

# BENEVOLENT VOICE

A newsletter for donors and friends of Ascension Borgess Foundation, Ascension Borgess Allegan Foundation and Ascension Borgess-Lee Foundation

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Ascension Borgess  
Foundation

# Support patient care at Ascension Borgess hospitals

A donor-advised fund (DAF) can provide you with immediate tax benefits while making charitable giving easy for you.

**A DAF is like your own charitable investment account.** You make gifts from your DAF to organizations you care about, like Ascension Borgess Hospital, Ascension Borgess Lee Hospital or Ascension Allegan Hospital.

Your initial contribution of cash, stocks or mutual funds will get you an **immediate income tax deduction**. Once your DAF is established, you recommend which charities will receive grants from your fund.

You can also make a deferred gift through the DAF by **designating beneficiaries to receive any remaining assets** when your fund terminates.



Ascension Borgess Hospital



Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital



Ascension Borgess Allegan Hospital



Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. Ascension is one of the nation's leading non-profit and Catholic health systems, with a Mission of delivering compassionate, personalized care to all with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. In FY2023, Ascension provided \$2.2 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs. Ascension includes approximately 134,000 associates, 35,000 affiliated providers and 140 hospitals, serving communities in 19 states and the District of Columbia. Serving Michigan for nearly 150 years, Ascension provided over \$335 million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty in FY2023 across the state.

# The Borgess Bears program provides comfort to pediatric patients

Going to the hospital for any type of procedure for a young child can be frightening. Oftentimes what brings comfort to children during that time is embracing a favorite stuffed animal. Unfortunately due to sterilization and infection protocol, those favorite stuffed animals are unable to accompany the children.

Thanks to Lake Michigan Credit Union (LMCU) staff and members of the community, Delanie - and hundreds of children like her - was able to snuggle a new stuffed animal when she was undergoing an outpatient procedure at Ascension Borgess Hospital!

Delanie's mom told Borgess staff that Delanie's mood lifted right away and she was able to relax before going into her procedure. When returning to her room, she was so happy to see that Delanie was already snuggling the bear while she rested comfortably.

The Borgess Bears program provides a new stuffed teddy bear to pediatric patients undergoing outpatient procedures. The bears provide comfort to children in what can be a frightening time for them.



Delanie with the Borgess Bear

## Lake Michigan Credit Union supports the Borgess Bears program



Pictured left to right: Andrew Tipton (LMCU), Aldina Babic (LMCU), Julie Ruel (Ascension Borgess Foundation)

Lake Michigan Credit Union (LMCU) is dedicated to giving back to the communities they serve. Each year, LMCU devotes a month to raising funds to help support pediatric and kids' care programs at local hospitals.

Through its annual Band Together campaign, LMCU recently donated \$3,000 to Ascension Borgess Hospital to fund the Borgess Bears program.

The Borgess Bears program provides a new stuffed teddy bear to pediatric patients undergoing outpatient procedures. The bears provide comfort to hundreds of children each year, during what can be a frightening time for them.

Thank you to LMCU staff, members and the community for your generosity in raising funds during the Band Together campaign to support pediatric care programs!



# Gift Shop donations support cancer center patients

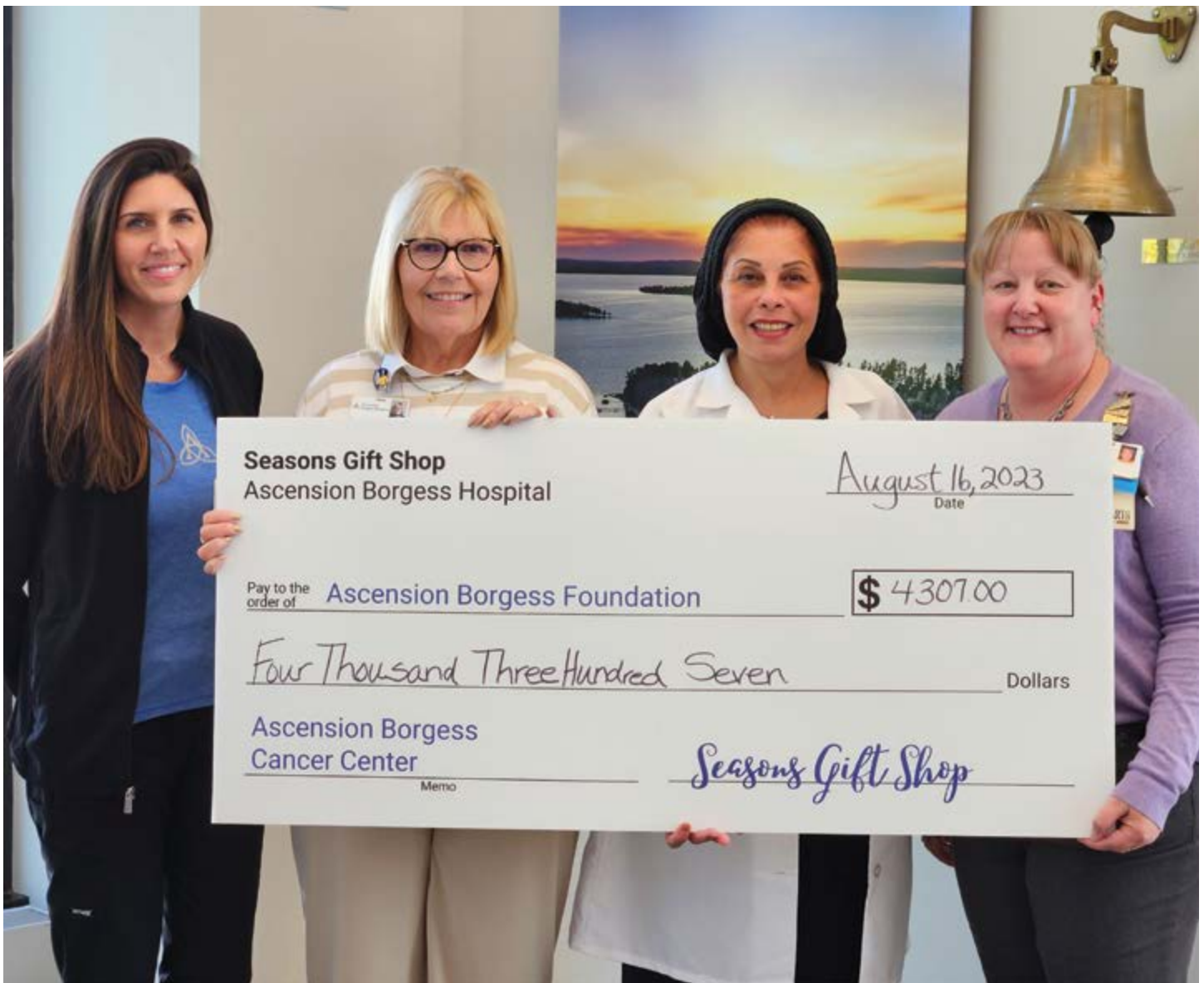
When you buy an item at The Seasons Gift Shop at Ascension Borgess Hospital, you're not just getting an item for yourself, a loved one or a friend, you are assisting patients. Each year, proceeds from the gift shop are donated to the Ascension Borgess Foundation to support a program in the hospital that makes a direct impact on improving patient care and healing.

In 2023, visitors to the gift shop raised \$4,307 to support patient programs at the Ascension Borgess Cancer Center. These funds are helping to provide comfort items for patients undergoing treatment and supporting the survivor wellness health and fitness program.

Gift shop proceeds from 2024 will benefit the Therapy Dog program at Borgess Hospital, which brings comfort and joy to patients, visitors and staff when the dogs make their rounds.

When you visit the hospital, be sure to stop at The Seasons Gift Shop. Besides floral arrangements, cards, candy, magazines and sundries, the boutique shop has many unique gift items including home decor, jewelry, handbags, clothing and baby items.

Thank you for your support!



Pictured left to right: Megan Bridgeman, Patricia Resetar, Dr. Iman Muhamed and Samantha Kreitner

# SMC staff member joins Ascension Borgess-Lee Foundation Board of Directors

By Cindy Schrauben

**E**mily Schrock has joined the Ascension Borgess-Lee Foundation Board of Directors. The Southwestern Michigan College alumna earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Ferris State University through SMC and is the SMC Alumni Relations and Development Coordinator.

Schrock shares her view on the Board's mission:

## Why did you join the Ascension Borgess-Lee Board?

Healthcare systems are a vital part of our communities. Working and living in the Dowagiac area, I want to see our local healthcare system thrive to ensure that our community has the services we need. Even though Dowagiac is not a largely populated area, we are so lucky to have a quality healthcare system that we can rely on.

I am thrilled to join the Ascension Borgess-Lee Foundation Board and help support the hospital's mission as it continues to provide excellent services to my neighbors.



## What would you like to see the Board accomplish during your tenure?

The organization and Board have done great work over the years. I want to ensure that, as a Board, we continue to support the organization and its employees while being able to provide care for patients who are uninsured, underinsured or facing additional financial difficulties.

Also, as a Board member, I look forward to helping raise funds for Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital's most urgent needs.

## What is your leadership philosophy?

My leadership philosophy is to be a servant leader. A strong leader knows that your team is the most important and influential part of success. As a leader, I aim to serve the needs of my team and empower them to succeed.

## Do you have one quote about leadership that sums up your philosophy?

"People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care." ~ John C. Maxwell, American pastor and author on leadership topics



## A lasting legacy in Allegan

Marjorie, a longtime resident of Allegan, made an impact that will be remembered for generations to come with her charitable bequest to Ascension Borgess Allegan Hospital's Mission Fund. Her legacy ensures patients at Ascension Borgess Allegan will continue to receive the best in personalized compassionate care close to home in Allegan County.

### If you would like to leave a legacy gift through your will:

- It's easy to arrange, with just a simple addition to your will.
- It can be changed or modified as your life circumstances require.
- It costs you nothing during your lifetime.
- You can accomplish greater good than you might realize.

For information on how to support any Ascension Borgess hospital in southwest Michigan, please contact:

Kim Loftus, CFRE, Chief Development Officer  
269-226-5014  
kimberly.loftus@ascension.org



# A conversation with: Kim Loftus, CFRE

Chief Development Officer, Ascension Borgess Foundation

By Jeff Samoray



Kim Loftus, Chief Development Officer, Ascension Borgess Foundation

**I**n March, Kim Loftus became the new Chief Development Officer for the Ascension Borgess Foundation. A Certified Fund-Raising Executive, Loftus has devoted her career to nonprofit fund development and program management. Her extensive background includes high-profile roles at the Historical Society of Michigan, Heritage Community of Kalamazoo and other respected area nonprofits.

Notably, Loftus' new role represents a kind of homecoming. She previously made significant contributions to the Ascension Borgess Foundation as a Development Officer from 2009 to 2014.

Loftus recently discussed her new role with the Ascension Borgess Foundation, her connection with the local community, and her work to advance the mission of Ascension Borgess.

**Question:** For readers who may not be familiar with your job, could you explain your primary responsibilities as Chief Development Officer?

**Loftus:** I oversee the Foundation's fundraising initiatives and efforts that enhance healthcare programs and services at Ascension Borgess, Ascension Borgess Lee and Ascension Borgess Allegan. I'm also the executive director of the Ascension Borgess Foundation Boards for each of the three hospitals. I meet with donors, board members and hospital associates to talk about the funding needs for our various service lines. All our fundraising efforts benefit the greater community—our families, friends and neighbors who depend on Borgess for their healthcare needs.

**Q:** What are the skills needed to be successful in your role?

**Loftus:** Fundraising isn't about walking up to people, delivering an elevator speech, then getting a check.

**My goal is to build relationships by connecting donors with areas of support that match their passion.**

Communication, collaboration and relationship building are key elements to being a successful fundraiser. In addition, the fundraising landscape is constantly changing. It's important to remain informed about the latest philanthropic trends so the Foundation can be adaptable and resilient.

**Q:** You previously worked at the Ascension Borgess Foundation as a Development Officer before leaving to pursue another opportunity. What inspired you to return?

**Loftus:** I left in 2014 to work for a local retirement community that offered career growth opportunities. I learned a lot at that job and enhanced my skill set. But the longer I was away from Borgess, the more I wanted to return. Borgess is home for me and I'm close to a number of people who work there. Another reason I returned is the vital role Borgess plays in fulfilling our community's healthcare needs.

**Q:** What does fulfilling those needs mean to you?

**Loftus:** It means a great deal to me, because healthcare touches everyone. Being able to have an impact on the services my family, friends and neighbors depend upon is very gratifying. In addition, Michigan has one of the oldest resident populations among all U.S. states. An aging population translates to a greater demand for healthcare services. We have to be great stewards of philanthropy to ensure we meet the health needs of our residents.

**Q:** Your career history shows you've focused primarily on philanthropy. What attracts you to the profession?

**Loftus:** Similar to other colleagues, I began my career in retail and customer service after college. That was my introduction to relationship building. Additionally, I like being part of something mission-focused, and positions that rely on communications, marketing and writing fit perfectly with my personality.

**Q:** What are your goals for the Ascension Borgess Foundation?

**Loftus:** There are many but I will touch on a few. We have two exciting projects underway that are funded by donor gifts and will truly benefit patient care. The first is a \$3.6 million renovation of the Burton H. Upjohn Emergency Department at Borgess. This will create a state-of-the-art open floor plan that will enable our medical staff to efficiently and safely triage all emergency patients. This will result in reduced wait times and a streamlined process to treat patients with urgent conditions and minor illnesses or injuries. This project will certainly improve the patient care experience during stressful situations.

The second initiative is a \$1.8 million campaign to create a new state-of-the-art Cardiac Catheterization Lab at Borgess. In recent years, we've seen an urgent need to provide even greater support to cardiac patients who need immediate care. When completed, this new lab will provide enhanced care and services to meet the needs of our community.

Although the hospital has announced construction dates for both projects, we will continue to seek philanthropic gifts from donors and foundations to meet our target fundraising goals and bring these projects to full fruition.

Another top priority is creating new and vibrant ways to connect with area donors through our Foundation Board

members. They're very committed and passionate about advancing the quality of healthcare in our community. They also serve as a beacon for others to follow. Their leadership can catalyze a transformation in philanthropy that will resonate for generations.

We'd also like to promote the impact donors can have by making a gift to the hospital through their will, estate plan or other appreciated assets. It's a great way for donors to create their own legacies while enhancing care for their remaining loved ones and future patients. An estate gift is a tremendous way to make an impact long into the future.

**Q:** These are definitely exciting developments. Before closing, what is the most important thing you'd like people to know about the gifts they make to the Ascension Borgess Foundation?

**Loftus:** With all the recent mergers and acquisitions among healthcare systems, a lot of people wonder if their gifts to Borgess will remain with Borgess. I can assure donors that their gifts to the Ascension Borgess Foundation are protected by law and by donor intent agreements. When you make a gift to Borgess, it won't be used elsewhere for another purpose. We ensure that your philanthropic wishes are met and that your gifts will impact the community for the long term.

## Kim Loftus, CFRE

City of residence: Plainwell

Degree: BA in History and Art History, Western Michigan University

Family: Husband, Peter; sons Madison (33) and Ian (25)

Activities outside of work: Reading historical fiction, traveling in the U.S. and France to seek out historical sites related to Joan of Arc and other historic figures, learning the French language.

# Therapy dog wins Volunteer of the Year Award



with a disability, therapy dogs go with their owners to volunteer at hospitals, nursing homes and schools to make visits. They provide unconditional love to anyone in need, and they have an ability to help decrease anxiety and depression and give a general comforting sense of well-being.

Watching Kim and her dog Cooper interact with patients, visitors and staff can be a magical experience. The pair brings smiles to the faces of everyone they come in contact with and provides comfort to those who may be experiencing the worst day of their lives.

Hospital stays can be “ruff,” but Kim and Cooper are there at Borgess, showing affection each week as they are welcomed for visits. A lot of incredible moments have been witnessed with this duo. A few examples include:

- A disabled woman who was determined to cross the room to say hello to them.
- A scared child getting dog kisses while one of his parents was in the critical care unit.
- A family sitting on the floor with Cooper hugging him tightly after finding out their loved one did not make it.

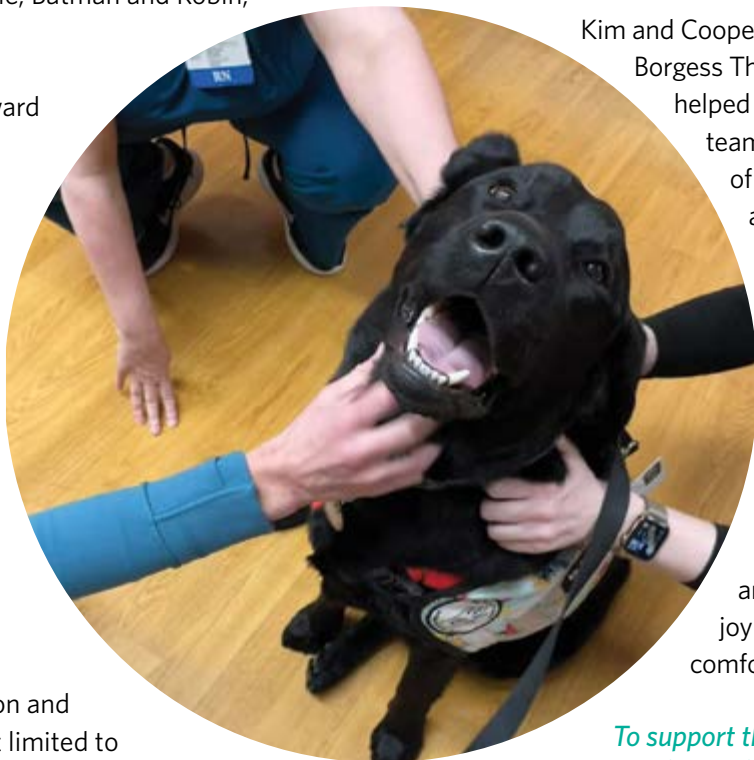
When Kim is asked why she volunteers with Cooper, she always responds with, “These moments are why I do what I do.”

The first ever Volunteer of the Year Award at Ascension Borgess Hospital was awarded to therapy dog Cooper, along with his owner Kim Marsh.

This winning duo ranks right up there with great duos like Sonny and Cher, Bert and Ernie, Batman and Robin, and many others!

The Volunteer of the Year Award was created to recognize a special volunteer whose unselfish and dedicated service has made a significant difference at Borgess. Cooper and Kim were jointly honored with the 2023 Ascension Borgess Volunteer of the Year Award for their kind devotion to visiting patients and staff over the past year through the Therapy Dog program.

Therapy dogs provide affection and comfort to people but are not limited to helping those with disabilities. Unlike service dogs who are trained to perform specific tasks for someone



Kim and Cooper have paved the way for the Borgess Therapy Dog program and have helped to train the other therapy dog teams. Their service is truly part of the patient care experience and healing efforts provided by the hospital. Your donations to the Therapy Dog program support their volunteer work and help provide training, certification and care for these special dogs.

Congratulations to Cooper and Kim on being honored, and thank you to them for the joy they bring to those in need of comfort.

To support the Therapy Dog program, visit [ascnmifnd.org/abftherapydogs](https://ascnmifnd.org/abftherapydogs).



# Therapy Dogs bring comfort to patients



Oscar with his twin stuffy

**T**herapy dogs have a special talent for spreading comfort and smiles to patients, visitors and staff at Ascension Borgess Hospital and Ascension Borgess Cancer Center who could use a little extra love and support. Their impact is nothing short of amazing. Therapy dogs can help ease a patient's fear and anxiety, reduce stress and even lower their blood pressure and help alleviate pain.

Imagine a hospital room filled with the beeping of machines and the hushed and worried tones of doctors and nurses. In the midst of it all, a young boy feels incredibly overwhelmed. He has been in the midst of a behavioral health crisis for a

few days, not even calming enough to eat a regular meal. In an effort to calm the boy, nurses call on the therapy dog, Oscar.

When Oscar entered the room, the boy became quiet almost immediately. Oscar wagged his tail and stayed close to him the entire visit. The bond between the boy and Oscar was instant, and you could see it in the way the dog nuzzled against him, creating a warm memory after experiencing incredible duress. The young boy's father described the effect of the therapy dog as miraculous. Soon after he became calm and quiet, the boy asked for something to eat.

When the young boy finished his meal, Oscar returned with a surprise - a "twin stuffy" stuffed animal that looked just like him! The boy named the twin stuffy 'Oscar 2' and said he would be his best friend forever.

It's not just young patients in crisis who benefit from these four-legged "therapists." Everyone in the hospital, from patients and visitors to even staff, can't get enough of the joy the therapy dogs bring. Their visits create a buzz of happiness, turning the patient rooms and corridors into spaces filled with warmth and laughter, spreading love and joy wherever they go.

So the next time you spot one of the dogs at Borgess, whether you're there as a patient, visitor or a staff member, be sure to give them a pat and a thank you for the incredible work they do.

Borgess relies on the generosity of donors like you to support the Therapy Dog program. Your gifts help provide therapy dog training, certification and care for these special dogs, so more patients like the young boy in crisis can have brighter days and an improved overall well-being.

Thank you for your support as we strive to bring comfort and happiness to those in need through the incredible healing work of therapy dogs.

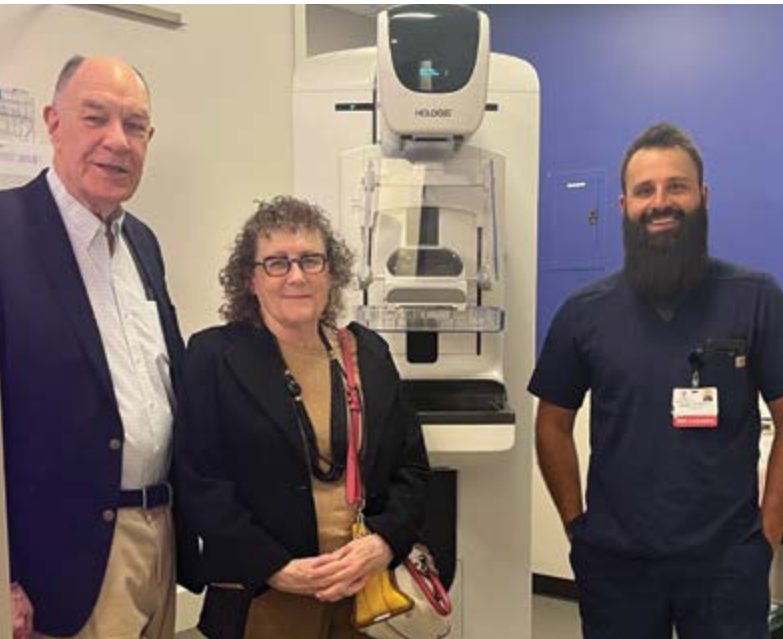


*To learn more or to make a gift to support the Therapy Dog program, visit [ascnmifnd.org/abftherapydogs](https://ascnmifnd.org/abftherapydogs) or scan the QR code.*

# Desire for local healthcare drives donors

## Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital opens new Women's Health Center

By Cindy Schrauben



Donors Don and Joan Lyons (left and center) and Bryan Hemenway (right), Borgess-Lee Radiology Manager, are pictured in the renovated mammogram suite in the new Women's Health Center.

It's vital that Dowagiac-area residents can receive medical care close to home, two local philanthropists say.

Dillon Dalton and Don Lyons care so profoundly about local care that they became significant donors to the newly opened Women's Health Center at Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital. The \$336,000 project opened on February 1.

Dalton, President of the St. Denys Foundation, wants residents to know they can receive essential health screenings and services at their local hospital.

"Often, people are deterred from seeking some services because of the inconvenience of having to go to another city," Dalton says. The Women's Health Center will help women because "catching problems at an earlier stage is more likely if screening is local."

**More than 1,600 patients are expected to receive screenings and treatment yearly at the Women's Health Center.**

Lyons, mayor of Dowagiac and owner of Lyons Industries, agrees that it is best if medical care can be offered locally. "Traveling away from home brings added stress and time away from the place you feel comfortable," Lyons says.

The Lyons family knows firsthand the difficulties of having a family member undergoing treatment for a serious health issue while far away from home. While living in Seattle, daughter Shannon learned through testing that she had an 80% chance of developing breast cancer. In response, she had a double mastectomy.

"It was a way of bringing home to our family what it's like to go through something like that," Lyons says. "It's very personal to us."

Dalton was also interested in supporting the Women's Health Center due to the scope of the project. The center, says Bryan Hemenway, Manager of Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital's Radiology department, brings mammography, ultrasound and bone density treatments together in a central location within the hospital.

**"What is unique is that the Women's Health Center project focuses on the healthcare environment, not the equipment," Dalton says. "The former space lacked privacy for patients, and this project allows for the patient experience to be more current to today's standards."**

Previously, the areas where mammography, ultrasound and bone density procedures were performed were outdated and in different locations in the hospital. "Bringing the equipment together in the same area is more convenient for our patients and more efficient for technicians," Hemenway says.

The project was completed in just six months. Hemenway says many people are to be applauded for their efforts. "We want to send a big thank you to everyone who has been involved in this ongoing project and an especially big thank you to all the donors who made this happen for our community," Hemenway says.

# Women's Health Center's state-of-the-art equipment

Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital boasts the most up-to-date equipment for mammography, ultrasound and bone density diagnosis. With the creation of the Women's Health Center, the equipment is now housed in a central location, which provides convenience for patients and efficiency for staff.

## Hologic Selenia Dimensions 3D mammography machine

This 3D mammography machine provides high-quality diagnostic breast images for fast and accurate detection of breast cancer abnormalities. It detects 20% to 65% more invasive breast cancers when compared to a traditional 2D machine. Because of the high quality of 3D images, up to 40% fewer patients are called back for further imaging. This efficiency reduces patients' stress, reduces hospital costs and eliminates the need for a second scan, which involves

additional radiology. The 3D mammography machine averages 70 exams a month.

## Phillips ultrasound machine

This machine provides high-quality diagnostic imaging for the entire body, including breast and obstetrics/gynecological images. The hospital performs an average of 90 ultrasound exams each month.

## Dexa scan machine

This machine helps diagnose bone-related health problems, such as osteoporosis, or assess a patient's risk of developing bone problems. This important procedure is mainly for postmenopausal women because they are at a much higher risk for osteoporosis.

## 2024 Nursing Excellence Awards winners

Ten nurses were rewarded for their excellence in patient care at the 2024 Nursing Excellence Awards ceremony. Awardees were selected based on a number of criteria showing an outstanding commitment to excellence in patient care, advocacy and safety; the Mission, Vision and Values of Ascension Borgess; commitment to development and mentorship; and going above and beyond their call to practice nursing.

The Nursing Excellence Awards are made possible from gifts donated to Ascension Borgess Foundation's Nursing Excellence Fund. Thank you to our donors, and congratulations to the winners!



### Burton H. Upjohn Award

Bethany Koslek, PCA  
Desiree Cortes, RN (not pictured)  
Amie Burns, RN (not pictured)  
Jennifer Polsinelli, PCA (not pictured)



### Living our Values: Reverence & Dedication Award

Samantha Spenser, RN  
Lien Hamman, RN (not pictured)



### Living our Values: Wisdom & Creativity Award

Erica Green, RN



### Maribel Tabanguil-May Memorial Scholarship

Melissa Martinez



### Excellence in Clinical Nursing Practice Award

Anthony Kuhbander, RN



### Excellence in Nursing Leadership Award

Heidi Campbell, RN



# Tree of Love mammography program

## Katie's story of fighting and survival – and her message about the importance of testing

Since 1985, generous donors in southwest Michigan communities have helped patients in need receive lifesaving early breast cancer detection screening services through the Tree of Love program. Donors' contributions to the program are made in honor or memory of loved ones and are represented by pink lights on the tree in front of Ascension Borgess Hospital each year.

When detected early, breast cancer is often more easily treated and women diagnosed with the disease live longer. One local woman knows firsthand how early detection can save a life. This is her story.

Sadly, Katie is not the first person in her family to have breast cancer. Her aunt had it, as well as her sister; and her mother fought not once, not twice, but three times. She watched the physical and emotional strain her mother endured, but she also saw courage, resilience and strength.

Little did Katie know she would become that pillar of courage and strength for her own 5- and 7-year-old daughters. Katie is an estrogen receptor positive, HER2 positive breast cancer survivor.

Some women avoid going to women's health offices to get screenings for female cancers because the exams can be uncomfortable, painful and take time out of busy schedules, or they simply don't think they could be at risk.

However, Katie's cancer was not diagnosed in the usual manner of receiving a standard clinical breast exam or mammogram first. She had originally gone to a doctor appointment for a breast reduction referral, and breast cancer was not even a thought on her radar. Katie was approved for surgery and moved forward.

But a successful breast reduction surgery soon brought bad news. At Katie's post-op appointment, doctors told her that

pathology tests taken during surgery came back positive for stage 1A cancer. Everyone was shocked. Katie had no issues or concerns prior to the breast reduction surgery (except for a sore back).

Mammograms and breast CTs quickly followed her cancer diagnosis. At every step of the way, Katie said she was connected to the best team members throughout Borgess, from women's health, to general surgery for a double mastectomy, to plastic surgery for immediate breast implant reconstruction.



Just four days post-reconstruction, her implants went septic and had to be removed. At that time, Katie was given the news that she had tested positive for the HER2 gene. Her oncologist said the situation was a "God moment." Had they not found the cancer, she was told the HER2 gene would have given her about a year to live.

From there, she started her battle against her breast cancer. Katie said that she formed a close bond with everyone in the infusion center. Throughout 12 rounds of chemotherapy and 17 rounds of targeted therapy, everyone's kind words and smiling faces made everything easier.

Katie has become an advocate for breast cancer screenings. At the Tree of Love lighting ceremony last December, Katie said, "The foundation we set by ensuring that ALL women have access to testing helps ensure we can all have a success story. No woman should have to delay scans because they don't have health insurance or can't afford a screening. These tests save lives."

Your support can help ensure ALL women are able to receive breast cancer screenings and appropriate medical care.

*To make a gift to the mammography program through the Tree of Love campaign, please visit [treeoflove.borgess.com](http://treeoflove.borgess.com).*

# Tree of Love

A holiday giving tradition supporting lifesaving testing and services for women in need

For nearly 40 years donors in southwest Michigan have supported mammography and breast health services for women in need, creating a robust fund that will continue to support these services for patients in need into the future.

Because the Tree of Love campaign is supported so well, donors now have the opportunity to support patients in need through a gift to the HOPE (Helping Our Patients in Emergencies) Fund. The HOPE Fund provides assistance to patients with items necessary for healing, such as transportation assistance, medications, medical equipment, oxygen and more.

When you make a donation to the Mammography or HOPE Funds during the campaign, you can honor a loved one with a light on the Tree of Love. The campaign runs from October through December, but donations are always accepted and patients in need will continue to receive lifesaving care and assistance throughout the year.

To make a donation, visit [treeoflove.borgess.com](https://treeoflove.borgess.com) or call the Ascension Borgess Foundation at 269-226-8100.



## Save the Date for the Tree-lighting ceremonies:

- **Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital**  
December 4, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
- **Ascension Borgess Allegan Hospital**  
December 5, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
- **Ascension Borgess Hospital (Lawrence Education Center)**  
December 12, 2024, 5:30 p.m.



# Ascension Borgess Foundation Events

## Annual Golf for Health Tournament raises nearly \$90,000 for Nursing Excellence and Mission-advancing projects



Ascension Borgess Foundation's 32nd Annual Golf for Health Tournament on July 17, 2023, was a great success with over 100 golfers at Gull Lake Country Club in Richland, Michigan.

Sponsors and donors raised nearly \$90,000 to benefit the Nursing Excellence program and Mission-advancing projects at Ascension Borgess Hospital.

Thank you to Golf Committee Chairman Joe Brogger and committee members Greg Dobson, Sarah Harding, Matt Kavanaugh and Dr. Jason Ryan for their commitment to the event's success.

Pictured left to right: Matt Kavanaugh, Old National Bank; Joe Brogger, Acrisure (Golf for Health Committee Chair); Greg Dobson, AVB; and Patrick Kelly, Ascension Michigan Foundation



**The Annual Golf for Health Tournament takes place the third Monday of July each year, and space is limited!**

If you have any questions or are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact Julie Ruel at 269-226-5126 or [julie.ruel@ascension.org](mailto:julie.ruel@ascension.org).



Southern Michigan Bank & Trust foursome (Corey Donner, Trent Pierre, Tom Swoish and Justin Horn)



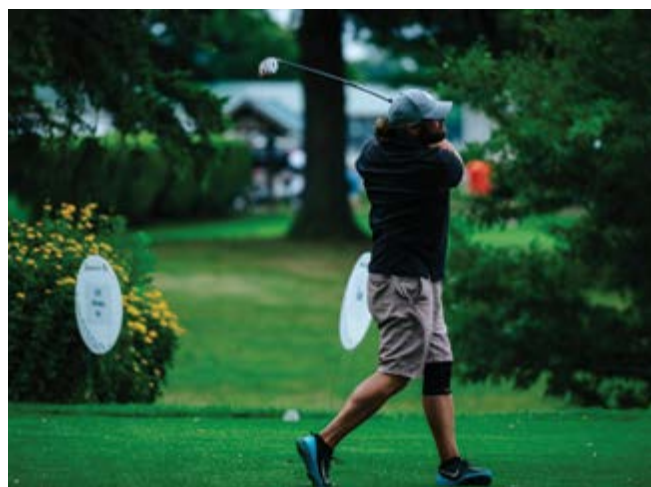
# Ascension Borgess-Lee Foundation Events

## 19th Annual Ascension Borgess-Lee Foundation Golf Outing raises over \$33,000 for Mission-advancing programs and projects

A great day of golf and show of support for the Ascension Borgess-Lee Foundation took place on July 13, 2023, at Indian Lake Hills Golf Course in Eau Claire, Michigan, where 124 golfers participated.

Sponsors and donors contributed \$33,601 to Mission-advancing programs at Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital. The funds will provide the hospital with the resources to address the most immediate and pressing needs that impact patient care at the hospital.

Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, golfers and committee members Jeremy Truitt, Carrie Freeman, Dr. Katie Marshall and John Seculoff for making the outing a memorable, successful day.



## Don Blackmond Memorial Wine and Beer Tasting



The annual Don Blackmond Memorial Wine and Beer Tasting fundraising event took place during heavy rain on August 5, 2023, at Blackmond's Sesquicentennial Farm overlooking Indian Lake in Dowagiac, Michigan. The sell-out event included tastings from 12 local wineries and breweries, delicious hors d'oeuvres and a souvenir glass for attendees.

Despite the day of downpour, generous sponsors and donors donated more than \$52,000 to support the Mission Fund, providing resources to address the most immediate and pressing needs for Mission-advancing programs and projects at Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital.

Thank you to the many contributors and volunteers who make this annual event a success.

**Please save the date for the 2024 event to be held on Saturday, August 3**, at the beautiful Blackmond's Sesquicentennial Farm at 55317 Indian Lake Road in Dowagiac. The event is limited to 250 guests and will sell out, so don't miss your chance to participate. Please contact Beth Cripe at [beth.cripe@ascension.org](mailto:beth.cripe@ascension.org) or 269-783-3026 for information or to reserve your seats.

Ascension Borgess Foundation  
1521 Gull Road, MSB 300  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048



## Our foundations are on Facebook!

Ascension Borgess Foundation, Ascension Borgess-Lee Foundation and Ascension Borgess Allegan Foundation are now on Facebook as Ascension Borgess Foundations!

This Facebook page shares updates about fundraising campaigns and events, connects with the community and shares the amazing progress taking place at Ascension in southwest Michigan because of our donors.

Please like, follow and share the Facebook page with your friends, family and colleagues.

To access the page, simply scan the QR code with your cell phone. If you already have Facebook open, you can search for the Ascension Borgess Foundations page.



**Ascension  
Borgess  
Foundation**

If you would like to learn more about giving opportunities at Ascension Borgess hospitals and entities in southwest Michigan, please call 269-226-8100.