



Making a difference... TOGETHER

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Good News: Charitable IRA legislation has passed

President Bush signed the economic bailout bill on Oct. 3 (H.R. 1424), which includes a two-year extension of the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) rollover provision. The provision expired at the end of 2007 and charitable causes have worked very hard to reinstate it and hopefully, some day, make it permanent.

The provision will be made retroactive to Jan. 1, 2008, and will apply to gifts made from that date through Dec. 31, 2009.

The provision exempts from taxable income any funds transferred ("rolled over") to a charitable organization from an IRA. The following limitations apply:

- The donor must be age 70½ or older
- The cap on annual IRA rollovers is \$100,000
- The contribution must be a direct gift to a charity or charities

The benefits include:

- In most cases, the transfer counts toward your minimum required distributions.
- The gift generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so even those who do not itemize will also receive the benefit.
- You may transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA in 2008 and 2009.

- The distributions may be in addition to or fulfill any charitable giving you have already planned.
- The IRA rollover gift qualifies donors as LegacyCare members at MeritCare Foundation.

Be sure to contact your tax professionals and your IRA administrator if you are considering a gift under this law. Feel free to call Yvonne Kroll, planned gifts officer, at (701) 234-6422 or yvonne.kroll@meritcare.com with any questions.

Foundation Calendar

Cares for Kids Radiothon
Feb. 19-21, 2009

LegacyCare Centennial Celebration
Feb. 25, 2009

UND Dance Marathon
Feb. 28, 2009 Noon-Midnight

**Children's Miracle Network
Celebration**
May 30, 2009

HOG Miracle Ride
June 27, 2009

MeritCare Patients have Guardian Angels

MeritCare Foundation's Guardian Angel Program

The initiation of the Guardian Angel program in 2008 has provided patients the opportunity to recognize staff that have made a difference during their visit or stay at MeritCare. Over 200 staff members have been awarded guardian angel pins from several areas throughout MeritCare and not all are direct patient care givers.

One environmental service worker received this recognition:

"...I have multiple sclerosis that has progressed to the point that I use a power wheelchair and have weak hands. I come three times a week to the gym at MeritCare's Broadway Health Center to work out. After my workout I frequently 'motor' over to the Daily Perk for a cup of coffee. On a day a few weeks ago, as I was coming back to use the elevators, there was a fire event in the clinic. I was stranded and I needed to use the restroom and there were none accessible due to the fire event. Craig came along and asked if he could help me. I explained the situation and he started to explain how I could get to the next level and then he stopped and said "I will take you there". He continued to visit with me as we 'motored' down the winding path to the hospital elevator. Once we got there, he said, "I'll come with you the rest of the way". He was my angel that day."

And one nurse received these kudos from a happy patient:

"I recently had a premature baby girl. During my delivery I had some complications and Vanessa was great! She went above and beyond for me and my daughter. I feel that without her I would have had a really critical delivery. I believe she is the greatest nurse I have ever met and I am so happy that she was

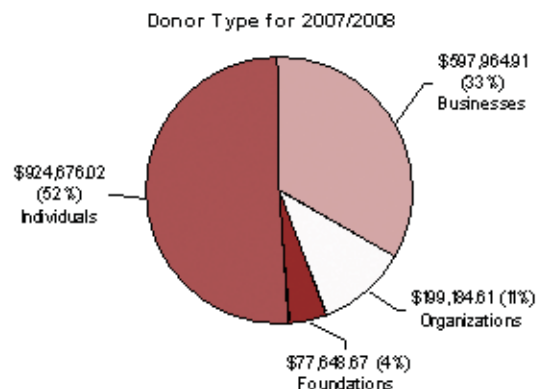
there to help us. Even after the delivery she set my mind at ease and helped me transition from the Family Birth Center to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Thank you, Vanessa. I REALLY appreciate everything you have done for me!"

The Guardian Angel program also serves as a reminder to employees that gifts are the results of the care provided by our doctors and employees.

Gifts and Pledges

We are very fortunate to have a broad base of supporters throughout the region. This year 7,355 donors generously donated \$2,177,331 and pledged \$728,530 to MeritCare Foundation. Ninety-five percent of the dollars are designated for specific programs and the unrestricted dollars are used for the internal grant program.

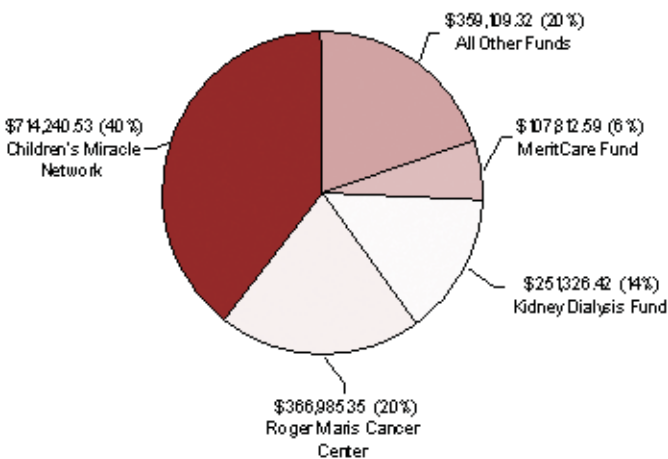
These gifts are made through our annual giving programs such as the Family of Giving campaign, 61 for 61 and the Home Run/Walk, Festival of Wreaths and the Children's Miracle Network Campaign.



Gifts of Time

First, we are blessed to have a great board of directors to lead the organization. These volunteers provide the leadership for setting the direction for the future. In addition, we have hundreds of volunteers who serve on committees, work at events and give their time to help raise funds for MeritCare.

Cash Gift and Pledge Allocation for 2007/2008



LegacyCare Lights the Way

MeritCare Foundation's brand promise is building lifelong relationships. No program meets that promise like the LegacyCare program. At year end, there are 198 members that have made a commitment of a planned gift. Those endowment gifts are what will light the way for the next 100 years at MeritCare!

Festival of Wreaths Benefits Cancer Survivors

All proceeds from this year's Festival of Wreaths went to MeritCare Roger Maris Cancer Center to create Embrace, a cancer survivorship program. Survivorship is about hope and about living with the diagnosis of cancer and the after-effects of treatment. It is about taking care of medical needs, as well as emotional, spiritual and social needs. To learn more about programs at Roger Maris Cancer Center visit cancer.meritcare.com.



Featured in this photo from Cowboy Up are MeritCare employees Doug Voss (left) and Jaime Krabbenhoft (center) with their friend Kris Dolva (right). They are holding greetings for their friend and cancer survivor, Kim Loock who could not join them at Cowboy Up this year. Doug, Jaime and Kim all work in Pathology at MeritCare.



MeritCare
Foundation

www.foundation.meritcare.com

*MeritCare Foundation
PO Box MC
Fargo, ND 58122-0302*

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Previous issues of this newsletter can be found on our website at foundation.meritcare.com



Turn Everyday Shopping into Everyday Giving!

Children's Miracle Network and nonprofitshoppingmall.com have teamed up and created a new Web site to help raise funds for the MeritCare Children's Hospital: ***shoppingformiracles.org***. Shop online for items and brands you would normally choose and buy. Over 255 brand-name merchants are available.

This is an easy way to give back to your Children's Hospital at no additional cost to you.

To get started:

1. Go to shoppingformiracles.org
2. Enter your zip code in the pop-up window (This will ensure that your donation goes to MeritCare Children's Hospital).
3. Select a merchant.
4. The retailer's Web site will open in a new window.
5. You are now ready to shop for miracles!
6. Thank you for your support!