore area that provided much goodwill for the Hospital. The Junior Board Members were truly Santa's helpers, raising funds for the Pediatrics Unit at Fairview Hospital to make things better for families and the youngest members of our community.

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Legacy Society Dinner



Sharon and Harry Zilli, Jr. were last year's Art of Caring Award recipients.



Dr. Ted and Jean Castele received the 2007 Art of Caring Award.



Kim Parrish with her dad, John Kemper, Sr. John and his wife, Betty won the Art of Caring Award in 2006.



Linda's son, Hunter, Linda, her dad, Otto Gross, and son and daughter-in-law Winter and Meghan.

Past Junior Board Members at the Legacy Society Dinner who were joyfully recognized included Mayor Pam Bobst, Beth Lamb and Cheryl Wynocker.



Dr. Tom and Mayor Pam Bobst.



Dr. Steven and Beth Lamb.



Larry and Cheryl Wynocker.

Linda has made her mark through her loyal volunteer service on the Fairview/Lutheran Foundation Board, and the Community West Foundation Board, where she has shared outstanding levels of service and support.

Linda established a Donor Advised Fund, The Brown Family Fund, at Community West Foundation. She is indeed a charitable activist, and through her Donor Advised Fund she has found yet another way to provide a helping hand to the community. Linda contributes substantial amounts to many charities including the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Fairview Hospital. Linda's deep affection and support of the NICU is in homage to her late mom, Annette Gross, who was a premie – and weighed 2 lbs. – and Annette's twin sister, Adele, who weighed 1.8 lbs.

During the ceremony, all Legacy Society Members were recognized for their generosity. Guests paused for a moment of silence for Donna J. Ballantyne, Deneen Hirsch, and Helen Rego – Legacy Members who have recently passed away. These wonderful supporters left charitable bequests and planned gifts to the Foundation, and their generosity will continue forever.

Marty and Laura Uhle were welcomed as new Legacy Society Members. New members that were unable to attend the festivities included: Dr. Gary M. Grosel; Dr. Jean Reinhold; Dr. Dan and Barbara Shamir; Dr. Rebecca N. and Mr. Joseph P. Starck; Dr. Amy L. Stephens and Mr. Robert G. Perry; and Donald B. Urbancsik.



Newest Legacy Society Members Marty and Laura Uhle.

This year's Art of Caring Award was designed by Eóin Breadon and depicts a salmon and a heron. The salmon represents community – a tribute to Linda's Art of Caring through her work at the Community West Foundation and throughout our community. The graceful heron represents enlightenment – Linda's commitment to a brighter future for patients and families helped by Fairview Hospital's Neonatal and Pediatric Units, which Linda has continued to generously support. These qualities indeed define the award recipient.

Guests enjoyed the entire evening which included heartfelt speeches from the Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Ted Castele; a tribute to our honoree from David Dombrowiak; and musical performances by jazz stylist Evelyn Wright.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to our honoree, Linda Gross Brown.

A Night of Celebrating!



Jack and Sherry Kahl.



Linda with her sister, Nancy Finster.



Mary Ellen and Barry French join Linda and Mary Beth and Judge Dick Ambrose.



Michael Jordan congratulates his wife, Linda.

Beloved Patient Leaves A Legacy

For Deneen Hirsch, helping others was a way of life. Deneen spent her career as a registered nurse and was beloved by family, friends and colleagues. In gratitude for having five years of compassionate care at the Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center at Fairview Hospital Moll Pavilion, Deneen provided a bequest in the amount of \$50,239.59 through the Community West Foundation.

Charles Hirsch, Deneen's husband, presented the generous check to Dr. Timothy Spiro. Many of the staff members who cared for Deneen were present and were deeply humbled by her gesture of philanthropy. Deneen's generous gift will help the Cancer Center continue to provide quality care and kindness – a mainstay of our community.

Deneen was a member of the Foundation's Legacy Society, and through her gift, her legacy will continue to benefit other cancer patients. For more information on planned giving, contact the Community West Foundation at 216-476-7060.



Charles Hirsch presents a check to Dr. Timothy Spiro, Medical Director of the Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center at Fairview Hospital, Moll Pavilion.

Annual Meeting: The Focus on Hunger



David T. Dombrowiak, President & CEO, Community West Foundation; Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director, Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks; Anne Goodman, President & CEO, Cleveland Foodbank; David J. Hessler, Chair of the Board, Community West Foundation.



Rick Kemm, Executive Director, May Dugan Center; Peggy Zone Fisher, Community West Foundation Trustee and President & CEO of the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio; and Angela Contreras, Program Coordinator, May Dugan Center.



Dr. Neil P. Smith, Fairview Hospital Chief of Staff; Jan Murphy, President, Fairview and Lakewood Hospitals; David Bronson, MD, President, Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals.

Community West Foundation Responds To Hunger

Hunger is growing. Families are facing challenges that many of us cannot even imagine. It is not only the homeless or unemployed who are hungry. People are turning to food pantries and soup kitchens because their income doesn't stretch past rent, utilities and transportation to cover the cost of food. One in eight people are hungry. But the number is even worse when you look at children. One in five children experiences the physical pains of hunger. These findings underscore that more must be done, and quickly, to help struggling families. Hunger calls for bold action. Community West Foundation is here to help.

Over the past five years, Community West Foundation has given \$302,000 for food programs including Meals on Wheels, hunger centers, food pantries and food banks.

At the Community West Foundation's annual meeting, more than 150 community leaders and stakeholders gathered to hear Anne Goodman, President and CEO of Cleveland Foodbank, along with Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks share dramatic results of a recent Hunger in America study. The nationwide study shows growing need within 185 Feeding America food banks nationally, and especially in Ohio.

Feeding America, through its network of food banks and agencies, provides emergency food assistance to 37 million people per year, including 14 million

children and 3 million seniors. This is a 46 percent increase in just one year. The food bank network is serving one million more people each week compared to four years ago. 40 percent of client households have at least one working adult, but there is a 68 percent increase in adults seeking assistance who have been unemployed for less than a year.

Serving six counties, the Cleveland Foodbank reports one in nine people turned to a local hunger center in 2009. Over 250,000 clients are served per year, including 76,000 children and 33,000 seniors. Many seniors are taking care of grandchildren.

One in four children in Ohio lives on the brink of hunger, ranking Ohio third in the nation behind just Louisiana and North Carolina.



Foundation Life Trustee Walter Hagen joins Henry T. Jacques, Vice Chair of Community West Foundation.



Fred DeGrandis, Chairman, Cleveland Clinic Community Physician Partnership & Quality Alliance; Marc Nathanson, Executive Director, West Side Catholic Center; Susan Ertle, Director of Advancement, West Side Catholic Center; and Rev. William Murphy, President, St. Ignatius High School.

"The well-being of our neighbors has been a high priority for Community West Foundation. Our grant making has focused on programs that address issues intensified by the economic crisis," said David T. Dombrowiak, President and CEO, Community West Foundation. He explained that the Foundation's focus to help feed the hungry began with a comment by Henry T. Jacques, the Foundation's Vice Chair and member of the Grants Committee who asked, "Wouldn't it be remarkable if our mission could be that no seniors will go hungry in our area, thanks to the Community West Foundation?" Our mission has been expanded so that no one goes hungry.

The mission of the Cleveland Foodbank is to alleviate hunger by providing food and support to community organizations that feed the hungry.

In 2009, the Cleveland Foodbank distributed 27.3 million pounds of food, valued at \$27 million. They are targeted to distribute 32 million pounds of food this year – an increase of almost 50 percent in two years.

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Youth Challenge Representatives Melissa Thurstone, Community Development Manager and Angelica Compton, Foundation & Communications Coordinator.

“When you see one million pounds of food in our warehouse and know it will be gone in three weeks, it illustrates the magnitude of our problem, but also the magnitude of our power,” said Anne Goodman. “If we can just get food to children in schools, that meets a huge need.”

The Ohio Benefit Bank helps clients served by hunger centers stretch their dollars by signing up for the SNAP Program (formerly known as food stamps). SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is a first line of defense against hunger, allowing low income families to purchase products they need at local grocery stores. In Ohio, 225,700 people per week are being helped this year, up from 207,700 in 2006. “None of this would be possible without your time, talent and commitment,” Hamler-Fugitt told Community West Foundation Board Members.

The Ohio Benefit Bank is a state-wide program with huge promise. Nationally, over \$49 billion in federal funds for low and moderate income families go unclaimed each year. Nearly half of these funds are available in the SNAP Program. In Ohio, more than \$1.7 billion in tax credits and work support programs are unclaimed by Ohio citizens. Nearly 95 percent are federal dollars. “This takes those in need out of the food pantry and the kitchen line and allows them the dignity to go to the grocery store,” said Hamler-Fugitt. “It is neighbors helping neighbors, a tool completely free of charge.”

For organizations seeking to better serve the citizens of Ohio, The Ohio Benefit Bank on-line service is free of charge. To find out more about The Ohio Benefit Bank, phone the hotline at (800) 648-1176.



Community West Foundation Trustees, John Kemper, Sr., Dr. James Magisano, David Hessler, Chair, and Bob Yaroma.



From Community Service Alliance: William Dillingham, Board Chair and Jeff Nichols, Executive Director.



William Reidy, Community West Foundation Trustee with Dennis Clough, Westlake Mayor.

Gift of Life Gala

This year’s Gift of Life Gala was a sure success thanks to the dynamic efforts of co-chairs Katie Reidy and Debbie Norton and the wonderful Gift of Life Committee.

The event was attended by more than 225 guests and over \$50,000 was raised, demonstrating the depth of the community’s commitment for Fairview Hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Department of OB/GYN.

The gala included dinner, dancing, silent auction and raffles and the opportunity to enjoy a relaxing night out with leaders who make it a priority to support Fairview Hospital’s tiniest patients.



William and Katie Reidy with Debbie and Brad Norton. The mother/daughter duo, Katie and Debbie were the co-chairs of the event.



Drs. Elaine and Robert Wyllie. Dr. Robert Wyllie is the Calabrese Chair of Pediatrics, Physician-in-Chief, Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital.



Dr. Ken Mehta, Chairman of the Dept. of Pediatrics at Fairview Hospital; Jan Murphy, President, Fairview and Lakewood Hospitals; and Dr. Ricardo Rodriguez, Director of Neonatology at Fairview Hospital.



Jane and Ben Norton had a great time at the Gala.



Kira and Michael Wynocker, Anne DiBenedetto, Cheryl Wynocker, Anne Pugliese and Larry Wynocker.

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