



How  
One Furry  
Caregiver  
Connects  
**with**  
**Heart**  
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# IMPACT

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE | SPRING 2023

# Former Army Combat Medic is Saved by Trauma Center



Isaiah visits the site of his motorcycle accident, top, and is shown with family members, below.

**ONLY  
20% OF  
HOSPITALS  
IN THE U.S.  
HAVE  
TRAUMA  
CENTERS.**

## OUR VISION

Build on Beacon's strong history of a best-in-class regional trauma program that is ready to provide immediate, life-saving care, no matter when, where or how an injury happens.

The last thing Isaiah remembers clearly from September 24, 2022, is leaving a restaurant and riding his motorcycle for about 10 minutes.

Isaiah's memories are a bit spotty after that. He recalls moments ... being found by people passing by, riding in an ambulance and overhearing a doctor talk about his dangerously low blood oxygen levels. It turns out that he had a bad accident, laying the bike down and sliding into a ditch.

A military veteran, 25-year-old Isaiah served in the Army for four years, including 13 months in Iraq as a combat medic. For him, the peace he experienced while riding a motorcycle outweighed the risk.

"There's a lot of risk that comes from riding a motorcycle," he explained. He then added with a small grin, "But while you're on it, you're not worried about that."

Isaiah broke every major bone in one arm that day. He broke a rib, and it punctured his lung. He broke 14 bones in his spine, cut his liver and lost a great deal of blood.

## A stroke of luck

Fortunately, Isaiah's accident took place not far from Elkhart General Hospital. The ambulance brought him straight to Elkhart's trauma center.

"A trauma center is not the same thing as an ER," he said. He feels very fortunate for Elkhart's level 3 trauma center, which could "get me the help I need and get me put back together."

"The level 3 trauma center here in Elkhart saved my life," he said. Today, he's "definitely very grateful for just life in general. Yeah, I'm happy to be here."

## What is trauma care?

Trauma care is often invisible to the community, hidden within emergency departments. But it's a highly specialized type of care that's needed to save lives from the most severe injuries.

You'll hear trauma care referred to by level, but what's most important is what all trauma centers have in common: speed, a comprehensive approach and a high level of care that saves lives.

## TRAUMA CARE FACTS >>>

- Traumatic injury is the #1 cause of death for Hoosiers under age 45.
- Someone facing a life-threatening injury, who receives care in a trauma center, is much more likely to survive than someone who receives care in an emergency department.
- With extreme injuries, seconds count.
- Beacon Health has the only trauma centers in a 90-mile radius.







## BEACON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT A GLANCE

We are the region's **only** children's hospital. Thanks to generous support from the community, we ➤➤➤

- **SERVE 10,000+** patients each year
- **CARE** for children regardless of family income—**60%** of our pediatric patients have no or inadequate health insurance
- **TREAT** conditions such as cancer, sickle cell disease, asthma, developmental disorders, diabetes and trauma
- **PROVIDE** programs and services that comfort children, speed healing, support families and empower parents to participate in their child's care

### And we offer these special programs and services:

- **SINGLE FAMILY ROOMS**  
Shown to reduce time in the hospital by as much as **40%**
- **ANGEL EYES**  
Parents can watch over their babies with bedside live-stream video **24/7**
- **EAT, SLEEP AND CONSOLE**  
Empowers parents with methods to speed healing for their little ones who are addicted to narcotics
- **PEDIATRIC TRANSPORT SERVICE**  
Fast travel between hospitals for critically ill or injured children

## Ensuring the Best Care for Children



We're delighted to welcome pediatric surgeon Tuan Hoai Pham, MD, to Beacon! The addition of Dr. Pham to our medical staff enables us to provide essential specialized care to the children in our community. Dr. Pham is one of just nine pediatric surgeons in the entire state.

### Why is the pediatric surgery specialty so important?

When it comes to medical care, children are not simply little adults. They have special needs, and their caregivers must have a great deal of specialized knowledge.

**In fact, one of the reasons pediatric surgeons are in very high demand is because relatively few doctors undertake the unusually rigorous training required. After medical school, surgeons must complete an additional nine years of training, including a general surgery residency and pediatric surgery fellowship. And pediatric surgeons must be certified in both general surgery and pediatric surgery.**

We're very grateful the talented Dr. Pham has joined the Beacon Health family to help us provide outstanding care to these young patients.

# Connecting with Heart

## Meet Micky, Beacon Health System's first dedicated facility dog!

We know that any hospital stay is a time of stress for our patients and their loved ones. Visits with Micky, a trained facility dog, offer immediate comfort, distraction from worries and even therapeutic value.

Take Micky's visit to the patient pictured below. When Micky entered the room, the man's eyes filled with tears. He wasn't able to speak but wrote a heartfelt message for his care team after cuddling with his canine visitor.

It was also a special moment for Micky's handler, certified child life specialist Jordan Brown. Jordan knows the patient and his wife well and has seen how much they adore Micky's



visits. "But I didn't know the extent of how it was helping, like with his pain management," she said.

With Micky's help, our patients genuinely feel better, heal quicker and are often able to return home sooner. It's easy to see why he's such a popular member of our staff at Memorial Hospital!

### Micky's Qualifications

Don't let Micky's lack of a medical degree fool you—this two-year-old lab-retriever mix has had plenty of training for his job. In addition

to helping people cope with hospitalization, he's able to perform more than 40 commands to motivate and inspire our patients during their therapy and rehabilitation. He also provides emotional support during difficult procedures.

Micky spends most of his time in our intensive care unit (ICU), but you can see him all over Memorial Hospital as he visits his many friends: our patients who are being treated for serious illness and their families.

Micky's presence was donated by Canine Companions, a nonprofit organization that trains and provides service dogs at no cost to the recipient.

We're very grateful to Jordan and Micky for their contributions to patient care and well-being, to Canine Companions for sharing Micky with us and to Roseland Animal Hospital, which is donating its services for Micky's care in 2023.

*"Micky is so fun to see.  
He calms my anxiety.  
He boosts my mood.  
He makes my day!"*



**Roseland Animal  
Hospital**

# Building the Future of Nursing at Beacon Health

In college, John didn't expect to become a nurse. But when he found himself competing against his then-girlfriend (now wife) for biology jobs, he switched over to the nursing profession.

John spent four years working as a full-time certified nursing assistant while attending school to earn his associate's degree in nursing. He knew he'd want to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing, but that could come later.

The time was right after he began working at Elkhart General Hospital. But as the primary earner in the household, paying out of pocket would be a challenge. John applied for and received a scholarship from Beacon Health, and he has graduated.

Nursing has proven to be a great fit for him.

"I really enjoy the people interactions, whether with patients or my own coworkers and the rest of the healthcare team," John said.

We're able to empower great nurses like John because of the generosity of donors. **We are proud that, with your help, we fully funded the Elkhart General Hospital Nursing Education Endowment in 2022!**

## Why are nursing scholarships so important?

Supporting nurses has long been part of our story. But it's even more important during a nursing shortage. Elkhart General Hospital expects to need at least 300 new nurses in the next five years. The shortage means that it's more difficult to attract great nurses to our hospitals and entice them to stay.

We're so grateful to everyone who contributed to the Elkhart General Hospital Nursing Education Endowment!

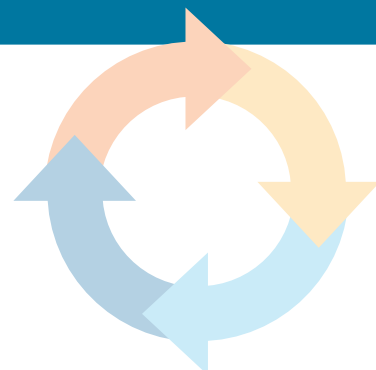
*\*Endowments are "forever funds," meaning that scholarship money will come from the return on investments, leaving the principal untouched so that we can support nurse education for many years to come.*



Registered nurse John Diller, MS, BSN, ASN, works in the Progressive Care Unit at Elkhart General Hospital. Here he poses with his son James, who was born while John was in the nursing program.

## NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS >>>

- ADDRESS the barrier of tuition costs
- ENCOURAGE people with an interest in nursing to pursue the profession
- ENABLE our current nurses to grow into different roles within the profession (such as becoming a nurse practitioner or nurse educator)





# Foundation Highlights

## WE HAD A LOT TO CELEBRATE IN 2022—

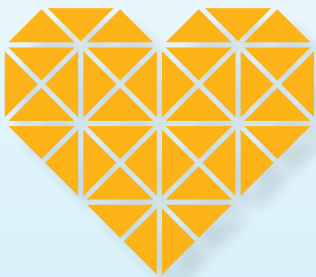
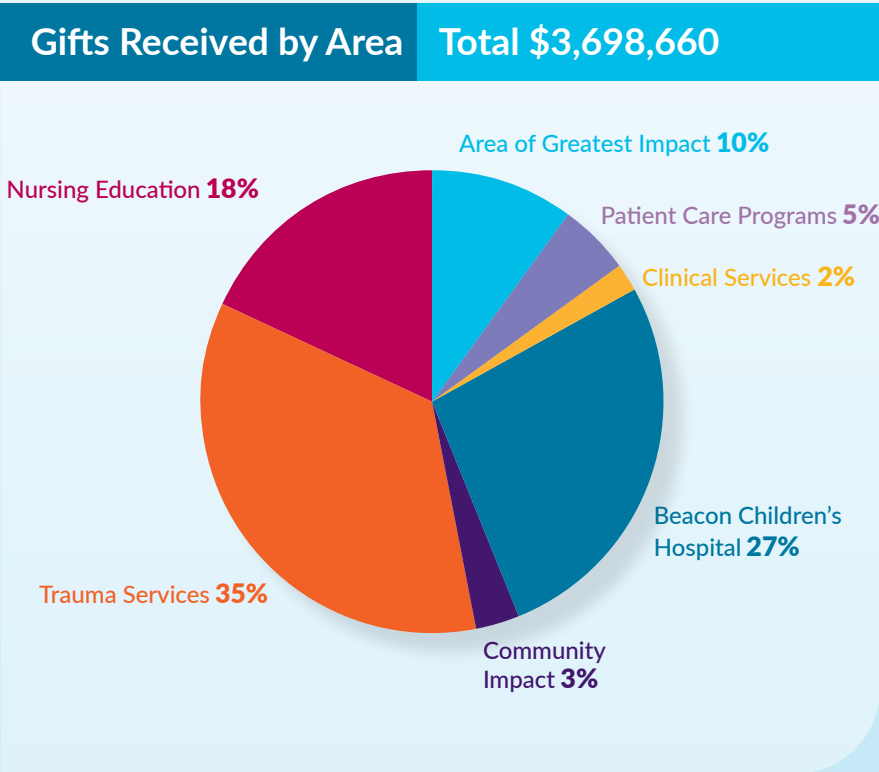
and we're so grateful  
to the community  
for helping to make  
it all possible.



- Over the past five years, we've seen a dramatic increase in the number of children in our hematology/oncology program, and an increase in patients whose first language is Spanish. Imagine receiving devastating news, but not being sure you understand or know what to do in response. We were able to fund a dedicated Spanish interpreter to ensure that these families have someone onsite who is able to communicate fluently with them.
- Beacon Health System brought on a new pediatric surgeon. The position, as well as specialized equipment for the pediatric surgery program, was funded in part by the Foundation (see Ensuring the Best Care for Children, pg. 3).
- The Elkhart General Hospital Nursing Endowment is now fully funded! This endowment will support nursing education.
- We are helping fund a street medicine program to help individuals without shelter get medical care. With this program, they can begin to receive the care they need and establish trust with staff who can connect them with other social services.
- After Three Rivers Hospital and Three Rivers Hospice joined the Beacon Family, we welcomed Three Rivers Health Foundation to Beacon Health Foundation. We're honored to have taken this next step and look forward to supporting this wonderful community together!

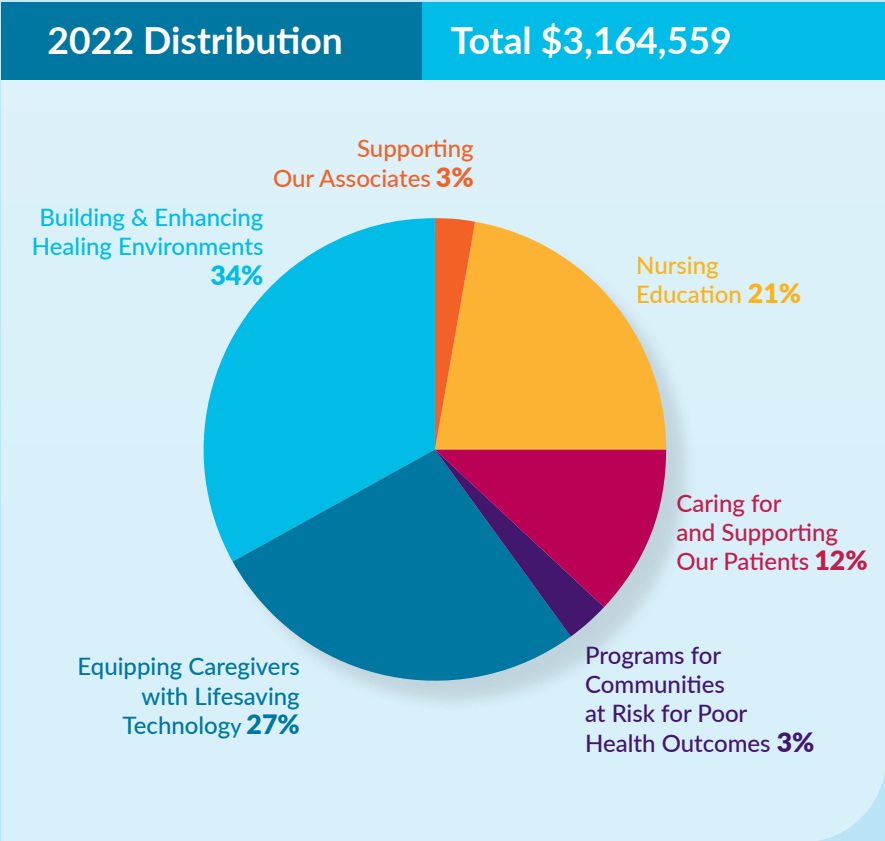


# 2022 Financial Summary



**4,586**  
Donors Supported Beacon Health Foundation in 2022

**1,237**  
New Donors Supported Beacon Health Foundation in 2022



## Federal and State Grants We Received in 2022 to Support Community Health

COVID-19 Vaccination Access Grant	\$ 4,787,104
Rural Opioid Implementation Grant	\$1,500,000
Safety Pin Grant to Support Infant Mortality	\$699,980
Mobile Integrated Response System	\$551,860
Telehealth Implementation Grant	\$116,571
Sickle Cell Grant	\$112,360
Perinatal Care Coordination Grant	\$15,028
Tobacco Cessation Grant	\$14,300
Total	\$7,797,203



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## JOIN US!

### Events Benefiting Beacon Children's Hospital



#### FOUR WINDS INVITATIONAL

##### Dates & Location

South Bend Country Club  
Sunday, August 6–Saturday,  
August 12

At this premier event, 150 professional women golfers will join us from around the world on their road to the LPGA, an Epson tour. Join us and show that you support your region's only children's hospital!

Learn more at  
[fourwindsinvitational.com](https://fourwindsinvitational.com)



#### SUNBURST RACES

##### Dates & Location

Sunburst South Bend: June 3, 2023

Join nearly 7,000 runners, walkers, spectators and volunteers from across the U.S. as they join forces to support sick kids at one of the largest community events in northern Indiana. Show your community you care. Partner with us and invest in our community's children!

Learn more at  
<https://sunburst.beaconhealthsystem.org/>



#### HOME RUN FOR LIFE

##### Dates & Location

Four Winds Field  
Fridays: June 23 | July 7 | July 21  
August 4 | August 25 | September 8

Join the South Bend Cubs and thousands of fans this summer as we honor six special kids from Beacon Children's Hospital. Bring your family, friends and colleagues to a game and help us celebrate these amazing young people.

To learn more about volunteer or sponsorship opportunities please contact [rdemoss@beaconhealthsystem.org](mailto:rdemoss@beaconhealthsystem.org).