

Easy Street Makes Life Easier

When rehabilitation inpatients are admitted to Borgess, they head for Easy Street—Borgess Easy Street Inpatient Rehabilitation Center, that is. And through Golf for Health and other events, Borgess Foundation is raising funds for renovations and updates for this critical service. This will assure that patients in the greater Kalamazoo area continue to have access to the highest-quality rehabilitation care in their own community.

Exactly what is the Easy Street Inpatient Rehabilitation Center? Easy Street helps Borgess rehabilitation patients get ready to face the world by providing comfortable, real-life settings where they can practice basic everyday skills without leaving a safe environment. For instance, Easy Street includes simulation modules that mimic accessing bank services, transferring from a wheelchair to a car, grocery shopping, climbing stairs, pumping gas, and walking or “wheeling” on uneven floor surfaces.

The good news is that over 85% of the patients who complete their Easy Street training are able to return home without the need for additional inpatient services. One of them was Evelyn. Following a stroke in the middle of the night, her right side was numb. After she was stabilized and treated, she needed rehabilitation to successfully function in her daily life.

“Working muscles like you’d use them in the real world was most beneficial,” Evelyn said. “I practiced what they taught me when I went back to my room in the hospital, and I’ve continued to do the exercises they taught me now that I’m home.

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Thank You, Golfers & Sponsors

More than \$69,000 was raised to support the Easy Street Inpatient Rehabilitation Center at the 26th annual Borgess Foundation Golf for Health, held on July 17 at Gull Lake Country Club. A total of 124 golfers and 51 corporate sponsors participated. Thank you everyone!

**Save the date for the
27th annual Golf for Health:
July 18, 2018**



Contact Us

To learn more about the Borgess Foundation or if you have questions, please visit borgessfoundation.org

or contact us at:

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“The Borgess therapists had definite goals for me, and I really liked that,” she continued. “The staff did a wonderful job and were very encouraging, which gave me confidence and kept me motivated.”

Another patient, Hank, came to Easy Street following a car accident. “They taught me how to rethink things I never really had to think about before,” he said. “I liked all the modules, and I cannot stress enough how everyone was so encouraging. I was able to go right home.”

If you would like to help more people like Hank and Evelyn by contributing to Easy Street renovations, visit borgessfoundation.org or call **(269) 226.8100**. You can also include your support in the envelope accompanying this newsletter.

Behavioral Crisis Center is Open

As of this summer, people with critical emergency mental health conditions have a place to go—other than the traditional emergency room—for care that is dedicated to their specific immediate needs.

Thanks to the support of generous donors and community foundations, more than \$917,000 was raised for the new Borgess Behavioral Crisis Center, which opened in June. The center offers a safe, private, calming environment with highly trained specialized staff members available to help patients who are in crisis. (See the Spring 2017 issue of *Benevolent Voice*.)

This is a major addition to the psychiatric inpatient and outpatient services that Borgess offers, and one of only three crisis intervention units in the state.

About 65 people, including community mental health services representatives, attended the official ribbon-cutting ceremony, which was held on June 14. We thank everyone who participated and who made this new center possible.



Agnes Siebert, Administrative Director of Borgess Behavioral Health, shares information during ribbon-cutting tour.

Thank You, Major Donors

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Welcome Borgess Foundation's Newest Board Members

We are pleased to announce that four new members joined the Borgess Foundation's Board of Trustees this year: Tim Cole, Greg Dobson, Patti Owens and Natalie Huff Valentine. They all have interesting connections with Borgess.

Patti Owens



As a “gorgeous Borgess baby” and a Catholic, Patti has had connections with Borgess since the day she was born. Fast forward through a lifetime, since 2005 she has served as vice president and managing director of Catalyst Development Co. in Kalamazoo.

Patti initially connected with Borgess Foundation when she participated in the 2016 annual Golf for Health. “Afterward, Pat Lennon introduced me to Tony [McDonnell],” she explained. “We met sometime later for lunch, Tony explained the mission of the Foundation and I was hooked.

“The Foundation’s mission, vision and values were key,” she continued. “I especially love our commitment to ‘serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable.’”

Patti noted that she “continues to be blown away” by all of the projects that Borgess Foundation helps to

support. Even though she considers herself to be fairly knowledgeable about what’s going on around town, she said she had no previous knowledge of the Foundation or all of the programming it supports in the area.

This leads directly to what she would like to accomplish during her tenure. “I would like to help educate the public about the Foundation and its mission and vision in the hope that we can increase our donor base. I’m proud to be counted as one of our ‘gorgeous Borgess babies’ and I am honored to have the opportunity to participate on this board.”

Natalie Huff Valentine



A desire to learn more about health care led Natalie to serve on the Borgess Foundation board. She is the president of the Peregrine Company, a real estate development and management firm in downtown Kalamazoo.

“Pat Lennon asked if I would consider joining the board,” Natalie said. “I thought it was a good fit for me because I wanted to learn more about the specific health care needs in our community.

“I have been learning about health care systems around the world,” she explained. “As our nation continues to debate and hopefully improve our system, I hope to learn more about the needs of patients as well as the fiscal challenges that are sweeping through at every level of health care.”

Natalie is carefully thinking through what she would like to accomplish while she is on the board. “I don’t have a specific vision for my participation on the board yet,” she said. “At this point, at the beginning, I just would like to work in a supportive role to help Borgess achieve its mission.”

Greg Dobson



Greg, who is the chief operating officer and a principal at AVB, Inc. (American Village Builders) in Portage, joined the board following in the footsteps of two other AVB colleagues. “AVB has had a long association with Borgess,” he explained. “Two of my partners, who are also the founders of AVB—Joe Gesmundo and Daryl Rynd—served on the Borgess board and a Borgess Foundation committee, respectively, in the past. So it was a natural progression, in a way, for me to join the Foundation board.”



gorgeous
borgess baby





Greg has another AVB connection with Borgess. For the past 18 years he has been at AVB, he has been involved with and interested in the Borgess Run for the Health of It. AVB has been a sponsor of the event since its inception 38 years ago.

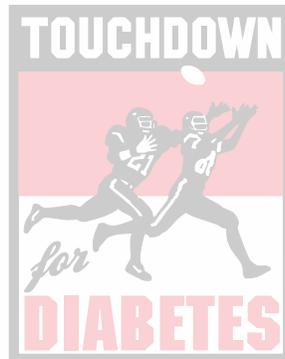
Looking ahead, Greg said, “I have enjoyed learning about the Kalamazoo Heart Project, which the Borgess Foundation is involved with. In addition, I am very focused on healthy eating and exercise, so anything that we can get behind to get people healthier is motivating to me and something I find easy to get excited about.

“I really appreciate the important role that Borgess plays in our community,” Greg concluded. “I look forward to being a part of its mission.”

Tim Cole



Tim, who is president of Cole Automotive in Portage, is connected with Borgess as more than just a new Foundation board member. Each year in September he helps lead the Touchdown for Diabetes, which is a huge tailgate party



and a major source of funding to help the uninsured and underinsured at the Borgess Diabetes & Endocrine Center.

This year’s Touchdown event will be held on September 21 at Cole Automotive. During the past 20 years Tim and his late father, Tom Cole, helped raise more than \$1 million to fight diabetes.

“Over one million people in Michigan have diabetes,” Tim explained, “and 66,000 of those live in southwest Michigan. Unfortunately, diabetes is growing at an epidemic rate. We have made the commitment that all of the proceeds from the Touchdown for Diabetes stay in the greater Kalamazoo area.”

Borgess Tree of Love: The Tradition Continues with Your Help

Thanks to the support of so many donors, for more than 30 years the Tree of Love campaign has allowed thousands of uninsured and underinsured women to receive mammography and other breast health services at Borgess.

Please help us continue this caring tradition. For every \$8 donation, you may name a person who will be represented by a pink light on the holiday tree at Borgess. For an \$80 donation, you can sponsor a mammogram for a woman and honor or remember up to 10 people.

To learn more, please visit treeoflove.borgess.com.

You may also contact the Borgess Foundation at (269) 226.8100 or foundation@borgess.com.



Calling All Volunteers

If you're dedicated, enthusiastic and interested in making a difference—even for just a handful of hours a month—Borgess has a place for you on its team of volunteers.

According to Kandi Torres, Volunteer Services coordinator, volunteers are a key part of Borgess Health's efforts to improve the health status of our community. Many of Borgess' volunteers are retirees. But everyone from working professionals to college and high school students also devote time to support this mission.

"People have different reasons for volunteering," said Torres. "Some want to explore health care career choices or acquire some initial experience. Some find personal fulfillment by meeting people and helping those in need. And others just want to become more involved and give back to the community."

Borgess has a variety of volunteer opportunities available and offers hours to match your availability. To learn more, call Volunteer Services at **(269) 226.4882**.

Volunteer Services coordinator, Kandi Torres, with volunteers Nancy and Byron Foster.



The Medical Specialties and North Professional buildings on the Borgess Medical Center campus are maintained and managed by Lillibridge.

Donor Spotlight: Lillibridge

Charitable giving and responsible philanthropic decisions are key objectives in Lillibridge Services' social responsibility efforts. According to John Marshall, general manager in Kalamazoo, Lillibridge is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ventas, Inc. "Through the Ventas Foundation, our philanthropic activities at both the local and national level are focused around the locations where Ventas/Lillibridge employees and customers live and work," he said.

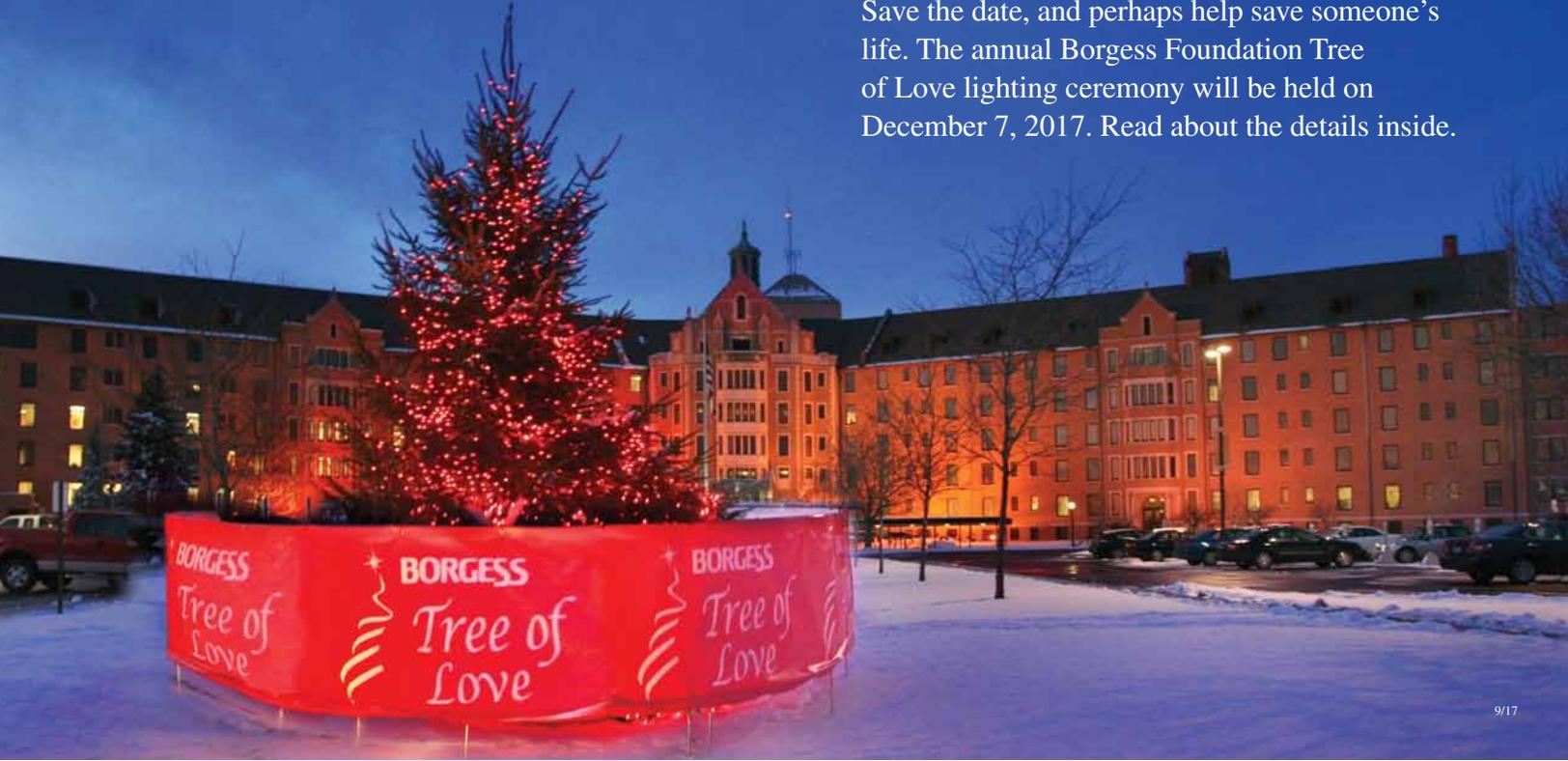
In describing Lillibridge's approach to philanthropy, Marshall explained, "We encourage all our employees to give back to their communities,

and many of our team members are deeply involved in a wide variety of organizations. To recognize this dedication and passion, a portion of the annual donations made by Ventas Charitable Foundation is channeled into an employee charitable fund that makes grants to organizations directly nominated by our employees."

Marshall noted that Lillibridge has supported both the Tree of Love and the Golf for Health fundraising events for years. "It has been Lillibridge's pleasure and privilege to be Borgess' health care real estate partner since 2005, and we have proudly worked with the parent organization, Ascension, since 2002," he concluded. "We respect and admire Borgess' good works and commitment to the communities it serves."

December 7: Tree of Love

Save the date, and perhaps help save someone's life. The annual Borgess Foundation Tree of Love lighting ceremony will be held on December 7, 2017. Read about the details inside.



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