

A Benefit for the Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital Cancer Center Charitable Patient Care Fund

# **Celebrating Courage 2022**

Recognizing these courageous individuals and ALL our recipients over the last 20 years!







Available for all of your banking needs!

Phone: 712-322-1700 or 712-322-3300

www.availa.bank

Member FDIC



## Table of Contents

Welcome Letter	4
2022 Summer Fundraising Events	7
Spirit of Courage - Feature	8
Donna Elliff - Honoree	12
Deb Potter - Honoree	16
Celebrity Autographs	20
Jake Powers - Honoree	22
Kevin Rutland - Honoree	26
Spirit of Courage - Sponsor Feature	32
Corporate Sponsors & Celebrities	36
Acknowledgments	38

## **Congratulations!**



The physicians and staff of Methodist Radiation Oncology are honored to care for cancer survivors at three Methodist locations in Council Bluffs, Omaha and Fremont.

Congratulations to this year's honorees (from left): Donna Elliff Deb Potter Jake Powers Kevin Rutland





©2021 Methodist Health System

## **Spirit of Courage Past Recipients**

We would like to recognize and thank our past recipients for their continued support and contributions.

### 2020-2021

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, new recipients were not selected. Instead, all past Spirit of Courage recipients were honored during the event. The 2021 recipients carry over to 2022.

Deb Bladt Dr. Darcev Butts Bobbi Calderon **Bob Steele** 

Erin Berkley José Hernandez Joan Minikus Glen Mitchell

### 2017

Mark Engelke John McCreedie Mindy Miller George Smith

### 2016

Teresa Benson Karen Hansen Jenyi Knudsen-Bergsten\* **Amber Williams** 

### 2015

Rod Courtier Richard Daberkow Lucy Beall Graeme Melanie Ryan

### 2014

Kara Dunphy Dr. Lori Platt Dolores Silkworth Marilyn Weber\*

### 2013

Marcia Antworth Les Green Randy Grudle Laura Pattermann

### 2012

Marcia Keith Julianne Morton Julie Nickolisen Caryl Martinez

Gracie Hays Edd Leach Joel Peck\* Horst Rossbund

Callie Earlywine Karen Krause John Scherle Kathy Whitson\*

Cliff "Rink" Holly Brady Jorgensen Carol Reeder

### 2008

Pat Andersen Rick Carlson Ann Hartman John Nelson

### 2007

John Allen Emma Chance Jan Lookabill Tom Schmitt

### 2006

Gary Fiscus Hazel Gammon\* Dr. John Okerbloom

### 2005

Shirley Hurd Pat Penn

### Janet Scherle

Dr. Mary Schermann Verne Welch

### 2004

Sue Johnson

### 2003

\*Denotes Lifetime Achievement Award recipient

## Welcome Letter

### Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 20th anniversary Spirit of Courage Gala weekend!

Like the four individuals we honor tonight, the Jennie Edmundson Foundation has faced some truly unexpected challenges. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us into isolation and we responded with the first-ever virtual Spirit of Courage event. Last year, a sudden uptick in local COVID cases forced us to cancel the gala. We made tough decisions because it was the right thing to do. And throughout these

challenges, you remained supportive of the Foundation and generous to the Spirit of Courage Patient Care Fund, because you knew it was the right thing for us to do.

As a community, we have remained strong, resilient and positive. It reminds me a lot of our Spirit of Courage recipients!

Tonight we honor four courageous people: Donna Elliff, Deb Potter, Jake Powers and Kevin Rutland, along with all our past Spirit of Courage



Tara Slevin

recipients for their continued support. We also honor the dozens of physicians, surgeons, therapists, nurses, medical caregivers and support staff who make the Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital Cancer Center a place of healing and hope. And, we thank our celebrity guests and sponsors, many of whom have been with us for years – some the entire 20 years!

In this program, you can read an update on the Cancer Center and the incredible care it delivers every day, no matter the challenges. You will also read about one of our most loyal sponsors, not only during the Spirit of Courage weekend but throughout the year as well.

The Foundation couldn't help so many people without so many people like you helping us. We thank all our sponsors for their continuing generosity. We thank the executive board, committee chairs and volunteers for contributing their time and talents.

Most of all, we thank you. And, Happy Anniversary!

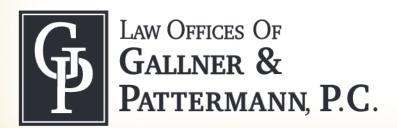
With sincere gratitude,



Chief Philanthropy Officer Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital & Jennie Edmundson Foundation, President

## Recipients, You Inspire Us All!

Gallner & Pattermann Law Offices congratulates Spirit of Courage for 20 years of raising funds to assist patients fighting cancer.



(712) 323-0999 gplawyers.com

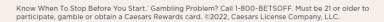
300 W. Broadway, Suite 145 Council Bluffs, IA 51503

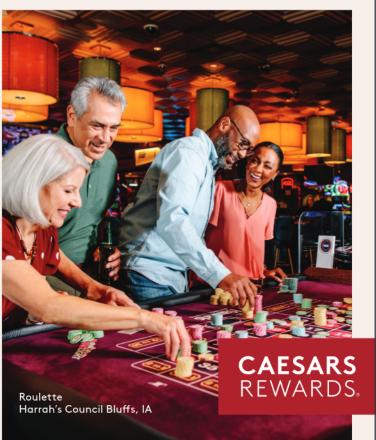


## PLAY & WIN AT TWO CASINOS





















The Wheels of Courage team want to congratulate all of the past Spirit of Courage recipients!

Since 2015, Wheels of Courage events have raised nearly \$145,000 to benefit cancer patients at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital!

Wheels of Courage - Save the Date! June 24, 2023 • Quaker Steak & Lube



## 2022 Summer Fundraising Events

### Saturday, June 25

### WHEELS OF COURAGE CAR SHOW

Standing Together in the Fight Against Cancer

## Saturday, August 6

### 20TH ANNUAL SPIRIT OF COURAGE

A benefit for the Charitable Patient Care Fund, providing assistance to patients with expenses associated with diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

### SHOTGUN SCRAMBLE CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Dodge Riverside Golf Club

### **GALA DINNER, AUCTION, ENTERTAINMENT & PRESENTATION**

Spirit of Courage Recipient Awards will be presented to Donna Elliff, Deb Potter, Jake Powers and Kevin Rutland



## a Constant in a World of Change

As we embark on our **20th annual Spirit of Courage**, the Jennie Edmundson Foundation Board of Directors would like to recognize each of our past recipients for their courage, inspiration and strength! We are honored to be a part of your journey, and blessed to work alongside you and your families in our fight against cancer.

## Spirit of Courage - Feature





## Partnerships with a purpose

- Article by Nick Schinker

Partnerships are integral to personalizing care for each patient at the Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital Cancer Center.

At the heart of the care are the partnerships between the patient, their families and the dozens of physicians, surgeons, therapists, nurses, medical caregivers and support staff at the Cancer Center.

Additionally, the long-standing partnership between the Cancer Center and Heartland Oncology & Hematology enables the delivery of medical oncology and chemotherapy treatments, often conveniently timed to coincide with a patient's trip to the Cancer Center for other services.

And, the partnership with the Jennie Edmundson Foundation helps patients and their families through the Spirit of Courage Patient Care Fund. The fund provides assistance to patients who need help paying expenses associated with cancer, such as medications, treatments and deductibles, as well as everyday living expenses such as groceries, rent and gas to travel to and from care.

"Without this type of help, many of these vulnerable members of our community would simply forgo treatment, and possibly even their life-sustaining medications," says Tara Slevin, Chief Philanthropy Officer at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital and President of Jennie Edmundson Foundation.

The Cancer Center's Director of Oncology Services, Michelle Kaufman, MS, R.T. (R,T), nearly every day witnesses the positive impact the Spirit of Courage Patient Care Fund has on patients and their families.

"When I think of the many different ways the Foundation has helped the Cancer Center, the best thing is the comprehensive support," Kaufman says. "It is wonderful to know we can reach out to the Foundation with any patient situation, and Tara and her team are there with guidance and support. This partnership allows us to take better care of the patient and address their most immediate needs."

Kaufman has many examples of the impact the Spirit of Courage Patient Care Fund has on Cancer Center patients. "You would think after all these years we'd have seen all the patient situations possible, but we have so many unique needs," she says.

"For example, we had a patient whose home was destroyed in a fire and all she had left were the clothes on her back," Kaufman says. "She came in for treatment and told the therapists she was worried about wearing the same clothes in every day. We reached out to the Foundation and were able to secure a \$500 gift card to Walmart so the patient could get some needed essentials."

# Every donation, large and small, benefits the people of southwest lowa.

### Tara Slevin

She also recalls an older, widowed man who lived some distance away from Council Bluffs in a town in southwest lowa. "He was unable to make the commute every day for treatment," Kaufman says. "We utilized the Patient Care Fund to obtain a hotel room to make it possible for him to receive the care he needed."

The list goes on, Kaufman says. "It is difficult to sit across from a patient at quite likely the worst time of their life and know the possibly catastrophic things they may be facing," she says. "Who plans on having cancer? Who plans on gas being \$6 a gallon? Who has an extra \$500 a month to drive 50 or 60 miles every day for treatment? It is so comforting to know we have the Foundation's support to help patients in need."

Slevin says donor support of the Cancer Center campaigns and the Patient Care Fund makes a difference in cancer patients' lives. "Every donation, large and small, benefits the people of southwest lowa," she says.



Since opening its doors in 1994, the Cancer Center has been providing the highest quality treatments and therapies, delivered by certified and experienced medical experts utilizing state-of-the-art equipment. Last year marked the 25th anniversary of the Cancer Center's accreditation by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (ACS/COC). The center has been reaccredited every three years since.

The Breast Health Center at Jennie Edmundson, which marked its 20th anniversary in 2020, is southwest lowa's first comprehensive care facility of its kind and is accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC).

The Cancer Center recently added a Hereditary Cancer Risk Program through the Breast Health Center. The program will help identify patients who are at an increased risk due to family history.

Continued on next page.



"We utilize a software program to capture this information and it identifies women at higher risk so we can offer genetic testing and recommend further screening," Kaufman says. "These medical management decisions can involve closer surveillance, increased clinical breast exams, MRIs, prophylactic procedures and other steps to take. Early detection of cancer is a key to increased survival, which makes this new program so important."

The Incidental Lung Nodule Program, launched in 2020 as a joint effort of the Nebraska Methodist Hospital and the Estabrook Cancer Center along with Jennie Edmundson Hospital, is a one-stop approach to providing patients with a fast, convenient and comprehensive way to have their lung nodules diagnosed, monitored and treated.

Leading-edge programs, technologies and medical equipment help keep the Cancer Center at the forefront of treatments and preventative care.

Five years ago, the center added a new TrueBeam™ linear accelerator, an innovative system that offers radiation therapists the ability to deliver a more precise dose of radiation, targeting the cancer cells while preserving healthy tissue. The purchase of the accelerator, construction of a new vault to house it, as well as other improvements to the Cancer Center, were made possible by a \$5 million capital campaign conducted by the Jennie Edmundson Foundation.

The center also features radiation oncology, a Head

and Neck Clinic,
Colorectal Clinic,
interventional
radiology, fullservice, on-site
pathology; cancer
research and trial studies; nutrition
services and rehabilitation services.

"The center's decades-long partnership with Heartland Oncology & Hematology is another example of doing what is best for the patient," says Sakeer Hussain, M.D., Medical Oncologist /Hematologist at Heartland.

"Our two entities work very well together, and this collaboration allows us to care for the majority of patients in a single place," Dr. Hussain says. "To be able to obtain an accurate diagnosis, comprehensive care plan, the most up-to-date surgeries and treatments and to have it all close to home can make all the difference in the world."

"Heartland Oncology & Hematology also provides care at clinics in Harlan, Atlantic, Hamburg and Nebraska City," Dr. Sakeer says.

With the support of the Jennie Edmundson Foundation, patients can worry less about some secondary expenses and instead concentrate on their health. "I can see the benefit it has for my patients and how appreciative they are," he says. "During the lowest part of their life, the help they receive from the Foundation is huge for them."



## Deb Bladt

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO HAVE SUCH AN AMAZING PERSON ON THE DOLL DISTRIBUTING TEAM!







Council Bluffs Main 421 W Broadway Council Bluffs IA 51503-9057 712.328.1856



EQUAL HOUSING ©2019 U.S. Bank. Member FDIC. 183301c 4/19

## When communities celebrate, so do we.

We believe in celebrating today and rejoicing in the possibilities of tomorrow. That's why U.S. Bank supports the events, holidays and festivals that bring our community together. Celebrating life's special moments reminds us that the future is bright. usbank.com/communitypossible

U.S. Bank is proud to support Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital



## You Make A Difference!

Every dollar you donate helps to provide programs, medical services and leading-edge equipment urgently needed to change and save lives.

Jennie Edmundson Foundation relies on supporters like you to deliver life-saving care for our communities most vulnerable.





Make a Difference Today! Call 712-396-6040 or visit jehfoundation.org

## Donna Elliff - Honoree





Donna Elliff

## **Special Thanks**

First of all, I thank God for giving me the strength and determination to get through this journey.

I want to thank my amazing husband/warrior, family, friends and work family for their incredible support.

I want to thank Dr. Z, Tammy, Mindy, Dr. Parker, Kristin, Mary, Lyla, Amanda, Nikki, Anita, Dr. Nolan, Angie, Lorie and Barb for the amazing care and support.

I am also thankful for Spirit of Courage. It helped to relieve some of the financial pressure that comes with a cancer diagnosis.

I am so thankful and blessed.

## So far, so good

- Article by Nick Schinker

There are two huge reasons Donna Elliff is here for tonight's gala fundraiser. She is a Spirit of Courage award recipient. And, she wants to say, "Thank you."

Elliff, 65, knows how important it is to raise money for the Jennie Edmundson Foundation and its Charitable Patient Care Fund, because she was a recipient of some of those funds when she battled breast cancer in late 2019 and 2020.

More important than the gas and food cards she received, she says, was the reassurance from the foundation that it would be there to help her family financially if she needed it. Concentrate on getting well, the foundation told her, not on the bills.

"I have very good insurance, but having cancer scared me," says Elliff, who for 19 years has worked as a secretary at Lewis Central High School. "Having the foundation tell me that I had a safety net, that really helped."

In the years since the inception of the Spirit of Courage events, a total of \$2 million has been raised for the foundation's Charitable Patient Care Fund. The fund provides assistance to uninsured and underinsured cancer patients who need help paying for medications, treatments and deductibles as well as everyday living expenses such as groceries, rent and gas.

The foundation also benefits from annual events including the Wheels of Courage car shows and the Pink Out events throughout southwest lowa every October. In turn, cancer patients and their families benefit from the participants' generosity.

Elliff had no idea what lay ahead of her when she went to her doctor in August 2019. "I was always healthy," she recalls. "I had five years in a row of perfect attendance. I never went to the doctor. But when I turned 62, I figured at my age, I should get my yearly checks done."

One of those checks was a mammogram, which revealed a Stage 1 lump in one of her breasts.

"I have a first cousin who had breast cancer more than 25 years ago with the BRCA gene, so my mother had been tested for the BRCA gene, and I went through the testing after I was diagnosed," she says. "We were both negative."

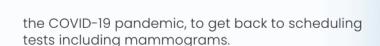
The BRCA gene test is a blood test that analyzes DNA to identify harmful mutations in either one of the two breast cancer susceptibility genes: BRCA1 and BRCA2. People who inherit mutations in these genes have an increased risk of developing breast cancer.

"My last mammogram was four years earlier," Elliff says. "I had no symptoms before this mammogram, so finding out that I had cancer was a shock."

Elliff says she is fortunate her cancer was caught in an early stage. "They removed two lymph nodes to check to see if it had spread, and both were negative," she says.

She underwent a partial mastectomy, 20 radiation treatments and two blood transfusions at Jennie Edmundson, and 18 chemotherapy treatments at Heartland Oncology & Hematology, a longtime partner of the Methodist Jennie Edmundson Cancer Center. Her subsequent scans have been clear. "So far, so good," she says.

Tammy Johnson, certified nurse navigator at Jennie Edmundson's Breast Health Center, says Elliff's mammogram and quick results enabled the facility's cancer team to meet the disease head on. Both she and Elliff urge other women, especially those who put off routine testing during



"Several women I know have told me they got their mammogram because of me," Elliff says. "If my story can be an inspiration to others, that is awesome. Breast cancer is not a death sentence any more. Even my hair is growing back. I tell people, I lost my curls, but I didn't lose my life."

Elliff and her husband, Danny, have three children – Angie Johnson, Courtney Harper and Brooke O'Reilly – along with four grandchildren. "And Rachel Zuehlke," Elliff says. "She is our oldest daughter's best friend, and we have long considered her a daughter. She lost her mother to breast cancer."

The girls all pitched in during the cancer fight by cooking, cleaning and acting as emotional support. Her husband, however, raised the bar.

"Danny," Elliff says. "I call him my warrior."

Together, the couple met the cancer diagnosis with resolve and determination. "I cried when I got the news," Elliff says. "And then I told Danny, 'That's it, no

Continued on next page.



Donna Elliff

more crying. It is what it is. We can't change it. We just have to deal with it one day at a time.' The power of prayer and a positive attitude means a lot."

Keeping in mind her perfect attendance record, a notable feat for anyone who works in the school system, Elliff continued to get to her job during treatments. "I went to work every day," she says, proudly. "I didn't make it all day a few days, but I showed up."

Her "work family" at Lewis Central also provided support, cooking meals and hosting a fundraiser, Elliff says.

She has nothing but praise for her surgeon, Michael Zlomke, M.D., the medical director of the Jennie Edmundson Breast Health Center; and the countless other caregivers who treated her and supported her.

"Everyone at Jennie was so positive," she says. "I'm a chatty Cathy and they found that out right away. You have to stay positive, and even though there were times I didn't, they were there to bring me right back up."

She says Jennie Edmundson Hospital and the Cancer Center are special places, and that the residents of southwest lowa are fortunate they are nearby.

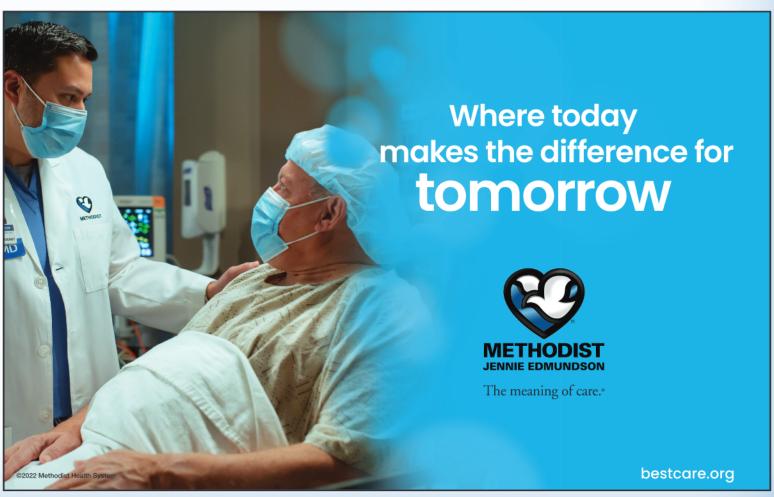
"Having them close to home was wonderful," she says. "We didn't have to drive far, and they really took the time to get to know me. They made me feel like I was their only patient."

For that, too, she says, "Thank you."

They made me feel like I was their only patient. Donna Elliff

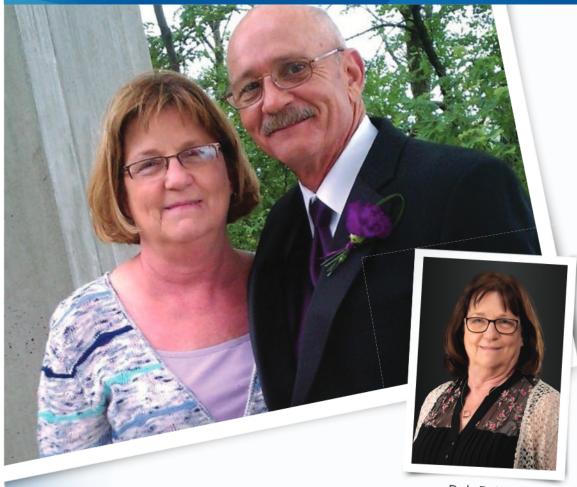






## Deb Potter - Honoree





San Bar Car

Deb Potter

## **Special Thanks**

My Cancer journey started with Jill Jensen, PA-C. who had the intuition to send me for my first X-ray, thank you. I would also like to thank Dr. Mukherjee and his staff at Methodist Physicians Clinic - their caring and understanding has been impeccable.

The girls I work with at the office treated my situation with dignity and picked up the slack when I wasn't around. For this, I cannot thank them enough.

I can't leave out the Respiratory Therapy Department staff who guided me through my recovery. Everyone at the Jennie Edmundson Hospital who helped on my cancer journey needs a massive thanks. I couldn't have done it without you all.

I would not have gotten through these times without the help of my husband Jerry and my kiddo's Jodi, Teri & Eric, their spouses and all of my grandbabies. You're in my heart always. I have always said "I'm not lucky, I am blessed."

# Drawing strength from compassion and expert care

- Article by Nick Schinker

Deb Potter refuses to let anything get her depressed. Not even cancer.

"I always try to keep positive," says Potter, 69.
"It does you no good to feel bad."

Prior to her diagnosis, Potter was accustomed to coming down with a cold or cough during the winter months. That's all she thought it was when she saw her doctor in January 2018. "I had a persistent cough, just like I normally got every January or February," she recalls. "So she gave me some medicine."

This time, the medicine didn't last, and the cough returned in February.

"I went back to the doctor, Jill Jensen, PA-C, and she took an X-ray of my chest," she says. "That's when they found a spot in my lung, about the size of a pencil eraser."

Potter's physician referred her to Sumit Mukherjee, M.D., a critical care pulmonologist at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital. For an accurate diagnosis, Dr. Mukherjee ordered a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan. It revealed adenocarcinoma in two places in the top lobe of Potter's right lung.

"I told Dr. Mukherjee that I wasn't going to start crying," she recalls. "All I said was, 'You tell me what we need to do next.""

# [Dr. Mukherjee] is so awesome. If the world knew how good he is, he'd be so busy he'd never have a day off.

Deb Potter

Potter says it is part of her personality to face adversity head on. "I'm a no nonsense person," she says. "I never want to feel bad for myself."

Her husband of 48 years, Jerry, describes her as strong willed. "She can be blunt," he says. "She has a few filters, but not many."

The former Food Service Director for the Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office, Potter is the Daily Operations Coordinator for Nutrition Services in the Council Bluffs Community School District. She administers the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant programs, as well as the 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool snack program, and the Kids & Company childcare snack program.

She continued to work for the school district throughout subsequent testing. She also is a Master Tax Advisor and Enrolled Agent, and works on taxes from January through April while taking tax classes during the summer months to maintain her status.

Deb and Jerry have three children, Jodi, Teri and Eric; and eight grandchildren who range in age from 26 years old to 21. After she shared the news of her cancer, she says she kept her trademark positive attitude especially in front of her family.

"The last thing I wanted to do was freak out my kids and grandkids," she says. "Jerry and I and those grandkids are really close."

She had a biopsy on Sept. 11, 2018, and lobectomy surgery was performed on Oct. 25 by John Batter, M.D., a cardiothoracic surgery, lung and thoracic oncology specialist at the Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center. "He removed the top part of my right lung and that was it," she says. "It was just gone. No chemotherapy. No radiation. Every day I think about how blessed I am."

The couple say they are also blessed to have each other. While each of them has their own interests, most of all, they enjoy spending time together.

During the recent COVID-19 pandemic, Potter filled her free time sewing more than 2,000 masks.

Jerry, a retired kitchen installer for an Omaha remodeling company, is an avid musician. "I've spent the past 53 years playing in 18 different bands," he says. "My partner is a songwriter, so about half of our sets are original songs and the other half is covers of classic rock or country tunes."

Both are grateful for the support their family, friends and Potter's coworkers gave throughout their cancer journey. They say they are also grateful for the expert care available at Jennie Edmundson, where Potter continues to see Dr. Mukherjee for follow-up checks.

Fellow Spirit of Courage recipient Mindy Miller was Deb's nurse during the biopsy at Jennie Edmundson Hospital. "She has the same positive attitude that I do,"
Potter says.

She also praised Karla Owens at the Jennie Edmundson Cancer Center.

Continued on next page.





"She is the sweetest person," Potter says. "You need anything, she's right there for you."

And, she says she drew strength from the compassion and expert care she received from Dr. Mukherjee. "He's the man," she says, smiling. "He is so awesome. If the world knew how good he is, he'd be so busy he'd never have a day off. I guess it's just up to me to tell everyone."

Dr. Mukherjee says Potter deserves to be credited for her – you guessed it – positive attitude.

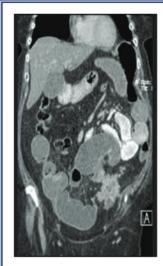
"Deb is a great example of the qualities of so many of our patients," he says. "Her spirit is infectious. We thrive on the energy Deb and patients like her provide us."

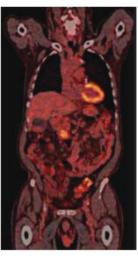
Potter says everyone she met at Jennie Edmundson took a personal interest in her care. "I know it sounds odd when you're talking about having cancer, but every experience I had at Jennie was wonderful," she says. "I was treated so well, both medically and personally.

"I can't begin to tell you how blessed I am, and how blessed we all are to have Jennie Edmundson and all those kind and dedicated people right here in Council Bluffs."

## DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY, PC

Subspecialty Expertise. Exceptional Service.





### **Board-Certified Radiologists**

Robert Forbes, MD James Smith, MD, FACR Annabel Galva, MD Chris Hasiak, MD Chris Koch, MD Marcus Kirkpatrick, MD Ryan Farrer, DO Ken Larson, DO DVM Carter Mayotte, RT/RA

Our goal is to provide exceptional customer service and the highest quality interpretive services to our patients, referring clinicians and hospital partners.

## www.DiagnosticRadiologyPC.com

712.396.6140 (Methodist Jennie Edmundson) • 712.243.3250 (Cass County Health) 712.246.1230 (Shenandoah Medical Center)



Medical Solutions



**Medical Solutions is proud to support our neighbors** who continue to raise the bar in healthcare and transform the lives of those who live in our community.

We're honored to celebrate the **20th annual Spirit of Courage** with Methodist Health System and proud to recognize its continued commitment to care, education, and innovation.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to improve the health of our community.

— Your friends at Medical Solutions | Medical Solutions.com

## Celebrity Autographs





Margaritas anyone? Always a fun stop during the tournament!



Past recipients Rod Courtier and John McCredie enjoy a fun evening catching up.



Brenden Stai and Larry Jacobson swapping football stories at the Kickoff event.

Mike and Amy McKay enjoy a night to relax and socialize after putting in long hours to create the four recipient videos.





## Jake Powers - Honoree





Jake Powers

## **Special Thanks**

To my amazing family and friends I appreciate all the love, your generosity, sacrifices and prayers on my behalf. All your efforts helped me keep going and kept me feeling positive.

Thank you to all the medical professionals at Jennie Edmundson and Heartland Oncology for the support and compassion you showed me during the very challenging, and uncertain even scary times of the pandemic. You are all outstanding and I could not begin to name all the doctors, nurses and staff members that touched my heart.

A very heartfelt thank you to my co-workers and administration at Methodist Physicians Clinic Risen Son, the Jennie hospital volunteers and the Jennie Edmundson Foundation, for the assistance through the Spirit of Courage fund and lessening my financial burden. Your amazing support and generosity was overwhelming and meant the world to me.

Do to COVID much of my cancer journey I faced alone. Thank you to my husband's employer, General Service Bureau and his co-workers for allowing him the freedom to be there when I needed him and for supporting him emotionally and reassuring him throughout my treatments.

## Cancer during a pandemic

- Article by Nick Schinker

Few people will say they enjoy public speaking, but tonight, Spirit of Courage recipient Jere Ann "Jake" Powers is grateful to be speaking at all.

In April 2020, just when the COVID-19 pandemic was capturing the minds and fears of most Americans, Powers felt a lump in her left breast. Powers, the former volunteer coordinator at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital, was working as a receptionist at Risen Son Methodist Physicians Clinic in Council Bluffs.

"Everything was going crazy at work," she says.
"Every day we were getting new procedures. I knew I needed to get in to see Jill (Jill Jensen, PA-C), but we were all so busy."

Named for her father's cousin, a woman named JereAnn who went by the nickname Jake, Powers was aware that when she was young, her mother, Betty Gutheil, had undergone a mastectomy after being diagnosed with breast cancer.

Prodded by a coworker to make an appointment, a follow-up biopsy revealed April 8 that Powers had breast cancer. But there was more.

"The breast cancer had metastasized to the liver, which would require liver ablation prior to chemotherapy," she says. "And, they told me I had thyroid cancer."

After her doctors determined that the breast cancer was the priority, Powers began chemotherapy April 27 at Heartland Oncology & Hematology, a longtime partner of the Methodist Jennie Edmundson Cancer Center, followed by surgery at Jennie Edmundson on Sept. 29. Michael Zlomke, M.D., the medical director of the Jennie

# Tim had to drive me up, drop me off and drive away. It was tough.

Jake Powers

Edmundson Breast Health Center, performed the mastectomy. Andrew Coughlin, M.D., a head and neck surgical oncologist at Methodist, performed the thyroid surgery.

"They told me afterward that the left side of the thyroid was more involved, and that the cancer had taken over a vocal nerve," Powers says. "Dr. Coughlin said he repurposed the nerve and closed me up. He said they'd have to wait to see when they could operate again, and how the nerve would respond."

Not only was the news not what she wanted to hear, she couldn't get the physical and emotional support she needed from her husband, Tim, or her family. Because of COVID-19, she had to face being hospitalized alone, with no visitors allowed. Even before her surgery, when she underwent her chemotherapy treatments, she had to do it alone.

"Tim had to drive me up, drop me off and drive away," she says. "It was tough."

Having previously worked as the volunteer coordinator at the hospital did help, Powers says.

"I had my hysterectomy here years ago, but this time, I felt like I knew Jennie Edmundson like my second home," she says. "Wherever I was, there was someone I knew by their first name. I really appreciated that, because there were so many patients there who really were all alone."

She also found support in her nurse, Randy Bergan, "My Nurse Randy" as she called him. "I knew him personally, and he really cared," Powers says. "He was truly invested in my health, and I think we put on our brave faces for each other."

Powers was allowed to recover at home until a follow-up surgery on her thyroid the next month.

She began radiation therapy at Jennie Edmundson Nov. 9, completing a series of 33 treatments on Jan. 12, 2021.



Besides undergoing treatments and being hospitalized on her own, other things wore on Powers emotionally. In November 2020, her youngest brother, Tom, who had diabetes, was found deceased in his home. And, at the same time Powers was facing breast cancer, so was her stepsister, Renee Parrack.

"She was diagnosed three months after me, and she had her mastectomy the day before mine," Powers says. "She went through so much with me. She shaved my hair, and I shaved hers. I really wanted to be brave for her because her treatments followed mine."

Besides her husband, Powers also received support from her daughters, Beth and Julia. Beth, the eldest, announced that she would work from home and also home-school her two sons and Julia's daughter so they could all be closer. "Julia kept friends and family informed," Powers says. "Everyone sought out Julia for updates."

And, Powers had her two boxers, a brother and sister named Elmer and Fudd, who nestled at her side whenever she was home. Except for the four days she had to be quarantined at home due to a radioactive iodine pill she had to take for her thyroid.

Powers stayed on her job throughout her chemotherapy and most of her radiation treatments, and her coworkers also were sources of support and inspiration. "They started a fundraiser designing,

Continued on next page.



Jake Powers

producing and selling personalized T-shirts," she says. "They involved the volunteer department at Jennie, family and friends to make a successful fundraiser. I also received a big basket filled with comfort – books, ChapStick, a blanket, many gift certificates, lotions and slippers – everything I needed at my fingertips."

She and her stepsister, Renee, continue to recover from their mastectomies. A CAT scan in December 2021 indicated that a lesion remained on her liver. Testing in July indicated it has not changed and may be a result of the scar tissue created by an earlier liver ablation. She returned to chemotherapy and will continue to receive treatments until late August.

And, Dr. Coughlin examined the vocal cord and discovered the repurposed nerve is moving the vocal cord on its own. "He said I should think of it as a nerve learning its new job," Powers says.

That was music to her ears, especially since she enjoys singing karaoke to Melissa Etheridge, Jewel, Pink and Alanis Morissette, even the national anthem at events, "wherever someone wants to listen to me."

She began vocal therapy, adjusting her breathing to emanate more from her diaphragm – just as she does when she sings.

Now that her voice is returning, there is nothing Powers would rather do than sing the praises of the people at Jennie Edmundson who cared for her.

"Being there during COVID, I could see how exhausting it was on the nurses," she says. "They weren't just your nurse. They were all you had to hang onto."



We are proud to support





A BIG THANK YOU for all you do!

## IF YOU DRINK, DON'T DRIVE.

# DECIDE TO RI

Anheuser-Busch | Smadd | Uber



WWW.DOLLDISTRIBUTING.COM

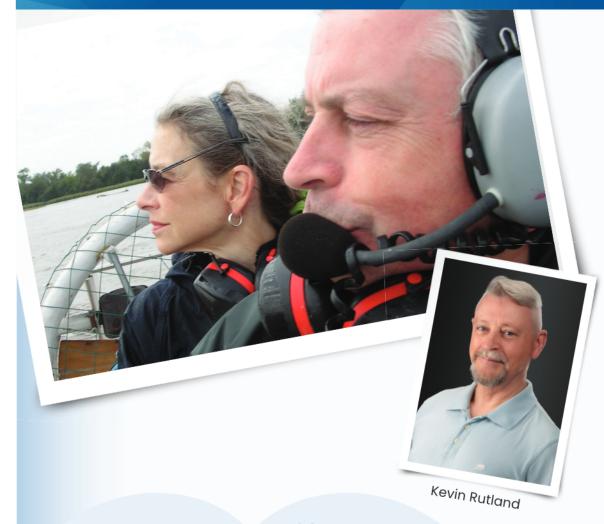






## Kevin Rutland - Honoree





## **Special Thanks**

Being alive is something we tend to take for granted. God gave us this time and I'm truly thankful for my wonderful life so far. I have been blessed with great parents, family, children, grandchildren, friends and the opportunity to live, love and enjoy work and play for many years.

I may have many or few miles left to travel on these interconnecting pathways through life, and I'm going to continue to Get Up, Get Out and Get Active, overcoming the challenges and enjoying every moment that God gives me.

Cancer is just one of the possible cracks in our roads that we have to step over to continue moving forward. I'm deeply thankful to Dr. Bolte, Dr. Arther, Dr. Duckert and especially to Angie and Loree, Paul and all the other awesome people who have helped me on my road to recovery. They are the very special people who deserve all of the honors.

I have been especially blessed to have Anne as my willing partner, and the love of my life, on this journey. We walk hand in hand. I can't ask for anything more!

## A marvelous life

- Article by Nick Schinker

Kevin Rutland knew something was wrong.

Several years ago, after experiencing a urinary tract infection (UTI), he had a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test. Used to check the amount of PSA, a protein produced by both cancerous and noncancerous tissue in the prostate, the test is a screen for prostate cancer. "They told me at the time if the PSA level was above 10, it was quite high and should be discussed with a doctor right away," Rutland recalls.

Near the end of 2019, Rutland experienced another UTI, again followed by a PSA test. This time, the level was 38.

He wasted no time making an appointment with his urologist, Stefanie Bolte, M.D., in Council Bluffs. Dr. Bolte immediately scheduled a series of scans and a prostate biopsy. On Jan. 6, 2020, the results confirmed prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer is measured on the Gleason Score, a system named for the pathologist who developed it in the 1960s. The score ranges from 2 to 10, with 10 being the most aggressive form of prostate cancer. "Mine was nine," Rutland recalls.

He began a course of hormone treatments to slow the cancer. His prostate was removed in a robotic-assisted surgery performed Feb. 13 by urology specialist Andrew R. Arther, M.D., at Methodist Hospital in Omaha. The next morning, Rutland and his wife, Anne, celebrated his successful surgery – and Valentine's Day – with a hospital breakfast.

His first PSA test after the operation showed a level of 0.01, but subsequent tests over the next nine months showed gradual increases, from 0.1 to 0.4, then 1.38. "It became obvious some cancer cells had evaded the removal operation," Rutland says.

He was sent to see Randall T. Duckert, M.D., a radiation oncologist at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital. "Dr. Duckert turned out to be another great and encouraging doctor," Rutland says.

Rutland underwent a seven-week course of 35 radiation treatments, ending on St. Patrick's Day 2021. His most recent PSA test, in June this year, was less than 0.01.

From initial diagnosis to his final radiation treatment, Rutland stayed positive. "I am not a worrier at all," he says. "I will analyze a situation, but I don't dwell on it. Worry stresses you, and I'd rather stay cheerful and proactive."

He and Anne met 23 years ago, just after he purchased his first Internet capable computer. He was living in England, and she lived in Council Bluffs. She had a keen interest in England, and since chat rooms had not yet been created, she went online to find out more about Great Britain.

"It was 8 a.m. in Council Bluffs and 2 a.m. in England (a six hour time difference due to the distance), and I was the only person online who matched Anne's search criteria," Rutland recalls. "My user name showed where I was, and she asked a question about England. We started to type back and forth, and really talked about everything. We fell in love more or less straight away."

As their romance grew, so did the desire to lessen the distance between them. Rutland moved from England to Council Bluffs in 1997, and brought with him a most charming English accent, his positive attitude and a light-hearted sense of humor.



"I came over in April, moved here in May and we were married in July," he says. "I am nine months older than Anne, and I like to say that God made her for me."

They have traveled to England several times, including for Rutland's daughters' weddings, and visited his "mum" after she and his sister moved to Ireland.

"I'm 69 now, and I am still having a marvelous life," Rutland says.

A Craft Design & Technology teacher in England for 24 years, Rutland worked in facilities management at a call center in Omaha until he retired at 62.

His many interests include both small scale and full-size aircraft. He built and flew Microlight airplanes. He has flown a single-seat Microlight

Continued on next page.

These people showed me compassion beyond any scale you want to use. They were cheerful, caring and friendly. They are a great team.

Kevin Rutland

Flexwing Airplane in UK national competitions, and was a member of the British Microlight team.

He began building and operating hovercraft as an after-school activity with students in the BP Challenge to Youth competitions in England. After moving to Council Bluffs, he built several full-size hovercraft that he and Anne would use to cruise the Platte River. Several years ago, he used one of his hovercraft to assist in a deer rescue at Zorinsky Lake in Omaha.

Today, he also enjoys remote control (RC) airplane and drone flying. He is secretary of the Cobra RC Club in C.B., and he designs and 3D prints components for his airplanes and small-scale hovercraft.

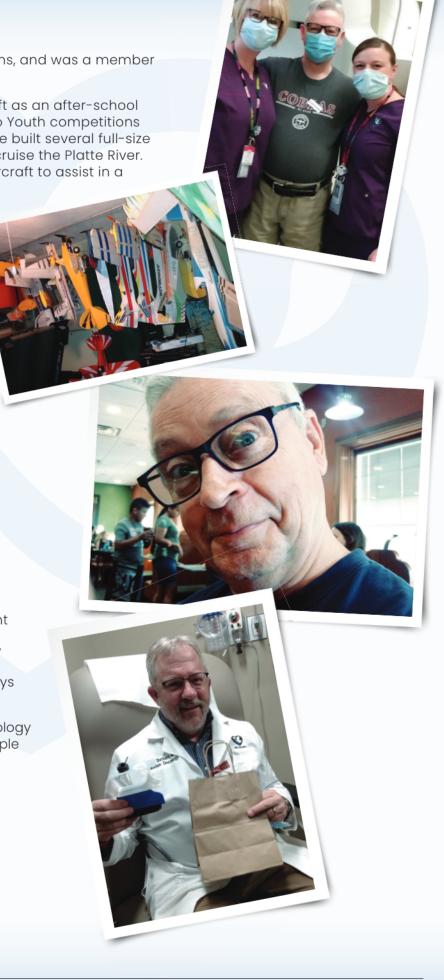
"This is currently a major hobby of mine," he says. "I build, fly, crash and repair the various electrically powered airplanes and drones, and fly them as often as possible, weather permitting."

Rutland even made small remotecontrolled hovercraft for the radiation technicians at Jennie Edmundson and for Dr. Duckert. "I used the mechanisms and controller from small drones, and designed and 3D printed the bodies," he says. "Two of the motors face downward and two backward. They actually go quite fast."

The hovercraft gifts are a very cool way of saying thank you. "These people showed me compassion beyond any scale you want to use," Rutland says. "They were cheerful, caring and friendly. They are a great team."

Despite having prostate cancer, Rutland says he considers himself a lucky man.

"I have had the finest doctors, scan and oncology technicians, the nurses, as well as all the people who work so hard to support the various departments where I was treated," he says. "My thanks and praise go out to you all!"



# MID CONTINENT

TRUCKING COMPANY

The carrier that cares.

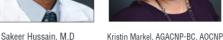
Brian & Ted Wickersham, Owners

# Proud sponsor of the JEH Spirit of Courage Event.

P.O. Box 310, 701 S. 15th St., Denison, IA 51442 • 712-263-4340 • 712-263-5874 (Fax)









Andrea Anderson, FNP-C

Our specialists plan every patient's care individually, using the most advanced medical options available. It's care designed to fight your specific cancer. We focus on what's right for YOU and YOUR Family.







## Holland Basham Architects

HollandBasham.com

## Creating Thoughtful Designs for Exceptional Spaces.

Holland Basham Architects proudly supports the Methodist Jennie Edmundson Foundation.





## what's important?

YOU ARE. No matter what we're building, Graham begins by laying the most important foundation — a long-term relationship with every client. We are honored to be a trusted partner in each client's success. That's important. That's Graham.



Omaha, NE 68144

## THE GRAHAM GROUP, INC. CONSTRUCTION DIVISION Building what's important.

13030 Pierce Street, Suite 200

grahamconstruction.com

## Spirit of Courage - Sponsor Feature





Leaving a legacy of giving, the late Verne Welch, former Harrah's GM and one of the founders of Spirit of Courage.

## Year-round support

- Article by Nick Schinker

Caesars Entertainment, which operates Harrah's and Horseshoe in Council Bluffs, has not only been a loyal sponsor of Spirit of Courage gala weekend events since its inception, the company and its employees support Jennie Edmundson Foundation events throughout the year.

"Caesars Entertainment lists community as one of its core values, and that is especially true in its support of charitable and civic organizations in Council Bluffs," says Leisha Hammer, Vice President of Human Resources for Caesars in Council Bluffs. She lists the Jennie Edmundson Foundation, where she has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2019, along with MICAH House and Heartland Family Service as primary recipients of Caesars' philanthropy and resources in Council Bluffs.

Since 2012, Hammer estimates that Caesars Entertainment/Harrah's/Horseshoe have donated more than \$200,000 to the Jennie Edmundson



Foundation through the Spirit of Courage weekend and other fundraisers such as October Pink Out events.

"Our General Manager at the time, the late Verne Welch, was a driving force behind our support of the Jennie Edmundson Foundation and many other organizations in the Bluffs," Hammer says. "Verne, past president of the Jennie Edmundson Foundation was one of the founding members of Spirit of Courage twenty years ago."

Harrah's, Horseshoe and their employees have supported the Spirit of Courage gala financially and with in-kind donations including hotel rooms, food and providing poker employees when Spirit of Courage weekend included a poker tournament.

"We hold concerts at Stir Cove where a portion of the ticket sales go to the Foundation," she says. "We also hosted the 'Battle of the Bras' and later the 'Battle for the Cause: Boxers vs. Bras' events at Whiskey Roadhouse at the Horseshoe." Hammer is very familiar with Council Bluffs and southwest lowa. She grew up in Carson and her mother, Diane Brockman, was a certified nursing assistant (CNA) at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital until her retirement. Hammer's father, David Brockman, was on several area boards of directors including MICAH House and the American Red Cross.

"It's important to be involved in the community that provides our employment base," she says. "In my role, I look for organizations that reflect and relieve the challenges our employees may be going through. That is why we like to support the local organizations that help people deal with real-life issues.

So many people and families have to deal with cancer, and the Jennie Edmundson Foundation is there for them."

Tara Slevin, Chief Philanthropy Officer at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital and President of the Jennie Edmundson Foundation, says that in the 20 years since the inception of the Spirit of Courage events, more than \$2 million has been raised for the Spirit of Courage Patient Care Fund. The fund provides assistance to cancer patients who need help paying for medications, treatments and deductibles, as well as everyday living expenses such as groceries, rent and gas.

Continued on next page.



Total **lung care** only at Methodist





### **IN-DEPTH LUNG-SCREENING**

Early detection saves lives and our unique program identifies potential respiratory diseases and cancers sooner.



### **SPECIALIZED TECHNOLOGY**

Fully robotic technologies access smaller and harder-to-reach lung nodules with reduced complications and faster recoveries.

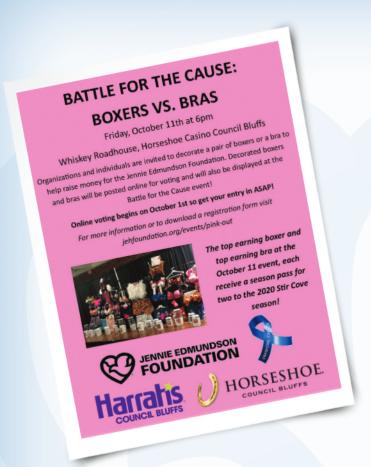


### A TEAM OF EXPERTS

Our team of lung and respiratory specialists gives you the comprehensive, personalized care you and your family deserve.

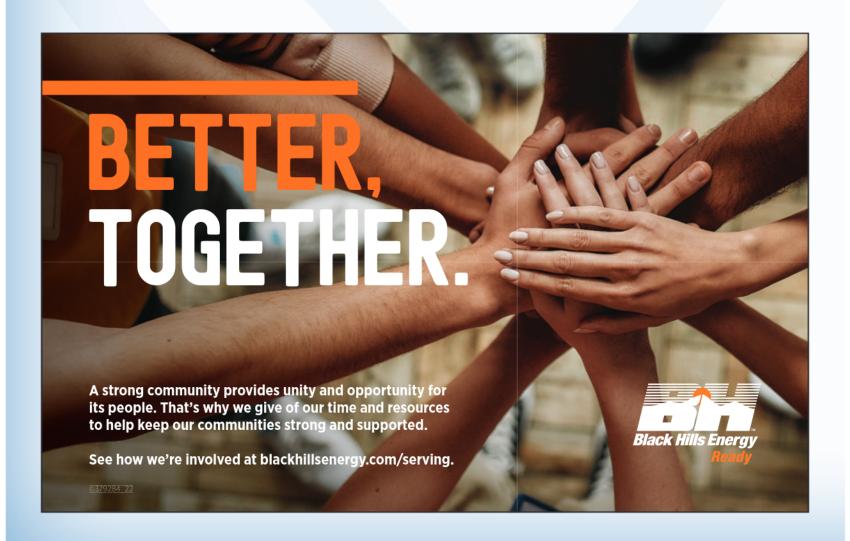
Learn more at bestcare.org/lung-care.

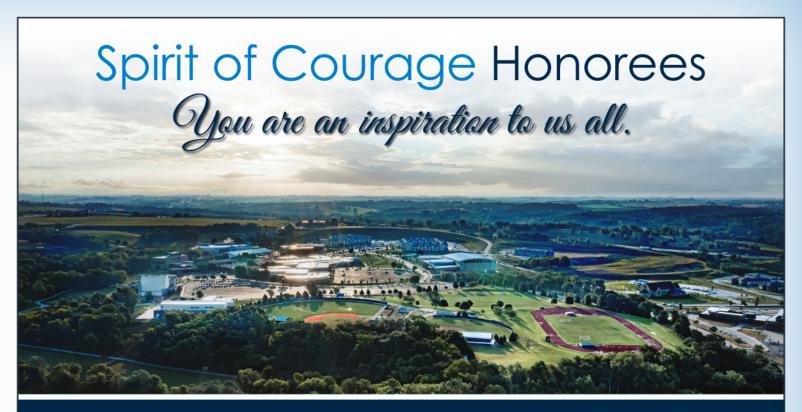
©2022 Methodist Health System



"We are able to fulfill a growing number of needs for patients and families because of the continued support of our sponsors and donors," Slevin says. "Harrah's and Horseshoe were with us even before Spirit of Courage and have never wavered in their loyalty, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. From corporate management down to every employee, we know we can count on them as much as others rely on the Jennie Edmundson Foundation."

For information about sponsoring, volunteering or making a donation to the Spirit of Courage Charitable Patient Care fund, please contact the Foundation at 712-396-6040 or jefoundation@nmhs.org.







## WE LOVE AN AMAZING STORY

Thank you to this year's Spirit of Courage honorees for sharing yours with us.

Donna Elliff
Deb Potter
Jake Powers
Kevin Rutland

Anderson Partners

## Corporate Sponsors & Celebrities as of July 20, 2022





hit the links with celebrity guest Peter Onorati

Dave Webber catches up with Stan and Cindy Bahnsen as they reminisce on years past.

### Corporate Golf Foursomes

Availa Bank Barton Solvents, Inc. Black Hills Energy Brad Perdue Race Team Caesars Entertainment Campbell Insurance Agency, Inc. CyrusOne Diagnostic Radiology, PC Doll Distributing, Inc. Electric Company of Omaha Frontier Savings Bank

Galaska & Sons

The Graham Group -Construction Division

**Great Plains** Communications

HGM Associates, Inc.

Holland Basham **Architects** 

Hy-Vee Food Stores Iowa Western Community College

The Law Offices of Gallner & Pattermann, PC

MCL Construction

Medical Solutions

Methodist Health System Methodist Physicians

Clinic

Mid Continent Trucking Company

Midwest Gastrointestinal Associates, PC

My Pediatric Dentist -Dr. Ryan Hajek

Nebraska Cancer Specialists

Pinnacle Bank

Shared Service Systems Dr. John & Leslie Southard U.S. Bank

## Corporate **Table Sponsors**

Dr. Pat & Natalie Jean Ahrens

American Natiol Bank

Availa Bank

**Beacon Vacations** 

Black Hills Energy

Caesars Entertainment

Celebrity Guest Table

CyrusOne

Diagnostic Radiology, PC

Doll Distributing, Inc.

Earlywine/Nickolisen **Families** 

Donna Elliff, 2021/2022 Recipient

**Emergency Room** Physicians

Frontier Savings Bank

The Graham Group -Construction Division

Grease Monkey

Heartland Oncology & Hematology

**Heartland Properties** 

Holland Basham Architects

Home Style Laundry & **Dry Cleaners** 

Horizon Mental Health Mangement

Hy-Vee Food Stores Iowa Western

Community College

Dr. Shawn & Amanda

The Law Offices of Gallner & Pattermann, PC

Edd & Donna Leach

Cynthia McCall

MCL Construction

Medical Solutions

Methodist Jennie **Edmundson Employees** 

Methodist Health System

Methodist Physicians

Clinic

Methodist Physicians Clinic - Risen Son Family Practice

Methodist Physicians Clinic - Women's Center

Methodist Radiation

Oncology

Mid Continent Trucking Company

Midwest Gastrointestinal

Associates, PC

Nebraska Cancer Specialists

Northern Natural Gas

Deb Potter, 2021/2022 Recipient

Jake Powers, 2021/2022 Recipient

Kevin Rutland, 2021/2022

Recipient ServiceMaster Restore by

Schmader

Slevin Family

Spirit of Courage Former Recipients

Dr. John & Leslie Southard U.S. Bank

Wheels of Courage Car Club

Tom & Janet Whitson

### Film/TV/Sports Celebrities

Grace Bannon

Jason Bayle

Chris Bober

Jeff Braine

Alan Campbell

Kayla Compton

Brett Cullen

Rad Daly

Terrell Farley

Richard Horvitz

Erich Hover

Larry Jacobson

Calvin Jones

Kirstin Kluver

Sterling Knight

J.P. Manoux

Carl Marino

Ilona Marino

Tohoru Masamune

Dani Nicolet

Peter Onorati

JC Pierson

Ricky Simmons

Brenden Stai

Trieu Tran

### Local Celebrities

Bickham

"Big P"

Todd Brandt

Mike McKnight

Mayor, Matt Walsh

Dave Webber



# PROUDLY SUPPORTS

Spirit of Courage

23rd & West Broadway ● 1745 Madison Ave

Service MASTER Restore

Disaster Restoration by Schmader

Fire • Water • Mold Cindy Schmader 712-256-6008



## Executive Committee

Jen Cody, Table Sales Chair

Nate Eckley, Technical Support

Carol Elder, Wheels of Courage Co-Chair

Carol Horner, Golf Tournament Chair

Sam Fragoso, Operations Support

JoAnn Jensen, Auction Chair

Edd & Donna Leach,

Spirit of Courage Recipient Host

Mike McKay, Videographer

Pat Miller, Wheels of Courage Co-Chair

Jeremy Noel,

Wheels of Courage Co-Chair

Bill Oldenburg, Celebrity Co-Chair

Brad & Mindy Perdue, Race Car Team

Rachel Reis, Volunteer Chair

Nick Schinker, Writer

Clodagh Slevin, Celebrity Co-Chair

Tara Slevin, Event Coordinator

Mayor Matt & Barb Walsh,

Hospitality Co-Chair

Dave Webber, Event MC

Brian & Teresa Wickersham,

Hospitality Co-Chair

Sandy Westphal, Marketing

## Acknowledgments as of July 20, 2022





The "Carols"
(Carol Elder and Carol Horner)
take a well-deserved break after a
long summer of fun and fundraising.

### **Sponsors**

### 15 TO 20 YEARS OF SUPPORT

Availa Bank
Barnhart Press
Black Hills Energy
Caesars Entertainment
Diagnostic Radiology, PC
Dodge Riverside Golf Club
Doll Distributing, Inc.
Heartland Oncology &
Hematology
Hy-Vee Food Stores
Iowa Western Community
College
Methodist Health System

### 10 TO 15 YEARS OF SUPPORT

Brad Perdue Racing Edith Doll Frontier Savings Bank

Mid Continent Trucking

Nonpareil

Heartland Photo and Design Holland Basham Architects Law Offices of Gallner & Pattermann, P.C. Methodist Physicians Clinic US Bank

### **5 TO 10 YEARS OF SUPPORT**

Anderson Partners Advertising MCL Construction Methodist Radiation Oncology ServiceMaster Restore Wheels of Courage Car Club

### **UP TO 5 YEARS OF SUPPORT**

CyrusOne
The Graham Group,
Construction Division
Medical Solutions
Midwest Gastrointestinal
Associates, PC
Nebraska Cancer Specialists

### Special Thank -You

Sending our sincerest gratitude to the many volunteers who worked together to make this year and the past 20 years possible! Thank you so much for volunteering your time, talent and generous spirit.



The area's best choice for high-quality and cost-effective digestive care. Ask for a board certified gastroenterologist to perform your colonoscopy.



Call to schedule your screening colonoscopy today.



8901 Indian Hills Drive, Suite 200 Omaha, NE 68114

Omaha | Bellevue | Council Bluffs | Fremont

402.397.7057 midwestgi.com

## Upcoming Events | Mark Your Calendars!





February 25, 2023
Cardiovascular Charitable Patient Care



June 24, 2023
Spirit of Courage Charitable Patient Care Fund



August 4-5, 2023
Spirit of Courage Charitable Patient Care Fund



933 E. Pierce Street · Council Bluffs, IA 51503 jehfoundation.org · 712-396-6040

- MAKING GREAT IMPRESSIONS SINCE 1904 — BARNHART PRESS -

11616 | STREET, Omaha NE • 402-341-1322

111711 Jennie Edmundson.indd 1 7/27/18 9:20 AM