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GOLDEN LEGACY

RIVERVIEW HEALTH FOUNDATION CELEBRATES
50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY IMPACT



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*Writer / Kelsey Musick
Photographer / Laura Kendrick*

Fifty years is more than a milestone — it's a measure of trust, growth and a community's willingness to show up for one another. For Riverview Health Foundation, the golden anniversary marks not only its longevity but a legacy built through generosity and care.

Since its founding, the Foundation has served as a bridge between community support and patient care, channeling donations into tangible outcomes that shape the health and well-being of Hamilton

County. Today, the organization is taking time not only to look back, but also to spotlight the people, stories and moments that made the last 50 years meaningful.

For Megan G. Wiles, Vice President of Foundation and Community affairs at Riverview Health Foundation, the anniversary carries both professional weight and personal meaning.

"Reaching a milestone like 50 years is an

opportunity to celebrate impact and reflect on what has been accomplished while also dreaming about what's ahead," Wiles says. "Personally, I feel truly blessed to serve as a temporary steward of Riverview Health Foundation. Since its founding, there have only been six executive directors, and each has played a role in shaping the Foundation's lasting impact — not just on the organization itself, but on how the organization cares for its friends and neighbors across the community."

That sense of stewardship — of carrying something forward rather than simply managing it — has defined the Foundation’s evolution. What began as a relatively modest effort to support equipment purchases and help physicians establish practices has grown into a multifaceted operation funding capital projects, scholarships and advanced medical technology.

The ability to adapt, Wiles notes, is at the core of the Foundation’s identity.

“The Foundation’s legacy is defined by its ability to evolve alongside the needs of the community,” Wiles says.

That evolution hasn’t happened in isolation. It has been driven by the needs of a rapidly growing county and its residents’ willingness to invest in local health care.

“A defining moment came in the early 2000s with major community support for projects like the Women’s Pavilion,” Wiles says.

“Since then, the Foundation has successfully led long-term campaigns for transformative initiatives, including cardiology services,

the Emergency Department expansion, the Courtney Cox Cole Infusion Center, and the Mindrebo Family Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation Center — consistently setting and meeting ambitious goals.”

Those initiatives represent expanded access, improved outcomes and care that stays close to home. And while the numbers are impressive, the Foundation’s impact is best understood through its reach.

“Through the generosity of its donors, Riverview Health Foundation has provided more than \$18.8 million to support patients, staff and life-changing programs at Riverview Health, positively impacting thousands of lives in our community,” Wiles says.

Behind that figure are countless individual stories — patients receiving treatment, families finding support, caregivers equipped with better tools — all made possible by community investment. Hamilton County, in particular, has proven to be fertile ground for that kind of generosity.

“Hamilton County is home to thriving communities filled with businesses and individuals who genuinely care about supporting local nonprofits,” Wiles says. “We are fortunate to partner with local companies and community members throughout the year, and that shared commitment makes a meaningful difference for the patients and families we serve.”

That shared commitment is taking center stage throughout the Foundation’s 50th anniversary year. Rather than confining the celebration to a single event, the organization has chosen a more expansive approach — one that reflects the breadth of its history.

“We are celebrating throughout the year by weaving in stories and highlights from our history at each event,” Wiles explains. “At the Women of Vision Luncheon, we



Courtney Cox Cole Infusion Center at Riverview Health



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honored former executive director Trish Church and the lasting impact of the Women of Vision Giving Club. At the upcoming Heartfelt Thanks Golf Outing, we’ll showcase projects supported over the event’s 34-year history. Our Golden Anniversary Celebration on Oct. 2 at the Riverview Health Arena at Innovation Mile will bring everything together by sharing powerful stories from patients, donors and community members whose lives have been touched by the Foundation.”

Each event serves as a chapter, offering a different perspective on what the Foundation has accomplished — and who made it possible.

“Each event throughout the year highlights a different chapter of the Foundation’s story — whether that’s donor-driven grantmaking, long-standing fundraising traditions, or personal stories of impact — allowing the community to celebrate both where we’ve been and where we’re going,” Wiles says.

The decision to stretch the celebration across an entire year was intentional. With five decades of history, a single night simply wouldn’t be enough.

“We wanted to take a full year to share stories through events, social media, newsletters and articles like this because there are simply too many meaningful people and moments to fit into a single celebration,” Wiles says. “A yearlong approach allows us to reach more people and honor the depth of the

Foundation’s impact.”

It also creates space to highlight stories that might otherwise remain untold — the quieter contributions and less visible programs that are just as vital as headline projects.

“This anniversary has given us the opportunity to spotlight donors, families and programs that may not always be visible but have played a vital role in our success — sharing personal stories of generosity and healing throughout the year,” Wiles says.

Those stories, often rooted in deeply personal experiences, help illustrate the true scope of the Foundation’s work. They move the conversation beyond dollars raised or buildings constructed and into the realm of human impact, where generosity meets need in life-changing ways.

Looking ahead, that intersection will only become more important. Hamilton County continues to grow, driving increased demand for accessible, high-quality health care.

“As Hamilton County continues to grow, so will the need for accessible, high-quality healthcare,” Wiles says. “As the county hospital, Riverview Health provides care to all, regardless of ability to pay, delivering approximately \$20 million in uncompensated care each year. The Foundation will play an increasingly important role in supporting that mission by funding critical programs, services

and facilities that ensure our community continues to receive exceptional care close to home.”

As the organization looks forward, Wiles is quick to return to gratitude — a theme that runs through nearly every aspect of the Foundation’s work.

“I’m incredibly grateful to the men and women who have served on our board of directors over the years — their leadership and dedication have made our success possible,” Wiles says. “To our donors and supporters, thank you for your generosity and belief in Riverview Health. Your support has directly impacted patients, families and caregivers throughout our community.”

That gratitude underscores a simple but powerful truth: the Foundation’s story isn’t just its own. It belongs to everyone who has contributed — whether through donations, volunteerism, leadership or advocacy. Fifty years ago, the vision for the Riverview Health Foundation was rooted in meeting immediate needs. Today, it stands as a testament to what sustained community support can build over time: not just facilities or programs, but a culture of care that extends across generations.

And as the anniversary celebration unfolds — through events, stories and shared memories — it becomes clear that this milestone isn’t an endpoint. It’s a continuation and a reminder that the work is ongoing.

JOIN US IN SHAPING THE NEXT 50 YEARS OF IMPACT BY MAKING YOUR GIFT TODAY AT RIVERVIEW.ORG/NEXT50. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS VISIT RIVERVIEW.ORG/FOUNDATION-EVENTS.

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