



Making a difference... TOGETHER

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The Smile of a Champion

Monica Hatch, Sykeston, N.D., Region's 2007 Children's Miracle Network Champion



Over the long course of her cancer treatment, 14-year-old Monica Hatch has been determined to let people know how much she loves life. She often says, "I'm not sick, I just have cancer." Recently, her battle with cancer took a turn for the worse with a difficult diagnosis, but through it all she has embodied the true heart of a champion in every way possible. Her courage

amazes us all. We are proud to name Monica Hatch our 2007 Children's Miracle Network Champion!

In 2003 at age 11, Monica was diagnosed with spindle cell sarcoma. Though her first course of chemotherapy proceeded as planned, her second course of chemotherapy did not. Due to her weakened immune system, Monica developed pneumonia, blood bacteria and dangerous complications from a spider bite. She lapsed into a coma for weeks, dependent on a respirator and feeding tube to keep her alive. Through her long stay at MeritCare Children's Hospital, Monica fought through every setback, regaining her strength to continue her battle.

In July 2006, a large tumor was removed from her chest cavity followed by a full course of radiation therapy. Things seemed to be improving. However, in February 2007, Monica received the terrible news that cancer had returned and spread throughout her body. Despite this difficult diagnosis, Monica and her family persevere. Monica now truly faces the fight of her young life, but plans to get the most from every moment she has.

Now 14, Monica is a champion in the truest sense of the word, still wanting to get the most out of life.

Monica also spends her spare time thinking of others by making beaded bracelets and gift bags for the kids at MeritCare Children's Hospital.

Learn more about Monica and other amazing children at MeritCare Children's Hospital and help them continue to receive the highest quality care by watching the CMN Celebration on June 2.

Upcoming Events Benefitting MeritCare Children's Hospital

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| June 18
1 p.m. | Children's Golf Classic at the Moorhead Country Club |
| June 23
11:30 a.m. | Miracle Ride from Fargo Harley-Davidson and Andy's in Grand Forks |

For more information on any of these events, call (701) 234-6264.



**Children's Miracle Network Television Celebration
Benefitting MeritCare Children's Hospital
Saturday, June 2, 2007 1-10 p.m.
KVLY TV 11 and Midcontinent Cable Stations**

Watch the celebration and become acquainted with the wonderful children that have been treated at MeritCare Children's Hospital, their families and the highly qualified staff. Call in your pledge and help make miracles happen!

The toll free number, (888) 215-7159, will be active June 2 between 1-10 p.m. and volunteers will be ready to take your pledge. For more information call (701) 234-6246 or log on to cmn.meritcare.com.

Congress Helps Donors Make Charitable Gifts From Their IRAs

When Congress passed the Pension Protection Act of 2006, it included a provision allowing donors age 70½ and older to transfer funds directly from their IRA to the charity or charities of their choice. MeritCare Foundation has benefitted from donor gifts that took advantage of this provision. We express our grateful appreciation to all who have given.

This limited opportunity is available throughout 2007.

Gifts cannot exceed \$100,000 per person in 2007. However, IRA gifts may be of any size as long as they stay under the \$100,000 ceiling per person. A husband and wife who each have IRAs may each make gifts of \$100,000, if they choose. What a great opportunity for those wondering how to spend some of the required IRA withdrawal money!

These gifts may work well if your IRA has grown substantially and taking the required withdrawals puts you into a higher tax bracket. They also work well if you would like to make additional donations in one year that is above and beyond your charitable deduction limit. The IRA donation may also help you reduce the size of your estate and assist you in reducing estate taxes.

To consider an IRA gift, you need to be age 70½ before the end of 2007. You also need to check with your IRA custodian to complete the required paperwork to transfer the gift to charity in a timely manner. MeritCare Foundation has an informational brochure on making charitable gifts from your IRA. Please call or e-mail Yvonne Kroll, CFRE, Planned Giving Officer, for a copy. Yvonne's e-mail address is Yvonne.Kroll@meritcare.com and her phone number is (701) 234-6422.

As with any estate asset, please check with your professional advisors on whether this type of gift will work well into your financial and estate plans.

Ellendale Farmer Includes MeritCare Heart Center in his Estate Plans



Leo A. Billey was a life-long farmer from Ellendale, N.D. who worked hard and lived a simple life. He loved repairing implements and electronics and was always busy with his repair hobby. Leo always said, "Why buy new if you can fix what you have." When Leo died at age 87, his family learned about his years of saving and the plans he had made for his estate.

Leo wanted to focus on education and health, so part of his estate will be used to fund scholarships to assist students from the Ellendale and Oakes, N.D. area with their post-secondary education. A generous amount was also designated to benefit cardiac rehabilitation programs. His family has directed that gift to MeritCare Heart Center for the benefit of MeritCare cardiac rehabilitation and congestive heart patients. It is a wonderful gift that will help so many individuals from throughout the region this year and for many years to come.

With this gift, Leo Billey has become the newest member of the LegacyCare program. Words cannot fully express our heartfelt appreciation to him and his family for this wonderful gift.



Presenting the check from Leo Billey's estate is his niece, Deborah Hahn. Also pictured are Jenna Johnson, Manager - Cardiac Rehab, Dr. Wallace Radtke, Managing Physician Partner - Heart Center and Carla Hansen, Executive Partner - Heart Center.

Olga's Gift to Patients at Roger Maris Cancer Center



Olga Webster had been a special friend of MeritCare for years. Her husband, Dr. William O. Webster had practiced in the urology department of Fargo Clinic and Olga had been a member of the St. Luke's Auxiliary. After her husband died, Olga sought the advice of a local attorney and a local accounting firm to discuss the people and organizations that were important to her. Number one priority was her family. Also important were two charities that had made an impact on her life and Dr. Webster's life — one of them being MeritCare Roger Maris Cancer Center.



Olga was interested in making a legacy gift at the time of her death. Her advisors told her about a retained life

estate — where a donor “gifts” property they own (in Olga's case it was her condo) to charity. It is an irrevocable gift, thus qualifying for an immediate income tax charitable deduction. The amount of the deduction depends on the value of the property and the age or ages of the donors.

Olga gifted her property but she retained the right to live there and manage the upkeep of her condo until her death. She also maintained the responsibilities of ownership, such as taxes, improvements and insurance. At the end of Olga's life, her condo was the responsibility of the two charities that she had originally deeded it to. They managed the sale of the property with proceeds going to the charities. A great benefit to Olga and her family was the fact that they did not have to deal with appraisers, realtors, title companies or banks. By virtue of the property being owned by charity, the charities took over and managed the sale.

The MeritCare Roger Maris Cancer Center Endowment fund received a wonderful gift, thanks to the savvy planning of this long-time friend and the insightful advice she received from her personal advisors. By gifting property during her lifetime, Olga took that property and removed it from her estate. It helped reduce the value of her estate and may have also helped her avoid estate taxes.

Her gift, which has been invested with other gifts, will generate interest income that the Roger Maris Cancer Center can use to benefit their patients. It truly is Olga's gift that will keep on giving, thanks to this very thoughtful and caring philanthropist and friend. On behalf of all of us at MeritCare Foundation and the Roger Maris Cancer Center, we humbly thank Olga, her family and her advisors.

Student Supports Children's Miracle Network Telethon

Mallory Smith, a fourth grader from Our Lady of Victory school in Fergus Falls, Minn. is an inspiration to us all. The local Kiwanis Club sponsored a contest asking kids, “If you had \$100 to give away, who would you give it to?” Mallory decided that she'd give the money to Children's Miracle Network. In her winning entry, she wrote: “Children don't deserve to face bad sickness. Children should just go to school, make friends and have fun. All children, no matter who they are, deserve to have some fun and laugh. If I was able, I would give one hundred dollars to kids not as lucky as me and I would be delighted.”



Thanks, Mallory, for your generosity!



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How Donors Can Make A Difference

Children's Miracle Network Telethon

Children's Miracle Network raises money for high tech equipment, child and family support programs, education and research.

Roger Maris Cancer Center

Gifts help ensure education, prevention, research and clinical work will continue and expand.

Palliative Care

Palliative care specializes in the relief of suffering and the achievement of best possible quality of life for patients with advanced illness.

Enhanced External Counterpulsation (EECP)

EECP is a non-invasive treatment for patients with angina and heart failure to help improve their quality of life when they have no other alternatives.

MeritCare Fund

The MeritCare Fund encourages innovation and helps us deliver better care to patients.

Coordinated Stroke Treatment Center

Efforts are underway for MeritCare to achieve certification as a JCAHO Primacy Stroke Center (PSC).

MeritCare Endowment

Donations are pooled and invested for the future, with the interest income used to fund needs throughout the health system.

Named Endowment Fund

A named endowed fund is specifically designated and established by the donor with a gift of \$25,000 or more or a pledge to pay that over a five-year period.

MeritCare Foundation has over 125 funds that support various MeritCare programs. Our goal is to match a donor's interest with a current need at MeritCare.

Making a difference.... together!