



2021

Year In Review

A Community Of Caring

Skaggs Foundation, social workers partner to help individuals recover at home

When a patient in the hospital is healthy enough to go home, sometimes the biggest barrier between them and their home is what they need when they get there.

"Oftentimes when patients are being discharged, they can't safely go home without items like oxygen, medication or a walker," explained Cox Branson Social Work Department Manager Janine Johns-Shaffer. "If a patient doesn't have insurance, they have to pay out of pocket. For some patients, they simply do not have the funds to pay for those items."

That is where Skaggs Foundation's Whatever It Takes fund comes in to help.

"For individuals who have nowhere else to turn for necessities, Whatever It Takes provides a lifeline so they can transition from the hospital to home," says Skaggs Foundation President Meghan Connell.

The Whatever It Takes fund was created approximately nine years ago. Since that time, the Foundation has helped fill hundreds of needs for patients.

"The Whatever It Takes fund is a lifesaver for some of our patients," Shaffer said. "It is the difference sometimes between a patient being able to go home or having to stay in the hospital and when hospital beds are desperately needed, it is important that we get folks home when they are ready. It's important for the hospital and it's important for recovery of the individual."

With the rising number of Covid-19 patients, the need for assistance with oxygen is growing.

"Patients who do not have insurance would have to pay out of pocket and for some, that is a huge burden," Shaffer said. "The fact that we can get those folks a month supply of oxygen and they don't have to stress about the cost, that is a blessing."

Shaffer said they have stories every day of people who had no other resource, helped through the Whatever It Takes fund.

"Many of the individuals we are helping have had to miss work, some are missing paychecks and would have to choose between buying a prescription or buying groceries," Shaffer said.



**51 patients
assisted
through
Whatever It
Takes in 2021**

Foundation Projects By the Numbers

9

Cox Branson employees facing devastating hardships helped with mortgage, rent, utilities or other bills



"I'm incredibly thankful for this organization's generosity and all it has done to get me to this point," Collette Lavoie, a senior at Oklahoma State University studying physical therapy.

30 scholarships were awarded to students like Collette who are pursuing or furthering their education in the medical field.

2,400

Meals provided to cancer patients receiving care

Raised to help cancer patients with cab rides and fuel cost to get to cancer treatments

\$13,500

Investing in: Substance Use

'I'm not the same person'

In early 2019, Keri Durbin showed up to Cox Women's Center Branson pregnant, wearing a green jumpsuit, shackles, and facing 15 years in prison. Today, she's helping other moms recover from addiction.

"I had lost three children before and I was on the verge of suicide," Durbin said. "Something happened. I saw things different. I processed things different. I am not the same person."

Durbin was one of the first women to receive services through the Women's Center Healthier Mothers Healthier Babies program, a program funded by Skaggs Foundation. Healthier Mothers Healthier Babies works to decrease substance use disorder and perinatal and postpartum depression among pregnant and newly parenting women.

The staff at the women's center were role models for her and helped her see that she could live a different, healthier life.

"I've never seen someone with so much determination," said Judy Yoakum who was a licensed clinical social worker in the women's center when Durbin had her first visit.

"Keri said to me, 'This baby will not be born in jail,'" Yoakum recalled. "There was no doubt she was going to achieve this."

Durbin grew up in a broken home, in poverty and in a family that struggled with addiction.

At age 17, a few months after her first child was born, she started using drugs. She had her first felony drug charge in 2011. She continued to use off and on over the years.

In 2018, Durbin's life began to spiral. She separated from her husband, the state took her son away and then her dad died.

"I was on the verge of suicide shortly after I found out I was pregnant with (her now youngest son) Logan, because I didn't want to bring another baby into this world I was living in," Durbin said. "I was in the middle of probation and parole. I was facing 15 years in prison."

Durbin made the decision she wanted a different life for her children.

When she arrived at the Women's Center, she was given hope, guidance and resources to help turn her life around. They mentored her, monitored her pregnancy and helped her kick her last addiction – smoking.

"I'm not the same person," Durbin said.

Durbin participated in Preferred Family Services' Pregnant and Postpartum Women's Services, as well as the Healthier Mothers Healthier Babies program, which helped her stay sober and become stable.

Today, Durbin is building a stable, healthy life for her and her boys and she's building a career. She is a peer mentor helping other women turn their lives around and live healthier lives for their children.



Keri Durbin and her two youngest sons

By the Numbers

Distributed Naloxone kits, used to treat an overdose in emergency

639

2,003

Drug destruction packets distributed in effort to prevent misuse of medication

Pieces of educational materials distributed to combat the misuse of drugs

26,041

84

Individuals helped take the steps to quit tobacco

Helped individuals in recovery secure safe, sober housing

21

20

Individuals in active recovery provided vital dental care to live healthy, confident lives

Investing in: Mental Health

Impact

Elevate Branson has one of the only sensory rooms in the area open to the public. The calming blue room is filled with an oversized Light Brite, giant air waves machine and much more - items funded by a Skaggs Legacy Endowment grant.

"Spending time in the sensory room helps children improve their visual, auditory and tactical processing as well as fine and gross motor skills," explains Elevate Branson's Children's Director Cathy Brown.



3,157

In-school mental health services provided to students through Burrell Behavioral Health since March 2020.

Trained in youth suicide prevention

**14 students
&
3 advisors**



"It's been a game changer," said Lisa Furtkamp, case manager for Branson School District.

Furtkamp's position is funded in part by a Skaggs Legacy Endowment grant. She works to overcome any obstacles that might get in the way of a student receiving care.

"The amount of self-harm and suicidal ideations has increased so much in just the past five years," she said. "This grant gives us a chance to get these kids the help they need."

13

Working uninsured individuals provided low-cost mental health counseling



Branson Police Department creates model for change

With funding from Skaggs Foundation in 2021, Branson Police Department launched a Regional Peer Support Team.

The team is dedicated to helping Stone and Taney county first responders process personal issues and struggles associated with the traumatic events they respond to and manage through their careers.

"In its first year, the team has done incredible work getting the project up and going, which included a 3-day training seminar for 30 first local responders," says Skaggs Foundation Director of Community Relations Mindy Honey. "In year one, the peer support team was activated 17 times for individual and group crisis interventions, providing services to at least 46 first responders."

Now, the peer support team has been selected to lead a breakout session at the Missouri Crisis Intervention Training Conference in 2022. This gives the team an opportunity to share what they have learned through the process of creating the team and bringing together numerous agencies that span two counties and multiple disciplines.

The hope is that the peer support team will become a model for positive change statewide in regards to mental health and first responders.

"This is not a common model that is used, so by presenting at the conference we can hopefully encourage positive change statewide when it comes to mental health and first responders," explains Branson Police Chief Jeff Matthews.

Investing in: Access to Care

Breaking down barriers

When Eric Franklin had triple bypass surgery in October, he knew how important rehab would be in his recovery. What he didn't know was how we was going to pay for it.

Fortunately, for individuals like Franklin, Skaggs Foundation provides financial assistance to help cover co-pays and fees qualifying patients cannot afford. Last year, through a Skaggs Legacy Endowment grant, the Foundation provided patient scholarships to 123 individuals for cardiopulmonary rehab services.

"Being a retired senior, I really appreciate the financial help," Franklin said. "I am so relieved to have this cost taken care of. I feel a difference compared to when I started."

Franklin attends rehab three times a week for 12 weeks at CoxHealth Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab Center Branson.

"Cardiac Rehab has health benefits with a 25 percent reduction in all-cause mortality rates," explained Rehab Manager Hollie Holderfield.

"Patients gain knowledge about their cardiac disease and how to manage their risk factors. Rehab improves quality of daily living and quality of life. Rehab also increases the ability to return to work or engage in leisure activities."

Without the financial assistance from Skaggs Foundation, many patients would not be able to attend rehab.

"Skaggs Foundation removes this barrier so patients are able to have access to cardiopulmonary rehab," she said.

For Franklin, he's looking forward to getting back to life.

"I can tell that the rehab is increasing my stamina and my ability to go further," he said. "I'm looking forward to being able to be active with my grandkids again."



Eric Franklin, of Ridgedale

By the Numbers

Cox College nursing students awarded one full-year scholarship

3

192

Rides for seniors to access healthcare, pharmacy and groceries

Scholarships to senior nursing students at College of the Ozarks

5

300

Rides for patients to get to and from appointments at Cox Medical Center Branson



Faith Community Health

\$60,000 matching grant to support FaithCare, healthcare for the working uninsured.

"The support from the Skaggs Foundation represents more than just a financial investment, it means that we have a partner in the community who recognizes what Faith Community Health is doing today and will be doing tomorrow to bring good health to the men and women who call the Ozarks home,"

Anne E McGregor, interim director.

Investing in: Child & Family Safety

1,400

Branson High School students given access to food, hygiene and home goods through school store

Forsyth High School and Middle School students given access to food, hygiene and home goods through school store

640

215

Boys & Girls Club members provided scholarships to attend summer program



Investing in: Healthy Lifestyles



23

Heart rate monitors for Galena students

Local youth provided financial assistance to participate in Boy Scouts

95

\$5,000

For daily exercise and fitness classes at Branson Hollister Senior Center

For Forsyth and Taneyville Parents As Teachers

\$3,000

Investing in: Dental Care

289

Stone County students provided free dental care

Hygiene supply kits for dental visits

900



Investing in: Emerging Needs

When seconds count

Workplace violence has been on the rise in hospital systems nationwide, with the greatest percentage of victims being nurses.

Along with the national trends, Cox Medical Center Branson saw sharp spikes in attacks over the past year, with the total number of assaults tripling. This reality has led to a new layer of protection for hundreds of employees: Personal Panic Buttons.

In September 2021, Skaggs Foundation awarded Cox Branson a \$132,000 grant to bring the technology to Branson.

Alan Butler, CoxHealth's system director of Public Safety and Security, calls the buttons a critical tool to curb assaults.

"When Public Safety response is needed and it's not possible to get to a phone, personal panic buttons fill a critical void," he says.

According to hospital data, Cox Branson workplace violence figures increased significantly from 2019 to 2020, with the pandemic greatly compounding the issue. Total events increased 94 to 162; total assaults 40 to 123; total injuries 17 to 78; and assaults leading to injury increased from 42.5% to 63%.



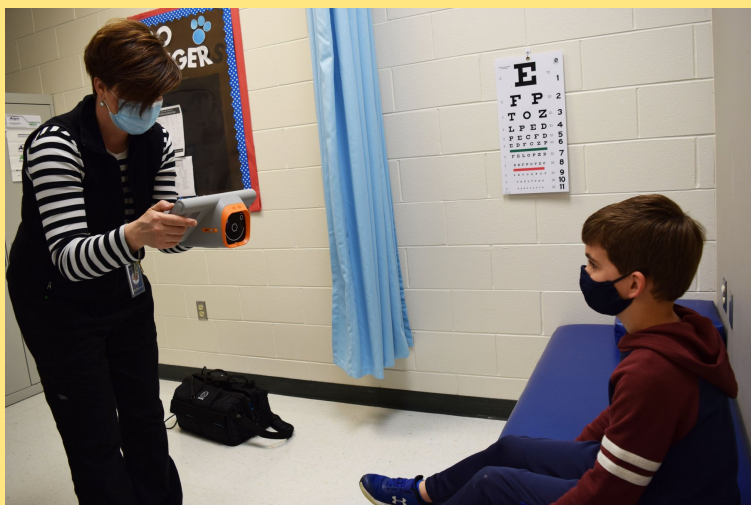
Dana Edwards, RN

Those numbers are of great concern to Angie Smith, Cox Branson Patient Safety facilitator, who wants staff to understand that dealing with violence is not just "part of the job."

"The biggest part of being in health care now is not only being able to give excellent care to your patient you've been assigned and to make them feel safe, but to also feel safe yourself as their primary caregiver," Smith said.

Photo and story contributed by Cox Medical Center Branson

'Game-changers' funded for districts



School districts throughout Stone and Taney counties are now equipped with some of the latest technology to quickly and confidently identify student vision issues.

In June 2021, Skaggs Foundation distributed 14 Plusoptix Vision Screeners to local school districts.

"We are so grateful to the Skaggs Foundation for the donation of these vision screeners for our students," said DeAnna Newberry, RN and head of health services for the Branson School District. "These devices will provide us with better tools to perform a more thorough eye exam on our youngest students and allow us to diagnose areas of possible deficiencies.

"These screeners are game-changers for all of us in our mission to provide the best for our students," Newberry said.

Skaggs Foundation first learned about the technology when Hollister school nurse Mary Blackwood requested a Skaggs Legacy Endowment grant to purchase one of the devices.

"It's exciting to have this kind of technology available to us," Blackwood said. "If a child cannot tell the difference between a 'T' and an 'F,' for example, it's going to greatly impact their learning."

2021-2022

Skaggs Legacy Endowment Grants

Access to Care

- 9 programs
- 9,793 lives

Child & Family Safety

- 4 programs
- 3,031 lives

Dental Care

- 3 programs
- 1,720 lives

Emerging Needs

- 1 program
- 400 lives

Healthy Lifestyles

- 6 programs
- 1,840 lives

Mental Health

- 3 programs
- 1,001 lives

Substance Abuse

- 4 programs
- 31,234 lives

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Visit: SkaggsFoundation.org
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Call: 417.348.8998

2021 Legacy Award Honoree



*Sherry
Herschend*

Watch Sherry's Legacy Award Video at SkaggsFoundation.org