

leading

THE WAY

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A HAMOT HEALTH FOUNDATION PUBLICATION



BUILD

HEALTH. HOMES. HOPE.

HHF's new enterprise, BUILD Community Development Corporation (BUILD CDC), represents the next chapter of addressing health equity in Erie. After more than 10 years, HHF has launched this fledgling organization to bring together diverse stakeholders and drive meaningful change in the health and well-being of our community. Erie is home to concerning health disparities, including a 24-year life expectancy gap between neighborhoods, which BUILD will work to eliminate.



Pictured above: Johnson Real Estate Properties, LLC team, led by Sean and Kenya Johnson, front row center, with BUILD CDC's Daria Devlin and Hannah Moran.



Tica Nickson, left, executive director of BirthRoot Community Doula Alliance meets with BUILD CDC's Sarah Prylinski, center, and HHF's Drevell Showers, right.

Why Did HHF Launch BUILD CDC?

In the early 2000s, research illuminated a surprising finding: only 20% of an individual's health outcomes are influenced in clinical settings. The remaining 80% stem from the broader environmental and social contexts in which someone lives — the social determinants of health.



Access to health care is among this 80%, where factors such as transportation and proximity impact patient outcomes. This, in part, inspired the school-based health center Hamot Health Foundation (HHF) established at Wayne in 2011. Situated in an economically disadvantaged neighborhood that lacked a primary care office, the school-based health center aimed to address access barriers, marking HHF's initial step on the path toward BUILD Community Development Corporation.

In 2014, HHF took another step, investing in the United Way's Community Schools program as their first corporate partner. Infusing additional supports for the students and families at Wayne School expanded upon HHF's original commitment to the disinvested neighborhood.

In 2019 and in collaboration with The Erie Community Foundation, Erie Insurance, Primary Health Network, and the City of Erie, HHF launched the *Count Me In* survey. More than 750 households in the Wayne neighborhood participated, spotlighting local barriers to good health and economic prosperity. The greatest areas of need were higher quality housing, trusted access to health care, career training and job opportunities, and a safer neighborhood — one that would spark pride and a sense of community.

These results inspired HHF, leading to the formation of Erie Center for Arts & Technology

(ECAT) via a \$12 million dollar renovation to the then-shuttered Wayne School. Now a buzzing arts and job-training hub, the ECAT Wayne campus is home to a growing collection of community-based organizations offering services such as primary care, pharmacy, doulas, career training — including the UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot — and arts programming right in the heart of the neighborhood.

By 2021, HHF and ECAT were equally invested in addressing social determinants of health, particularly within the Wayne neighborhood. HHF hired an outreach coordinator, Drevell Showers, who began knocking on doors to connect people to services and to learn more about their needs. ECAT, meanwhile, embarked on an ambitious neighborhood development plan informed by a comprehensive housing assessment and focus groups conducted in the Wayne neighborhood.

The organizations drew two important conclusions from these efforts. First, people needed a blend of individualized solutions to improve their health and economic standing. Second, neither organization was the perfect fit for full immersion into this space. In response, BUILD CDC was formed as a new organization focused exclusively on advancing health equity in Erie. BUILD's strategies are informed by local data and national best practices, and will move the needle in four areas: safe and affordable housing, trusted access to health care, career development, and thriving neighborhoods.



Safe and Affordable Housing

Without safe and affordable housing, people can't thrive, and even substandard housing can fuel negative health effects. BUILD CDC will don a multifunctional toolbelt to address blight and improve housing availability. Through acquisition, master leasing, new construction, and repair and renovation, BUILD CDC will drive housing solutions that are tailored to individuals' needs and family situations.

An early example of this can be found in Elise's story. Elise, an ECAT medial assistant student, was struggling with an abusive partner at home and didn't feel safe leaving her young daughter behind while she attended classes. Elise felt she needed to leave the program to ensure her safety. When Daria Devlin heard of this, she worked within HHF to secure an apartment for Elise and offered her subsidized rent she could afford.

Instead of dropping out, Elise and her daughter moved into their very own apartment close to ECAT, where they were free from abuse. Elise graduated from the program in May, completing her externship at UPMC Hamot.

Elise is welcome to remain in the apartment until she is financially ready to move on. At that time, the apartment will open for other students attending ECAT or the UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot who find themselves in need of a safe, affordable place to live.

BUILD CDC also has joined the vanguard working to mitigate homelessness in the City of Erie. Learn more about this work on page 7.



“Safe and affordable housing is one of our most basic human needs. By helping to remove this major stress point for Elise, we were able to ensure that she could focus on her success in the ECAT program and lay the groundwork for a better life for herself and her daughter.”

— Daria Devlin, BUILD Executive Director



Career Development

BUILD CDC and ECAT are partnering to enrich the construction trades program, adding a novel on-the-job training experience. The program already offers students hands-on learning at Erie High School's state-of-the-art construction trades shop. But the new on-the-job training experience takes their education a step further, giving students real-world involvement in local building projects.

Can you see where this is going? As BUILD acquires properties, ECAT construction trades students will assist with the renovations and repairs. They'll be compensated a living wage for their work and gain invaluable on-the-job experience.

This is one example of how BUILD will continue to support career development, expanding upon the significant gains in health care career training programs fostered by ECAT, HHF, the Erie County Community College, and others. To date, these partners have celebrated the addition of 155 new health care graduates to our community since 2021.



Trusted Access to Health Care

This fall, access to health care gets a major boost in the Wayne neighborhood. With BUILD's help, a UPMC Health Plan neighborhood center will open on East Avenue, expanding access to UPMC's world-class physicians — from primary care to a range of specialists. In addition to telemedicine, the center will offer services and resources such as behavioral health care, a food pantry, and UPMC recruiters to connect residents with jobs that match their skillsets, interests, and schedules. "We are so excited to work with UPMC Health Plan to put the Erie area's first neighborhood center on East Avenue," Daria said.

The second project is a Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic, hosted by BUILD CDC and held at ECAT Wayne. This September, the RAM Clinic will offer hundreds of patients access to no-cost health care, including women's health exams, physicals, dental exams and procedures like fillings and crowns, and eye exams. Residents can even obtain a pair of prescription glasses on-site the same day. **BUILD CDC's RAM Clinic is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 7, and Sunday, Sept. 8, at the ECAT Wayne Building.**



Thriving Neighborhoods

To unleash a range of new opportunities in the Wayne neighborhood, BUILD CDC will work alongside ECAT and the community at Wayne Park Baptist Church to foster the success of ECAT's planned campus expansion. Adding the parcel of land directly to the west of ECAT will nearly double the campus' footprint, offering new opportunities. Among our favorites is expansion of the current training programs — which already face growing demand — or the addition of new training programs. Student resources and supports to best promote student success are also under consideration. While the various possibilities are being assessed, one fact is clear: the expansion unlocks more space for community building and placemaking, offering a new point of pride in the neighborhood.

Making a welcomed return this summer is the East Avenue Pay-What-You-Can Market. Like last year, the market represents a coalition of farmers who provide locally grown produce, representing a critical pipeline to healthy food for a neighborhood that lacks a full grocery store. What's different this year is the schedule. Instead of bimonthly, the market will be held every Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m. this summer.

The East Avenue Pay-What-You-Can Market is a salve to the barriers of healthy food access and economic disadvantage, providing nutritious food at a convenient location using an inclusive financial model. The BUILD team is devising a longer-term solution, but the market represents a vital pathway to affordable fresh produce in the meantime.



East Avenue Pay-What-You-Can Market held every Wednesday, in the summer, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Meet the BUILD Team



Daria Devlin
Executive Director

Daria brings her wealth of expertise and knack for getting it right to the BUILD team as its inaugural leader. In this role, she is forging coalitions, connecting with communities, and offering expert oversight to BUILD's projects.



Hannah Moran
Project Manager

You may recognize Hannah from her previous role at ECAT. She is passionate about community development and took the leap to join the BUILD team this spring. She is nimbly orchestrating many of BUILD's projects, strategizing logistics and ensuring timely completion.



Sarah Prylinski, RN
Clinical Program Manager

Sarah has served for 10 years in a nursing leadership role at UPMC Hamot, demonstrating her commitment and compassion at every turn. As an integral member of the BUILD team, Sarah will lead and coordinate BUILD's clinical projects and health-related strategies.



Ready to learn more?



BUILDErie.org





Building the Road Home

After a year and half of strategic planning and behind-the-scenes collaboration, the Housing First Erie Project Team is on the road to mitigating homelessness in our community.



After conducting a rigorous request for proposal (RFP) process during 2023 and early 2024, the Project Team has selected three mission-driven organizations to lead aspects of their multiyear plan. These three organizations are

Cleveland Housing Network (CHN) Housing Partners, UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, and BUILD CDC. The organizations are already churning up the dirt beneath their feet, fueled by the conviction that housing is health care, and everyone needs a safe place to live.

CHN Housing Partners was selected to lead construction of a “single site” housing facility that will contain 50 apartments and supportive services. With proven expertise in constructing these facilities in Cleveland, Ohio, CHN is now leveraging their skills in Erie. Through the spring of 2024, CHN and the Project Team examined potential sites for the building. Selection is expected by the fall.

UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, led by the dynamo Mandy Fauble, PhD, will provide supportive services to the tenants in the single-site facility — services such as counseling and case management. The importance of these on-site services was underlined by HHF’s

Boo Hagerty, who said, “It’s imperative these folks are getting services wrapped around them immediately.” Safe Harbor’s connection to the world-class UPMC health system and its depth of experience working with local individuals battling mental health conditions positions Safe Harbor as an ideal fit for this project.

The third part of the strategy is “scattered site” housing, embedding 100 apartments for the unhoused into the fabric of existing Erie neighborhoods. The Project Team has selected HHF’s new community development corporation, BUILD, to lead this work. With low vacancy rates throughout Erie, BUILD CDC has committed to *adding* 100 units to the current pool of rentals. To achieve this ambitious plan, they will construct new apartments on empty lots, renovate blighted properties, and employ master lease agreements with current property owners, all with the goal of housing at least 25 individuals by fall 2024.

In manifesting the full scope of this evidence-based plan, the Project Team estimates needing a \$20 million investment. They are seeking funding through federal and state grants, private foundations, and local donors. Everyone can help, and every dollar counts. We can collaborate to ensure everyone in our community has the dignity to thrive.

A HERITAGE OF CARE

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Watkins

Candy stripers — most readers will recognize this term as a positive image of yesteryear, picturing teenage hospital volunteers wearing red and white pinafores that resemble peppermint candy. For many, like Lisa Watkins, candy stripers stir sweet reminiscences.

As a candy striper, 14-year-old Lisa would shuffle into Hamot on weekend mornings, joining the corps of young girls volunteering at the Hamot coffee shop. They'd serve milkshakes and sandwiches, greet the physicians, and giggle into their hands at the nurses' jokes. Lisa remembers this with fondness, the beginning of her lifelong and meaningful relationship with Hamot.

Her volunteerism was inspired by her mother, Audrey Sieber, who "was all about helping people," Lisa shared. Audrey spent her life championing Hamot, serving as a Hamot Aid Society volunteer for more than 50 years. She even led the Hamot Aid Society as its president, guiding the organization with her trademark compassion. Through these decades of service, Audrey became a familiar and adored presence at UPMC Hamot. "She loved people," Lisa said. "She was always smiling."



HHF board member Lisa Watkins, pictured far right, enjoying lunch with her brother Paul "Dorf" and late sister Kim.

"Giving back is part of who I am, it means a great deal to me. This is the community I was raised in, and all of us should work to take care of it."

— Lisa Watkins, HHF Board of Trustees Member

In 2012, Lisa and her siblings — brothers Don and Paul (Dorf) Sieber and sister Kim Sieber-Wyckoff — established the Audrey R. and Paul A. Sieber Family Nursing Scholarship at Hamot to honor their mother after her passing. For UPMC Hamot employees with modest financial means, this scholarship is a cherished gateway to higher education and realized dreams. "We wanted to keep her memory alive," Lisa said. Each year, the scholarship rekindles Audrey's passion for helping her community, especially those less fortunate.

In 2023, the family suffered another heartbreak when Kim, Lisa's sister, lost a courageous battle with cancer. Kim was only 56 years old. Moved by the tragedy, Lisa and her brothers established a second scholarship in partnership with Hamot Health Foundation to honor their beloved sister and support students at the school of nursing. Both scholarships have brought solace to the family, who find small measures of healing in their altruism and its impact.

Each year, the family welcomes the chance to read thank-you notes from their scholarship recipients. "You wouldn't believe the struggles some people go through and the profound difference a scholarship can have," Lisa said. "To know that we gave someone hope and took a burden off their shoulders — it's wonderful. These scholarships are as much a blessing for us as it is for the recipients."

Like her mother, Lisa was selected to serve on the Hamot Health Foundation Board of Corporators. In this role, Lisa showcased her talent for galvanizing corporators to action and her keen insight about strategy and operations. Her effectiveness stemmed, in part, from her experience at the helm of Kimcopy Printing, a position she held for 28 years. As a business owner, Lisa never underestimated the importance of knowing how to treat people. "With dignity and respect for everyone," she affirmed, "no matter their role or station in life. We are all people."

In 2014, after serving for seven years as a corporator, Lisa was invited to join the HHF Board of Trustees, where she's continued to demonstrate her incredible value to the organization, particularly in recent months. The HHF Board has been diligently assessing and advising the foundation on its new community development corporation, BUILD. "BUILD is moving in the right direction," Lisa said. "We are trying to fight homelessness and eradicate it if we can. That's the focus right now. We want to take care of Erie and make the community healthier."

Lisa shows no sign of slowing down. Her passion persists, much like her mother's. "Giving back is part of who I am," she said. "It means a great deal to me. This is the community I was raised in, and all of us should work to take care of it."



Lisa Watkins with late sister Kim Sieber-Wykoff.



Lisa Watkins and family. Standing from left to right are Paul "Derf" Sieber, Kim Sieber-Wykoff, Lisa Watkins. Seated are Lisa's mother Audrey Sieber and brother Don Sieber.



The Rebich Investments team at their office in Edinboro.

Invested Philanthropy

DONOR SPOTLIGHT Rebich Investments

Dancing trails of steam escape the white plastic lid of the to-go coffee cup, evaporating into a chilly desert sunrise. Todd Rebich is in downtown Las Vegas, laden with breakfast sandwiches and coffee for the unhoused, as is customary during his semifrequent visits to the city. It is a meal among friends.

Todd first stumbled into these unlikely friendships in the wee hours of the morning, on feet struggling to adjust to Pacific Time. As Todd meandered Fremont Street well before sunrise, he met Russ, a Pittsburgh-area native now living amongst Las Vegas' unhoused. Their connection brought Todd into Russ's circle. He came to know the Fremont Street unhoused by name and by their preferred breakfast order. And they know him. They call periodically, when they have access to a phone, to check in or catch up. Like any friend would.

The unhoused may seem unorthodox company for a man like Todd Rebich to keep. He is, after all, a successful financial advisor and owner of the eponymous firm, Rebich Investments, located in Edinboro. But Todd doesn't see it that way.

His approach — to life, to business, and to philanthropic giving — is painted with a palette of unorthodoxy and mixed with compassion.

“When people get to know me, they realize I’m not what they expected,” Todd said. Beneath his learned bravado is a “projects kid,” one who attended a college that was “too good” for him and who, after graduating, found early disillusionment with the finance industry. He walked away in favor of sweeping floors at a steel mill while the master’s degree he’d earned along the way went unused, at least for a brief time. He found his way back to finance through proper mentorship and industry friendships, ones that encouraged him to embrace his authenticity.

Part of that authenticity is Todd’s intrinsic desire to give back. Even as a young adult with modest means, Todd found avenues for giving. Today, Rebich Investments has a growing reputation for generous support throughout the Erie community. Thanks to Todd’s thoughtful development of the firm’s compensation structure, Rebich Investments offers unique philanthropic opportunities for its employees.

Greg Keil, financial advisor at Rebich Investments, said, “It’s different when giving comes out of an individual’s pay instead of a corporation’s budget. In our case, it comes out of our pocket. That’s something I’ve always wanted to be a part of.”

“It’s very personal,” explained Todd. “My team sees giving as something they love to do and are happy to support. Maybe some didn’t have opportunities to engage in philanthropy until they started working here, but now they do, and they’re very proud.”

“We help a lot of people and in different ways,” said Brian Long, financial advisor at the firm. “It’s more than just the money. We support causes that everyone cares about and has an emotional connection to.” One such cause is HHF’s annual Bob-a-Thon, benefitting Erie children and their families through our Children’s Care Fund. “The causes we fund,” shared Todd, “is because we believe in them. It’s an affinity.”

Rebich Investments relies on a unique team approach to giving that’s supported by the structure Todd developed. One key element of the model’s success are the people. “I think I’ve hired individuals who have a natural desire to give back,” Todd said.

Michelle Brown, who has served in an administrative role with Todd since he founded Rebich Investments in 2008, shared, “It feels good to be generous. I think it’s what God would want us to do, and we have a lot of fun doing it.”

Todd holds a sense of responsibility to give back, a philosophy that is present in his personal life as much as at his firm. He has immersed himself in this mission, using his personal resources to walk alongside and help elevate people in need. He views his giving with HHF as an extension of these efforts.

Todd stands a little taller when he talks about his team and the culture of giving they’ve cultivated at Rebich Investments. Since 2008, the firm has grown from two employees to eight, and they now serve clients in nearly every state. This growth has helped propel their giving to new heights. “I am so proud of these people,” Todd said. “I believe as long as we continue to work hard and do what’s right, we will keep growing. And with that growth, we can help even more people.”



“If you’ve reached a certain point of success, you have a responsibility to give back — to help the less fortunate, the weak, and those in need.”

— Todd Rebich, Rebich Investments President and Financial Advisor



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Brian Durniok

For Brian Durniok, his role as president of UPMC Hamot is something of an executive homecoming, having served as the vice president of Human Resources from 2013 to 2017. During that time, he became familiar with the facility, operations, and challenges facing UPMC Hamot. But the biggest appeal for his return was the staff.

“If there’s something we need — you name it — the answer from HHF is almost always ‘yes’ and ‘how fast do you need it?’ They support us wholeheartedly.”

“We have phenomenal people here. Their teamwork and commitment are what make UPMC Hamot as great as it is,” said Brian. He explains that it’s unique for UPMC Hamot to have both a high degree of staff camaraderie and the ability to provide world-class clinical care — usually it’s a tradeoff, with the former found in smaller, community hospitals and the latter commonplace in larger, urban medical centers. In this way, UPMC Hamot represents an ideal blend.

As someone who thrives on change, Brian was excited for the opportunity and challenges in his new role. UPMC Hamot is larger and more complex than the hospitals he has previously led. Accordingly, Brian doesn’t plan to sit idle while at the helm. Over the next three to five years, he seeks to broaden clinical services by adding new cutting-edge technologies and recruiting physicians who bring novel techniques to the hospital. His topmost goal is to further UPMC Hamot’s extraordinary patient outcomes, promote faster healing, and achieve even higher quality — a continuous elevation of the hospital’s current strengths.

To reach his goals, Brian expects to lean on Hamot Health Foundation. “We couldn’t ask for a better partnership,” he said. “If there’s something we need — you name it — the answer from HHF is almost always ‘yes’ and ‘how fast do you need it?’ They support us wholeheartedly.”

Brian celebrates the progressive and visionary work stemming from HHF, particularly its efforts to address social determinants of health. “It’s not something you see many hospital foundations doing. The fact that HHF is willing to take on those challenges speaks highly of its leadership and board.” He mentions the 24-year delta in life expectancy between affluent and disadvantaged neighborhoods in Erie, calling it “disheartening.” (We agree.) However, our partnership with UPMC Health Plan has funded community health workers who aim to close the health equity gaps in our community. They knock on doors, connect with individuals, and assist them with accessing services. “I find this fantastic,” Brian said. “It makes me proud of the work that we are doing.”

Efforts to improve health equity will expand under HHF’s new BUILD Community Development Corporation. Referring to BUILD, Brian said, “I’m hopeful. I think the CDC will lead by example. As people see their impact, it will inspire others — individuals, businesses, nonprofits — to believe they can make a difference, too.”

Whether consciously or not, Brian’s own *modus operandi* seems to center around the concept of leading by example. Worthy of emulation are his propriety, humility, passion, and intellectualism. These qualities represent another ideal blend — one that is well suited to elevating clinical care and facilitating future success.



On the Frontier of Medical Science

*Dr. Halina Zyczynski,
medical director of the
MWRI Erie Campus
and Magee-Womens
UPMC Hamot CTRC*

Erie Organizations Elevate Care Through Research

HHF's commitment to advancing cutting-edge research is redefining what is possible in Erie.

At Magee-Womens Research Institute (MWRI) Erie campus and UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Erie, HHF's investments are making an impact — from advancing medical science to creating economic opportunities. We recently caught up with these two organizations to learn more about their achievements and future aspirations.

Advancing Women's Health at MWRI Erie

MWRI Erie campus has brought the forefront of women's health to our region, enabling local women to inspire and influence the future of medical science. As the only satellite campus for Pittsburgh-based MWRI, they've had a reason to celebrate recently: the one-thousandth research participant enrolled in just three years. And more women every day are signing up to take part.

More than 20 studies have been launched locally to date. Many of these studies have included participants from both Erie and Pittsburgh, enriching the data through geographic diversity. The Deep Phenotyping of Pregnancy Project (DP3) has recruited participants from both Erie and Pittsburgh, offering local women a chance to participate through MWRI's Erie facilities.

Dr. Halina Zyczynski, medical director, MWRI Erie Campus and Magee-Womens UPMC Hamot CTRC, shared, "It's clear that the Erie MWRI campus is a complement not a duplicate of main campus resources, activities, and talent. We continue to identify opportunities for impact in Erie."

Two of the most successful projects to date have centered on pregnancy-focused research and biospecimen acquisition for translational research. Collaboration between MWRI Erie investigators and UPMC Hamot physicians contribute to the projects' success. The goal, said Dr. Zyczynski, is to create "community-based studies that will benefit providers, their patients, and MWRI investigators."

One of the noteworthy community-based initiatives MWRI Erie has spearheaded is the expansion of the perinatal addiction medicine services at Magee-Womens UPMC Hamot. With a five-year renewable grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, MWRI Erie has helped to double the number of patients receiving care for substance use disorder. This represents a huge win for Erie, infusing specialized care and supports to community members struggling with addiction.

MWRI Erie is also celebrating the launch of the EVery Mom clinical trial, a joint effort with their scientific partners at Penn State Behrend. This study examines the relationship between past traumatic experiences and biomarkers of stress in the bloodstream of expectant mothers. It has the potential to advance the medical community's understanding of how trauma impacts women during pregnancy.

Linda Paterniti, director of satellite operations, Erie campus, explained that MWRI Erie is also facilitating a college summer internship program that "provides students with the opportunity to participate in research with the goal of boosting student interest in biomedical discovery as a career." Through this program, MWRI Erie is not only leading the way to scientific breakthroughs but also nurturing a pipeline for the next generation of researchers. They plan to expand this program as MWRI Erie grows.

For its many accomplishments, MWRI isn't Erie's only cutting-edge research institute. UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Erie also has been transformational, advancing local cancer care and changing lives in the process.

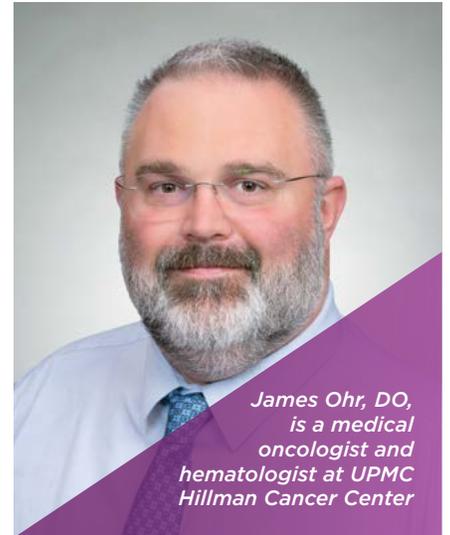
Delivering Leading-Edge Cancer Treatments at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Erie

The UPMC Hillman Cancer Center's new research lab — funded by HHF and outfitted with the latest technology — has sparked an expansion of clinical trials for cancer right here in Erie. The depth and breadth of trials now offered in our community is truly remarkable, treating malignancies of the brain, skin, head and neck, lung, breast and gynecological areas, colon, liver, and prostate.

Julie Hilyer, clinical research coordinator at Hillman in Erie, explained that the "trials range from developing blood tests for early cancer

detection to new and innovative cancer treatments." One such treatment is immunotherapy, a promising scientific advancement that teaches the body to attack cancer cells. Its availability in Erie will save lives.

Dr. James Ohr, a board-certified physician in medical oncology, hematology, and internal medicine, helps put the scope of this work into perspective, sharing, "The ability to offer clinical research in the world of oncology is important because that's how advancements are made. And being able to offer that in Erie is something really special."



*James Ohr, DO,
is a medical
oncologist and
hematologist at UPMC
Hillman Cancer Center*

For Dr. Ohr and his colleagues, this is just the beginning. They seek to continue growing the depth and breadth of clinical trials offered in Erie, aiming to become a regional academic center. This would enable physicians throughout the northwest Pennsylvania region to refer their patients to Erie for cancer treatments instead of requiring them to travel to Pittsburgh.

Participation in cancer trials continues to grow as the community learns about the availability of these specialized treatments. From 2022 to 2023, clinical trial participation at Hillman Erie jumped 38%. Many patients have expressed gratitude to receive their care right here in Erie. This allows more local patients to avoid the stress and expense of travelling to a major city for treatment. When battling cancer, there is no place like home.

Take it from Gladys, a local patient enrolled in a clinical trial at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Erie. She shared, "I am extremely glad I was accepted into this trial and can receive treatment here in Erie. The overall experience has been amazing."

As Erie's two premiere research institutes, MWRI Erie and the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center continue to grow, our community members benefit. Over time, as local people inform the future of medical science, Erie can contribute to breakthroughs with a global impact. Standing on the cusp of this offers an optimistic outlook for the future.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 27

BOB-A-THON

WHERE: Magee-Womens,
UPMC Hamot, Lincoln Education Center



Hamot Health Foundation and 94.7 BOB-FM radio team up for an all-day radio-a-thon to raise awareness and financial support for the Children's Care Fund. Hear firsthand stories of those in our community supported by this important fund.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: Rebich Investments

◆ For sponsorship opportunities, contact Katie King at 814-877-7922 or kingk9@upmc.edu. For details, go to HamotHealthFoundation.org/events.

August 19

HHF OPEN

WHERE: The Kahkwa Club



Annual signature golf outing at the Kahkwa Club to support the SLM Breast Cancer Fund. Each foursome includes lunch, gifts for each player, 18 holes of golf with a forecaddie, followed by a cocktail hour and dinner celebration.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: Howard Industries

◆ For sponsorship opportunities, contact Katie King at 814-877-7922 or kingk9@upmc.edu. For details, go to HamotHealthFoundation.org/events.

October 5

GALA

WHERE: Bayfront Convention Center



Annual signature black-tie event to celebrate the impact of Hamot Health Foundation in our community.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: Rebich Investments

◆ For sponsorship opportunities, contact Katie King at 814-877-7922 or kingk9@upmc.edu. For details, go to HamotHealthFoundation.org/events.

November 19

BRIGHTEN THE NIGHT

WHERE: UPMC Hamot Front Lawn



Unique annual fundraiser creating awareness for Family Hospice of Erie and quality end-of-life care. Participate in thoughtful remembrances, inspirational reflections, and music to remember those who have passed and to honor someone who is special in your life.

◆ For sponsorship opportunities, contact Katie King at 814-877-7922 or kingk9@upmc.edu. For details, go to HamotHealthFoundation.org/events.

Interested in hosting an event to benefit Hamot Health Foundation?

Contact Katie King to share your ideas! 814-877-7922 or kingk9@upmc.edu.



HAMOT HEALTH FOUNDATION

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Erie, PA 16507
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HamotHealthFoundation.org

OUR MISSION

Hamot Health Foundation will lead our community to better health.

OUR VISION

Hamot Health Foundation will transform the health and well-being of our community with an unwavering commitment to our 4 C's:



Clinical Excellence

We will proactively seek opportunities to help our providers enhance health care delivery and patient outcomes.



Community Health

We will work collectively to eliminate societal barriers that hold people back from leading healthy, vibrant, and productive lives.



Cutting-Edge Research

We will join with partners to financially support scientific research and clinical trials that drive answers to the most pressing questions in health care.



Career Development

We will help fund the education of current and future health care providers and create pathways where opportunities do not exist.

BOARD MEMBERS

2023-24 Officers

Beth Burnside — *Chair*
Danielle Bates, CPA — *Vice Chair*
Charles “Boo” Hagerty — *Chief Development Officer*
Carrie E. Ennis — *Secretary*
Bradley N. Dinger — *Treasurer*

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