

## Saving All Lives

Retired Foundation Trustee Jim Hass once said, *Foundation dollars help support those who treat, transport, comfort and care for our most helpless patients. Once you know how important good health care is, the question becomes: Who would you turn away from the health care door?*



Berlinda  
Tyler-Jamison

Jim knew of what he spoke: he had watched Trinity Neonatal staff work with compassion and skill to provide the best possible care for his own beautiful twin granddaughters. His conclusion recognizes that donor dollars benefit members of our own community: our daughters and sons, our mothers and fathers, our neighbors and friends.

That sentiment guided Foundation Trustees as they gathered in March of this year for a rigorous two-day strategic planning session. We began with the question, *Why has Trinity existed here for more than 100 years?* One Trustee replied, *That's simple. We are here to save lives.*

In fact, that is the passion of everyone connected with Trinity, from our maintenance team to our medical staff. We are here to save lives – and improve quality of life – for members of our community. To communicate that goal and passion, we crafted the following new mission statement:

*Trinity Health Foundation secures charitable gifts and volunteer resources to support Trinity's mission: To provide quality patient care and improve the health of the people and communities we serve.*

Our vision statement evolved, too, to reflect the importance of community in our goal-setting and planning:

*To become the charity of choice in the Quad Cities area to improve the community's health and to help Trinity save more lives.*

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*Jim Grisham says he is "beyond grateful" to Trinity Health Foundation donors for saving his life with the Emergency Prescription Medication Fund. It gave him the coverage he needed to treat his depression safely.*

## Saving "Invisible Lives"

Trinity Case Manager Danielle McReynolds doesn't hesitate when asked to describe a patient who has benefited from the Foundation's Emergency Prescription Medication Fund. Jim Grisham, an emergency patient from last fall, might have died without it.

"Jim is an example of what we sometimes think of as invisible lives," McReynolds says. "These are the people who have physical or mental challenges that profoundly affect their ability to succeed in society. They can't hold jobs or keep their families together. By the time we see them, their suffering is just tremendous."

### Depression Fuels Addiction

Jim's story begins with bipolar disease. His first symptoms appeared when he was in his teens, but he wasn't diagnosed until his mid-20s. By then he had begun to self-medicate with alcohol.

Eventually, it was nothing for Jim to polish off a fifth of vodka while his toddler girls played nearby.

Jim tried again and again to quit. He thought he'd hit his low point when his wife left him and he lost his job.

"I was so depressed," he says. "A friend offered me a hit of crack and I took it. It was bam! Grand euphoria. Instant calmness. No more troubles. I was addicted immediately."

The next few years were a spiral downward punctuated by a dozen trips to rehab.

"I had nothing left in my life," Jim says. "No place to live, no one to care. I couldn't take it anymore."

A suicide attempt – Jim swallowed an entire bottle of pills – landed him in Trinity's emergency room. McReynolds says he was "this close" to dying.

### Emergency Prescription Medication Fund to the Rescue

"Trinity case managers thank God daily for the Emergency Prescription Medication Fund," she says. "Jim was homeless and jobless. He had no money at all to pay for new prescriptions. We all believed he would make it this time, but not without assistance. Because of Trinity Health Foundation, we were able to get him the medications he needed."

Trinity case management director Lori Crippen says during the 10 years the

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## Saving All Lives continued

We also articulated our values, which I am proud to say are modeled every day by devoted Trinity staff. They include:

*Stewardship, Community, Transparency, Integrity, Compassion, Responsiveness and Excellence*

In the months and years to come, this transformational plan will help guide every initiative, grant and proposal we encounter. With your continued support, we will work to keep the health care door open for everyone. We will work to continue saving – and improving – all of our lives.

Blessings,



Berlinda Tyler-Jamison  
President, Trinity Health Foundation

## Saving “Invisible Lives” continued

program has been in existence, more than 3,000 patients have been helped.

“Before the program began, patients who couldn’t afford medications upon discharge simply went without,” she says. “Since 2001, patients on antibiotics have been able to afford the full regime. Heart patients haven’t missed doses of critical medications. Diabetics have been able to establish control of their blood sugars without having to stretch their supplies. The Emergency Prescription Medication Fund keeps them covered while waiting for paperwork for aid or disability to go through. It’s been a real solution to a very serious problem.”

Jim is proud of his record since coming to Robert Young Center’s Transitional Housing Unit. His residential manager, Kathleen Brown, says Jim has become the leader of the house, grilling out on his nights to cook, taking the bus to AA meetings and church, following his treatment plan religiously. She agrees the Foundation’s Emergency Prescription Medication Fund got him started on the

right track. Jim says he can’t thank the Foundation donors enough.

“If not for your big hearts and generosity, I might not be here today,” Jim says. “You went out of your way to help someone like me. Me! These emergency funds, they are a Godsend. You changed my life. I hope to God that someday I have the capability to help someone the way you helped me.”



*This transitional housing unit in Rock Island is home to Jim as he regains his financial independence and psychological stability. He loves the family atmosphere and support of the other residents.*

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*Trinity Health Foundation has allocated \$200,000 to the Emergency Prescription Medication Fund since its inception in 2001.*



## Stylin’ a Great Success!

702 attendees enjoyed fun fashions, moving moments and an overall great time at the April 22 Stylin’ Against Breast Cancer luncheon at the Quad Cities Waterfront Convention Center in Bettendorf. When guests were asked to stand if they were survivors, then asked to stand if they knew a survivor, and finally asked to stand if they supported breast cancer research, the entire luncheon floor was on their feet. What a touching, tearful and triumphant moment! If you haven’t made this event an annual must-go for yourself, 2011 is right around the corner!

*Above: Stylin’ models wave to the crowd as the crowd applauds with gusto! Top right: Roxanne Kramer hands the inaugural Roxanne Kramer Award to 2010 winner Pat Conway. Right: The O’Rourke’s enjoy the afternoon.*

