

# Compassion Champions Personal Giving Program

Your impact in action



## The power of a helping hand

Courtney is no stranger to the impact of a helping hand — she sees it every day in her role as Manager of the Community Health Worker hub and the Women-Inspired Neighborhood (WIN) Network Detroit, working to make sure her team has everything they need to help disadvantaged mothers, babies and families in our community thrive. So when the COVID-19 pandemic started to affect her own household finances, she knew what a little help could mean for her family. That's when Courtney applied for financial support from the Bob & Sandy Riney Helping Hands Fund (320).

Fueled entirely by Henry Ford Health team members through our personal giving program, Compassion Champions, the Helping Hands fund provides a safety net for coworkers, volunteers and retirees in a moment of need. Since its creation in 1992, the program has helped thousands of team members who needed a hand, providing financial support for families who have gotten sick or injured, lost their homes to fire, faced the loss of a loved one and so much more.

"I received the assistance I needed, and it did a lot for my family, and especially my mental health," she said. "It was a saving grace, having one less thing to worry about."

Courtney stressed her feelings of gratitude, not only for the help but for the people and community that made it possible.

"Not everybody has something like Helping Hands to find support in moments like that. That's one of the things that I really like about Henry Ford Health — no matter what your position is within the system, if you need it, and we can provide it, we will. Even little things like leadership remembering my family, it's all wrapped up in why Henry Ford has something like the Helping Hands fund. It really does feel like they care about us as people."

That's why Courtney donates to the Helping Hands fund herself, too. "I think it's extremely important for those who have the means to donate," said Courtney. "In my role, I see the importance of every small gift and what a big difference it makes. You never know when you or even someone on your team may need it, so you want to be able to pay it forward."

*If you are one of the many Henry Ford Health team members whose generosity helps power this meaningful fund, thank you! To get involved or find a similar fund in your area, contact the Compassion Champions team at [personalgiving@hfhs.org](mailto:personalgiving@hfhs.org).*

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## A source of comfort for patients

Your donations to the Outpatient Infusion Clinic at Henry Ford Providence Southfield Hospital help patients experience comfort in a whole new way.

Thanks to support from donors like you, a countertop blanket warmer was purchased. Patients often request warm blankets as they undergo infusions and injection treatments that can make their body feel cold.

Not only does a warm blanket provide comfort, but it also helps stimulate serotonin and melatonin production, which both bring about relaxation.

Nurses in the clinic said the blanket warmer is used around the clock and is one of their most valuable pieces of equipment.

Thank you for bringing comfort to patients through your gift in support of the Henry Ford Providence Southfield - Cancer fund (851).

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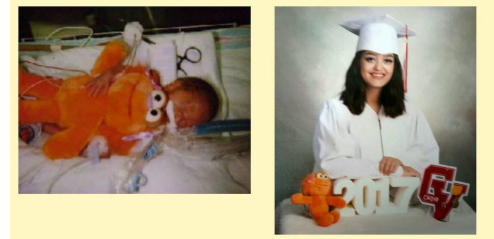
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## From giving life to giving back

Maria was just 25 weeks pregnant when her water broke. She was transferred to Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and within five days, Maria welcomed her daughter into the world via c-section. The little girl weighed just one pound, nine ounces, and spent the first 82 days of her life cared for in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). After one short readmission, Maria's family was able to take their sweet, healthy daughter home for good — she is now 24 years old.



*Maria's daughter, pictured here with the same doll at 9 days old and again at her graduation*

"They're wonderful there," said Maria. "I can't say enough nice things about how they treated her, and how they treated my husband and myself. They took care of the whole family in there."

When her daughter was just 5 years old, Maria began working as part of St. Joseph's Healthcare, which is now Henry Ford Macomb Hospital — and Maria has been a proud Henry Ford team member ever since. "I loved it," shared Maria. "Now I could say, I work at the same place as my heroes do."

Maria has worn many hats in the nearly two decades since. These days she works as a Patient Registration Representative in the birthing center at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, meeting families and newborn babies every day.

To show her gratitude for the unit that saved her premature baby's life, Maria has been donating to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Fund (419) through Henry Ford's personal giving program, Compassion Champions, for over 15 years.

"It's my way of giving back," said Maria. "I've been donating since I started here, when I saw the NICU fund was an option — it's not much, but it's a contribution I can make to make a difference. I certainly would encourage others to participate, too, whether they've been directly impacted or not. There's always a department within Henry Ford that can use the money to do good."

When asked what her plans were for the remainder of a beautiful day, Maria said she planned to go visit her daughter, who now amazingly also works at Henry Ford Health. "She's on her lunch break. I think I may go meet up with her and tell her this story, too. The NICU saved my daughter's life when she was born, so I will spend the rest of my life trying to pay it forward."

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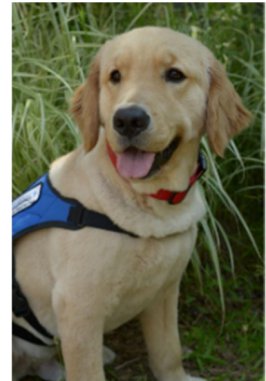


## Paws for joy

Thanks to your generous donations to the Therapy Dog Program (885), one of our newest therapy dogs, Gabriel, is able to bring comfort to patients and families at Henry Ford Providence Novi Hospital.

The day after Christmas, Gabriel entered the hospital lobby and was spotted by a family. After a short chat with the therapy dog's volunteer handler, the family asked if the pair would visit their grandpa.

As Gabriel entered the patient's room, the family gathered around their grandfather. One of the sons placed his father's hand on Gabriel's soft fur. The dog spent the next 10 minutes gently nuzzling the patient's hand, bringing peace to the patient and the entire family.



The son later expressed how much he would forever treasure the memory.

Later that day, Gabriel met a father and his daughter on the 5th floor of the hospital. The little girl, who was struggling with heart issues, saw Gabriel and her face lit up with joy! The father repeatedly thanked Gabriel and his handler for spending time with them.

Moments like these are made possible through donations received in support of the Therapy Dog Program. Your gifts help bring comfort and smiles when and where they are needed the most. We are incredibly grateful for your support!

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