

# Spirit of GIVING

A NEWSLETTER FOR DONORS AND FRIENDS OF ASCENSION SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN FOUNDATIONS

Spring 2023

## Inside:

- Large gift enables cutting-edge cancer research
- New sober living halfway house opens thanks to donors
- Pediatric Emergency Department construction underway
- Your gifts support training for Oral & Maxillofacial residents
- Grateful patient gives back following lifesaving heart care
- Grants provide state-of-the-art technology and research

Drs. Lakshmi and Vinaya Gavini gave a generous gift to support cancer research.

## Large donation brings cutting-edge cancer research to Ascension Providence Hospital through collaboration with Wayne State University

***“When someone has cancer, the whole family and everyone who loves them does, too.” - Terri Clark***

A transformational gift from generous donors will make it possible for Ascension Providence Hospital to partner with Wayne State University to share clinical and outcome data to support advanced cancer research.

**Lakshmi Gavini, MD**, and her husband **Vinaya Gavini, MD**, made the multi-million-dollar gift to enhance the course of cancer care, research and medical training in southeast Michigan, where they each practiced medicine for more than 40 years before retiring to Florida. Lakshmi, an obstetrician/gynecologist, was on the medical staff at Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield, and served as Chief of Gynecology and Minimally Invasive Surgery. Vinaya, a pediatrician who specialized in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, was also on the medical staff.

Their passion to help cancer patients led the Gavinis to make their gift. While they already made a major gift to establish the SM Gavini Center for Cancer Prevention at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi, which opened in 2020, they wanted to make a bigger difference.

Dr. Lakshmi Gavini had seen the devastating effects of a cancer diagnosis on her patients and their families. This left an indelible impression on her both professionally and personally. She also observed how the evolution of genetic testing made a difference in cancer prevention and management.

In the past three decades, significant progress has been made in cancer diagnosis and treatment. Still, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, cancer continues to be the leading cause of death in 45-64-year-olds, and the second leading cause of death in the overall population, claiming about 600,000 lives every year, according to the American Cancer Society.

In recognition of the Gavinis' cumulative giving to the hospital, the Ascension Providence Cancer Center in Southfield will be named the Ascension Providence Hospital CK Potluri Cancer Center, for Lakshmi's parents, Chalapathi and Krupa Potluri. In spite of having only basic formal education, her parents inspired their daughters to be anything they wanted, with education as the key to success. Lakshmi was the first student from her village high school in India to go to medical school.

Doctors Lakshmi and Vinaya Gavini said, “Metro Detroit and Ascension Providence became our home for over 40 years, making us who we are as physicians and helping us create a family of friends. We want to give back to the institution, and the community it serves, that opened their hearts and doors for us all these years. We are very excited to support this endeavor in advanced cancer research and treatment at Ascension Providence Hospital.”

“Everyone hopes to be significant in their lives – be it by the patients they’ve impacted, their commitment to their community, or their shared vision of the future,” said Gary Druskovich, MD, MBA, Regional President and Chief Executive Officer, Metro West Region, Ascension Michigan. “The Gavinis – through their work and now this gift – have secured a place of significance in the past, present and future of Ascension Providence. We are forever grateful.”

While Ascension Providence Hospital has an established research program with highly qualified physicians, it doesn't have the resources for large collaborative studies. The Gavinis' support will allow the Ascension Providence Hospital CK Potluri Cancer Center to partner with WSU to conduct cutting-edge translational oncology research, which takes scientific discoveries from the laboratory and transforms them into new treatments and approaches to medical care to improve the health of the population.

The Ascension Providence Hospital CK Potluri Cancer Center will focus on advanced cancer research in non-invasive new generation genomic testing to enhance precision diagnosis and treatment. In addition to current therapeutic research projects conducted at the center, the Gavinis believe this endeavor will enhance research opportunities for oncology fellows. They hope to see the day when a patient hears “cancer” as a diagnosis, and it means “cure,” not uncertainty.

Pursuing a partnership with WSU was a natural fit as the institutions have previously published together. Howard Terebelo, DO, Director of the Ascension Providence Cancer Center, said many of the center's physicians are faculty at WSU School of Medicine.

After learning about the Gavinis' interest in supporting innovative cancer research, Abdulghani Sankari, MD, PhD, Director of Medical Education, Ascension Providence Hospital, and Wael Sakr, MD, Dean of the WSU School of

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Dr. Vlnaya Gavini, Dr. Lakshmi Gavini and Dr. Gary Druskovich

Medicine, identified a team from both institutions to launch a strategic initiative that meets Dr. Lakshmi Gavini’s vision.

The first research project will be a collaboration with Asfar Azmi, PhD, WSU Associate Professor of Oncology and leader of the Molecular Therapeutics Program, and Director of Pancreas Cancer Research at Karmanos Cancer Institute, and the Ascension Providence Hospital Hematology/Oncology team of Susan Lyons, MD, PhD, and Shoshana Rothstein, MD, first-year fellow. Dr. Sankari will assist with oversight of the collaboration and research endeavors.

The focus of the first project is pancreatic cancer, a disease with high morbidity and mortality. The project utilizes genomic sequencing, focusing on the development of blood-based biomarkers that are predictive of therapy response and resistance for advanced pancreatic cancer.

The gift will also support training programs in translational cancer research to develop future clinical investigators and clinical research fellows. Ascension Providence Hospital residents, fellows and faculty attending physicians will have access to Dr. Azmi’s laboratory for specialized training.

## Credit union donates to Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital

Thank you to the employees of the **Lake Michigan Credit Union (LMCU)** branches surrounding Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital for their generous donations of games, arts and crafts, and more! These gifts help put smiles on many young faces as they visit the hospital or come to the outpatient Pediatric Center.

LMCU also donated \$1,000 toward the purchase of bike helmets for Bikes and Lids for Kids, a program Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital is involved with in the community. The hospital offers helmets for any child who needs one, along with education on proper use for both the parents and child. The funds for this initiative were raised during LMCU’s annual Band Together campaign that supports hospital kids’ care programs.

Lake Michigan Credit Union has been a very generous financial supporter of Ascension hospitals across Michigan for many years, including Ascension Borgess Hospital, donating approximately \$66,000 cumulatively.



A representative from LMCU (left) presented a donation check to Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital leaders Dr. Sheryl Wissman, CeCe Rutherford and Roberta Courtright.

## Grand opening ceremony held for new halfway house



Pictured (l-r) are: Dr. Manhal Tobia, Chief Medical Officer, Ascension Metro West Region; Michelle Mullen, Project Manager, Medxcel; Steve LaBelle, Regional Manager, Medxcel; Mike Badali, Chief Operating Officer, Ascension Metro West Region; Dr. Gary Druskovich, Regional President and Chief Executive Officer, Ascension Metro West Region; Steven Beardon, The Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander Foundation; Dr. Ismael Yanga III, Chief Medical Officer, Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery; Barbara Shoup, Hospital Administrator, Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery; Sr. Mary Lou Stubbs, Daughters of Charity, Ascension Providence Foundation Board Member; David and Ann Conrad, donors, former and current Ascension Providence Foundation Board Members, respectively; Lynn Chiesa, Chief Nursing Officer, Ascension Metro West Region; Lynn Temby, donor; Terry Durkin, Ascension Providence Foundation Board Chair; and Kimberly Tyle, Chief Development Officer, Ascension Metro West Region.

Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery opened its new sober living halfway house to patients on March 1. This \$3.4 million, 8,887-square-foot home, which can accommodate 32 residents, was 100% philanthropically funded. Thank you to all the generous donors and the community for making this home a reality!

A ribbon-cutting and grand opening celebration was held on Feb. 20 with donors, community partners, Ascension leaders, board members and the project team in attendance. Sister Mary Lou Stubbs, Daughters of Charity, provided a blessing for the house.

Ascension leaders spoke about the new halfway house and how it will help fulfill Ascension's Mission of providing care for the poor and vulnerable, serving the whole person – body, mind and spirit. Donors Steven Bearden of The Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander Foundation and David Conrad both shared their thoughts about the importance of the house and why they supported it.

"We have been touched by addiction through friends and family," Steven said. "When an opportunity came along to help, we asked, 'What would Jane do?' which made this an easy decision."

Jane was Steven's mother-in-law who created The Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander Foundation to support community initiatives. Jane and her husband Ted were "always givers and helpers," according to their daughter, Gwen Haggerty-Bearden.



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The new house, with designated wings for men and women, replaces two separate housing facilities. It provides a modern co-existing habitat approach for temporary living where patients can focus solely on recovery from substance abuse disorder and safely transition to independent living and lifelong recovery. To solidify gains made while in treatment, patients often need extended stays before discharge. The house was carefully planned with a setting fitting for cognitive healing and a full-person approach to care, including healing arts such as exercise, yoga, art and music therapy, and more. Clinical addiction professionals manage the facility and provide

supervised care 24/7. Amenities include eight bedrooms, 8.5 baths, three laundry areas, a large kitchen and community dining room, four group/lounge spaces, and front and back patios.



To view a walk-through of the new halfway house, visit: [ascnmifnd.org/ABCVRVideo](https://ascnmifnd.org/ABCVRVideo) or scan the QR code with your mobile device.

## Ascension St. John Hospital surgeons honor a cherished mentor



Pictured in the new physician lounge named in Dr. Camero's honor are: Darla Granger, MD, FACS, Vice Chair, Department of Surgery, and Section Chief, Transplant Surgery, (holding the plaque that will be on display outside the room), Dr. Camero and Dr. Meguid.

For nearly 40 years, Luis Camero, MD, guided dozens of colleagues and residents in his role as a cardiothoracic surgical specialist at Ascension St. John Hospital.

Now, a group of Dr. Camero's surgical colleagues across multiple disciplines are paying homage to him through a generous gift recognizing his tireless devotion to residents and patients alike.

The gift, made in support of the Surgical Services expansion and renovation project at Ascension St. John Hospital, will establish the Dr. Luis Camero Physician Lounge, located in the newly renovated Anthony L. Soave and Family Surgical Services Suite.

"Dr. Camero essentially built our thoracic surgery program," said Ahmed A. Meguid, MD, FACS, Chair, Department of

Surgery, Ascension St. John Hospital. "He performed a lot of complex surgeries with very good outcomes. He also supported the development of minimally invasive thoracic surgery techniques."

Beyond sharing his surgical expertise, Dr. Camero also demonstrated compassionate patient care, Dr. Meguid said. "I learned a great deal from Dr. Camero about humility," Dr. Meguid said. "He invested a lot of emotion in every single patient interaction. He got to know his patients personally. Those lessons have stayed with me."

After retiring in September 2019, Dr. Camero moved to Weston, Florida, a city on the eastern edge of the Everglades.

"I spent my entire career at Ascension St. John Hospital," Dr. Camero said. "This is a tremendous honor, and I'm very humbled.

"Throughout my career, I did my best to share principles of surgery with my colleagues. My commitment to the residents was total – they were like my offspring. I led them to study anatomy and surgical techniques, including research if needed. I also taught them to be aware of the anguish that patients and their families felt when facing upcoming surgical interventions. With these concepts, they could come up in their career as responsible, decisive and compassionate surgeons. Just as important, I took every opportunity to show kindness to patients, many of whom were facing very serious health situations."

The new physician lounge will serve as a break room for surgeons between cases. It will include multiple workstations where surgeons can prepare for procedures and perform post-operative debriefings.

## Construction in progress on Pediatric Emergency Department

Excitement was in the air at a construction kick-off celebration for the Shery L. Cotton Pediatric Emergency Department on Dec. 8, 2022, where philanthropic supporters of the *Your Child, We Care* campaign were recognized and guests went on hard-hat tours.

Construction began on the first of four construction phases for Ascension St. John Children's Hospital in November 2022 and is expected to be completed in July 2023.

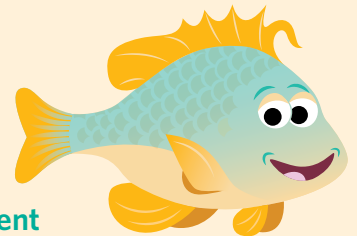
Phase 2 construction for the Van Elslander Women's and Children's Entrance is scheduled to start in August 2023. Renovation of The Carls Foundation Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, and the Mary Ann Van Elslander Pediatric Inpatient Unit will follow.

While Ascension St. John Children's Hospital officially became an accredited Children's Hospital in 2012, Marcus DeGraw, MD, physician champion and Co-chair of the *Your Child, We Care* pediatric campaign, said it has been a best-

kept secret. "However, not any more! We are getting the word out to the public that we are here to provide care to 'Your Child'...because 'We Care.'"

The installation of the Ascension St. John Children's Hospital exterior signage on the Moross side of the building is helping raise awareness for the "hospital within a hospital" which includes a Level 2 Pediatric Trauma Center and a Level 3 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Ascension St. John Children's Hospital has over 1,800 inpatient pediatric admissions and approximately 1,000 pediatric surgeries annually.

The goal of \$18 million for the *Your Child, We Care* campaign has been met, but Ascension St. John Foundation continues fundraising for technology and other needs identified during the construction process. To learn more or make a gift, contact Lisa Pinkowski at 313-343-7480.



### Dedicated donors and friends of the *Your Child, We Care* campaign enjoyed the event



Members of Mary Ann Van Elslander's family: Bill and Kris Scarfone, Sandra Seroka and Kim Van Elslander-Francis



Jon and Lauren Cotton with Shery Cotton



Lorna Zalenski, Fontbonne President, and Elizabeth Steig, Executive Director, The Carls Foundation

### Our Foundations are on Facebook!

Ascension Providence Foundation, Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation and Ascension St. John Foundation are on Facebook. The Facebook page provides updates about fundraising campaigns and events, connects with the community and shares the amazing progress taking place at Ascension in southeast Michigan because of you - our valued donors.

To access the page, scan the QR code with your smartphone, or go to <https://www.facebook.com/AscensionSoutheastMichiganFoundations>.

If you have Facebook open, you can search for the page called Southeast Michigan Foundations. Please like, follow and share the Facebook page with your friends and family.



## Donor gifts support resident training for maxillofacial and reconstructive surgeons

Thanks to donor support of the Oral & Maxillofacial Research and Education Fund, more residents at Ascension hospitals in southeast Michigan will be trained to provide expert care to patients who need maxillofacial and reconstructive surgery.

The fund helps underwrite research, education and training expenses for residents within the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery program, sponsored by Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital.

“The specialty of oral surgery covers a broad spectrum,” said Carlos Ramirez, MD, DDS, FACS, Program Director, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery; and Fellowship Director, Head and Neck Oncology & Microvascular Reconstruction. “Program graduates can perform procedures such as third molar extractions, dental implants, repair of facial fractures, extremity tissue repair, cleft lip/palate repairs, and head and neck tumor microvascular reconstruction, just to name a few. We also treat craniofacial deformities and perform facial cosmetic surgery.”

Dr. Ramirez, who did his fellowship training in Head & Neck Microvascular Reconstruction in Jacksonville, Florida, adds that program graduates are also highly trained trauma surgeons who provide 24/7 facial trauma coverage at Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital, Ascension St. John Hospital and Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield and Novi.

There are currently 18 residents in the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery program, which is a six-year combined MD program affiliated with the Wayne State University School of Medicine. In addition, the program offers an internship, which takes in four one-year trainees annually. Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital also has a Head & Neck Oncology, Microvascular & Reconstructive Surgery fellowship program, which trains two surgeons per year. Since its founding in 2018, the program has graduated five fellows.

“The Oral & Maxillofacial Research and Education Fund has been a blessing, allowing us to further cultivate and motivate our residents to excel at their craft,” Dr. Ramirez said. “The monetary support helped us sponsor a two-day, in-house full-body cadaver lab last spring. The funds also helped numerous residents pay for board review courses, which prepare them for their board exams after graduation.”

In addition, Dr. Ramirez said over the past two years, the fund has helped seven residents attend a full-body cadaver cosmetic course in New Orleans. The course boosted their knowledge in the area of cosmetics, one of the pillars of an oral-maxillofacial surgeon’s training.

“The residents bring back knowledge and best practices which translate into quality care for the patients they treat within the hospitals and our resident clinic,” Dr. Ramirez said.

The resident clinic is located in downtown Detroit, where it has served thousands of patients, including the underserved and vulnerable, for more than 50 years. The Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery program takes pride in continuing its commitment to patients in the community.



Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery residents get hands-on training.

## Grateful patient gives back to Ascension St. John Hospital following lifesaving cardiac procedure



Ray and Dorothy DeBates

One day during the summer of 2010, **Ray DeBates** of St. Clair Shores noticed he felt a little more tired than usual while doing chores around the house. Later that night, he woke up soaked in sweat and with pain in his lower jaw.

"It was a strange sensation," said Ray, who was 55 at the time. "I thought I'd get up for a glass of water, return to bed and see how I felt in the morning. But I quickly realized I needed to see a doctor immediately."

After Ray's wife Dorothy took him to urgent care, he was transferred by ambulance to Ascension St. John Hospital. Doctors performed an emergency catheterization and discovered four of his arteries were nearly 90 percent blocked, requiring quadruple bypass surgery.

"After the procedure, the cardiologist [Srihari Ravi, MD] said that if I'd chosen to have that glass of water, it would have been my last," said Ray, a retired real estate attorney.

Thankfully, Ray had a full recovery and quickly resumed his active lifestyle. He continues to see Dr. Ravi at Ascension St. John Hospital for regular heart checkups.

"During the 12 years I've received follow-up care, everyone has been so professional," Ray said. "It's comforting to know they care deeply about their patients."

In gratitude for the lifesaving care he received, **Ray and Dorothy** have made several generous gifts to support Ascension St. John Hospital. These include contributions to the Cardiology Fund, the *Your Child, We Care* pediatric campaign, and the Mary Van Elslander Neonatal Intensive Care Unit & Special Care Nursery. Ray and Dorothy also made a generous gift to name the DeBates Family Birthing Suite, located in the hospital's Cracchiolo Family Birthing Center.

Ray said the latter gift, which qualified him and his wife for McQuade Society membership, is all the more appropriate considering he and two of his granddaughters were born at Ascension St. John Hospital.

"When you get to be our age and have worked so hard to save money, you realize you have gifts to share with others," Ray said. "We enjoy giving to an organization that has made a difference in our lives. And when you do nice things for others, it makes you feel good, too."

Ray said his most important message is simple: "Listen to your body."

"You often hear about men who ignore possible symptoms of heart attack in the middle of the night and never wake up," he added. "That might have been me, if not for the care I received at Ascension St. John Hospital."

### Patients benefit from gifts to Cardiac Fund

Gifts from many generous donors have helped Ascension St. John Hospital acquire new and upgraded cardiac technology for improved diagnostics, treatment and care. These include:

- An ultrasound system for assisting with complex minimally invasive structural heart procedures
- A 3-D mapping and imaging system used in electrophysiology ablation procedures for patients with irregular heart rhythms
- A chest compression device for performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on patients in active cardiac arrest
- A cardiovascular system for measuring blood flow in tiny vessels of the heart to detect blockages
- An ultrasound system for use during catheter-based procedures to repair damaged or weakened vessels, narrowed arteries or other parts of the heart structure



## The Carls Foundation gift gives newborns their best start in life

Thanks to the great kindness of **The Carls Foundation**, birthing centers at Ascension Providence Hospitals (Southfield and Novi campuses), Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital and Ascension Genesys Hospital are providing critically needed equipment to care for vulnerable newborns.

The Carls Foundation's generous gift of \$97,537 allowed these hospitals to purchase state-of-the-art screening and monitoring equipment. This equipment will ensure that all 4,900 babies born each year at these hospitals will receive vital and optimal care.

The gift provides:

- **Hearing screening equipment** - Early identification of hearing loss allows families to access the help they need about intervention services that best serve their baby's needs.
- **Pediatric vision screening device** - Scheduled screenings following American Academy of Ophthalmology guidelines (beginning at 6 months to age 5 and older when appropriate) can determine overall eye health including alignment, movement and acuity to detect any signs of disease.
- **Fetal monitors** - Expectant mothers can wear wireless monitors while in pregnancy and during labor to provide information about the baby's heart rate and other critical functions.
- **Phototherapy blankets** - These devices can decrease bilirubin levels to treat jaundice in newborns while allowing mothers to breastfeed and provide continual skin-to-skin contact with their babies.



Paige DuChene, RN, performs a newborn hearing screening with the new equipment at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital.

Florina Serban, Nurse Manager of the Birthing Center at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital, said the new equipment allows the hospital to provide enhanced patient care. Mothers deliver nearly 600 babies each year at the birthing center.

"We're so honored to be able to provide all of this equipment to our patients," Florina said. "This wonderful gift allows us to deliver more efficient care, which increases patient satisfaction. When people come here to deliver their babies, we want them to be happy and share their experience with other expectant moms in the community. I'd like to extend a big thank you to The Carls Foundation for ensuring our youngest patients have their best start in life."

## Hand-tied blankets donated to patients

Thank you to the **Oakland University Pre-Medical Society** for taking the time to make and donate 20 hand-tied fleece blankets for patients at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital.

The care and time put into making the blankets means so much to the patients who receive them. The Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation appreciates this compassionate support of the hospital and patients.

Sarah Sheena (left) and Naomi DeLaet (right) delivered blankets for patients to Beth Collins-Mapleh (center), Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation.



## Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation welcomes physician group



IEP physicians, Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital Emergency Department staff and hospital leaders

Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation hosted a holiday reception at The HUB Stadium in Auburn Hills, providing an opportunity for community members, philanthropic supporters, board members and hospital leaders to meet members of **Independent Emergency Physicians (IEP)** while enjoying a social evening together. IEP is the new physician group providing care to patients in the Emergency Department at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital.

The IEP medical group has been caring for patients at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi and Southfield campuses, for many years and began providing care for patients at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital's Emergency Department in January.

Thank you to IEP for their continuous support of Ascension Providence Foundation and Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation through event sponsorships and donations and for joining the Emergency Department team in Rochester.



CeCe Rutherford, Hospital Administrator, Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital, with Wendy Jones and Gerri Birg



Kathy and Russell Shelton



David Kowalski, James Mellon and Gary Druskovich, MD, MBA, Regional President and Chief Executive Officer, Ascension Michigan

## U CAN-CER VIVE Foundation funds critical cancer research

Any cancer diagnosis can come with a grave prognosis. But when an aggressive secondary disease follows, the outlook for a positive health outcome becomes grimmer.

Such is the case with hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), a rare disease that causes catastrophic consumption of the patient's own blood cells. In adult patients, HLH is often the result of an underlying cancer, most commonly leukemia and lymphoma, and is often fatal. Mortality rates, even with appropriate treatment, can be as high as 50 to 90 percent.

To gain a better understanding of HLH and to develop possible treatments, the **U CAN-CER VIVE Foundation** has made a significant gift to the Ascension Providence Foundation to support the research of Leo Reap, DO. Dr. Reap is a hematologist/oncologist with Newland Medical Associates, an Ascension-affiliated group.

"We think HLH occurs due to leukemia and lymphoma themselves, but the disease itself is poorly understood," Dr. Reap said. "Ultimately, the aim of this research is to help shed light on why HLH occurs within cancers as well as understand cholesterol metabolism within cancer as a whole."

The U CAN-CER VIVE Foundation's mission is to provide vital funds for cancer research to create a cancer-free world. Its gift supporting Dr. Reap's research will help fund laboratory supplies, serum sample analysis, a research assistant and more. Dr. Reap will conduct and oversee the research within a laboratory at Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield.

"We don't fully understand what happens when the body doesn't have enough cholesterol, particularly at a time when the body has a great need for it, such as during cancer treatment," Dr. Reap said. "Cancer itself scavenges cholesterol and takes it from the body to help with its own replication. We hypothesize that when cancer consumes large amounts of cholesterol and drives those levels below a threshold where bodily needs are not met, it can provoke an HLH-like picture."

Although HLH was once thought to occur in less than one in a million patients, new data shows the incidence is closer to one in 50,000 cases.

"Understanding this disease is of the utmost importance," Dr. Reap said. "That's why we're so grateful to the U CAN-CER VIVE Foundation for its gift supporting this critically needed research."



Pictured at a check presentation are (l-r): Christa Williams, Ascension Providence Foundation; Audrey Ryskamp, Carol Peters, Savanna Hinsperger and Kelley LaFontaine, all from the U CAN-CER VIVE Foundation; Dr. Leo Reap, Ascension Providence Hospital, Newland Medical Associates; and Max Muney, Todd McKay, Melanie LaFontaine, Kim Seets and Joe Senac, all from the U CAN-CER VIVE Foundation.

## Grateful family raises funds for NICU

Natalie Sherbow was born prematurely at 32 weeks in November 2021, weighing 3 lbs. 5 oz. She was a patient in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Ascension St. John Children's Hospital for 48 days. Like so many NICU babies, she had setbacks and feeding challenges.

Despite obstacles, Natalie's family said they experienced outstanding care and attention from the compassionate NICU team, and Natalie was able to be discharged on Christmas day, in 2021.

Today, Natalie is a spunky, happy toddler! In celebration of her first birthday in November 2022, her parents, **Jennifer and Michael Sherbow**, held a fundraiser to assist other NICU patients at Ascension St. John Children's Hospital. They raised nearly \$3,000 from family and friends to support the Mary Ann Van Elslander Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Special Care Nursery Fund, which provides for equipment needs,

educational materials and patient care enhancements for premature and critically ill babies.

"The care and support we received from the team have left a lasting impression on us – thank you just isn't enough," said Jennifer and Michael.



Natalie at 4 days old in the NICU    1-year-old Natalie

## Couple who lost two babies creates foundation to support NICU families



Pictured l-r: NICU nurses Jennifer Drazba and Hannah Holmes were on hand to accept the care packages from Nick and Ashley Batt and Lisa Melnick, Ashley's mother.

Ashley and Nick Batt delivered both of their sons, Bryson and Baker, at Ascension St. John Hospital. Bryson was born in 2020 with a rare genetic disorder and passed away a month after his birth. In 2022, the Batts welcomed Baker who was born with the same genetic condition and passed away a month and a half after his birth.

The Batts say they knew they wanted to give back to other Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) families, especially at Ascension St. John Hospital. They started the **Bryson and Baker Batt Foundation** in memory of their two boys to support NICU families and those who have lost a child. The foundation donates NICU welcome bags filled with items like a food delivery gift card, book, snacks and travel-size hygiene products to help families during those first days in the NICU.

The Bryson and Baker Batt Foundation also provides bereavement bags for families who don't get to take their baby home. These special bags are filled with remembrance items and support materials to aid the parents and family.

"Being in the NICU is a roller coaster every day, and lots of days are filled with hard news or scary moments, so our Sunshine Bags are provided to families, handed out by their nurse on those not-so-great days and are filled with items to bring a little joy to their day," said Ashley Batt.

During the holiday season, the foundation coordinates an event where volunteers make hand-tied fleece blankets to donate to NICU families in addition to a welcome bag. In December 2022, 60 volunteers participated, and the Batts delivered 40 holiday bags to the Ascension St. John Hospital NICU.

The Batts plan to continue this tradition to help as many NICU families as possible. The NICU team at Ascension St. John Hospital became a huge part of the Batts' journey, and the opportunity to give back to their community and the hospital that cared for them came naturally.

"The NICU team at Ascension St. John Hospital is so near to our hearts," Ashley said. "The nurses and doctors are so thoughtful, loving and caring to not only the babies but to us as parents. They really take time to care lovingly for your child and make sure we are a part of their care and taken care of, too."

For more details about the Bryson and Baker Batt Foundation, visit <https://www.brysonandbakerbattfoundation.com>.

## Thank you for helping a patient in need and honoring an Ascension doctor for Doctors' Day 2023!

Many patients and family members recently recognized doctors with heartfelt tributes in celebration of National Doctors' Day (celebrated annually on March 30) while making gifts to support patients in need.

Your gift helped a patient with essential needs that occur after discharge from the hospital, such as prescription medications, medical equipment, gas for follow-up appointments, food, electricity and more.

If you wrote a note of gratitude to honor a special doctor in your life, it was shared with that physician. Your heartfelt message helps to uplift and encourage doctors in the dedicated work they do every day to make a difference in the lives of patients and their families. Thank you!

Here is a sampling of the tributes sent to Ascension doctors in southeast Michigan this year:

To: **H. Lee Bacheldor, DO** - I first saw Dr. Bacheldor in 1988, as a young, new doctor. He's been an inspiration, doctor and friend for 35 years. He's helped my family through things as simple as physicals, tests and cancer treatment to recovery. We respect him and are grateful every day. He's been a blessing to our family and this community!

To: **Cibar Benitez Farina, MD** - Thank you for saving my life! I could not have imagined a better doctor when I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's. Your calm, optimistic manner helped me and my husband more than you'll ever know. Thank you again!

To: **Peter Littrup, MD** - To the world, you may be just a doctor. But to your patients and their families, you're a hero. Thank God you liked chemistry and went into medicine. God bless you.

To: **Kelly Machesky, MD** - We are so happy for the opportunity to tell you how privileged we feel to have you for our doctor! You are the perfect doctor. You always listen with concern, give very wise counsel and always seem to know exactly how to get to the crux of our health problems. We truly believe you saved my husband's life. We simply can't thank you enough for sharing your wisdom and concern for us! You are the best!

To: **Ryan Pradko, DO** - Dr. Pradko exhibits maturity beyond his years. He is very professional, kind and respectful. He takes the time and effort to know his patients. He is outstanding in the practice of Family Medicine and a tribute to Ascension healthcare.

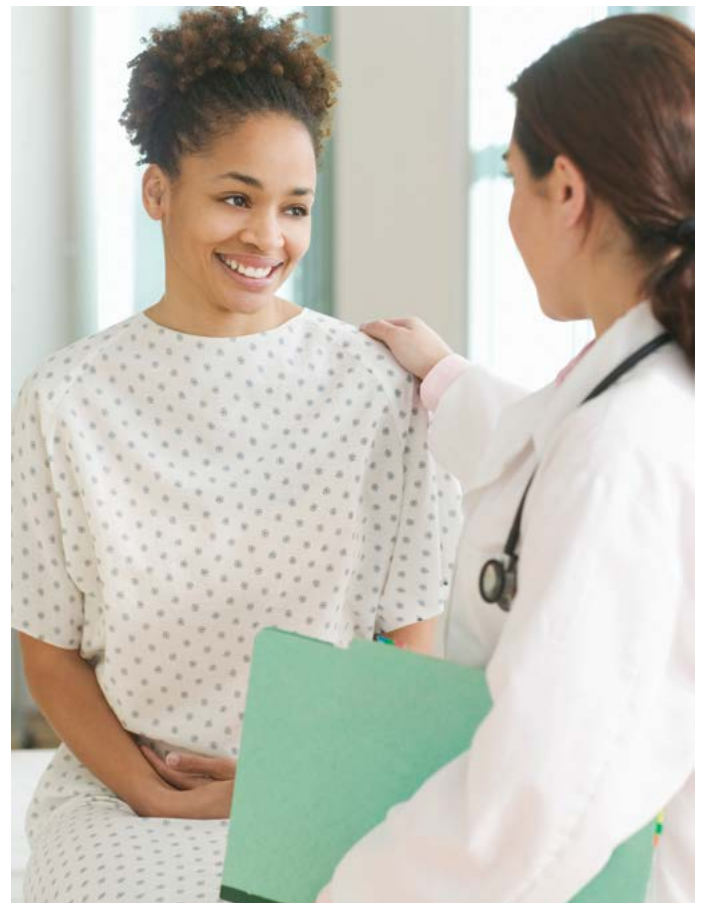
To: **Carlos Ramirez, MD, DDS** - Thank Dr. Ramirez is an overall healthcare provider. He is knowledgeable, skillful, kind, compassionate, personable and approachable. I will highly recommend him to others. I thank our Lord Jesus Christ for him, and our prayers go to him and his staff.

To: **Isabella Scofield, MD** - I am so happy to have found Dr. Scofield last year. I am so grateful she has listened to and addressed my concerns and has helped me to get my health on the right track. She is engaged, understanding and supportive, and I can't say enough about her.

To: **Emily Soni, DO** - Thank you from the bottom of my heart for having my best interests at heart in all our conversations and my misdirected requests. You're the best!

To: **Virginia Zacharius, MD** - Dr. Zach is special. She's caring and personable. Best of all, she's a good doctor who shows true concern for her patients.

To: **Jeffrey Zaks, MD** - Thank you for your years of care, concern and patience!



## Announcements

### New board created for Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation

A Board of Trustees has been established for the Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation to guide the foundation in its dedication to supporting the healing Mission of Ascension through its fundraising efforts. The following individuals have been named as board members:



**Robert Dery, CPA**, is the Chair of the Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation Board. He is a retired partner with Plante Moran who served the healthcare and not-for-profit service industries for 39 years including Crittenton Hospital (now

named Ascension Rochester Hospital). Bob has been involved with the Ascension health system for over 20 years in various governance capacities on both a local and statewide level.



**Michael Badali** has been a leader at Ascension for over 25 years. In April 2022, he was appointed as Chief Operating Officer responsible for Ascension Michigan's Metro West Region. Prior to his current role, he served as the Vice President of

Operations at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital. Previously, he was the Vice President of Market Growth and Business Development for Ascension Michigan. In this role, he was responsible for developing the key service lines for Ascension Michigan: Behavioral Health, Cardiovascular, Oncology, Orthopedics and Neuroscience.



**Phil Bertolini** is a Senior Vice President who oversees e.Republic's nationally recognized events division. His team hosts more than 60 events each year, attracting over 45,000 attendees. As a former public servant, Phil has a deep understanding of the

needs of government IT leaders - and how to energize and inspire an audience. During his 31-year tenure as deputy county executive and CIO for Oakland County, Michigan, Phil built a world-class IT organization in the second-largest county in Michigan. He lives in Clarkston with his wife Kathleen who is an elected trustee for Oakland County Community College.



**Gerri Birg** is a registered nurse with an extensive background in healthcare operations management and performance improvement. She has held leadership roles in a large healthcare organization and a national consulting firm. Her expertise

encompasses utilizing outcome data to guide staff in providing strategic direction, benchmarking opportunities and outcome management techniques to integrate into continuous quality improvement. Gerri is a member of the Mental Wellness and Local Acts of Kindness committees at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital and volunteers for other community organizations.



**Tim Crawford** is President of The Crawford Insurance Group, established in 2001. With over 40 years in the Insurance business, Tim made the transition from the corporate sector of Nationwide Insurance to establish his own agency.

He has built a foundation on providing comprehensive insurance solutions by taking a proactive approach to customer service earning long-term commitment and referrals based on professional service and a high degree of integrity. Tim is dedicated to community service and is involved with several charitable organizations.



**Gary Druskovich, MD, MBA**, Regional President and Chief Executive Officer, Ascension Michigan, leads Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi and Southfield campuses; Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital and Ascension Brighton Center for

Recovery. A strategic clinical and administrative leader, he believes in achieving desired outcomes through collaboration, a patient-centric focus and a servant leader mindset. Before his current position, Dr. Druskovich served in various leadership roles for Ascension. He is an anesthesiologist who was in a private group practice for 27 years.

Continued from previous page



**Wendy Jones** is the founder of Next Steps 4 Seniors and a business management professional with 25 years of experience in the long-term care industry. She has an extensive background in skilled nursing and rehab in admissions and placement.

Wendy has literally worked “arm in arm” with seniors for more than 20 years while managing the Outreach to Seniors program at her church. She started a nonprofit for lower income seniors called Next Steps 4 Seniors Foundation. Wendy sits on the Regional Quality Control Committee for Ascension.

### New board member named for Ascension St. John Foundation



**Debbie Bellovich** has joined the Ascension St. John Foundation Board of Trustees. She began volunteering at Ascension St. John Hospital 30 years ago. Debbie’s passion for social justice, youth mentorship and equitable access to healthcare guided

her education and volunteer pursuits. After earning a bachelor of arts degree and a juris doctor, Debbie worked in development for several nonprofit organizations in metro Detroit. She is currently Co-chair of the *Your Child, We Care* campaign to benefit Ascension St. John Children’s Hospital.

### Ascension Michigan announces new leader



**Carol Schmidt, FACHE**, is the new Senior Vice President, Ascension, and Ministry Market Executive, Ascension Michigan. She has served as Senior Vice President, Ascension, and Chief Operating Officer for Ascension Medical Group and its clinical

initiatives since 2017. Carol has been part of Ascension since 1997 and has led teams and functions dedicated to improving operational performance to ensure the sustainability of Ascension, including serving as Chief Operating Officer for Ascension Sacred Heart in Florida for two years.

## Young girl starts own charity, donates toys to Ascension St. John Children’s Hospital

While most 10-year-olds were thinking about the gifts they wanted for Christmas, Taylor Brewer was delivering a load of donated toys to Ascension St. John Children’s Hospital for children hospitalized over the holidays.

Taylor began her quest to bring smiles to pediatric patients during the height of the COVID pandemic in 2020. She used money from her piggy bank and a small donation from her parents to purchase toys to donate to patients. In 2021, with the help of her mother, Jenni Brewer, Taylor formed **Sleigh for Smiles**, a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. With more of Taylor’s own money and donations from friends, family and the community, Sleigh for Smiles raised \$3,000 that year to purchase three truckloads of toys.

In 2022, the young philanthropist used a dog treat maker she got for her birthday to make goodies for her own dog to benefit Sleigh for Smiles. She made and sold the treats all year long. With a few other fundraisers and donations from community members and businesses, Taylor’s success with Sleigh for Smiles boomed, and she was able to add Ascension St. John Children’s Hospital as a beneficiary of the toys (\$1,000 worth!) which she delivered on Dec. 21, 2022.



Taylor Brewer arrives with a carload of toys for Ascension St. John Children’s Hospital.

## Respiratory technology provides essential care for patients

New respiratory equipment purchased with grant funds awarded by the **Respiratory Foundation of Southeast Michigan** is helping enhance care for patients at Ascension hospitals in southeast Michigan.

A generous grant recently awarded to Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi, will help acquire nine Hamilton C1 ventilators to replace older models no longer eligible for updates or service. The new versatile machines are capable of providing ventilator support for patients of all ages, including the smallest, most vulnerable patients in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The compact size makes it easy to use during patient transportation, improving patient safety and adding convenience for caregivers.

In addition, the Respiratory Foundation of Southeast Michigan awarded a grant to Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital which will allow for the purchase of nine Trilogy EV300 ventilator systems. These offer both invasive and non-invasive ventilation so patients can be treated with a single device as their condition changes. The option for a less-invasive means of ventilatory support decreases the need for endotracheal intubation, lessening complications such as pneumonia and upper-airway injuries.

Grants were also awarded last year to Ascension River District Hospital, Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital, Warren and Madison Heights; Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield; and Ascension St. John Hospital to support the purchase of

ventilators and other equipment to enhance patient monitoring and safety.

“We are grateful for the longstanding support and generosity of the Respiratory Foundation,” said Michelle England, Respiratory Manager, Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi and Southfield campuses. “For years, the Respiratory Foundation has helped ensure we have the resources necessary to provide the best care possible for patients and to respond quickly and efficiently to emergent needs. From ventilators to monitoring equipment, we truly cannot thank them enough for their support.”

Since 1983, the Respiratory Foundation of Southeast Michigan has granted nearly \$10 million to Ascension hospitals in southeast Michigan to support a variety of respiratory and pulmonary programs and equipment.



## New bassinets enhance infant care

Thanks to generous donations, Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital has two new bassinets for babies born in the Birthing Center.

The new bassinets will allow for more connection and closeness between babies and their mothers, helping to make one of the most significant times in a family’s life even more special. These are the first two new bassinets purchased; an additional 13 bassinets are needed to replace the older models.

The **Community Foundation of Greater Rochester**, a long-time supporter of Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation, awarded a Community Enhancement Grant last fall to allow for the purchase of the first new bassinet.

The second bassinet was made possible because of a gift from **Jeffrey DeClaire, MD, and his wife Amber**. Dr. DeClaire is an orthopedic surgeon on the medical staff of Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital. The DeClaire family decided to make the gift in honor of their daughters, Scarlett and Ivy, who are in elementary and middle school.

If you are interested in making a gift to support the purchase of additional bassinets, please contact Beth Collins-Mapleh at 248-652-5362 or [elizabeth.collinsmapleh@ascension.org](mailto:elizabeth.collinsmapleh@ascension.org).



Ivy and Scarlett DeClaire show off a new bassinet now in use in the Birthing Center at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital. The bassinet was donated in their honor by their parents.



## Police play hockey to help provide heart screenings for first responders

More first responders will have access to preventative heart screenings on the Ascension Mobile Health Screening Center, thanks to the **Romulus Police Department** and **Westland Police Department**.

The departments faced off against each other in a Hockey for Healthcare charity hockey game on Jan. 20 at the Taylor Sportsplex. Proceeds from the friendly competition totaled nearly \$3,000 to benefit mobile health screenings for first responders in Detroit and the surrounding communities.

The preventative heart screening includes a detailed health risk assessment, blood pressure, body mass index, an electrocardiogram and cardiomyopathy screening. The screening normally costs \$60. Funds raised at the hockey game will help provide free screenings for up to 50 first responders on the mobile center which travels to police precincts and fire stations.

Anne Nearhood, Program Specialist, Mobile Unit Program, and Rita Hiatt, the mother of a Detroit police officer who suffered a heart attack and died at age 33, represented Ascension at the game.

After losing her son Donald a few years ago, Rita reached out to Ascension, which already had a heart screening program in place on the Ascension Mobile Health Screening Center. Rita's initiative helped put mobile screenings in motion for first responders to identify potential heart conditions early.

"The Ascension Mobile Health Screening Center for first responders is a wonderful program inspired by Rita Hiatt's



Rita Hiatt dropped the ceremonial puck between Officer Margaret Kelly, Westland Police Department, and Corporal Chris Kososki, Romulus Police Department, at the charity game.

heart and carried out so well by Anne Nearhood," said Romulus Police Chief Robert Pfannes. "The Romulus and Westland Police Departments wanted to show their gratitude in a tangible way by having the hockey contest proceeds go to the program. Many thanks to Ascension and to all the people who made this program happen for first responders!"

Heart screenings were held on the mobile center for Romulus first responders in 2022; there are plans to screen Westland first responders soon. Since the program began in 2020, the mobile center has provided 1,073 first responders with heart screenings.

## 704 kids will receive a book because of your donations!

A big THANK YOU goes out to the 93 donors who made a gift to the Book Drive at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi and Southfield campuses. Your gift helped ease the fear and stress children face while waiting to see their doctor. The books received helped distract the children and keep their minds off the intimidating emergency room or waiting room environment.

There is still a need for books! If you would like to give a book to a child, please visit our secure website at <https://ascnmifnd.org/APFBookDrive> or scan the QR code at right.

You will never know the name of the child who receives your book, but you will be helping them through a difficult and stressful time. Please make your gift to provide a book for a child today! Your gift of \$4 covers the cost of one book.

### Children's books needed



Your gift of \$4 provides a book to a sick child!

## Students contribute time and talents to enrich patient experience

Besides financial donations, the gift of time is valuable to our Ascension hospitals in southeast Michigan. Ascension Providence Volunteer Services partners with local schools and universities for a win-win experience with student volunteers.

The hospital benefits from the students' energy, fresh ideas and keen interest in healthcare. Students help out in a variety of ways including stocking supplies, visiting with patients, escorting guests, and other indirect patient care tasks. Volunteers never replace paid associates, said Kathy Zaguroli, Manager, Volunteer Services, Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi and Southfield. The students add value to the current services such as bringing handmade blankets or cards to patients.

In return, although the student volunteers do not directly shadow clinical workers or physicians, simply being in the hospital environment gives them the opportunity to learn how the hospital functions, teaches the importance of excellent customer service and allows them to explore careers. Nearly all student volunteers are on a pre-med, pre-PA or pre-nursing educational track. The experience they gain gives them a boost when applying for clinical programs and jobs.

For more information about volunteering at the Southfield or Novi campus, visit [ascension.org/VolunteerSouthfield](http://ascension.org/VolunteerSouthfield) or [ascension.org/VolunteerNovi](http://ascension.org/VolunteerNovi). The minimum age of volunteers is 16 at Southfield and 17 at Novi.



Asma Bedrouni (left) and Bailey Kassab (right), both students from St. Catherine of Siena Academy in Novi, assist a patient at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi.

## GUILD update

**THE GUILD** continues to give generously to support Ascension St. John Hospital. Last year, THE GUILD contributed more than \$475,000 to the hospital. In addition to the organization's ongoing commitment of the *Your Child, We Care* campaign for Ascension St. John Children's Hospital, THE GUILD supported the purchase of a 4D ultrasound machine for the Maternal Fetal Medicine program, an ultrasound machine for Anesthesiology, and a pediatric echocardiogram machine for Pediatric Cardiology.

THE GUILD continues to grow. The following individuals have joined the board: Mac Bellovich, Gregory DeMars Jr., Phil Meyers, Jack Roma and David Tindall.

Upcoming GUILD events include a new member event at the Country Club of Detroit on July 20 and the Ascension St. John Medical Staff/GUILD Golf Outing at Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods on Sept. 11.



Pictured here at a GUILD check presentation are (l-r): Joseph Fikany Jr., GUILD officer; Dr. Keith Bellovich, Chief Medical Officer, Ascension St. John Hospital; Dr. Marcus DeGraw, Chief of Pediatrics, Ascension St. John Hospital; Andrew Cracchiolo, GUILD President; Dr. Premchand Anne, Program Director, Pediatric Residency Program, and Director, Pediatric Cardiology, Ascension St. John Children's Hospital; Michael Tindall, GUILD officer; Dawn Parkin, RN, BSN, Practice Manager, Ascension St. John Children's Center; and Lisa Pinkowski, Major Gift Officer, Ascension St. John Foundation.

## Fontbonne update

The **Fontbonne Auxiliary** returned to holding an in-person White Christmas Ball in 2022! The popular fundraising event was held Dec. 2 at The Henry in Dearborn, with the theme “Winter Fantasy.” Sally Cytacki chaired the event, where 400 guests danced the night away to the sounds of Skyline & the Backstreet Horns. The proceeds, which totaled \$90,000, will be used to expand resources for the Simulation Laboratory at Ascension St. John Hospital to help provide training for future caregivers to deliver high-quality, safe care to patients with gastrointestinal issues and for women’s health.

The White Christmas Ball honored the late Dr. Robert Veneri and Dr. David Zalenski. Both physicians dedicated their life’s work to bettering patient care and educating new physicians. Dr. Veneri was a gastroenterologist who played a critical role in the advancement of GI services at the hospital. Dr. Zaleski was Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology; he delivered high-quality, empathetic care to women in the community and was an advocate for education.



Maryann Veneri, wife of honoree Dr. Robert Veneri; Lorna Zalenski, President, Fontbonne Auxiliary and wife of honoree Dr. David Zalenski; and Sally Cytacki, White Christmas Ball Chair

The next White Christmas Ball will be held on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, at The Henry. For more information, contact Lorna Zalenski at 313-590-5607 or llz523@aol.com.

## Save the date

For event details, visit:

- [www.ascnfnfnd.org/ASJFEvents](http://www.ascnfnfnd.org/ASJFEvents) (Ascension St. John Foundation)
- [www.ascnfnfnd.org/APFEvents](http://www.ascnfnfnd.org/APFEvents) (Ascension Providence Foundation)
- [www.ascnfnfnd.org/APRFEvents](http://www.ascnfnfnd.org/APRFEvents) (Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation)

Or email [specialevents@ascension.org](mailto:specialevents@ascension.org), unless other contact details are indicated.

*Important note: Event dates are accurate as of print date.*

### Providence Golf Classic

**Monday, June 5, 2023**

Indianwood Golf and Country Club, Lake Orion  
Proceeds to benefit the Care of the Poor Fund and the Believe in Miracles Fund at Ascension Providence Hospital

### Ascension Providence Rochester Golf Classic

**Tuesday, June 27, 2023**

The Wyndgate Country Club, Rochester Hills  
Proceeds to benefit Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital

### Lochmoor Fights Cancer

**Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023**

Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe Woods  
Proceeds to benefit the Van Elslander Cancer Center Needy Patient Fund

### Jerry Williams Shootout for the Cure

**Friday, Aug. 11, 2023**

St. Clair Golf Club, St. Clair  
Proceeds to benefit the Jerome F. Williams GI Cancer Patient Support Fund

### Macomb-Oakland Golf Outing

**Friday, Sept. 8, 2023**

Greystone Golf Club & Banquet Center, Washington, MI  
Proceeds to benefit Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital

### Ascension St. John Medical Staff/GUILD Golf Outing

**Monday, Sept. 11, 2023**

Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe Woods  
Proceeds to benefit Ascension St. John Hospital  
For details, email: [TheStJohnGuild@gmail.com](mailto:TheStJohnGuild@gmail.com)

### Mangia é Bocce

**Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023**

Location: Palazzo di Bocce, Lake Orion  
Proceeds to benefit Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital

### Fontbonne White Christmas Ball

**Friday, Dec. 1, 2023**

The Henry, Dearborn  
Proceeds to benefit Ascension St. John Hospital  
For details, contact Lorna Zalenski at 313-590-5607 or llz523@aol.com



To see photos from past events, visit: [ascnmifnd.org/SEMIEventPhotos](http://ascnmifnd.org/SEMIEventPhotos) or scan the QR code on your mobile device.

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Editor: Kathy Torick  
Designer: Sabreta Johnson

If you prefer to be removed from the mailing list, write to:  
Newsletter Editor  
Ascension Michigan Foundation  
28000 Dequindre Road  
Warren, MI 48236  
or call 586-753-1131.

## Your gift will help a patient in need



After a stay in the hospital, it is essential for a patient to attend follow-up appointments and to take the medications their doctor

prescribed. When a patient can't afford follow-up care or doesn't have the resources needed to pay for medications, their health can suffer.

Your donation of \$25 will help a patient who is struggling with expenses after discharge from the hospital, such as:

- Prescription medications
- Medical equipment (e.g., walker, commode chair, oxygen)
- Gas for follow-up appointments
- Food, electricity and more

Your help is needed now, especially for a patient who recently lost a job and doesn't have health insurance. A patient who is struggling may have to make difficult choices for their immediate needs – providing food for their children, paying a utility bill or purchasing a prescription medication.

Please consider making a gift of \$25 to help one patient in need. If you would like to help a patient in need, please visit one of our secure giving web pages:

To support patients from:  
*Ascension St. John Hospital,*  
*Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital*  
*or Ascension River District Hospital:*  
<https://ascnmifnd.org/ASJFHelp>



To support patients from:  
*Ascension Providence Hospital,*  
*Novi or Southfield:*  
<https://ascnmifnd.org/APFHelp>



To support patients from:  
*Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital:*  
<https://ascnmifnd.org/APRFHelp>

