



A Word From Our President

Margaret Perryman

Your Gifts Help Us Exceed Expectations

When you come to a hospital, there are certain things that you expect. You expect that the medical staff and nursing staff will be knowledgeable and compassionate. You expect to have access to necessary technology and diagnostic services. You expect to see the specialists you need under one roof. And you expect care that places you and your family at the center of the team.

In today's landscape, however, state budget cuts and other financial challenges have caused health-care organizations to retrench and cut programs. Significant growth in the number of people needing health care has stretched the resources of hospitals and clinics. And although people with conditions that once caused early death are now surviving, their health-care needs are often complex.

Such developments present significant challenges to providing high-quality, cost-effective care. With your support and our conservative financial strategy, however, Gillette delivers care that families *should* expect. If you simply helped us maintain our high levels of service, you would be changing lives. But you push us to do more than that.

The expansion efforts underway at Gillette illustrate my point beautifully. We told you that we needed more intensive-care space, larger operating rooms and better outpatient facilities. Individuals, corporations and foundations responded not only by supporting those initiatives, but also by providing amenities that promote comfort and healing.

Dairy Queen, for example, is funding a welcome center that will serve as a cozy place to relax in the middle of a hectic appointment schedule. Support from Friends of Gillette helped us build a comfortable family lounge in our new Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. And discussions are underway to add more family accommodations, a healing garden and a therapy playground.

Because of you, we provide a level of service that is unmatched. On behalf of our patients and families, I offer my sincerest thanks.

Why we Give

Art Provides Comfort During a Time of Change

Karolyn Stirewalt isn't a doctor or a nurse, but she's dedicated to promoting healing and improving the health-care system. An attorney for the Minnesota Medical Association and a lifelong artist, Stirewalt is blazing a unique path toward her vision.



"In my work, I kept coming across research about the influence of art on healing," she says. "I saw a pattern: when people feel connected to and inspired by their surroundings, they heal faster."

Her Healing Vision Comes to Gillette

Stirewalt founded Splash of Red Studio as a way to bring inspiration and solace to patients and their health-care teams. Her most recent piece is a painted mural that she donated to Gillette. The 16- by 7-foot installation creates a vibrant and cheerful mood amidst significant changes at the hospital.

"I tried to create an image that was inspiring for both patients and staff," Stirewalt says. "I also wanted to honor those who have made possible all of the great things that are happening at Gillette right now."

Look for Familiar Faces!

The image depicts patients and staff outside Gillette's new patient-care building and skyway. Familiar St. Paul landmarks, including sponsors of Gillette's expansion, scatter the landscape. Patients will notice children who look like they do — children who use wheelchairs, wear braces, or go through life with the help of an assistance dog. They'll also see some familiar faces. Stirewalt included images of actual Gillette staff members and volunteers among the crowd.

"I hope that patients will say, 'Wow, that child looks like me!'" says Stirewalt. "Or, 'That's my doctor! I know him!'" Another fun touch: the windows, moon and stars on the mural glow in the dark. "I wanted to convey a welcoming message — that the lights are always on at Gillette," she adds.

See It Today!

The mural is located on the hospital's fourth floor, where it will remain until a new coffee shop opens this fall. The mural will then move to other areas affected by expansion projects.

"I feel honored to be working with such a wonderful organization," Stirewalt says. "I hope the piece brings joy to Gillette's patients and staff."

For more of Stirewalt's work, visit her website at www.splashofredstudio.com.