

SANDS-CONSTELLATION HEART INSTITUTE TALKING POINTS

Summary

When you give in support of the Sands-Constellation Heart Institute, you're ensuring that people throughout our region have ***access to nationally recognized cardiologists and the best technology – so they have the best chance for a healthier life.***

Positive impact

To offer the best care, medical staff need access to specialized imaging and the most recent research and education.

For example, adding a nuclear computed tomography (CT) hybrid camera will allow doctors to properly diagnose patients with amyloidosis without the need for a heart biopsy. Cardiologists already diagnose 100 to 150 patients a year, but they suspect thousands of people have abnormal protein build up that interferes with how their organs function. With this specialized camera, diagnosing the disease is easier and safer, and it helps get patients moving in a healthier direction more quickly.

Patients will also benefit from the acquisition of a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine to help alleviate wait times for this type of cardiac testing; an increase in the number critical care beds for heart patients; and an update to the da Vinci robotic surgical platform to improve access to highly specialized surgeries, with fewer risks.

The urgency and importance

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men, women, and people of most racial and ethnic groups in the United States. In fact, about 655,000 Americans die from heart disease each year. That's roughly one in every four deaths, and the numbers are projected to keep growing.

Investing in research, innovation and leading-edge equipment and technology not only influences the treatments that are available today, but for generations to come.

Investments

Projects to help the patients at the Sands-Constellation Heart Institute include:

- updating and expanding Unity's EP Lab (\$3 million) and adding a new EP lab at RGH (\$4 million)
- purchasing an MRI machine (\$2 million)
- increasing the number of critical care beds by 16 (\$10 million)
- adding a nuclear CT hybrid camera (\$250,000)
- updating its da Vinci surgical platform (\$2 million)