

Medical Technology Endowment Fund for Community Hospital

New medical technologies are profoundly transforming healthcare, enabling us to live longer, better lives. Advances in genetics, information science, robotics, and nanotechnology are growing at a rapid pace and hold great promise for preventing, slowing and even curing our most troubling diseases.

It is imperative that we harness these new technologies to provide the best medical care - allowing the physicians and medical professionals of the Community Hospital in Munster, Indiana to recognize the possibilities and meet the challenges.



Such possibilities are being realized today as physicians and medical professionals of Community Hospital embrace new ideas. Physicians here have helped to pioneer new treatments, making it possible to prevent strokes in patients who could not undergo conventional surgery to clear blocked arteries. By participating in some of the early work to advance alternatives to prostate cancer surgery, patients in our community were among the first to benefit from new treatment choices. A patient bedridden for two years riddled with pain now sees possibilities for resumed activity and for others facing amputations, it is now possible to walk pain free again, thanks to new medical devices that clear blocked arteries in the leg. A grandmother can enjoy the simple pleasures of holding a baby again as new brain mapping technology makes it possible for surgeons to implant a computer chip to quell life-altering tremors. Tiny new pressure sensors implanted to monitor the health of patients undergoing treatment for aneurisms may in the very near future help patients with congestive heart failure remain out of the hospital, living a higher quality of life. New computer-aided surgery and imaging technology is making surgery safer, less invasive and possible for some of our sickest patients.

As new frontiers of medicine create new possibilities, Community Hospital is challenged to provide services to the area's growing population of elderly, the uninsured and underinsured - to contain costs and offer a high level of convenience and quality healthcare. While there appears to be no limit to what technology can accomplish, there are limits to the hospital's resources to acquire new medical equipment. Each year, Community Hospital is able to finance from its own resources only about one-third in requests for new equipment and capital improvements. Costs range as high as \$4 million for a cancer-fighting radiosurgery system to as low as an investment of \$100,000 for new ultrasound imaging technology to help surgeons spare nerves that control vital functions.

A gift to the Medical Technology Endowment Fund of Community Hospital will help ensure that area residents do not need to leave their community to realize the possibilities of advances being made in medicine today – and tomorrow. Gifts will help attract and retain physicians and medical professionals who are dedicated to using new knowledge to better the lives of everyone in our community. Gifts will speed progress and support innovation, offering new hope to patients. Today's gift is tomorrow's hope.
