



## Mammography Changes Lives, Thanks to Breast Screening Fund

Annette Ceckanowicz always got her yearly mammogram. She understood the importance of taking care of herself, and screening mammograms were part of her annual health checklist. After a visit with her primary care provider Rachel Creamer, ARNP in 2018, Annette realized she hadn't had a screening mammogram in two years.

"At the time, I was in between jobs and caring for my father who had Alzheimer's," Annette explained. "I didn't have health insurance, so my yearly mammograms were put on hold until Rachel told me about the screening mammogram voucher."

The Breast Screening Fund at Trinity Health Foundation provides breast screenings and diagnostic testing to patients in need who might otherwise forgo this critical exam. Patients apply by filling out a form to receive support from the fund. In the last year alone, the Trinity Health Foundation Breast Screening Fund provided more than \$25,000 in diagnostic services for Quad Cities patients.

Annette applied for coverage through the program and scheduled her mammogram. Two days later, she



*Breast Screening Fund recipient Annette Ceckanowicz with boyfriend Bill Hamilton.*

received a phone call saying she needed to redo her mammogram. Annette was hesitant knowing she still didn't have insurance. But the care team reminded her she could apply for another mammogram voucher to get the care she needed without worrying about the cost.

After a second mammogram and a biopsy, Annette was given devastating news: she had breast cancer. Annette needed to make critical decisions, and she

*(continued on next page)*

needed to do it fast. She immediately applied for Medicaid to help cover the medical expenses that would follow her diagnosis.

Because Annette was diligent in getting her annual mammograms, doctors found the cancer early at Stage 0, giving her more options on how to fight the cancer. With the recommendation of her team of care providers and following conversations with her family, Annette decided to have a double mastectomy.

On December 29, 2018, Annette received a call saying all the cancer was removed. She was cancer-free.

"It's important that when someone thinks they can't afford to have these kinds of services, there is an option or a program available to help," said Annette. "I had no idea this assistance was available to me. If they hadn't been there, I might have waited another year to get a mammogram, and who knows what would have happened then."

Annette's journey did not end after her cancer-free phone call. From 2018 through 2022, she would endure 13 surgeries that stemmed from her cancer diagnosis. Like many breast cancer patients who choose to have a mastectomy, Annette received implants and dealt with a multitude of healing issues.

Through her journey on this difficult path, Annette was able to find joy with her family and friends. She met her boyfriend Bill in December 2018, and he has been by her side to support her through all the surgeries and beyond.

Because of the care and support she received, Annette was inspired to work with people facing similar struggles with pain and healing. She applied - and was hired - for a position in the UnityPoint Health Wound Clinic. Her experience allows Annette to support her patients with compassion and understanding.



*Annette cherishes her time with her son, Holdon, and grandsons Brantley and Hudson.*

Your gift today will impact the lives of more patients like Annette, so they can help others through their healing and celebrate the joys of life with family. Donate online at [trinityhealthfoundation.org](https://trinityhealthfoundation.org), by mail with the pre-paid envelope enclosed, or by scanning the QR code below. If you have received outstanding care from a caregiver at Trinity and would like to honor them with a charitable contribution, contact Trinity Health Foundation at (563) 742-7610.



## Breast Screening Fund Receives \$12,000 Thanks to Lovely Lemonade Stand

It all started four years ago. A group of Bettendorf Junior High students created a lemonade stand to raise money for various charities and causes they believed were important. This summer, they chose to raise money for the Trinity Health Foundation Breast Screening Fund after a family friend was diagnosed with breast cancer. The popularity of the Lovely Lemonade Stand has grown immensely, and the girls raised \$4,000 to ensure Quad Cities patients without the ability to pay may still receive vital mammograms and other diagnostic exams.

The girls' generosity and compassion inspired Caroline Ruhl, President of Ruhl & Ruhl, as well as an anonymous donor to match their donation, bringing the total gift to \$12,000. That amount will provide nearly 50 screening mammograms to patients in need. On September 18, Trinity Health Foundation hosted a check presentation ceremony. Caroline Ruhl surprised the girls with her match.



*Pictured L to R: Caroline Ruhl, Ruhl & Ruhl, with Lovely Lemonade Stand founders Natalia Strothkamp, Lauren Jacobs, Ellie Durick, Hannah Boehm, and Sohena Singh.*

## 2024 UNITYPOINT HEALTH CUP \$145,000 Raised for Trinity Cancer Center Expansion

Thanks to support from the amazing UnityPoint Health Cup Planning Committee, Presenting Sponsor McLaughlin Motors, 200 golfers, 71 volunteers, 46 community sponsors, 45 in-kind sponsors, and the team at TPC Deere Run, the 2024 UnityPoint Health Cup was a resounding success, raising \$145,000 to support expansion efforts at Trinity Cancer Center. Mark your calendars for next year's UnityPoint Health Cup, scheduled for Friday, September 5, 2025.



*Trinity team members spent the day volunteering, including (L to R) Trinity Breast Care Coordinators Jamie Broline and Cassie Bender, Trinity Cancer Center Manager Toni Weeks, and Trinity Cancer Center Director Tricia Fisher.*



*Enjoying the beautiful day at TPC Deere Run are John Barakat, Cardiac Surgery Associates, Shawn Morrow, UnityPoint Health - Trinity Quad Cities Market President, and Dr. Olutade, UnityPoint Health - Trinity Chief Medical Officer.*

**McLAUGHLIN  
MOTORS**  
VOLVO Cadillac SUBARU

A letter from  
Mary Macumber Schmidt  
President, Trinity Health Foundation

We all know someone.

It could be a neighbor, a mother, a friend, or a coworker. Maybe it's you. We all know someone impacted by cancer.

When I first received my cancer diagnosis, life as I knew it stopped. Some of my deepest fears flooded my mind and heart. What happens next? Can I beat this? What about my family? Thankfully, I was blessed with a network of health professionals to guide me on my cancer journey and great insurance.

Many in our community cannot afford critical exams like a screening mammogram. Individuals are prioritizing other life expenses over medical procedures and exams that could be lifesaving. That's why I feel passionate about programs like the Trinity Health Foundation Breast Screening Fund.

In this issue, you'll read about Annette Ceckanowicz and how our Breast Screening Fund impacted her life. This issue also features the Lovely Lemonade Stand, an annual fundraising tradition created by young, charitable girls. This year, their generosity has inspired others in the community to support the Breast Screening Fund.

Donations to the Trinity Health Foundation give individuals in our community the care they need and deserve. **Your contributions are essential to sustaining these lifesaving programs, and you still have time to support our patients in need. Please join us in our mission by making a contribution today.**

Your generosity brings exceptional healthcare to our community and keeps hope alive for our patients. Thank you for your unwavering support.

With gratitude,



**Mary Macumber Schmidt**  
Trinity Health Foundation President



*Trinity Health Foundation President  
Mary Macumber Schmidt  
celebrates with her husband, Brian,  
on her final day of treatment at  
Trinity Cancer Center.*

*Please consider making a donation to  
Trinity Health Foundation to support your WHY.*

Trinity Health Foundation is grateful for the support we receive from our community. If you wish to no longer receive requests for charitable support, please let us know by calling **(563) 742-7610**.

**CONTACT US**

2701 17th Street | Rock Island, IL 61201  
(563) 742-7610

**FIND US ONLINE**

trinityhealthfoundation.org  
Facebook.com/trinityhealthfoundationqc