

# **M** the **INDEPENDENT**

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals

Fall 2018



Hugs bring new meaning for mom  
**FOLLOWING STROKE**  
Cover Story pg. 10

Moving Mountains  
**With Faith**  
pg. 6

PM&R Program  
**Pioneers**  
pg. 8

Omaha Campus  
**Campaign**  
pg. 14

## MISSION STATEMENT

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals is a Catholic hospital system that provides physical medicine and rehabilitation services to children and adults throughout the nation. We rehabilitate those who have sustained injuries or disabling conditions so they can fully participate in life. We lead research to improve outcomes and prevent physical disabilities and promote wellness through community programs.

### Core Values

Our core values reflect Madonna's history, mission and beliefs.

*Collaboration*

*Hospitality*

*Respect*

*Innovation*

*Stewardship*

*Teaching*

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.



Madonna.org | 800.676.5448

Visit [Madonna.org/VirtualTours](https://www.madonna.org/VirtualTours) for an up close look at our hospitals.



# A letter from the President & CEO

This year Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals celebrates its 60th anniversary. After opening a home for the aged in 1958, the Benedictine Sisters clearly saw the need for rehabilitation services in the community and in 1979 established Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.

Today, with our Omaha expansion, we are now a two-campus, comprehensive system, recognized as a regional and national leader for rehabilitative excellence. Our Omaha Campus capital campaign has been a great success thanks to hundreds of enthusiastic donors and friends. Our initial \$10 million campaign goal was achieved, resulting in an additional \$1 million challenge grant. Finally, Madonna's new Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) residency program in conjunction with the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), began July 1, 2018—one year ahead of schedule. We are proud to care for patients not just from a physical perspective but holistically. We believe we are doing God's work helping those in need heal and return to a meaningful life. This is our mission and we remain committed to it.

As part of our anniversary celebration, we are launching a new and improved Independent magazine. These pages are filled with articles that reflect our passion for rehabilitation. They also showcase the gifts we have been given to fulfill our mission. Expert staff, open to the call of those in need, cutting-edge research, innovative technology and medical, academic and community partnerships—these gifts ensure our ongoing success. We have a clear vision **to be the destination of choice for world-class rehabilitation, providing children and adults devastated by illness or injury the bright hope of being made whole.** I believe it is a vision within reach.



**Paul Dongilli, Jr., Ph.D.**  
*Madonna president and CEO*

The INDEPENDENT is a quarterly magazine published for friends of Madonna. Direct questions or comments to: 402.413.4291 or [info@madonna.org](mailto:info@madonna.org).

#### Editorial Staff:

**Tami Rudder**  
Marketing, Media & PR Specialist

**Lora Vohl**  
Marketing, Media & PR Specialist

**Elinor Mapes**  
Brand Strategist

**Sue Carraher**  
Development Coordinator

**Brian Pickering**  
Marketing Director



## CONTENT

**6** Moving Mountains  
**With Faith**

**8** PM&R Program  
**Pioneers**

**10** Hugs Bring New  
Meaning to Mom  
**Following Stroke**

**14** Omaha Campus  
**Campaign**

**4**  
**60 Years Strong**  
Answering the call  
of those in need

**12**  
**2018 Events**  
Inspiring Celebrations

**13**  
Moved by  
**Miracles**

**16**  
**Dedication**  
to Excellence  
Earns Accreditation

**18**  
**Life Through**  
Different Lens Builds Resilience

**20**  
**Madonna Researchers**  
Foster Patient Independence

**22**  
**GOAL Awards**  
2018 Honorees

# 60 years strong—answering the call of **THOSE IN NEED**

**By Sister Phyllis Hunhoff, OSB**  
Second Administrator of Madonna and  
Madonna Foundation Past President

Sixty years ago, Madonna established itself as a vibrant organization under the first administrator, Sister Valentine McNearney. In 1958, The Benedictine Sisters of Yankton, South Dakota, purchased a 24-acre campus, including the Bailey Hospital and Sanatorium buildings, and opened a long-term care facility for the elderly in Lincoln, Nebraska. The name Madonna was chosen in honor of the Blessed Mother as it was the Marian Year of the Catholic Church. It would provide services according to our Benedictine values with an openness to the future.

When I became the second administrator, in 1965, Madonna's mission evolved. In 1966, Madonna received the nation's first Medicare certification and began to offer physical medicine and rehabilitation services for the elderly. Over the years, through the grace of God and with great support from the Diocesan and Lincoln community leadership, special friends of Madonna and our wonderfully dedicated staff, rehabilitation expanded to all ages. The goal was to bring patients to the highest level of independence that they might return to their communities.

Today, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals stands as a beacon of hope for people who have suffered a life-changing illness or injury. On Sept. 29, 2016, I attended the grand opening of the Omaha Campus. This state-of-the-art facility allows Madonna to serve an even greater number of patients.

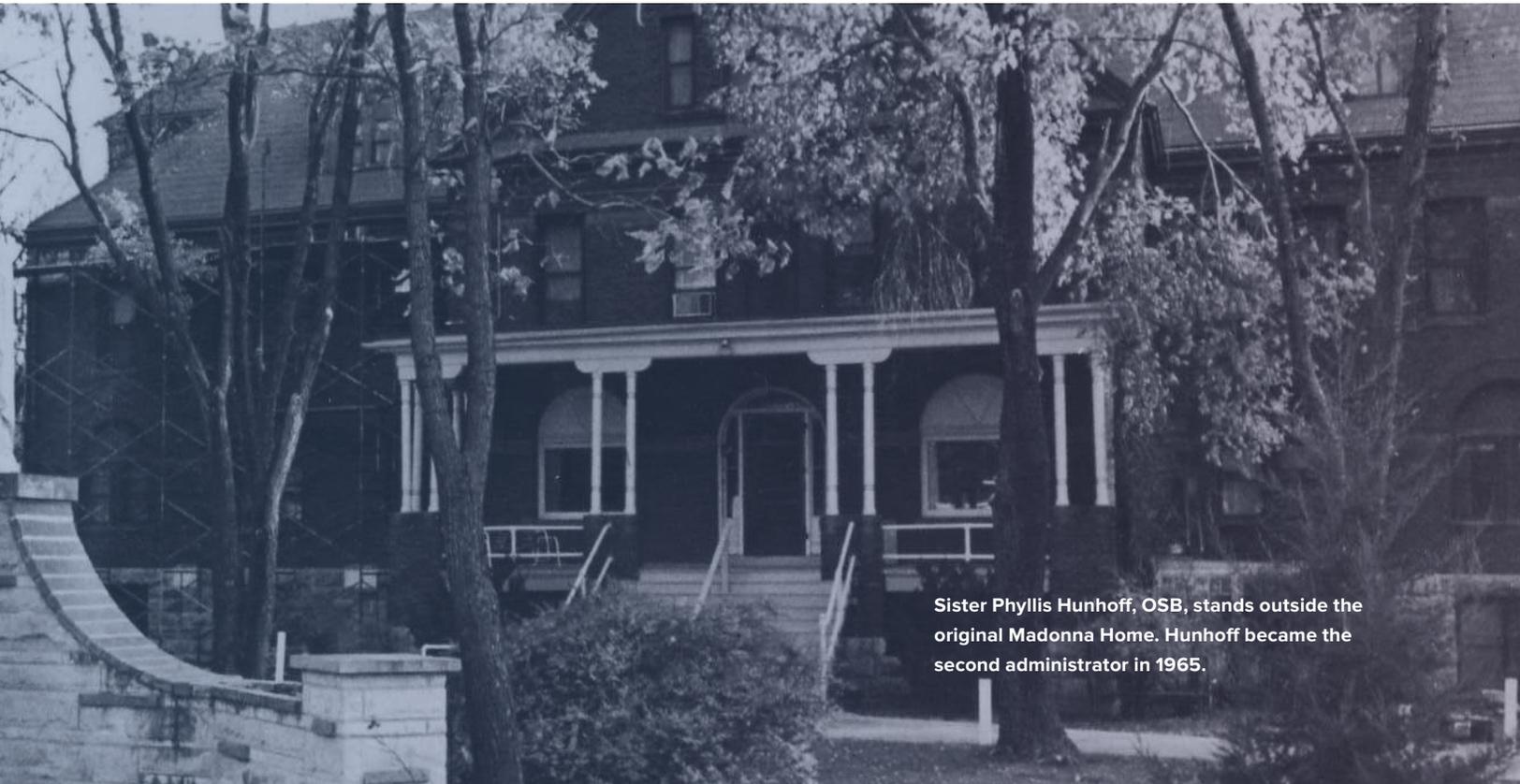
It is a joy for me to witness and learn about the latest advancements and applaud the accomplishments. The Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery could not have dreamed of such an outstanding development. Their enterprising spirit drove Madonna's significant expansion over the years and continues to live on.



*In 1971, Madonna constructed a 132-bed facility, the St. Joseph building, for short-term care. Madonna was acknowledged as a rehabilitation leader in Lancaster County with an interdisciplinary approach to care. In 1976, the hospital replaced the old St. James building with a new 120-bed unit, St. James Hall. Four years later, the St. James and St. Joseph buildings merged together.*



Learn more about Madonna's history at:  
[Madonna.org/60years](https://Madonna.org/60years)



Sister Phyllis Hunhoff, OSB, stands outside the original Madonna Home. Hunhoff became the second administrator in 1965.

## EMPLOYEE REFLECTIONS

The heartfelt compassion and hospitality of Madonna staff is a unique component to recovery.

### **BETTY RUPERT**

*Styling Salon Supervisor*  
42 years of service

"I started as a hair stylist at Madonna in October 1976. There were salons in both the St. James and St. Joseph buildings that merged together into one salon in 1990. I'm proud to serve our clients and share in the laughter and tears of their recovery journeys. Madonna's mission has never wavered in my 42 years of service."

### **MARY KRAUS**

*Patient Services Technician*  
34 years of service

"I have many fond memories of the Benedictine Sisters who founded Madonna. I also remember when the St. James and St. Joseph were freestanding buildings and, regardless of the weather, we shuttled supplies between them. It was a joint effort and often the laundry would get stuck in the snow with the maintenance guys coming to help out. Those were the days!"



# Moving mountains with FAITH

**Brady Beran straightens his signature tie and logs into his computer. It's a typical start to the workday for many employees. For 30-year-old Brady, it's nothing short of miraculous.**

On Sept. 24, 2004, Brady nearly died after suffering a second-impact concussion during a high school football game in his hometown of Lincoln, Nebraska. The helmet-to-helmet collision caused a blood clot to press on his brain and he was rushed into emergency surgery. "I was given less than a five percent chance of survival," Brady said.

He endured four additional surgeries, a stroke and pneumonia, before emerging from a five-week coma. The prognosis was grim. Doctors predicted Brady might not smile or verbalize again. But they underestimated the young athlete and his prayer warriors. "God saved me for a reason; I was happy to be alive!" Brady said, adding family support played a pivotal role.



***"Brady is a good lesson for all of us. Never limit a patient's goals because you can never predict how far they will go in life."***

**NOVA ADAMS**  
*Educational Liaison/  
Teacher*

When Brady arrived at Madonna's Lincoln Campus, it took five people to help the standout football and soccer player take a step. The 4.0 honor student struggled to read a kindergarten-level book. Brady spent months in aggressive therapy relearning to feed himself and talk. "I tested the patience of my nurses and therapists, but they continued to love on me," he said, with a smile.

After his brain trauma, Brady's personality changed. "I used to be shy—I remember that guy!" recalls the self-described extrovert. His newfound boldness, balanced with faith and humor, encouraged healing. A tenacious worker, Brady surrounded himself with positive people. "My best advice is don't focus on what you can't



do, but what you CAN do,” Brady said. His game plan for success worked.

Brady’s accomplishments post-injury are remarkable. He graduated from high school in 2006, earned an associate’s degree in 2009, then two years later walked across the stage at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to collect a bachelor’s degree.

A year later, Brady met Amber Kucksdorf, the love of his life, and they married in 2012. “She accepts me as I am, lifts me up, but holds me accountable,” he said, adding that faith and humor enrich their relationship. “Once Amber challenged my ‘old man’ shoes,” laughs Brady, who found Velcro straps easier. “Laces are hard! She gently encouraged me until I mastered it.”

In 2014, the couple relocated to Wisconsin where Amber is a school teacher and Brady works as a customer care professional at Thrivent Lutheran.

## PEDIATRIC SPECIALTY

# PROGRAM

The Pediatric Specialty Program at Madonna offers family-centered rehabilitation in a separate and secured unit to meet the needs of children and adolescents with all types of diagnoses.

Children are not little adults. They have special medical considerations during their rehabilitation. The children’s unit offers a large, comprehensive pediatric therapy gym, which includes separate bays for a variety of therapeutic interventions.

Both indoor and outdoor playgrounds offer accessible equipment.

Many adolescents and children also find working and playing in the indoor, warm-water therapeutic pool fun and highly beneficial.

The Therapeutic Learning Center (TLC) allows school-aged patients to continue their studies and transition back to the classroom.

“I like interacting with members and solving their problems,” Brady said. He and Amber love socializing with friends, playing board games and bowling. They share a passion for football; he roots for his beloved Huskers, she’s a Packers fan. Starting a family is a high priority for the couple. “I’m excited to become a father; it’s all in God’s timing,” Brady said.

The teen who beat the odds grew into a man living a purpose-driven life. Brady advocates for concussion awareness and is writing a book about his recovery. He considers each day an amazing gift. “God saved me and Madonna gave me back my life.”



**Learn more about our Pediatric Programs at: [Madonna.org/pediatrics](https://www.madonna.edu/pediatrics)**

*In 2004, 17-year-old Brady Beran stands for the first time at Madonna’s Lincoln Campus, assisted by members of his recovery team. Brady suffered a second-impact concussion in a high school football game.*

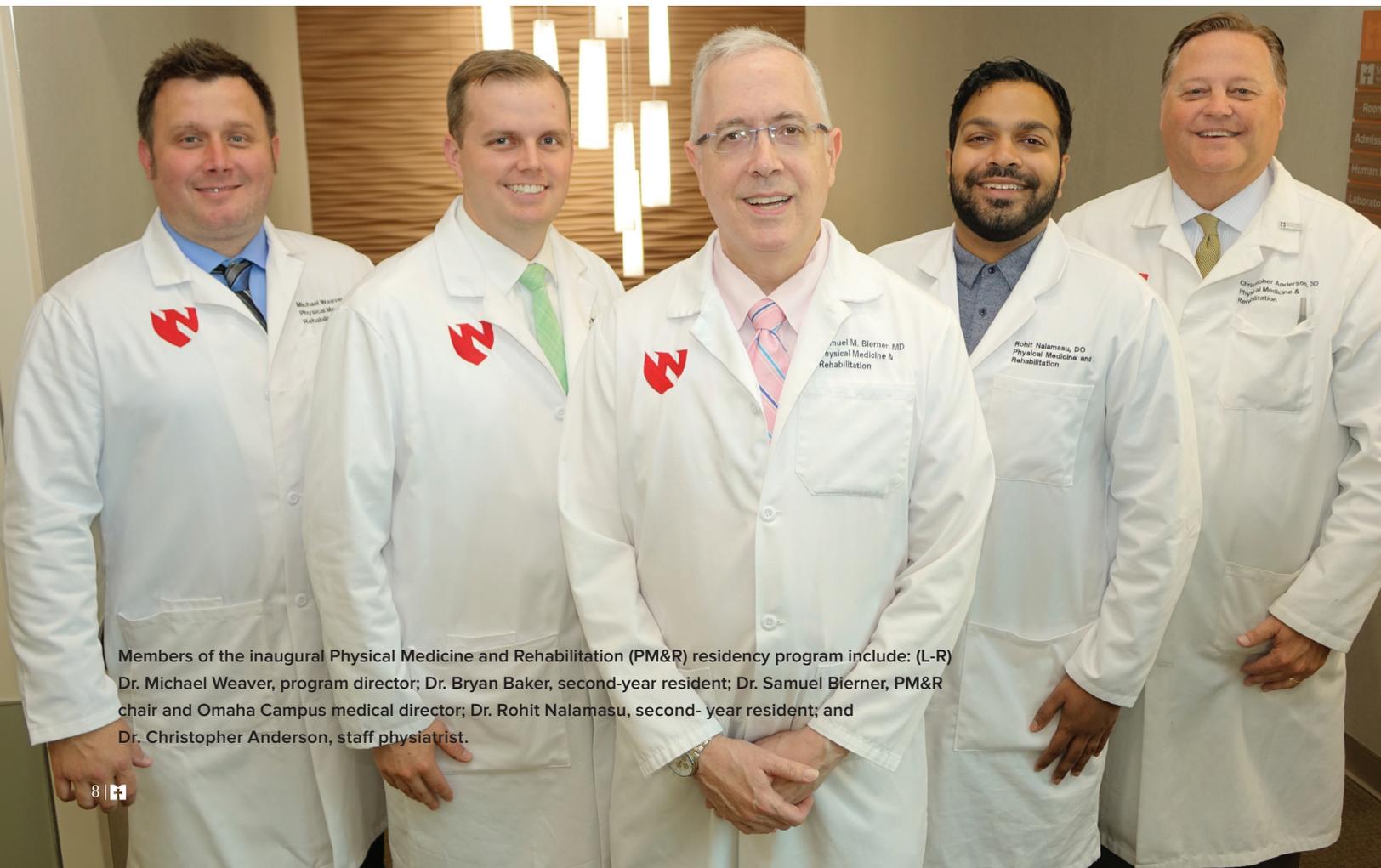


# PM&R Program PIONEERS

Most days of the week you can find Drs. Bryan Baker and Rohit Nalamasu, physiatrists, at Madonna's Omaha Campus, engaged in all aspects of patient care including chart reviews, rounding, team meetings and patient therapy sessions. The second-year residents are involved in the inaugural Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) residency program, a partnership between Madonna and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). In March, six residents were matched to the program headed by Dr. Samuel Bierner, physiatrist, who chairs the department and is the Omaha Campus medical director. Dr. Michael Weaver, physiatrist, serves as the program director.

"The opportunity to be a program pioneer is exciting," Nalamasu said. "We are forging uncharted territory in an emerging field that continues to evolve."

The partnership is the only program in Nebraska and one of few in the region. While the specialty of providing rehabilitative care for patients isn't new, becoming a physiatrist is becoming a more popular choice for medical school graduates due to its holistic approach to patient care. Physiatrists work with a team of experts including occupational, physical and speech therapists, nurses, psychologists, social workers, case managers and mission services to maximize each patient's independence and functional potential.



Members of the inaugural Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) residency program include: (L-R) Dr. Michael Weaver, program director; Dr. Bryan Baker, second-year resident; Dr. Samuel Bierner, PM&R chair and Omaha Campus medical director; Dr. Rohit Nalamasu, second-year resident; and Dr. Christopher Anderson, staff physiatrist.



Learn more about the PM&R program at:  
[Madonna.org/PM&R](https://Madonna.org/PM&R)

“PM&R’s focus on quality of life and improved functionality for the patient was really appealing to me. The combination of providing hope, being an advocate and the technological advancements make this an exciting field to be in right now,” Baker said. Nalamasu agrees, adding, “Rehab medicine is the perfect intersection of rehabilitation and technology. Receiving my undergraduate in biomedical engineering, this combines my love of technology with helping patients improve their quality of life.”

Both agree that receiving hands-on training at both Madonna’s state-of-the-art campuses is beneficial. Baker is completing a three-month rotation working with stroke patients under the direction of Bierner.

Meanwhile Nalamasu is on the brain injury unit with Dr. Christopher Anderson as attending physician. The two will then switch and complete additional rotations in pediatric rehabilitation. In Lincoln, they’ll work with spinal cord injury patients under the direction of Dr. Paul Krabbenhoft. First-year residents are working exclusively at UNMC and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (VA) Hospital.

“There’s a lot of work that needs to be done, but the people involved are passionate. I feel like there’s an opportunity to make a bigger impact on patients beyond those living in Lincoln and Omaha. Rather, we’re able to touch people throughout the region, helping them reach their maximum functional capacity and thus highest quality of life,” Nalamasu said.

## NEW PHYSICIAN



*Dr. Andy Moellering, hospitalist*

Dr. Andy Moellering, hospitalist, joins Madonna’s Lincoln Campus as a staff hospitalist for the Rehabilitation Specialty Hospital.

Moellering is board certified in internal medicine and received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He completed

his medical degree and residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in Omaha.

Moellering will be part of a team of staff hospitalists who oversee the care of a diverse population of complex medical, neurological and wound patients.



# Hugs bring new meaning for mom FOLLOWING STROKE

Jessica Lode says wrapping both of her arms tightly around her young daughter has new meaning. This after the new mom suffered a stroke Dec. 20, 2017. The 34-year-old is working hard at reclaiming her identity and being a mom.

Prior to her diagnosis, Jessica enjoyed running half-marathons and volunteering. The stroke caused partial paralysis on her left side, affecting her ability to walk and talk. Jessica's priority focused on being a caregiver to her three children, including picking up and holding 19-month-old Kaylor. Therapy involved the Armeo Spring, specialized technology designed to regain

arm and hand movement through an on-screen virtual environment.

"I went from basically doing nothing to now I can wash dishes with my left hand, open doors and clip my baby in her car seat," Jessica said.

Another goal was reclaiming her active lifestyle. Physical therapy focused on helping Jessica regain balance using the Proprio machine. The use of the ICARE, developed by Madonna, refined her walking ability and increased endurance.



Kelly Roth, outpatient OT, works with Jessica Lode to regain strength and mobility in her left arm following a stroke in December 2017.



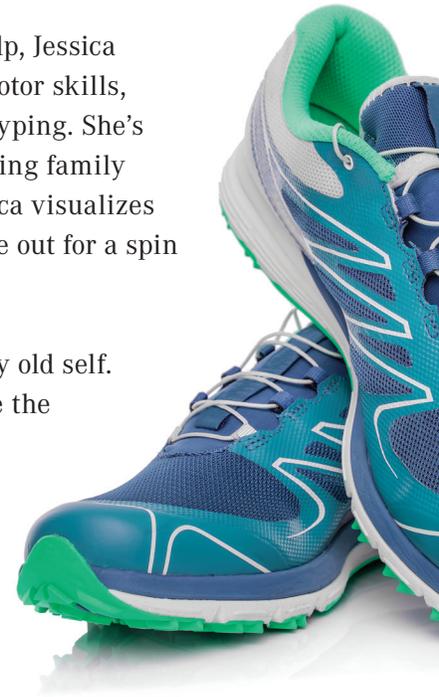
See more of Jessica's recovery at: [Madonna.org/Jessicalode](https://Madonna.org/Jessicalode)

Through hard work, determination and her care team's support, Jessica spent just 11 days at the Omaha Campus. She continues to make gains in Madonna's TherapyPlus outpatient program. Each week she works with occupational and physical therapists on everyday tasks. Support from her husband, Jesse, allows the young mom to incorporate her toddler into therapy. Independence Square's simulated bedroom/nursery is ideal for practicing safe lifting and holding her toddler, Kaylor.

"She didn't have any movement in that arm right after her stroke," said Kelly Roth, OT, with Madonna TherapyPlus. "She has made leaps and bounds."

Back at work, with Roth's help, Jessica continues to hone her fine motor skills, including handwriting and typing. She's returned to running and taking family walks on the bike trail. Jessica visualizes herself taking her motorcycle out for a spin on the open road soon.

"I'm excited to get back to my old self. Madonna has helped give me the support and confidence to do the things I enjoy including my role of being a mom," Jessica said.



## STROKE CAMP



*Stroke survivor Janey Rowell (right) shares paddle boat duties with her daughter during the Retreat & Refresh Stroke Camp in Ashland, Nebraska. The donor-funded weekend retreat offers stroke survivors and caregivers opportunities to learn, socialize and relax.*

Life after a stroke can be difficult to navigate for survivors and caregivers. The Retreat & Refresh Stroke Camp offers hope, answers and support. Forty campers converged at Carol Joy Holling Conference & Retreat Center in Ashland, Nebraska, in August to engage in a variety of activities while learning, sharing and connecting with each other. The three-day camp was developed by a stroke survivor and his wife and is sponsored by the Lincoln Stroke Partnership, a collaboration that includes Madonna and other Lincoln health care organizations. For more information, go to [strokecamp.org](https://strokecamp.org).

## 2018 Events

# INSPIRING CELEBRATIONS

### Miracle Night for Madonna

A winter wonderland awaits at the inaugural Miracle Night for Madonna presented by Sampson Construction. The gala will be Friday, Nov. 30, 2018, at Wilderness Ridge in Lincoln. The Madonna Foundation's highest honor, the Crystal Angel Award, will be presented that evening to Tom and Lisa Smith of Lincoln.

Event chairs Jon and Lauren Pugliese and their committee are creating a festive and memorable evening complete with live and silent auctions featuring many one-of-a-kind items, inspiring stories of patients' amazing recoveries, live music and special wines selected especially for the evening from Hafner Vineyard in northern California.

"Many thanks to Sampson Construction and our Foundation Board Chair Dan Vokoun, vice president of operations at Sampson Construction, for partnering with us in so many ways," said Suzanne Sughroue, director of development, Lincoln Campus.

Proceeds from the gala will help continue the tradition of world-class rehabilitation at Madonna for the children and adults we are privileged to serve. For more information about this unforgettable event, please visit [madonnafoundation.org](http://madonnafoundation.org).



### REGISTER NOW 3RD ANNUAL MILES FOR MADONNA

Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018 • 10 a.m.  
Zorinsky Park • Omaha, NE

Run, walk or stroll.  
Visit [madonna.org/milesformadonna2018](http://madonna.org/milesformadonna2018)  
for more information.

### Dish and Bloom Luncheon Delights Guests

Mary Carol Garrity, interior designer and owner of Nell Hill's in Kansas City, Missouri, inspired nearly 200 guests at the Country Club of Lincoln with delightful conversation and incredible designs at the Dish and Bloom Luncheon on April 25, 2018.

The Madonna Foundation thanks all who attended and helped us kick-start this inaugural event in support of Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals. We eagerly await next spring's Dish and Bloom Luncheon with another inspiring speaker hand-picked by Mary Carol Garrity herself.

*Mary Carol Garrity (center) reconnects with friends Paul Dongilli, Jr., Ph.D., Madonna president and CEO, and his wife, Marilyn Dongilli, at Dish and Bloom.*



# Moved by **MIRACLES**

**By Lauren Pugliese**

Madonna Foundation Board Treasurer



*Madonna Foundation Board Treasurer Lauren Pugliese with her husband, Jon, and son, Bear.*

I am personally moved by the miracles we witness at Madonna every day—patient victories, both small and large. Before becoming involved with Madonna, I never stopped to think about how fortunate I am to be able to get up and do the things I love every day, whether that be holding my son or driving myself to the office.

After hearing stories first-hand from our patients, I have a better appreciation for Madonna’s ability to create a “new normal” for those who otherwise might not have had a chance to live, let alone be independent.

Madonna is a forward-thinking organization in which your contributions truly make a difference. As a Foundation board member, I now have a better understanding of the special programs Madonna has created through the generosity of donors for the care and comfort of patients even when insurance reimbursement is not available. This tailored approach to care may not drive the bottom line, but it goes back to the culture of servant leadership present at Madonna which is something I want to support through my time and resources.



Bill Kubly (far right) received the Vision Award at the Madonna Foundation’s Angel Spotlight Thank You event on May 8, 2018, in Lincoln. He is pictured with his wife, Myrna, and son-in-law and daughter, Jon and Lauren Pugliese.

While growing his international business, Landscapes Unlimited, Bill served on Madonna’s National Advisory Council and shared his leadership with both the hospital and foundation boards. He has generously contributed to all of Madonna’s capital campaigns over the past three decades. In 2008, he funded the Bill Kubly Student Research Scholarship, which helped explore the use of elliptical training as an option for individuals with traumatic brain injury. He and Myrna are Madonna Foundation Trustees.

Bill’s service has inspired a second generation of Kubly leadership at Madonna. His daughter, Lauren Pugliese, serves as the treasurer of the Foundation Board of Directors.



Learn more about the Vision Award  
and see a list of past recipients at  
[madonna.org/visionaward](https://madonna.org/visionaward)



# Omaha Campus CAMPAIGN

**Thank you – two words of incredible gratitude from Madonna to all of our donors and friends.**

Our gratitude is an exclamation point on a journey that started with a clear vision, crystallized by a compelling need and fulfilled because of outstanding partnerships, passionate donors and community-wide support.

The need was clear. By 2012, more than 1,300 patients from Omaha’s trauma units each year qualified for post-acute rehabilitation but instead were referred to nursing facilities or sent home. Madonna’s Lincoln Campus could not meet that demand.

The goal: build a world-class rehabilitation hospital by collaborating with Omaha’s excellent medical community, which was underserved in physical rehabilitation. Philanthropy ignited the \$93.6 million project.



**“We are blessed  
with a giving  
community, which  
is helping Madonna  
serve the nation’s  
most medically  
complex patients.”**

**JOHN C. GLENN**  
*Vice President of  
Development*

Medical, academic, design, construction and philanthropic partnerships were developed with several key leaders including the University of Nebraska Medical Center and its clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine, along with Children’s Hospital & Medical Center, as well as countless civic and business leaders.

Madonna is proud to announce the Omaha Campus Campaign has accomplished its initial goal of raising \$10 million in gifts and pledges toward the project. In addition, Madonna met the guidelines for a challenge grant from a generous local foundation to receive another \$1 million gift. To date, the campaign has raised \$11.1 million and counting ...



TEAM  
**EFFORT**

Partners share responsibility, problem-solving and success. That's the essence of our Omaha Campus partnership with Kiewit Building Group and DLR Group.

It is a partnership forged with 2.8 million pounds of steel, 239 miles of wiring and 717,000 hours of design and construction.

“Through Madonna’s commitment to rehabilitation, we all learned a new definition of persistence,” said Thomas E. Penney, senior principal at DLR Group. “At Madonna, persistence is a given and drives success.”

Pride was built into this cutting-edge project, with 90 percent of the subcontractors coming from the greater metro area.

“Kiewit takes great satisfaction in delivering projects that make a positive impact on our communities,” said Joe Lempka, president of Kiewit Building Group. “We are proud to play a small role on the team that enables Madonna to do this important work.”

Kiewit Building Group and DLR Group—critically linked to Madonna’s Omaha Campus as partners and friends.

launched the Omaha Campus opening in the fall of 2016. Since then, the Omaha Campus has been consistently full, serving patients from 27 states and every hospital system in the metro area.

“With a demanding timeline, this project accomplished all of its detailed goals because of incredible support of many partners, civic leaders and friends,” said Paul Dongilli, Jr., Ph.D., president and CEO. “We are so proud and honored to be a member of Omaha’s outstanding medical community, which is a destination point for nationally and internationally recognized health care. To the hundreds of donors who made this possible, we say thank you.”

*Madonna celebrates the generous support of our donors, philanthropic partnerships and the Omaha community who have helped the Omaha Campus meet its fundraising goal. The entire campus was designed with patients in mind including the pediatric outdoor playground.*



“Many, many individuals, families, corporations and foundations came forward to become difference-makers. Their leadership and unwavering support were critical for the success of Madonna’s Omaha Campus,” said John C. Glenn, vice president for development. “We are so grateful to the hundreds of donors who made the Omaha Campus a reality. Because of their heartfelt gifts, Omaha is now home to world-class rehabilitation.”

More than 280 donors have contributed to the success of the campaign. These dedicated donors come from our local roots in Omaha and Lincoln, as well as other communities across the state. They also hail from as far away as Kansas, Missouri, California and New Jersey.

We will honor our donors with a complete listing in the January 2019 issue of the Independent. Their support



# DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE EARNS CARF ACCREDITATION

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) awarded Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals three-year accreditation for a combined 31 programs across the Lincoln and Omaha campuses.

CARF announced in June that Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals has been accredited for a period of three years for a combined 31 programs across the Lincoln and Omaha campuses. This is the first accreditation that the international accrediting body, CARF, has given to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals—Omaha Campus, and eighth consecutive three-year accreditation that CARF has given to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals—Lincoln Campus.

“Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals is pleased to be recognized for the vast



***CARF accreditation  
demonstrates  
Madonna's commitment  
to offering programs and  
services that  
are measurable,  
accountable and of the  
highest quality.***

array of high quality rehabilitation services we provide to individuals of all ages,” said Chris Lee, PT, MSPT, FACHE, Vice President of Rehabilitation.

“Achieving CARF accreditation at the Omaha Campus for the first time allows us to expand our ability to offer services across the region, including specialized programs for pediatrics and adults with brain injury, stroke and complex medical conditions,” said Lee.

The accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can



## ACCREDITED PROGRAMS

- Inpatient Rehabilitation Programs
- Brain Specialty Program—Inpatient/Outpatient (adult and pediatric)
- Spinal Cord Specialty Program—Inpatient/Outpatient, Lincoln Campus (adult and pediatric)
- Stroke Specialty Program—Inpatient/Outpatient (adult and pediatric)
- Pediatric Specialty Program—Inpatient/Outpatient
- Interdisciplinary Outpatient Medical Rehabilitation Programs—Multiple Service

consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of the persons served.

According to the CARF surveyors, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals demonstrates a clear dedication to excellent care experiences for the persons served, as evidenced by engaged leaders, team members, and external stakeholders. They added that the hospitals are spacious, contain state-of-the-art equipment and exhibit a wonderful environment that promotes rehabilitation programs.

Surveyors conducted interviews with key business leaders, business unit resources, personnel who serve patients, stakeholders, community constituents and current and former patients. In addition to the direct interviews, surveyors conduct observations of operations and service delivery, review policies and operational plans and review documents related to program service design and delivery.

be given to an organization and shows Madonna's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. CARF describes organizations receiving a three-year accreditation as putting themselves through a rigorous peer review process, and demonstrating to surveyors its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable and of the highest quality.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a

*Outpatient therapy is among the quality rehabilitation services Madonna offers patients of all ages. Recently CARF International received three-year accreditation for a combined 31 programs across both campuses.*





Life through a different lens builds  
**RESILIENCE**

It's been more than a decade since Cody Tracy's accident, but the life-changing moment is ingrained in his memory like one of his photographs.

On Nov. 11, 2007, Cody was enjoying a carefree Sunday four-wheeling with his brother in Oklahoma. Cresting a 70-foot sand dune, his all-terrain vehicle suddenly plunged into a ravine. Cody went airborne and landed face down in the water. "I could only move my shoulders and didn't realize what had happened," Cody said. The distinct hum of his brother's engine grew closer and Cody remained surprisingly calm. As his brother gently turned him over, Cody was grateful to be breathing.

Cody remembers the helicopter ride to Via Christie Hospital in Wichita, Kansas, where surgeons fused his broken vertebrae and explained he was paralyzed. "It was a devastating blow," Cody said, then a 22-year-old junior at Wichita State University.



***“Photography aligns with my personality. I love the freedom and flexibility with visually telling a story.”***

**CODY TRACY**  
*Spinal Cord Injury Survivor*

“It took roughly two weeks for me to comprehend that my life was going to be different.”

At Madonna's Lincoln Campus, Cody's motivation to reclaim his independence revved into high gear. Using technical devices and personalized modifications, the young man regained the ability to feed himself, complete self-cares and master his cell phone and computer. "I used every piece of equipment," said Cody, who also relearned to drive. "Madonna's technology surpassed anything in the Kansas area."

Relationships played a key role in Cody's recovery. Encouragement came from Dr. Paul Krabbenhoft, physiatrist, and counselor Kipp Ransom, both spinal cord injury survivors leading



## SPINAL CORD SPECIALTY PROGRAM

Madonna can help patients of all ages return to their life roles, regardless of the level of spinal cord injury, by participation in an intense rehabilitation program that maximizes strengths and provides specialized comprehensive education and training.

Madonna has a dedicated rehabilitation unit, staff and physicians who care for persons who have had a spinal cord injury.

An interdisciplinary team of clinicians addresses:

- Activities of daily living
- Assistive technology
- Behavior management
- Cognition
- Communication
- Community integration
- Driving
- Durable medical equipment
- Environmental modifications
- Leisure and recreation
- Mobility
- Orthotics and prosthetics
- Wheelchair seating systems
- Vocational rehabilitation

Madonna's Lincoln Campus received the highest level of accreditation from CARF for its spinal cord specialty program.

full lives. “They were upbeat, 20-plus years post-injury and that inspired me,” Cody said. Bonding with his nurses and therapists provided healing, too, and Cody appreciated their knowledge and input. Camaraderie with other spinal cord patients inspired the young Kansan. “We celebrated our small goals and pulled each other through.”

Today, Cody is a successful business owner in his hometown of Roseville, Kansas. He specializes in commercial, fine art and portrait photography. “I love the freedom and flexibility with visually telling a story,” explained Cody, who lives on the family farm and also enjoys bow hunting.

His truck with adaptive controls, and a four-wheeler, allow freedom for off-grid adventures to places like

Montana’s Glacier National Park. On the five-year anniversary of his accident, Cody returned to make peace with the sand dunes. The terrain matched his vivid memory. “It wasn’t all ceremonial; I still wanted to play!” Cody said. “It’s a therapy I can’t get anywhere else.”

Acceptance unfolded in various stages during Cody’s recovery. Staying healthy in body and spirit anchors him. “Madonna taught me a new foundation and opened my eyes.”

A bamboo plant sits on Cody’s desk, a gift from his therapist after completing therapy in 2008. It’s vibrant and thriving, just like Cody.



**Learn more about our Spinal Cord Injury program at: [Madonna.org/SCI](https://Madonna.org/SCI)**

*Cody Tracy (left) valued his friendship with fellow spinal cord injury survivor John Andrews, and shared special outings like a Husker basketball game.*



# Madonna researchers foster patient **INDEPENDENCE**



Chad Fuller has always been a big proponent of staying hydrated. The former athlete from David City, Nebraska, practiced what he preached and encouraged student athletes to fuel up before, during and after workouts. For Chad, that simple task of raising his arm up to his mouth to take a drink out of a water bottle became nearly impossible following a 2017 spinal cord injury due to a water-related accident. Chad spent eight weeks recovering at Madonna's Lincoln Campus.

Chad recalls his frustration when he needed a drink of water. His only option was to request assistance from a staff member, his family or friends. Madonna's Institute for Rehabilitation and Engineering studied the issue Chad and other patients with limited mobility faced. They developed a simple but effective solution called the Madonna Hydration System.

For Chad, it's freedom. "The independence that it gives you is really good," Chad said. "I have to ask people for enough things during the day. If I can just ask someone every couple of hours to fill my water bottle, then I can handle taking the drink myself; that's really beneficial," Chad said.

Lead developer Chase Pfeifer, Ph.D., assistant research director, says the Hydration System is "a simple but effective tool for independence and improved health." Patients and clinicians weighed in on the design featuring a versatile clamp for mounting to any surface including a wheelchair. The clamp is attached to a 2-foot semiflexible extender that ends with a director. The director helps position the blue-colored Camelbak hands-free adaptor

**The Madonna Hydration System, created by Madonna's Institute for Rehabilitation and Engineering, is a simple but effective tool for patients with limited mobility to stay hydrated. Researchers used Madonna's 3D printer to create the customized versatile clamp and mouthpiece.**



See more about the hydration system at:  
[Madonna.org/hydration](https://Madonna.org/hydration)

mouthpiece to the desired location for the user. Researchers used Madonna's 3D printer to create the customized clamp and mouthpiece. The water bottle's lid connects to the system via a ring and carabineer, allowing for regular cleaning and water refills.

Occupational Therapist Cara Bassinger has recommended the system to a number of her patients. She says it enables her patients to drink unassisted, avoid health complications associated to dehydration and becoming more independent. "It's just one more way for them to advocate for themselves and have that control back."

Spencer Smith from Independence, Kansas, enjoys the freedom of quenching his thirst whenever the urge strikes. "It's allowed me to stay more hydrated than I'd normally be able to," said Smith, who sustained a paralyzing spinal cord injury when he fell from a bridge. The simple act of biting down opens the valve and a sucking motion brings water to his lips. "I can drink whenever I want to on my schedule; I don't have to rely on someone else," said Spencer.

Restoring small levels of independence make a significant impact in the lives of our patients at Madonna.

## MADONNA INSTITUTE



*The wall outside the Institute serves as a visual reminder to staff and visitors about the many patient-centered innovations being developed and tested daily.*

Madonna's Institute for Rehabilitation and Engineering is located within our hospital setting. Physicians, researchers, clinicians, academic scientists and business leaders across the country collaborate to develop and patent new technology. The institute is a living laboratory that takes an idea from study to research to implementation. These advancements in technology enhance Madonna's ability to provide specialized treatment, allowing patients to achieve a higher level of independence and participate more fully in their life roles.



**GOAL Awards:** Madonna established the Chairman’s GOAL Awards in 1994 to honor patients for their outstanding courage and determination as they completed their rehabilitation, returned to their communities and gave back to others. The GOAL Award honorees represent the thousands of individuals Madonna serves annually.



**Joey Bierman**  
*Spinal Cord Injury Survivor  
Battle Creek, Nebraska*

“I worked, and am still working, each day to become the best version of myself.”



**Graci Garcia**  
*Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor  
Tekamah, Nebraska*

“What I’ve learned is that happiness comes from within.”



**Leonard Linn**  
*Spinal Cord Injury Survivor  
Iowa Falls, Iowa*

“[My family] and I are so very appreciative of what the therapists and staff did for us while we were at Madonna.”



See their GOAL Award stories at:  
[Madonna.org/2018GOAL Awards](https://Madonna.org/2018GOAL Awards)



**Emily Meyer**  
*Brain and Spinal Cord  
Injury Survivor  
Ireton, Iowa*

“We are humbled. Everyone at Madonna—clergy, therapists, nurses, social workers and cleaning personnel, thanks for all that you do for us.”



**Mike Shearer**  
*Stroke Survivor  
Omaha, Nebraska*

“At first, I just wanted to stay strong. Then, I wanted to be independent.”



**Andrew Strom**  
*Spinal Cord Injury Survivor  
Lincoln, Nebraska*

“I remember reading the stories of previous recipients for inspiration, I hope my story can do the same for people in the future.”

Madonna volunteer Severin Wemhoff portrays St. Benedict in honor of Madonna's 60th anniversary and as a tribute to the hospital's Benedictine roots. A cake and ice cream social marked the occasion at both campuses.



**Learn more about volunteer opportunities at: [Madonna.org/volunteer](https://www.madonna.org/volunteer)**

At Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals, we combine heartfelt hospitality with incomparable innovation and education. Our clinical expertise, world-class research and state-of-the-art equipment empower us to help all patients, even those whose diagnoses pose the most complex challenges. Our investment in exceptional talent, groundbreaking technology and progressive treatments is changing the face of rehabilitation.

**On the cover:** Jessica Lode is thankful for the opportunity to spend quality time with her family after suffering a stroke in December 2017. Her family includes Darrek, 14; Drayson, 10; Kaylor, 19 months old; and husband Jesse.

Hospital: 402.413.3000

Admissions: 402.486.8260

Toll Free: 800.676.5448

Locations in Omaha and Lincoln

[madonna.org](https://www.madonna.org)

