

# LUDHIANA CMC BOARD USA REVIEW

VOLUME 12 #1 | WINTER 2024-2025

Ludhiana Christian Medical College Board USA, Inc.

## MESSAGE FROM THE NEW BOARD PRESIDENT



I feel very honored and humbled in following Dr. Elizabeth Paul as the Board Chair. We all owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her dedication over the many years that she has been a part of this Board. She has contributed her resources and provided sound advice and guidance to us “young ‘uns”. She has assured me that she will continue to remain an active member and I look forward to working with her.

Speaking as an alum, CMC is my alma mater, I hope that all fellow alumni and other friends will continue to share your ideas and thoughts about Ludhiana. It is my intention to visit CMC at least yearly (or until I am not able to travel) and will share that news with you. These are tumultuous times both in India and USA. CMC will obviously be affected, and we hope that we can assist the institution as it moves on into the 2nd century of its existence and the work it does in Ludhiana.

As you will see from the ED report, we have been active last year - our assistance to CMC Ludhiana has provided funds for several projects. We have also funded Scholarships of over \$41K to support the College of Medicine, the College of Nursing and the College of Dentistry.

We are deeply grateful for all your support, generosity and good wishes. There is much need there and we encourage you to remember us in your year-end giving plans. I look forward to hearing from all of you, and your support will enable us to do more and be good stewards of our resources.

*Yours in service,*

Guralp S Bhuller MD (Class of 1968)



Front of the new multi-purpose building at CMC.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

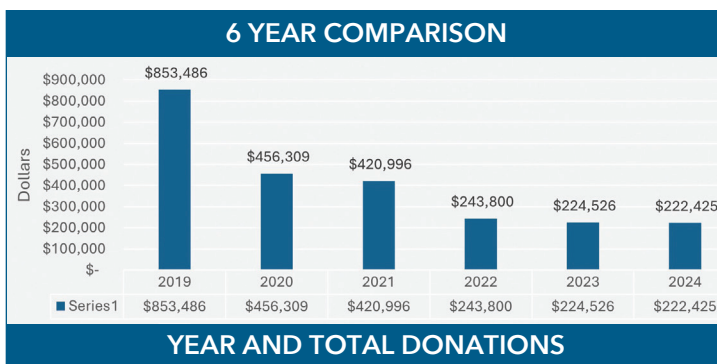
– by Cate Whitcomb, Executive Director

The Board has worked on funding several projects this year with plans for future funding under discussion. A major report was prepared by Dr. Bhuller and Dr. Legha, renaming and realigning some of the funds in light of changes at CMC and the intentions of the donor. In all there are 19 funds donated by various individuals over the years for specific uses. The total funds are \$4,915,868 on December 4, 2024. The new portfolio managers, as of September of 2023, when Mangham Associates merged with Heritage Wealth continue to provide excellent support and advice regarding our investments.

## THE BOARD VOTED TO FUND THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS AT CMC THIS YEAR

Chapel Roof Repair	\$ 33,500
Medicine resuscitation equipment	\$ 21,900
Sarai Project (patient family housing)	\$ 12,000
Scholarships: Medical, Nursing & Dental	\$ 41,209
One Generator Set	\$ 50,000
Liposuction equipment	\$ 40,000
Krishnan Award	\$ 320
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$198,929</b>

Below is the comparison of giving over the past seven years. The 2019 and 2020 totals are exceptionally large as the Rev. and Mrs. Dosch left a legacy gift of almost \$750,000 over those years. It reminds us of how important planned giving is to an organization.



The budget for 2023 was approved by the Board as \$70,365. The actual amount spent on the administration of the organization in 2023 was \$56,025.

The Executive Director, Dr. Cate Whitcomb, attended the Board of Governors meeting in Ludhiana on March 8 in person. She spent a week at CMC visiting the areas where funds had been donated and meeting with various members of the staff. She attended the September Board of Governors remotely on Zoom.

Members of the Board, along with staff at CMC, under guidance from an experienced ASHA consultant, (American Schools and Hospitals Abroad), completed a detailed Phase II application for a grant to CMC. We had submitted the Phase I application in December 2023 and received the invitation to submit the Phase II application in early April. The application was for a lecture hall building at CMC, complete with all the newest teaching technologies, totaling \$1,447,336. Although we thought it was a thorough and deserving application it was not funded. We will probably re-apply when the next opportunity is published by the State Department.

*Once again, we appeal to all CMC alumni and other donors to give a generous year-end gift, which will go a long way to help our upgrade efforts for the various departments at the CMC Hospital.*

## OUR MISSION

We are a non-profit organization formed to support and promote excellence in medical education and healthcare services at CMCL for the people of Punjab and India regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender or age.

The Board, inspired by the legacy of the founder of CMCL Dame Edith Brown, supports the institution by financing specific state-of-the-art service and research projects, and scholarships for deserving students.

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

### Cherry Mathew, MD



**Dr. Mathew** is from the state of Kerala and completed his medical studies (batch of 1968) at Christian Medical College, Ludhiana. After completing a year of senior house surgery at Vellore, Tamil Nadu, he immigrated to the US in 1975. He did a two year residency in Psychiatry at Hackensack Hospital in the state of New Jersey and subsequently completed a three year residency in Neurology at the College of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey as well. After completing his residency physician training,

he moved his family to Lufkin in the suburbs of Houston, Texas, where he started a private practice in general neurology in 1981.

Dr. Mathew has 44 years experience in clinical neurology with special interests in sleep medicine. He has served in various capacities within the local Lufkin medical community, including Chief of Psychiatry and Neurology services and developing the acute stroke programs in Deep East Texas. He currently serves as the medical director of the stroke program at Woodland Heights Hospital in Lufkin. Dr. Mathew is retired from active office practice, however, he continues to provide services as a neurology consultant to the community hospitals. He works in collaboration with his son, also a neurologist, who joined his practice in 2011.

Dr. Mathew is an active member of the American Academy of Neurology, Texas Neurological Society, Texas Medical Association, and All Kerala Medical Graduates Association. He is board certified in Neurology and Sleep Medicine by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Dr. Mathew strongly believes in giving back to his alma mater to show his appreciation and support for the institution that provided the foundation for his education and helped launch his career. He helped create an Endowed Chair which bears his name in the Neurology department at CMC Ludhiana. This funding allows for tremendous support of the department and provides its students with valuable learning opportunities. In addition, Dr. Mathew's contributions in conjunction with his classmates in the batch of 1968 were instrumental in renovating the Sarai guest house for the benefit of patients and their families during their hospital stays.



Warmest wishes for a  
blessed & joyful Christmas  
to all the friends of  
Ludhiana CMC

## BOARD MEMBERS

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## HISTORY CORNER: DR. KASUYOSHI “KAZ” KAWATA 1924-2023

– by Cate Whitcomb, Executive Director



As the five year’s anniversary of my position as Executive Director has passed, I realize I am beginning to be part of the history of CMC and of the US Board. But my personal history with Ludhiana begins far beyond these 5 years. My grandfather, Dr. Elmer Whitcomb was serving as a mission doctor in Chhattisgarh in 1947. When word of the carnage taking place at the new border between India and West Pakistan reached him, he took male

nurses and drove the over 1000 miles (1700 kilometres) to provide whatever medical assistance he could. He joined a group of other mission doctors working out of Ludhiana CMC in their healing ministry. (I have an account of those events written by Dr. Don Rice which will be another story in the history corner in another newsletter.) Throughout my childhood in India I was acquainted with many of the mission doctors and their families from Ludhiana, Dr. Garst, Dr. Feierabend, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Eggleston, Dr. Rice as well as being close friends with members of the Pickett family. We are remembering Dr. Kawata because he passed away on January 12, 2023.

Dr. Kazuyoshi Kawata was born in Portland, OR in 1924 to Takaji and Masano Kawata. They were Japanese American and had been sent to an internment camp at the beginning of WWII. When the War Department lifted the ban on Nisei (Americans of Japanese descent) from joining the armed forces, he joined the army and served in Europe in three major battles. He was discharged in 1946 with the rank of Technical Sergeant.

After the war he earned a B.A. and M.A. in civil engineering. Dr. Kawata and his wife Marion were sent as Methodist missionaries to India in 1951. His son Ray reports:

*His engineering and public health backgrounds were of great value to his work and were put to good use in service to the people of India. There were numerous construction, water supply, and waste water management projects which he supervised*

*and he also taught in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine of the Christian Medical College in Ludhiana, the Punjab.*

Of importance to CMC is that Dr. Melvin Augustus Casberg, 12 years after partition in 1959, was named the head of the hospital. The board and management had realized it was essential to build a new, modern hospital, to be named the Brown Memorial Hospital and began work in 1949, but by 1959 it was still not complete, and construction had come to a halt. Dr. Casberg, hearing of Dr. Kawata’s civil engineering and public health training, asked him to take over the construction and completion of Phase I of the new 400 bed hospital. Dr. Kawata has written a detailed description of what was required to restart the construction, including settlement of court cases and inventories of all the contractor’s equipment. With more than a few obstacles, Dr. Kawata successfully completed the hospital building, with the help of Mr. Khosla the project architect. All of us who live and work at the hospital today owe Dr. Kawata a huge debt of gratitude. His devotion to the task and the ability to guide the process until it was complete was a true blessing. The “hidden figures” behind what we take for granted must be acknowledged.

After retiring from the Methodist mission and his many contributions in the Punjab and in Ludhiana, Dr. Kawata joined the public health faculty at Johns Hopkins University and retired as a full professor in 1986.



L-R: graduating medical student, Dr. Don Rice and Dr. Kaz Kawata after convocation ceremony.

# THE ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION ENTERS THE 21ST CENTURY

– by Cate Whitcomb, Executive Director

Three years ago we began to support the urgently needed upgrade of the electrical substation. You will perhaps recall the photos of the old equipment, in a substation that was functioning but there were periodic fires and other failures. Thanks to many donors who supported the upgrades needed. Shown here is the appearance of the new equipment, fully installed and providing reliable service to the hospital since June of 2023. The Board

sent a total of \$250,000 to see this accomplished which completed Phase I and II of the project. There was still remaining Phase III in which 2 last pieces of equipment were required. This year the Board contributed \$50,000 for one of the 2 generator sets still needed. Although none of the Board members could be present at the inauguration ceremony, Dr. Sewa Legha did visit in the fall of 2022 and is shown here with Dr. William Bhatti, Director, Dr. Legha in the center, and Mr. Sharanpreet Gill, Superintendent of Maintenance while work was in progress.



L-R: Dr. William Bhatti, Hospital Director, Dr. Sewa Singh Legha, past Board President, Sharanpreet Gill, Director of Maintenance



Electrical Generators from the 1970's were all replaced.



New panels operating generators.



Thanks for donations from all our contributors!



# SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT IS ALWAYS NEEDED

– by Cate Whitcomb, Executive Director

Scholarships to support the students of CMC were established many years ago by donors who saw that facilitating the studies of medical, nursing and dental students was a way to ensure health care for many, many people all over India. Those donors with foresight years ago are continuing to help numerous students at CMC. But, and here is the reminder, it is important that we continue to grow the scholarship program. You can make a donation for any of the scholarship funds –

1. Dr. Dorothy Barbo Medical Scholarship
2. Maud Reynolds Nursing Scholarship
3. College of Dentistry Scholarship

In 2021 the number of medical students being admitted each year was increased from 75 to 100 making that many



## MEDICAL STUDENTS 2023

**Back Row R-L:** Shirley Grace Peters, Urmila Kumari, Aayushi Parihar, Amy Elizabeth Georgee, Kartik Dadwal, Ayush Sharma, Glory Smily, Jemie Soundarya, V. Miriam M. Orchid, Agna Varghese, NOT pictured, Jacob Anugrah Hall, Yoel Rao, Ashwin Stephens, Joanna Susan Mathew, Jyoti Bharti.  
**Front row L-R:** Staff: Dr. Abhilasha Williams, Dr. Jeyaraj Pandian, Dr. William Bhatti, Dr. Catherine Whitcomb, Dr. Shereen Varghese



## PANWALKER SCHOLARS 2023

**Back row R-L:** Students: Anagha Kuriakose, Dhanya Sara Thomas, Sibyl Sharon, Karen Sagayan **Front row L-R:** Staff: Dr. Abhilasha Williams, Dr. Jeyaraj Pandian, Dr. William Bhatti, Dr. Catherine Whitcomb, Dr. Shereen Varghese (NOT pictured: Himanshi Arora, Pranav Bansal, Mehak Bansal, Bobby Chungath, Joyti Bharti, Komal Chandra)

more students potentially eligible for scholarships. Our goal is to increase each of these funds by \$10,000 each this year – made up from all the gifts that will be received. You can also make a donation of \$25,000 and set up a scholarship designated as your named gift. Dr. Anand Panwalker, batch of 1967, has done that and each year a group of medical students are awarded Panwalker Scholarships.

There is an ever increasing need for medical professionals in India. The students from CMC practice in some of the poorest parts of India, where health care is urgently needed. You are encouraged to be part of expanding essential the health services all over India. **Be part of the solution!**

Equipment and devices wear out,  
but a life of service endures.

## MARY FEIERABEND GIRARD VISITS CMC WITH SON JOEL

– by Cate Whitcomb, Executive Director

The youngest daughter of Dr. Ted Feierabend who founded the plastic surgery department at Ludhiana CMC visited in October 2023 with her son Joel. In the image to the right, she is shown with her son and Dr. William Bhatti, Director of the hospital in the history center at the hospital. They are holding the 125th commemoration book with Dr. Brown's picture on the cover. Her son, since visiting, has decided to go into Occupational Therapy after visiting the OT department in Ludhiana. Ms. Girard will be joining the CMC Board USA in January of 2025.



## APPRECIATING OUR DONORS 2022 – 2024

*We gratefully acknowledge all the donors who have contributed to the Ludhiana CMC Board in the past 3 years. The benefit to the hospital and the students who received scholarships has been great. We thank you very sincerely. Special thanks to donors who make planned gifts through their wills – truly magnificent gestures of long-lasting impact.*

### **\$25,000 AND ABOVE**

Barbo, Dorothy  
Chacko, Mariam  
Jain, Dharam Pal  
Krishnan, S. Gopal & Elizabeth Gopa  
Paul, Elizabeth  
Sarin, Susan  
United Women in Faith  
Whitcomb, Catherine

### **\$24,999 - 10,000**

5Rivers Foundation  
Anand, Harish  
Legha, Sewa  
Ogburn, Richard  
Singh, Surinderjit & Sukhjiwan  
Toor, Pritam S.  
United Methodist, Board of Global Ministries

### **\$9,999 - 5,000**

Ananthakrishnan, Chittur & Ms. Chittur  
Bansal, Parvesh  
Chandar, Krishan & Sneha  
Deaton, Hubert  
Forbat, Andrew  
Gill, Sarjit & Primaljit  
Krishnan, Elizabeth & S.G.  
Marble, Max R.  
Mathews, Daniel  
Schnabel Fund

### **\$4,999 - 1,000**

Badke, MD, Frederick R.  
Bengel, John  
Bhagal, Madhu & Rabinder  
Bhuller, Gurpal  
Breakey, Dr. & Mrs. William  
Brown's Church  
Cobb, Susan  
Crowell, Edward & Mrs. Edward  
Frishmuth, Gertrude  
Hall, Virginia, MD  
Harris, Lorraine M.  
Holmes, Theodore & Paula  
Ihani, Aziz

Jayachandran, Asha  
Jerath, Ravinder & Rita  
Lesser, Charlotte  
Lesser, Russell  
Mathen, S.K. & Lalitha  
Mathew, Cherry  
Mathew, Sophia  
Reznicek, Richard  
Salsgiver, Thomas  
Setia, Gita and Deepak  
Shafer, Byron  
Shaw, Mary Ann  
Singh, Anup K.  
Thomas, Mathew Roy  
UMC, Menomonie  
UMC, Young's  
United Methodist Church, Maple Springs  
Weiss, Clara Fund

### **\$999 AND BELOW**

Alexander, Alfred  
Anderson, Joel  
Andrew, Irmgard S.  
Bajpai Deepchand & Dolly  
Barnett, Carol  
Baumgardner, Maralee  
Bose, Eliezer  
Brar, Narinder Kaur  
Brooks, Carla & Donald  
Dreyer, Fredrick  
Family of Christ Women  
Finch, Oliver T  
First United Methodist of Gonzales  
Frishmuth, Margaret  
FUMC of Nevada  
Galloway, Janet A.  
Hartranft, Pat  
Hatch, Dorothy  
Hinz, Roland  
Horton, Dorothy Roy  
Iuka United Methodist Church  
Jakylovich, Patricia  
Kawata, David  
Kawata, Kazuyoshi  
Layton, Mayla

Lt. Colonel  
Lubben, Georgia  
Mahal, Mona  
Mahal, Sharan  
Mani, Korah & Shobha  
McCombs, Carolyn & Robert  
Menon, Sumittra  
Missouri United Methodist Foundation  
Monn, Barbara A.  
Naidu, Ajanta  
National Financial Services  
Nonnenberg, June  
Oommen, Brian  
Osborne, Lori  
Page, Dan & Linda  
Patterson, LaVonnie  
Phyllis Bowers Endowment  
Rogasner, Margorie  
Sangster, Susan  
Sare, Harold  
Sethi, Pradeep  
Singal, Sudarshan K.  
Sollenberger, Jr., Floyd S.  
St. John's UMC, Hegins  
Steinhaus, Otto & Carolyn  
Susilo, Supto  
Trinity UMC, Hummelstown  
Turner, Tony V.  
UMC, Edinburg  
UMC, Saranac  
UMCOR  
United Methodist Church Travis Park  
United Methodist Church Almaden Hills  
United Methodist Church of the Shepherd  
United Methodist Foundation - CA NV  
United Methodist Women, Harrisonville  
Van Kirk, Nancy I  
Vreeland, Richard  
Wallegghem, Erwin Van  
Watkins, Shirley  
Wonderlich, Michael  
Wopata, Susan

**THANK YOU**

## Ludhiana CMC Board USA

PO Box 6275  
Evanston, IL 60204

## THE MANY WAYS TO GIVE



- **BY CHECK** payable directly to the Ludhiana CMC Board USA, and mail it to PO Box 6275, Evanston, IL 60204.
- **ONLINE** United Methodist Global Ministries web page for Ludhiana at this link: [tinyurl.com/43sckbz4](https://tinyurl.com/43sckbz4)
- **PAYPAL** or **CREDIT CARD** at Friends of Ludhiana website at [www.folus.org](http://www.folus.org) and click on Donate. *(Please note: PayPal is convenient, but it retains 2.2% of you donation for their fee.)*

**BE SURE TO CHECK WITH YOUR EMPLOYER TO SEE IF THEY MATCH CHARITABLE DONATION.**

**YOU CAN ALSO MAKE A LASTING CONTRIBUTION IN THE WAYS LISTED BELOW.**

- **RECURRING GIFT** set up through your investment advisor or bank
- **PLANNED GIFT** through your will, cash, securities, property, insurance policies, etc
- **ENDOWMENT** of a minimum of \$50,000 that will provide funding through the years for a project you select or in support of a specific program
- **CONTRIBUTION** toward the Board's endowment fund goals

*Whatever you can give will be gratefully accepted and you will have the satisfaction of knowing you have supported a cause which benefits thousands.*

The Board is a 501 (c) 3 public charity and your gifts are tax deductible for the purposes of U.S. Income Tax.