New Members of Gerard Circle

Carl & Teresa Anderson
Jay & Pamela Jeffries

Call (319) 235-3960, or visit unitypoint.org, to learn more about Gerard Circle.

Gerard Circle Spotlight:
Maynard and Mary Jean Murch

Members of Gerard Circle since 2015

Hometown: Waterloo

Connection to UnityPoint Health:
Maynard's affiliation with Allen Hospital began in 1973 as a student in the Allen Medical Technology program. One of the jobs as a student was to feed and care for the rabbits kept in the basement of the hospital. (For context, rabbits were once used to test for pregnancy, as the presence of hCG could be detected after injecting a woman's urine.) Fortunately pregnancy tests were just being offered and the rabbits were soon gone. Upon graduation from North Dakota State, Maynard was thrilled to be offered a technologist position at Allen Hospital for $3.65/hour. After working in many different lab positions, he was named Lab Director in 1995 upon the retirement of long-time Lab Director, Leona Flynn. He held the position until his retirement in 2016. His kids often asked how he could work for one organization for 43 years. Maynard's response has always been, "You come for a job, you stay because of the people." Maynard was very fortunate to have worked with hundreds of dedicated lab professionals over the years, as well as many great leaders at Allen Hospital. It was not just a great place to work, but also a true family atmosphere. He was proud to be a part of the "Allen family."

Mary Jean was working as a co-op secretary in the lab when Maynard was working the night shift. They hit it off and were married in 1977. Soon after, Mary Jean began attending Allen School of Nursing. After graduation in 1979, Mary Jean worked as a pediatric RN at St. Francis for several years, and then as a school nurse at Tripoli, and an employee health nurse at MercyOne until her retirement in 2021.

Why are you inspired to give back to the Allen Foundation and give so generously to local healthcare?
"Allen Hospital has been a vital part of our lives from our early education and throughout our careers. Our family has been blessed with a career that allowed us to raise five children, and we feel it's only appropriate that we now give back in gratitude for all that has been done for us."

Tell us something unique about yourselves.
"We have been blessed with 17 grandchildren, which we are enjoying immensely in our retirements. Fourteen of those 17 were born at Allen Hospital."

Read the full story at: bit.ly/UPH_Murch

Alpha Phi’s Annual Red Dress Gala

February 11
5 to 9 p.m.
Dinner, plus live and silent auctions!
Cedar Falls Event & Convention Center

Proceeds benefit the Alpha Phi Foundation and Allen Foundation!

To learn more or purchase tickets, scan below or go to:
e.givesmart.com/events/tmb/
Notes from the Executive Director: Mike Lind

Each year, the Allen Foundation participates in Giving Tuesday, a global movement that encourages people to donate time and/or money to charitable causes on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving.

This year, the Allen Foundation took on a project to bring PET/CT Scanning services permanently to Allen Hospital. Currently, these services are provided by a mobile unit that comes to Allen just twice a week.

PET/CT is a growing area of our Oncology service line, among others. A PET/CT Scanner can help in the identification, assessment and treatment of different types of cancers including prostate cancer and breast cancer.

With an onsite unit available every day, timely scans to better assess cancer staging, tumor growth and recurrence can take place right here in the Cedar Valley.

We are proud to announce that over $28,000 was raised on Giving Tuesday! Thank you to the many generous donors who helped us kick off fundraising for this important initiative.

Additionally, thank you to all of those who have supported the Allen Foundation in 2022. You have made a real difference in helping us to provide the best of local healthcare.

Happy Holidays!

-- Mike Lind