



Generosity Helps Families Heal

Donors like you play a role in keeping the heart of Parkview alive.

Richard Middaugh knew the pain he felt was no good. A retiree, Middaugh had spent a day camping and fishing with family members before returning to his home in Huntington on Friday, Sept. 15, 2017. That evening, he began to experience discomfort radiating down his left arm. His wife, Doris, was alarmed enough to call an ambulance to get him to Parkview Huntington Hospital.

Middaugh was not experiencing any breathing problems when he arrived at PHH and an initial evaluation indicated he was not having a heart attack. But with no cardiologist at the hospital that evening, the emergency room physician ordered an “appointment” with a heart specialist in Fort Wayne, via the hospital’s new telecardiology unit.

Telecardiology puts patients in touch with doctors using sophisticated Skype-type computer hook-up. Key elements of the link are a special stethoscope and a high-resolution video monitor. The doctor directs a specially trained nurse who wield the stethoscope so the patient’s heartbeat and other vascular sounds can be heard. Other vital signs are observed in real time. The telecardiology results convinced the cardiologist that, while Middaugh wasn’t having a heart attack at that moment, he should be admitted for observation, just to make sure.

Richard’s next stop was the hospital’s Constant Care Unit (CCU), where nurse leader Megan Hoch took over.

“She was so attentive,” recalls Middaugh’s daughter, Cindy Allred. “Busy as she was, she acted like he was her only patient.”

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Middaugh had been in the CCU for just over a day when his heart stopped beating. Kayla Whitacre was the first to respond when Middaugh was stricken. She administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation and used a defibrillator to get his heart beating again.

Preparations began immediately to transfer Middaugh to Parkview Regional Medical Center (PRMC) for an emergency procedure when his heart stopped a second time. CPR was preformed, Middaugh was revived and the Samaritan helicopter, funded by Parkview Foundation donors, was summoned.

Within a matter of minutes, Middaugh was in the air, on his way to PRMC’s heart catheterization lab. He suffered yet another heart attack in the midst of the catheterization procedure. It was ultimately successful, though and, after a week of recuperation, he was sent home with a trio of stents and a stable heartbeat. Though Richard Middaugh passed away several months later, his family members still have high praise for the hospital staff who saw him through his crisis and gave him the extra time he needed with his family.

“A nurse put her arms around us and prayed with us as they were getting him ready for the flight to Fort Wayne,” Cindy Allred remembers. “That meant so much.”

“The people there were so wonderful,” Mrs. Allred agreed. “And the people are one of the many reasons why I love a small-town hospital.”

For more information about how
your generosity heals, please visit
ParkviewFoundations.org.

Home is Where the Heart Is

Parkview staff go above and beyond for a patient.

Ricky came to Huntington to visit his family. But it was the unexpected embrace of strangers that helped him find his way home.

Over the Christmas holiday, Ricky left his home in Tennessee and traveled to Indiana to attempt a reconciliation with estranged relatives. It did not go well. Conflicts erupted, and the stress complicated Ricky's already fragile health.

Not long into the new year, Ricky was not feeling well and knew he needed medical care. He managed a ride to the emergency room at Parkview Huntington Hospital and, as he stuffed his belongings into his duffel bag, realized someone had stolen all his cash.

He had no time to look for the money; his physical condition was deteriorating. The PHH emergency staff quickly admitted him to the hospital's Inpatient Unit.

After two days, Ricky was feeling better and was prepared for discharge. But where would he go? His relationship with his Huntington family was irreparably broken. He had to get home but he had no funds for transportation.

PHH case manager, Julie Burnworth talked with Ricky and shared his story with nursing supervisors. They came up with a plan.

Although she had no guarantee of being reimbursed, Burnworth contacted Greyhound and used her personal credit card to buy Ricky a bus ticket from Fort Wayne all the way to Tennessee.

Parkview Huntington Foundation repaid Burnworth from its Special Touch Fund. This fund consists of gifts from both local Parkview co-workers and the community, and provides personal assistance with clothing, emergency

medications, transportation and other basic or safety needs to patients and their families during or immediately after a hospital stay.

In addition, a collection was taken among inpatient staff so Ricky would have some meal money during the journey home. His nurses made sure he had a hearty hospital meal under his belt when he left for Fort Wayne.

Jeff Knee, Parkview Huntington Hospital's community paramedic had an errand to run in Fort Wayne. He drove Ricky to the bus depot in a Parkview vehicle, then made sure he caught his bus.

In the meantime, Susan Funk, the transitional care nurse leader at PHH, ensured Ricky's medical records were transferred to Tennessee where Ricky, a veteran on disability, could receive care through the VA.

Three days after Ricky arrived at the PHH emergency room – sick, troubled, and penniless – he was home and continuing his recovery. Funk called a few days later to check on his progress. Ricky told her he had made appointments with five doctors to follow up on the care he'd received in Huntington. And he told her something else.

"I have never been treated as well, anywhere, as I was treated there," he declared, thanking her and all those at PHH who were part of his journey home.

"It turned out he was lucky," Funk reflected. "We're a small hospital that cares. And he found us when he needed us."

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Contact Your Parkview Foundation

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"The Foundations of Parkview Health inspire the generous spirit of our community that brings gifts of healing and comfort to everyone Parkview serves."

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