

# MEET BVHS BOARD MEMBER

## Dr. Richard Polder

If you visit the home of Dr. Richard Polder, the backyard may catch your eye. Nestled in the lush foliage and beautifully appointed landscaping is a two story playhouse with remarkable likeness to a full-size home. With yellow siding, crisp white trim and a cozy porch, the house could be mistaken for a neighborhood dwelling, apart from its height restriction for those taller than five and a half feet. The playhouse is just one of many projects completed at the hands of this physician, community volunteer, BVHS board member and craftsman.

Dr. Polder has a penchant for working with his hands. Beyond the playhouse crafted for his children, he has masterfully designed and brought to life a variety of props throughout the years. "When my daughter was in the Silver Blades skating club, I created a lot of the props for their shows," Dr. Polder explained. Recently, he also took part in converting his backyard into a carnival for the annual Blanchard Valley Health Foundation Legacy Society party – complete with giant popcorn buckets, life-size strong man and lion tamer cut-outs, and a variety of carnival games all constructed by Dr. Polder.

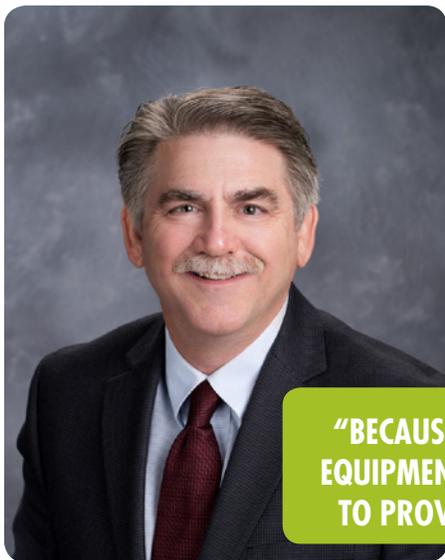
Perhaps it's this same love for creating dazzling works of art that inspires Dr. Polder's love of medicine. As a surgeon, he continually uses his hands to provide a healing touch to those in need of medical care. "I knew I had an interest in surgery before I went to medical school and that never wavered," he explained. "I worked as a surgical assistant before medical school and took that love for surgery with me as I completed my training in Columbus."

Following his training, Dr. Polder chose to practice in Findlay, where he has remained for nearly three decades. He affectionately refers to his office, Findlay Surgical Associates, as the Bermuda Triangle. "Our employees come in and never go out!" he said. "We have staff members with 50 years of experience." Truth be told, Dr. Polder wouldn't choose to be anywhere else.

Navigating to Hancock County by way of his native Cleveland and then Columbus was the work of fellow practice member Dr. Eric Browning. "He and I were in the same residency program, and he settled in Findlay a couple of years before I finished my training," Dr. Polder explained. "He suggested I join him, and when I looked at the medical staff, a group that is unique for a community this

size in being so well trained with extraordinarily high-quality physicians, it was a huge draw. I've now been practicing here for 27 years."

Dr. Polder has been giving back to the community



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just as long. A believer in the power of philanthropy, he is the chairman of the Blanchard Valley Health Foundation Board where he supports BVHS through fundraising, community outreach and planning for the future. "I joined the Health Foundation Board because I believe in their work. Because of philanthropy, we have equipment and facilities that help us to provide state-of-the-art care. I also feel it's part of my duty as a member of the physician community," he said. Dr. Polder serves

as a member of the grants committee as well, helping to determine where grant funds can be best utilized for maximum community impact.

Being the chairman of the Health Foundation Board of Trustees also means Dr. Polder serves on the Blanchard Valley Health System Board of Trustees, where he is part of the quality committee. "I have a personal passion to work toward the highest quality possible at BVHS," he said. "Many people are probably unaware of the amount of behind-the-scenes work being done in monitoring our quality data, but we all take it very seriously and are working to continually improve."

Through both his professional life and volunteer commitment, Dr. Polder has a steady stream of projects continually in motion. If you can't find him in his office, at BVH or in his workshop creating his next masterpiece, you may find him on the water near his second home in Coldwater Lake, Michigan where he enjoys fishing and water skiing. He will often be alongside his wife, Susie, who also holds a passion for health care in her role as a school nurse at Whittier Primary School in Findlay, as well as their English Golden Retriever, Kiwi. The Polder's have four grown children – two boys and two girls – who have followed in their parents' footsteps finding successful careers of their own.

A man of many talents and passions, Dr. Richard Polder is without question an asset to Blanchard Valley Health System and the Findlay community. Through the work of his skillful hands, be it bringing an idea to life through metal or woodwork, healing patients through much needed surgical procedures or working to raise funds for BVHS, he is dedicated to the betterment of the community. Dr. Richard Polder is the epitome of servant leadership.