Leaving the Charitable Pharmacy brings up many emotions, but the one I find myself returning to again and again is gratitude.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with so many of you over the past eleven years. You have enabled us to provide medication and pharmaceutical services to nearly 7,900 patients since opening in March 2010. Thank you for your dedication to our mission and to our patients who would not have had access to their prescription medications without your support.

I am grateful for our committed and engaged Board of Directors. Their capable leadership and vision, especially during the past 15 months, helped us to adapt our operational model quickly and efficiently while ensuring that we remained mission-driven. I deeply appreciate their support and encouragement.

Our volunteers have always been a critical part of our operations. In 2020, the market value of donated inventory jumped from $6.7 million in 2019 to $10.3 million as a result of the pandemic, and all of it needed to be sorted. We couldn't have done it without them.

And, of course, our amazing staff. Their passion, dedication, expertise, and care for our patients never ceases to astonish me. When COVID landed in central Ohio last March, we added another workday to fill the exponential increase in prescriptions when we moved from 30- to 60-day supplies. We introduced telemedicine, which made our receptionist...
even more critical to patient service as she answered sometimes frantic phone calls. We split into two teams to ensure we could stay open if someone got sick and adapted to new, extensive protocols around cleaning and PPE.

That first week, we saw patients we hadn’t seen in years.

Yet, I never heard a complaint. They stepped up to meet the surge and still asked what else they could do. They held each other up and bonded in a way only comrades sharing a foxhole can, all while supporting and caring for an increased number of very sick and incredibly scared patients. In doing so, they inspired me to keep going as well.

As the new Director of Continuing Professional Development at The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy I will continue to work with our pharmacist residents. With the opening of the new Linden Community Pharmacy I believe the pharmacy is poised on the brink of a new era, and I am excited to see what the future holds. Thank you to all of you for making it possible.

With warm regards,

Jennifer Seifert, MS, RPh, BCGP

“I don’t know what to say. You saved my life, and may God bless you.”

When I first spoke with Denise over the phone she said, "I am turning 65 in seven days and it feels like everything is falling apart."

She was running out of an immunosuppressant drug for her kidney transplant, had lost her insurance, and did not know what to do or where to go when a friend told her about the Charitable Pharmacy. When we first met she said, "I've never missed a day taking my medication. I take it religiously and now I've lost my job and my insurance, and I don't know what to do."

After assuring her that I would help her figure it out and that she was not alone, I confirmed that we had the medication in stock and came back to the phone to let her know she could pick it up the next day. She took a deep breath and said, "I don't know what to say. You saved my life, and may God bless you.”

-Charitable Pharmacy Advanced Pharmacy Intern

Please help us ensure individuals like Denise have access to their medications. ★ Make your gift today at www.charitablepharmacy.org/donate.
New Linden Community Pharmacy Opens in July!

After putting construction on hold last year due to the pandemic, we are eager to finally open the new Linden Community Pharmacy this July. To our knowledge, it is the first charitable pharmacy to be co-located with a fresh food market under one roof. As pharmacists, we know how critical a healthy diet can be as a complement to a regular medication regimen. The new location will allow us to write prescriptions for food and then send patients down the hall to "fill" them.

Pharmacist Sarah Jones, RPh, (pictured) will lead the effort as the new Pharmacy Manager at Linden while Pharmacist Ronni Ehlers, RPh, will manage operations at our Livingston location as the new Pharmacy Manager there. Both began their careers as pharmacist residents at the Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio.

Be on the lookout for a Grand Opening invitation in August. We hope to see you there!

To ensure you receive a timely invitation to the August Grand Opening Celebration, go to www.charitablepharmacy.org and sign up to receive our e-newsletters.

Rx Riders Returns - September 11, 2021

On September 11, 2021, the Charitable Pharmacy's Rx Riders fundraiser will roll again!

After cancelling last year's event due to the pandemic, we are excited to invite you back. This year's event will look a little different as we are going virtual, so you can ride anytime you want that day and as far as your wheels will take you.

Registration is $50 and will go to provide medication and pharmaceutical services for our patients with breathing disorders like asthma and COPD.

Register now at http://weblink.donorperfect.com/RxRiders2021. We’ll be in touch with more information soon. In the meantime, if you have a question please email Event Chair Jim Donnan at jdonnan2003@yahoo.com.
Development Director Melanie Boyd Retires

We bid a fond farewell to Development Director Melanie Boyd, who is retiring at the end of June. Boyd joined the pharmacy in early 2014 and spent the next seven years laying the foundation for and growing the pharmacy's development program.

"As so many of you know personally, Melanie is a passionate advocate for the pharmacy", Executive Director Jenni Seifert said. “She has driven our mission, told our story, engaged donors and cared for our patients tirelessly. We are so fortunate to call her friend and team member, and we wish her and her husband fabulous adventures in retirement.”

"People sometimes ask me how I can stand to ask people for money," Boyd said. "I'm always surprised because that's not really what I do. I offer people an opportunity to heal the world, and the generosity of those people—especially in the face of COVID—has inspired me every day.”

Boyd has served a number of organizations both as a staff member and consultant, but she holds a special place in her heart for the Charitable Pharmacy,

“As the sole caretaker for both of my parents before they passed, I know just how important access to prescription medication is, especially for our vulnerable seniors. I remain in awe of the dedication and skill of this incredible staff and it has been my honor to serve alongside them. I will always be one of the Charitable Pharmacy’s biggest fans.”

Livingston Avenue Building Reopens to Patients

Following Governor Mike Dewine's lifting of the State of Emergency orders earlier this month, we have moved to a hybrid model of patient consultation that includes curbside pickup, telemedicine, and face-to-face. Between March 2020 and June 2021, we qualified 797 new patients who have never had the opportunity to sit down with a pharmacist or advanced pharmacy intern one-on-one. Those personal interactions lie at the heart of our healthcare philosophy, and both staff and patients are excited to resume the practice.