



Surgical Advances Restore Lives

Your Gifts Reduce Pain and Offer Speedy Recovery



PEGGY DOREN IS BACK TO GARDENING AFTER SURGERY RELIEVED THE IMMENSE PAIN IN HER ABDOMEN.

She's known for her beautifully manicured flower gardens. Each spring and summer, avid gardener Peggy Doren carefully planned and faithfully tended her flower beds. She would spend countless hours after work and on the weekends cultivating a magnificent display of color, texture and aroma. But at the beginning of the planting season last year, she found herself struggling just to prepare her soil.

An aching abdomen turned her hobby into a grueling task. Some days she was fine, but as the season progressed, so did her discomfort. There were times when the pain kept her from even stepping foot into her gardens.

Earlier that year at her annual physical, 55-year-old Peggy had been diagnosed with a prolapsed uterus and bladder. Shortly after her diagnosis, what had begun as intermittent tenderness developed into unrelenting pain. What she didn't know at the time was that a severe case of endometriosis was also plaguing her health and acting as the primary source of her pain.

Peggy spent more and more time indoors. Some days even walking was difficult, and she found herself barely able to get out of bed. Her flowers wilted and her gardens withered as the summer slipped by. As her health deteriorated, the joy of life was becoming lost in the agony.

continued on page 4

Your Gifts at Work

100% of your donations go to support programs that help the patients and families of Metro Health Hospital.

- 115 cancer patients have received a care bag filled with helpful and comforting items to help them through their treatment.
- More than 100 patients received food specific to medical restrictions/needs at Metro Health Breton, helping at risk, low income patients experiencing a food crisis.
- 1,610 inpatient and visiting kids were comforted by Child Life Volunteers.



West Michigan Steps Up to Support the Assisted Breathing Center

The Assisted Breathing Center was the beneficiary of **J&H Oil's** Community Kickback Program. During this month, the proceeds from the sale of Mentos at all J&H Oil locations were donated to help provide ABC patients with outings and items to enrich their lives. The campaign ended up raising more than \$5,000!

Foundation volunteers and staff went out to the **West Michigan Whitecaps'** ballgame to sell 50/50 raffle tickets to benefit the Assisted Breathing Center. When they weren't dodging fly-balls, the team was busy spreading the word about Metro Health and the patients that depend on the ABC for lifesaving support. The winner and the ABC both scored big with more than \$580 each!

Thank you to J&H Oil, the Whitecaps, and all the volunteers and supporters for making a difference in the lives of Metro's Assisted Breathing Center patients!

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(continued from page 3)

By August, she simply couldn't take it anymore.

"We went on a special family vacation that month, and after that I knew something had to be done," explained Peggy. "I was suffering so much, it almost ruined our trip."

Desperate for relief, Peggy was referred to Dr. Jason Bennett, an urogynecologic surgeon. Using Metro Health Hospital's da Vinci Surgical System, advanced laparoscopic technology that allows surgeons to use robotics to perform complex procedures without open surgery, Dr. Bennett would perform a complete hysterectomy and repair Peggy's fallen bladder.

It was during her surgery that Dr. Bennett discovered that Peggy was also suffering from extensive endometriosis. The hidden disease had permeated her abdomen and entangled other organs, turning her already major surgery much more complex. The cutting-edge robotic system, funded by the generosity of donors to the Metro Health Hospital Foundation, allowed Dr. Bennett to perform every move with precision and control, resulting in less scarring and a faster recovery.

Only 24 hours after a delicate and complicated surgery, Peggy was on her way home. Her recovery would continue in the familiar surroundings of her own house and the comfort of her own bed. In mere weeks, she was back to work and dreaming up new plantings for the following spring.

"I feel 10 years younger, and I'm able to enjoy life the way I did before. It feels so good to be back in my gardens this season, doing what I love...completely free of pain."

"I have a hard time putting into words just how grateful I am."

— *Peggy Doren*



PEGGY DOREN SCRUBS UP NEXT TO DR. JASON BENNETT AND THE DA VINCI ROBOT SYSTEM, WHICH MADE HER COMPLICATED SURGERY AND RECOVERY QUICKER AND EASIER.