



# Giving From The Heart

SUMMER 2023



## Wheeler Exceeds Original Goal, Extends Bristol Fundraising Campaign for 55th Anniversary

Wheeler Health has exceeded its original four-year fundraising campaign goal for its new Bristol health center and administrative headquarters two years ahead of schedule and is extending its goal to celebrate and honor its 55th anniversary in 2023.

Thanks to greater-than-normal support for its 2023 Wheeler Golf Classic, presented by Mutual of America, in September, the organization stands at an estimated \$520,000 as of June 30, 2023, or 93 percent to the new goal of \$555,000 in gifts and pledges over four years.

The campaign, publicly announced in February 2022, was launched through an initial pledge of \$100,000 from the Barnes Group Foundation during a silent fundraising phase, as well as a \$100,000 goal from Wheeler's Board of Trustees, and \$80,000 from Wheeler's senior and executive leadership. Since the launch, Wheeler has received donations from approximately 400 donors, from corporate employee giving campaigns to realized planned gifts. Particularly notable contributions include a gift from the Corsini and Brantner families to create a second named teaching kitchen for Wheeler's nutrition programming in honor of Raymond Corsini, Wheeler's longest-serving trustee, and an educational training center supported through a gift from the estate of Hall "Cap" Adams, Jr., a longtime investor in Wheeler's work.

In addition, a supporting named brick campaign is on track to have at least 100 bricks in place when the facility opens. Bricks are available for purchase through this summer, an extension based on construction timelines for the center. To purchase a brick, visit [WheelerHealth.org/BricksforHope](https://WheelerHealth.org/BricksforHope).

"The support from the Bristol community is amazing," said Sabrina Trocchi, PhD, MPA, president and CEO of Wheeler. "When One Hope Street opens, the community will have a state-of-the-art health center right in Centre Square, with 200 professionals working and shopping in the heart of the city."

Wheeler's 46,000-square-foot community health center and administrative headquarters will offer integrated primary and behavioral health care for all ages, treatment for substance use disorders, nutrition services, and much more. It is Wheeler's first newly constructed facility since 1972.

### INVEST IN BRISTOL TODAY!

Find details about this project, and many opportunities to make a difference, by scanning this QR code with your cell phone.





# COMMUNITY FOR 55 YEARS, DONORS LEAD THE WAY

As we celebrate 55 years of quality care, we are so thankful for the donors whose vision and generosity transformed our services and charted our course for the future.

## Fostering Health and Hope

The Brantner and Corsini Families are supporting a second Corsini Teaching Kitchen at One Hope Street, similar to the first Corsini Kitchen they created at our Hartford Family Health & Wellness Center. Both kitchens are in the memory of Ray Corsini, Wheeler's longest-serving trustee and passionate advocate for healthy food.

## Inspiring Innovation

In 2015, Peter and Mary Fran Libassi made a commitment to bestow a \$500,000 legacy gift to Wheeler, which established the Libassi Endowment Fund for Innovation. Through this fund, staff-created ideas have bloomed, from alternative medicine, to new LGBTQIA+ services, better support for patients throughout their care, and more.

## Supporting the LGBTQIA+ Community

In 2021, a \$100,000 gift from an anonymous donor funded the creation of Walk With Me, an outpatient program through our Family Health & Wellness Centers in Waterbury, Plainville, and Hartford for LGBTQIA+-identifying individuals, ages 10-25.

## Basic Needs Fund

Wheeler's Basic Needs Fund started in 2018 as a way to help patients, students, and their families with unexpected and pressing basic needs of life. Since its inception, and with the support of more than 250 donors, nearly 8,400 individuals have been served.

## Funding for Fitness

In 2020, an anonymous donor gave \$10,000 to Wheeler and pledged to match up to \$5,000 more, to show improvement in health outcomes through fitness and exercise. Nearly \$8,000 was raised through a matching gift challenge, exceeding the \$5,000 goal by 60 percent. The original donor then matched the full \$8,000 amount. A total of \$26,000 was raised to support patient fitness and wellness, including gym memberships, personal coaching, and more.

## Fresh Produce for Families

Patients at Wheeler's five community health centers have access to farm-fresh produce from late spring through early fall, thanks to support from The Friends of Holcomb Farm through their Fresh Access Program. Since 2018, the Farm has provided more than 52,000 pounds of healthy produce to Wheeler for patient distribution and use at the Corsini Teaching Kitchen in Hartford.

## The Samuel Marszycki Scholarship

The Samuel Marszycki Scholarship honors a former paraprofessional at Northwest Village School who passed away in June 2020. It was established by family and friends in 2021 in his memory and is supported through donations and the annual Sam-O Scramble Golf Tournament. The scholarship helps support a graduating NVS senior, and the 2023 scholarship was awarded to a student with plans to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.



## HEALTH SUPPORT FOR LGBTQIA+ SERVICES



*Many thanks to the Connecticut Community Foundation's Pride in the Hills Fund for awarding us a grant to support our Walk With Me program. This grant helps to fund the work of a peer support specialist, as well as enhancement and expansion of parent/caregiver services for LGBTQIA+ families. Pictured are representatives from Wheeler and the Foundation's Pride in the Hills Fund.*



# CARE HEARTFELT THANKS TO ...

**Wheeler Trustee Francis Vincent** and his fitness community who chose Wheeler as a beneficiary of their recent West Hartford Peloton Charity Challenge. Contributions support our Basic Needs Fund, our Bristol Family Health & Wellness Center, and more.



The enthusiastic volunteers from **M&T Bank** who helped beautify the grounds of our 91 Northwest Drive facility in Plainville as part of the United Way of West Central Connecticut Day of Caring this past spring.

Friends and family of **Lorraine Corsini** for their support of an extraordinary woman and family. Visit [WheelerHealth.org/Giving](http://WheelerHealth.org/Giving) to make your donation.



A new sponsor of our 38th Annual Golf Classic, Grand Prize Sponsor **Liberty Bank**, and **Mott Corporation** for your Snack Bag sponsorship, a new level and form of support for this event!



## LEADERS, FRIENDS & MUCH MORE



On June 21, the Libassi family announced the passing of Mary Fran Libassi, who was predeceased in the fall of 2022 by her husband, Peter. The Libassis were responsible for Wheeler's success through many strategically vital roles. Mary Fran, a

former social worker and professor at the UConn School of Social Work, served on the Wheeler Board of Trustees for many years and as chair. She and Peter established the Mary Fran Libassi Education and Training Fund to support education and training of social work students and Wheeler professionals. In 2015, the Libassis bestowed a \$500,000 legacy gift, which established the Libassi Endowment Fund for Innovation to advance innovative approaches to care and service delivery. Read past and present Wheeler leaders' reflections on the Libassis. Visit the "News from Wheeler" section of our website.

## PLAN YOUR GIFT

A planned gift to Wheeler through a bequest, charitable lead trust, gifts of life insurance, and more, can provide a legacy of care for the individuals and families we serve today and tomorrow. Scan the code to the right to learn more about planned giving options.



## 2023-2024 Annual Fund

YOUR support, YOUR commitment,  
YOUR vision can change,  
and literally save, lives.

Yes! I want to support:

- Bristol Health & Wellness Center \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Basic Needs Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Basic Needs Fund, Northwest Village School \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Where my gift is needed most \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my total gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed  
(Please make payable to Wheeler)

Please charge my donation to:

- Visa  Mastercard  Discover  AmEx

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Account Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date      Security Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

My gift is in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify: \_\_\_\_\_

My employer will match my contribution.

I have enclosed a matching gift form.

I am interested in Planned Giving.

**Mail using the enclosed envelope to:**

Wheeler  
Office of Philanthropic Giving  
91 Northwest Drive  
Plainville, CT 06062

Or scan this QR code with your cell phone to make a donation.





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Join us on September 13, 2023

[WheelerHealth.org/GolfClassic](https://WheelerHealth.org/GolfClassic)

