



Dear friends,

Thanks to incredible support from Pauley Society donors like you, in the last fiscal year the VCU Health Pauley Heart Center saw more than \$3.5 million in gifts to the unrestricted fund that advances groundbreaking research, supports exceptional patient care and trains the next generation of physician-scientists. Your donations are a vital part of Pauley’s success and I cannot thank you enough for your steadfast commitment. Pauley would not be the number one heart hospital in Virginia and a leader in prevention without you.

With gratitude,

**MITCH HADDON**

PAULEY SOCIETY  
ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

## Donor Campaign Surges, Enabling Williamsburg Clinic to Acquire Heart Health Equipment

**WHEN THE PAULEY HEART CENTER EXPANDED** its clinical operation to support the Williamsburg community in 2021, residents gained local access to heart health assessments and chronic disease management as well as risk reduction assessment and management.

To ensure their ability to best serve patients, the clinical team identified advanced screening tools — such as echocardiography machines, CPET and stress testing equipment — that would enhance patient care. Because gifts made through the Pauley Society are unrestricted and available to meet Pauley’s most pressing needs, center leaders were able to direct more than \$216,000 to purchase the cardiac equipment vital to caring for our patients.



Bob and Margaret Hershberger understood the importance of this equipment. “We are glad to learn that our gift through the Pauley Society supported this effort,” said the Williamsburg couple. “We were impressed to learn how the new equipment will offer local patients access to state-of-the-art care within their community without the need to drive to a neighboring city.”

“I am heartened by the support of this community,” said Hem Bhardwaj, M.D. “The new equipment heralds a game-changing advantage for patients, enabling us to deliver accessible, timely and continuous cardiac care that optimizes patient outcomes. The new equipment will support patients from our greater Williamsburg area and the Hampton Roads region with preventive and diagnostic testing – and that frees space at the VCU Medical Center in Richmond for our more complex patients.”

Thanks to unrestricted donations, the Williamsburg clinic will begin using the new equipment this fall. ❤️

### PORTABLE ECHOCARDIOGRAM DEVICES

expand access to care in doctors’ offices, ambulances and remote areas. These devices average around \$7,000 – compared to \$250,000 for a traditional machine. Unrestricted gifts from the Pauley Society will enable the Pauley Heart Center to begin using portable echocardiogram devices at the VCU Medical Center this fall. ❤️





## Medical Students Educate Kids on Heart Health with Pauley Society Support

**TEACH BP**, a pilot program started in 2021 by researchers at the Pauley Heart Center, will expand into three Hopewell, Virginia, public elementary schools this fall. Partially underwritten by donations from the Pauley Society, the program will expand opportunities for over 300 children to learn about exercise, nutrition and generational change. The hands-on program, supported by student volunteers from VCU's schools of medicine, pharmacy and dentistry, will teach children how to take blood pressure and raise awareness at home about the benefit of preventive cardiovascular screenings. Data collected from the program will support efforts to identify future funding partners to expand the program throughout the commonwealth. ❤️

## Planned Gift Strengthens Pauley Heart Center's Future

**LEE GRIFFIN, M.D.**, a retired physician, understands the significance of investing in clinical innovation. His journey with the Pauley Heart Center began with the exceptional care he received from Vigneshwar Kasirajan, M.D. This connection ignited Dr. Griffin's passion to support other patients, and he began making annual donations to the center through the Pauley Society.

Over time, Dr. Griffin's admiration for Dr. Kasirajan and the vital work of the center expanded into a profound commitment. Recognizing the immense potential of the Pauley Heart Center, he decided to make plans in his estate for a transformative gift. Dr. Griffin's decision represents his unwavering belief in the center's mission and his desire to enhance patient care and medical advancements. Through Dr. Griffin's generosity, the Pauley Heart Center is poised to embrace a new era of excellence. ❤️

Are you interested in leaving an estate gift to the Pauley Heart Center?

*Contact us at:*  
[PauleyHeartDevelopment@vcuhealth.org](mailto:PauleyHeartDevelopment@vcuhealth.org)

Thank you for helping us fight heart disease. To learn more about these programs or to renew your commitment through the Pauley Society, contact Sarah Neely at (804) 628-8908 or [neelysb@vcu.edu](mailto:neelysb@vcu.edu)

## Pauley Society by the numbers

Fiscal Year 2023 (July 2022 - June 2023)

**\$3.5M\***

*raised this year in unrestricted giving through Pauley Society*

**\$11,370**

*average gift amount by Pauley Society donors*

**\$9.26M\***

*total raised for the Pauley Heart Center – their largest philanthropic year to date*

**143**

*Pauley Society donors*

**\$300K**

*in unrestricted gifts were invested in research activities at the Pauley Heart Center in FY23*

**53**

*first time Pauley Society donors*

\*Includes estate gifts.

**#1** Pauley Heart Center is the #1 Heart Hospital in Virginia for 2023 according to *U.S. News and World Report*.



**VCUHealth™**

Pauley Heart Center