As President of the On With Life Foundation Board, I am honored to share this year’s donor report. The Foundation has much to be thankful for, and the 753 supporters listed on the following pages are at the top of the list.

We are thankful for another great year of the On With Life Annual Fund. The program was introduced in 2017 as a way to recruit annual donations for our programs, and nearly $190,000 was given in unrestricted support in 2018. This allows the programs to spend the dollars on what is needed most, like supplies for the Family House, therapy equipment such as a tilt table, community outings to places such as an Iowa Cubs baseball game or the Iowa State Fair and gas cards for families who are not financially able to bring their loved ones to therapy.

The Circle of Life Society, a leadership giving designation, was also introduced as part of the Annual Fund. There were 36 inaugural Circle of Life members in 2017, and I am happy to report we exceeded our goal of 50 members in 2018 (see page 20 for a listing of members). We look forward to growing this society and the Annual Fund in the future.

We are also thankful for the significant progress made on the therapeutic grounds project on the Ankeny campus. The project to help transform 1.5 acres of green space into outdoor therapy space was fully funded with philanthropy, and we are excited to host a grand opening event in June. Stay tuned for more details!

Additionally, we are thankful that Libby Crimmings and Doug West have recently been elected as members of our board, and we are excited to have their service in this capacity.

Finally, as you review the listing of donors and volunteers included in this report, please know we are honored to have each and every contributor as a partner in our work of supporting survivors of brain injury, stroke or other neurological conditions. On With Life continues to take pride in being good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, and we thank you for your support of those we are privileged to serve.

Jeff Lamberti, JD, Board President
On With Life Foundation
Taking the time to celebrate the difference On With Life makes in the lives of others is important and reminds us of the mission our eight founding families established – to join hands, hearts and minds to help persons living with brain injury get On With Life.

With the support of honorary co-chairs Charlene and Don Lamberti, former persons served and important advocates for On With Life and the brain injury community, our fourth annual Celebrate Life event was held on September 28, 2018.

Nearly 250 supporters joined the journey that evening to help raise more than $100,000. Funds raised will directly support those On With Life is privileged to serve by enhancing the equipment and environment necessary to maximize rehabilitation success.

Attendees enjoyed wonderful food, therapy celebration stations, intriguing auction items and a meaningful program. On With Life also recognized three special individuals with awards at this year’s event.


Our first fundraising event in Glenwood was held on October 18, 2018, to support our long-term program. Approximately 50 attendees enjoyed wine from Vine Street Cellars and special music from Donnie Duysen. Guests purchased raffle tickets to win packages donated by many local businesses. More than $3,500 was raised to bring outdoor musical equipment to the Owl’s Nest, a sensory garden for persons served, families and staff to use.

We look forward to planning an annual fundraising event in Glenwood to begin in spring 2020.

Clockwise from top: Shari Gregory, Sybil Finken and Lori Woodrow; Brittany Wolfe and Zach Jackson; Diana Hoogestraat, Pat Stilwill and Jean Shelton; program during Sips. Sounds. Support.
The Keller Family

From the moment their son arrived at On With Life, the Keller family knew they had discovered a special place.

Joe Keller came to On With Life in 2007 after suffering a traumatic brain injury and a severe stroke caused by a car accident. He was served for four months in the Post-Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation program, where he made great strides toward getting back to the things he loved.

“During Joe’s rehabilitation and healing process, our family observed how God had given each staff person who worked with Joe a compassion to care for the individuals being served at On With Life,” said Jack Keller, Joe’s dad.

Joe’s lifelong passion for music translated into his therapy. Amy Bishop, On With Life’s music therapist, worked with Joe to incorporate playing and listening to music into his daily therapy routine. The Kellers credit music therapy with helping Joe reconnect with his loved ones and the world around him.

Because the Kellers were so moved by the passionate, individualized therapy Joe received, they have been giving back to On With Life since the beginning of his journey. After watching their son succeed and eventually walk out the door, they were eager to help other families in situations similar to their own. Their support has recently extended to the therapeutic grounds project in Ankeny, which includes an area full of outdoor music therapy equipment.

“Our family believes in supporting On With Life, as it is a way of giving back for what they did for our family as well as other families,” said Jack. “We are excited about the newly developed therapeutic grounds and how they will assist in rehabilitating persons served.”
Community State Bank

For years, Community State Bank has been a champion of On With Life’s mission.

Since 1993, the bank’s consistent support of fundraising events and initiatives has made a difference in the lives of persons served. This level of commitment is no accident – as Ankeny’s only original bank, they recognize how important it is to support organizations making an impact in the community.

“For Community State Bank, it’s not about just writing a check,” said Jennifer Canelos, Senior VP of Community State Bank. “We are meaningful in our giving and purposefully re-invest in ideas, organizations and people whose joy and passion comes from serving others and touching lives. Organizations like On With Life remind us that it is a privilege to give our time and resources to better the quality of life in Central Iowa.”

Community State Bank has supported On With Life’s Celebrate Life fundraising and recognition event each year it’s been held since 2015. Prior to that, the bank sponsored On With Life’s golf outing fundraiser and has blessed the organization with other donations through the years.

When asked why Community State Bank gives back to On With Life, Canelos mentioned that “On With Life is why we do what we do. When you consider the scope and breadth of their work, it affirms the organization is a vital part of our community. One would be hard-pressed to find a family that has not been touched by On With Life.”

Pam Otto

Pam Otto knows firsthand how difficult the holidays can be with a loved one receiving medical care. Her son, Chris, was served at On With Life in the early 1990s after developing a cyst on his brain stem due to radiation and chemotherapy treatments for a brain tumor.

When Chris passed away, it was Pam’s husband, Michael, who suggested they contribute to On With Life holiday parties to honor Chris. Thus began a special holiday tradition that has spanned the course of several years for Pam.

In 2018, Pam’s contribution supported multiple Christmas and New Year’s Eve parties for On With Life’s inpatient and residential programs. Her support even extended to an outing for persons served who were taken to Target for a shopping trip, where they were given funds to purchase holiday gifts for loved ones.

“I like to give for the holiday parties because I know it’s a worthwhile cause,” said Pam. “It’s something that the persons served can enjoy.”

After Michael passed away in 2015, Pam wanted to honor her husband through a gift to On With Life. She made a $10,000 memorial contribution toward the remodel of persons served rooms at On With Life’s Glenwood campus. The rooms were enhanced in order to better serve those in the long-term skilled care program.

The joy Pam has helped bring to persons served over the years has helped her keep the memories of Chris and Michael alive. “On With Life holds a special place in my heart,” she said. “I love continuing to give in Chris and Michael’s honor.”
OUR DONORS

The On With Life Foundation is grateful to the many individuals, corporations and foundations – those named below and those who have asked to remain anonymous – who supported On With Life’s mission through charitable donations and grants received between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2018. It is the Foundation’s goal to be 100% accurate in the spelling and inclusion of all contributors. If you have any questions or concerns about a listing, please contact the Foundation office at 515-289-9611 or by email at foundation@onwithlife.org. More information on ways to give can be found online at onwithlife.org/foundation.

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Ways to Give – Gifts to the On With Life Foundation can be made in person, online or through the mail and can include:

- Gifts made to the On With Life Annual Fund
- Gifts designated to a specific fund (for example, the Therapeutic Grounds campaign)
- Gifts in memory or in honor of friends or loved ones
- In-kind gifts benefitting our persons served/families or programs
- Employer-matched gifts
- Gift of stock or bequests in your will/estate plan
- Designating your United Way gifts to On With Life
- Sponsorship of our annual fundraising and recognition event
- Volunteering time

Thank you to those who gave through:

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Benefit Community Impact Fund
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State of Iowa One Gift Trust
United Way of Central Iowa
Wellmark Foundation
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Thank you to On With Life’s 2018 volunteers, a group of individuals who give unselfishly of their time and talents to the On With Life mission.

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Al Cole was recognized at Celebrate Life as the volunteer of the year.