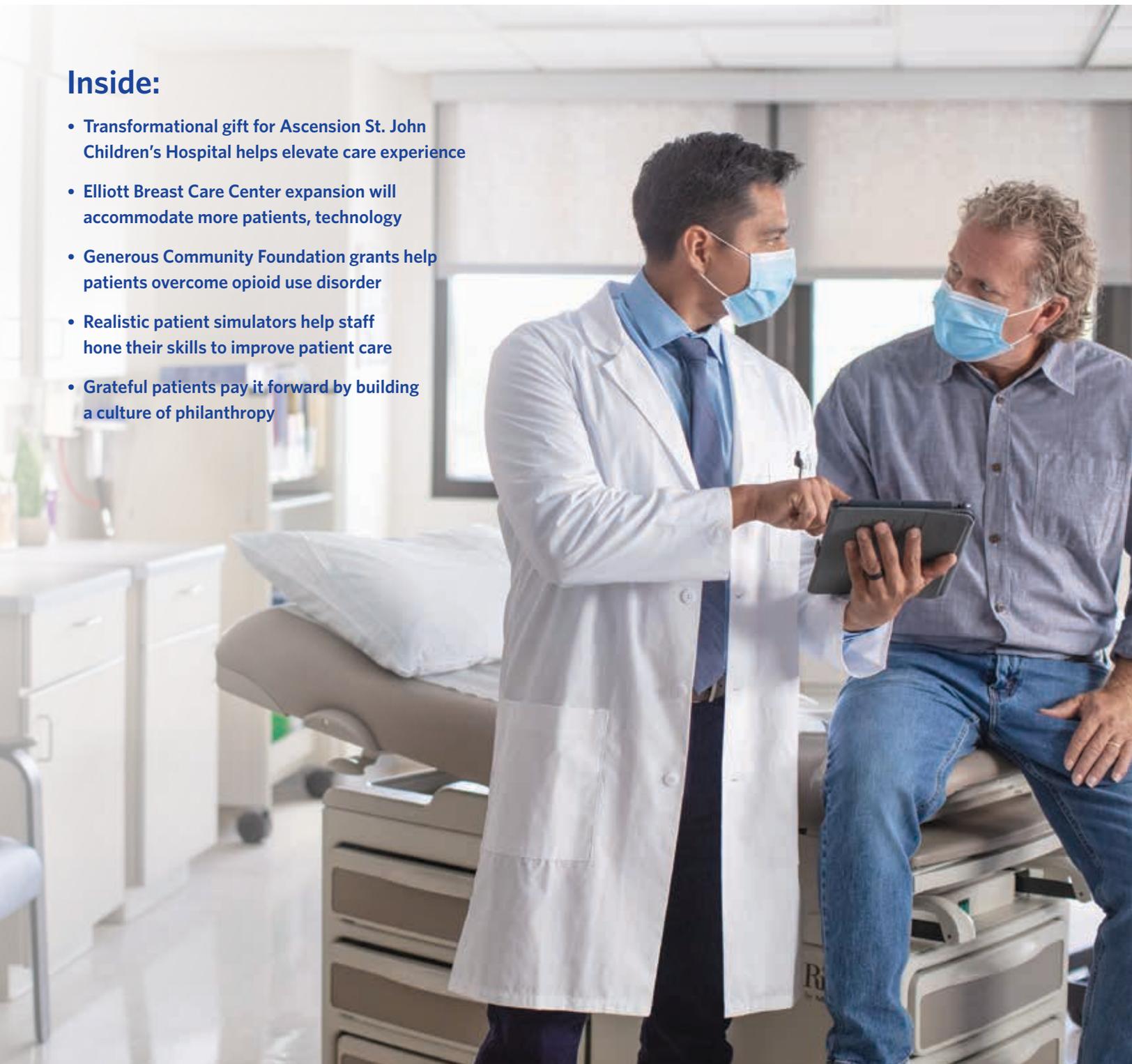


# Spirit of Giving

A NEWSLETTER FOR DONORS AND FRIENDS OF ASCENSION ST. JOHN AND PROVIDENCE FOUNDATIONS

## Inside:

- Transformational gift for Ascension St. John Children's Hospital helps elevate care experience
- Elliott Breast Care Center expansion will accommodate more patients, technology
- Generous Community Foundation grants help patients overcome opioid use disorder
- Realistic patient simulators help staff hone their skills to improve patient care
- Grateful patients pay it forward by building a culture of philanthropy



## Ascension St. John Children's Hospital gets transformational gift from Mary Ann Van Elslander



A recent, multi-million dollar donation from **Mary Ann Van Elslander** will continue a family legacy built on compassion for others. The extraordinary gift from Mrs. Van Elslander supports the Your Child, We Care campaign at Ascension St. John Children's

Hospital, bringing the campaign to its minimum goal of \$18 million to make changes that will enhance privacy, improve comfort and elevate the care experience for families in the community. Her contribution to the major renovation will help expand the inpatient Pediatric Unit and create a dedicated entrance for women and children arriving at the hospital.

A devoted mother of 10 children, Mrs. Van Elslander has always had a passion for helping others. For years, she volunteered and comforted newborns and families in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Ascension St. John Children's Hospital. Her time there inspired her to support the creation of the *Mary Ann Van Elslander Neonatal Intensive Care Unit* to ensure families had access to the best care possible in an inviting setting.

"My passion has always favored the well-being of babies and children," Mrs. Van Elslander said. "Having been blessed with a large family, I am delighted to support Ascension St. John Children's Hospital, which has done a wonderful job serving our community's families and will do so for generations to come."

Now, her name will serve as a beacon of hope for families arriving at Ascension St. John Hospital. The *Van Elslander Women's and Children's Entrance* will provide comfort and convenience for families expecting a new baby or needing emergency services for their child, so they will no longer have to enter through the main emergency center. Additionally, the *Mary Ann Van Elslander Pediatric Unit* will be established with a focus on added privacy for children and their parents with amenities that match the high quality of care provided.

"Mrs. Van Elslander's transformational gift has helped the campaign reach the minimum \$18 million mark and will allow us to continue to raise dollars for technology and program needs," said Debbie Bellovich, Co-chair of the campaign and a grateful mother. "As one of the many parents who has

received critical pediatric care from Ascension St. John Hospital, I am so grateful for Mrs. Van Elslander and all she has done to inspire gifts of grace at the hospital and in our community."

Peter Ahee, Ascension St. John Foundation Board Chair, added, "The Ascension St. John Foundation is proud to support the hospital's mission to provide the best medical care to all — regardless of ability to pay. As the largest Foundation of Ascension Michigan, we are pleased to receive this transformational gift from Mrs. Mary Ann Van Elslander. Her contribution will not only support the hospital's core vision, but also help provide the facilities, equipment and comfort that our patients and families deserve."

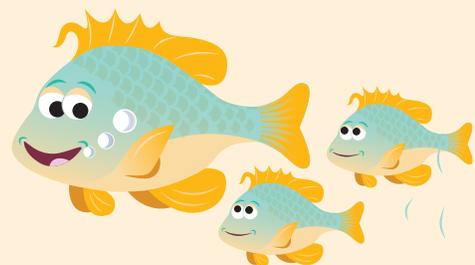
The expansion and renovation will also create a dedicated pediatric emergency center for enhanced privacy and comfort for children and their families and relocate the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit to optimize efficiency of care.

Events are planned to celebrate the expansion project and highlight Ascension St. John Children's Hospital.

For more information about the Your Child, We Care campaign, please contact Lisa Pinkowski at 313-343-7480.



A draft image of the future Women's and Children's Entrance



Your Child, We Care — a campaign to benefit Ascension St. John Children's Hospital

## Moms' group supports Because We Care to honor member with cancer and help others

Molly Dupes was just 36 years old when she was diagnosed with breast cancer last year. The mother of three young children found a lump while nursing her baby and assumed it was a clogged milk duct. When it didn't improve, she went to her doctor, was sent for diagnostic tests and was shocked to learn she had cancer. She ended up getting a double mastectomy, chemotherapy infusions and 28 rounds of radiation.

At this difficult time, Angela Morra, Molly's good friend, wanted to do something to help that would make a difference. "Molly doesn't like to be in the spotlight and is always giving so much of herself in time and donations, and she refuses help for herself," Angela said.

The friends are members of the Grosse Pointe Moms' Circle, a network of over 100 members whose goal is to enrich families and promote a sense of community. The group provides opportunities for social interaction such as potluck playdates, art dates, coffee club, fitness outings and mom's night out, as well as support for each other and community service projects.

When Angela proposed that the Moms' Circle hold its fall fundraiser in support of Molly and a cause close to her heart, the group enthusiastically agreed to hold an event to raise funds for the Because We Care program in honor of Molly.

Because We Care is a fund that helps provide breast cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment for uninsured and underinsured women at Ascension hospitals in southeast Michigan, including the Liggett Breast Center at Ascension St. John Hospital, where Molly is undergoing care.

Spearheaded by Angela with help from others, the Moms' Circle coordinated an event for Nov. 4, 2022 — "Shop Local & Support a Great Cause." The group teamed up with the Busted Bra Shop and Norma G's in the Jefferson-Chalmers shopping district in Detroit, just outside of Grosse Pointe Park, to support local businesses.

The event drew many members out to shop, socialize and dine in support of Molly. Five percent of purchases made at the Busted Bra Shop that day and a portion of the proceeds from the group's dinner at Norma G's supported Because We Care. Others who couldn't attend also made donations.

**The Grosse Pointe Moms' Circle raised \$3,000 for Because We Care**, including a matching gift from Molly, who has been donating to charities since she was 6 years old when she gave her \$2 allowance to the Humane Society.

Molly's optimistic attitude and perseverance are an inspiration. She doesn't let her diagnosis get in the way of helping others. "I feel fortunate I have good medical insurance and strong support from family and friends, and can't imagine what people do without adequate resources," she said.

"I want people to realize they can give any amount, and it will help others," Molly added. "Hopefully, this effort will bring more attention to the Because We Care program."

Angela is hopeful that — through the fundraiser and Molly's willingness to share her story — more women will be better aware of changes in their body and make their health a priority.

To learn how you can support the Because We Care program, see the story on the back page.



Angela Morra and Molly Dupes at the Busted Bra Shop

## Elliott Breast Care Center expansion will accommodate more patients, add space for emerging technology

When the Elliott Breast Care Center at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi, opened in 1999, it was one of the first comprehensive breast care centers in the area. From the beginning, the center provided mammography, breast ultrasound and biopsies for patients. Fast forward 23 years, and the center now provides care coordination for all breast care patients requiring follow up, nurse navigator assistance and bone density testing, along with all the basic services needed to provide exemplary breast care services for the communities served by the hospital.

With the tremendous growth of the surrounding communities, the demand for services far exceeds capacity. The center currently screens more than 15,000 patients annually by operating seven days a week, including most evenings. While the center has maintained the latest in technology and standards of care, the space has become far too limited for additional equipment, which hinders the ability to serve every patient requesting an appointment. At this time, there is a backlog of 2,000 patients waiting for treatment or seeking care at other facilities. The lack of space and the cost to purchase more screening equipment has created a critical need to expand.



The vision for the Elliott Breast Care Center is to renovate existing adjacent space and expand from 3,200 square feet to approximately 5,600 square feet to help increase patient capacity by up to 30 percent and improve efficiency of care. This renovation and expansion will provide the following benefits to patients:

- Separate waiting rooms for patients with non-routine screening results from those receiving routine screenings
- A consultation room for private doctor-patient conversations
- Private space for patient coordination of care discussions
- Additional mammography machine(s)
- Space to comply with the ever-changing technology and modalities for complete breast care

To enhance the overall patient experience, the improvements to the center are projected to cost \$2.72 million. Ascension has committed to providing \$2 million for this project, with the remainder to be raised through philanthropic support from the community. To launch this project, generous lead gifts totaling \$300,000 were received from the Southfield Radiology Associates Foundation, Kenmar Corporation and the Elliott family, for whom the center is named. This leaves more than \$400,000 to raise to make this vision complete, and your help is needed.

Your gift to support the renovation and expansion of the Elliott Breast Care Center will enhance and enlarge an already outstanding breast care service program and allow the center to continue to provide patients with an exceptional experience in a comfortable, less stressful, modern environment.

To learn more, please contact the Ascension Providence Foundation at 248-465-5006 or email [christa.williams@ascension.org](mailto:christa.williams@ascension.org). To take a virtual tour of the existing and proposed facility, scan the QR code found here.



## Pink Out the Path at Novi Campus

**Pink Out the Path** is a community event that will kick off Breast Cancer Awareness Month and celebrate the grand opening of the **Joan & Sheldon Rose Walking Path** at **Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi Campus**.

The event will take place on Saturday, **Oct. 1**, from 4-8 p.m. Pink Out the Path is free for the community to attend, with an option to support the **Elliott Breast Care Center** by purchasing tickets for access to the **J & B Medical VIP Reception Tent**.

The event will include live music by **50AmpFuse**, food trucks and an opportunity to enjoy the Joan & Sheldon Rose Walking Path, which has four loops ranging in length from one to two miles.

**Rose Senior Living at Providence Park** will host a kid zone complete with “touch a truck” opportunities. In addition, the **Novi Police Department** will have its pink police car on site. For a \$5 donation, people can sign the pink portions with the name of a loved one or a wish for someone who has been impacted by breast cancer.

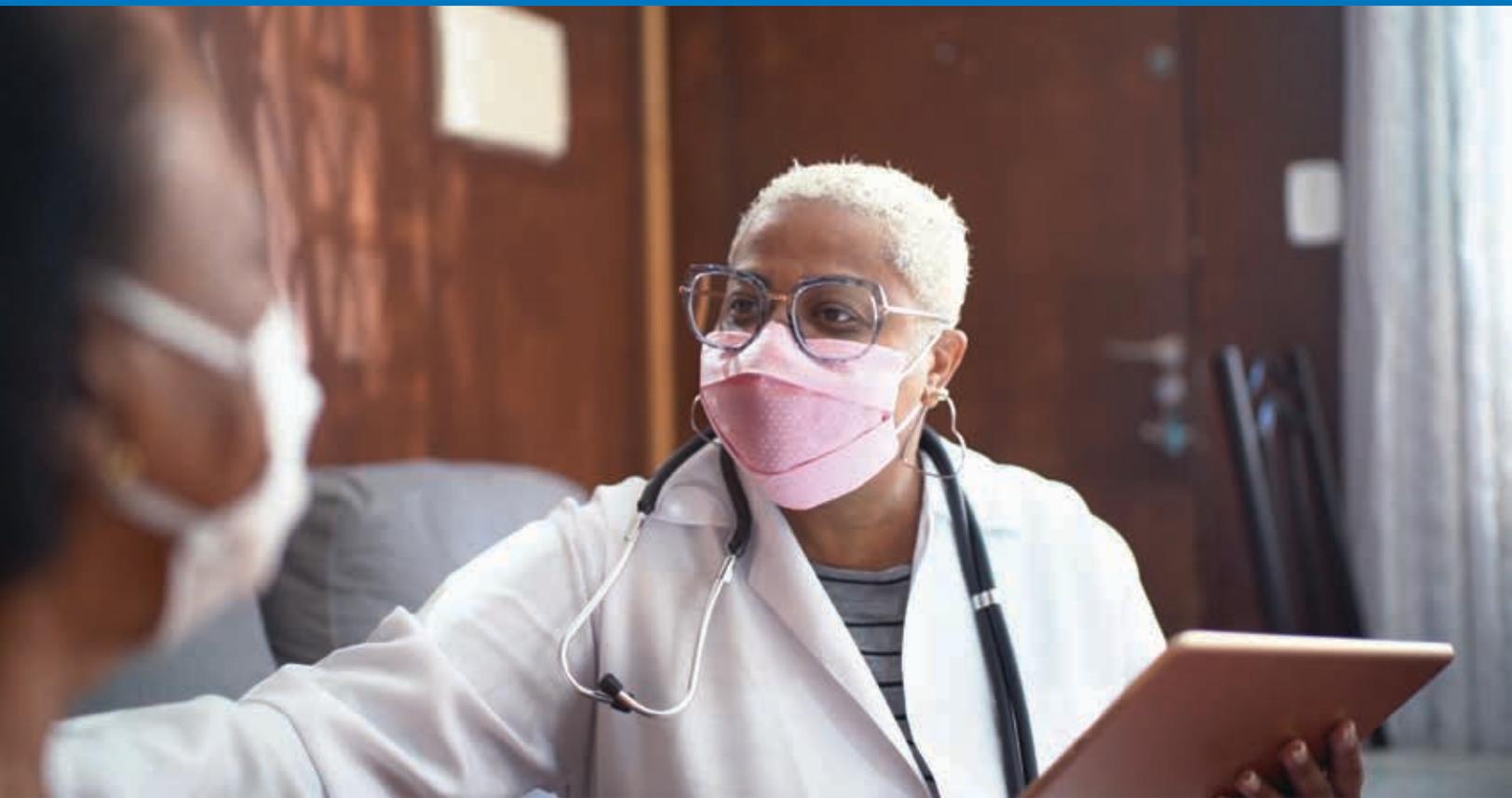
To purchase tickets for the **J & B Medical VIP Reception**, go to [Ascension.org/POTP](https://Ascension.org/POTP) for more information, or scan the QR code at right with your smartphone.



### Nurse navigator's national designation helps elevate cancer prevention care

**Carmen Stokes**, PhD, FNP-BC, RN, Nurse Navigator, SM Gavini Center for Cancer Prevention, Ascension Providence Hospital, has been selected as a member of the National Navigator Roundtable (NNRT). The NNRT is a collaborative effort advancing patient navigation efforts that eliminate barriers to quality care, reduce disparities in health outcomes, and foster ongoing health equity across the cancer continuum.

This designation helps bring recognition to the SM Gavini Center for Cancer Prevention and demonstrates the center's commitment to high quality care for patients. The center, which opened in late 2020, was made possible by a generous gift from **Lakshmi Gavini, MD**, and her husband **Vinaya Gavini, MD**. (Nurse navigator NNRT, 106 words)



## Community Foundation grant helps patients overcome opioid use disorder

It's no secret that opioid abuse has reached an epidemic level nationally. Michigan is not immune to the problem.

Since 2000, opioid overdose deaths have increased tenfold in Michigan, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In 2018, the most recent year for which statistics are available, there were more deaths in Michigan from drug overdoses than car crashes.

Opioids are often illicit substances such as heroin. But an opioid can also be a prescription painkiller. NIH statistics show that in 2018 Michigan healthcare providers wrote 62.7 opioid prescriptions for every 100 persons compared to the national rate of 51.4 prescriptions.

To help combat this public health crisis, the **Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan** (CFSEM), in partnership with the Michigan Opioid Partnership (MOP), awarded a generous \$300,000 grant to Ascension Providence Hospital to launch an Emergency Department program to identify patients with opioid use disorder and connect them with resources for treatment. The program — called Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) — will support patients at both the Southfield and Novi campuses.

CFSEM is a full-service philanthropic organization leading the way to positive change in the region. It is also the home for the MOP, a public-private collaborative including the state of Michigan and key nonprofit funders. MOP's mission is to decrease Michigan opioid overdoses and deaths through prevention, treatment, harm reduction and sustained recovery.

"Like many communities across the country, southeast Michigan is entangled in the throes of an ongoing opioid epidemic," said Steven McGraw, DO, Chair, Emergency Department at Ascension Providence.

"We are grateful for this opportunity from the Community Foundation to help increase awareness of opioid use disorder and equip our caregivers with the knowledge and resources they need to adequately support patients who present to the Emergency Department. It's all about responding to the needs of our patients and connecting them with resources for support and treatment."

In January 2021, Ascension St. John Hospital also received a substantial grant from the CFSEM to establish a similar

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MOUD program in its Emergency Department. Ascension St. John doctors, physician assistants and nurse practitioners help identify and treat patients with opioid use disorder and connect them with community providers and resources to help them recover. The program is now helping about six patients each month.

“Our Emergency Department providers are on the front line when it comes to responding to the opioid epidemic,” said Robert Dunne, MD, Vice Chair, Emergency Department at Ascension St. John. “Funding from the Community Foundation has enabled us to launch the MOUD program — a much-needed, worthwhile initiative. We’re grateful for this support and the impact it has on those in our community.”

Marjorie Jolly, Physician Assistant at Ascension St. John, is the MOUD program coordinator. She says before the program began, patients with opioid use disorder often left the emergency department after treatment without knowing where to turn for follow-up help.

“In the past, a patient might come in to the emergency department with an opioid overdose or with withdrawal symptoms, receive treatment, and then simply leave when discharged,” Marjorie said. “Now, we recognize that opioid use disorder is no different from any other chronic illness. People can be in remission and relapse.

“Our program has a screening process to identify patients with opioid use disorder. We give them medications to help with withdrawal symptoms. Then we talk with them about

their situation and make referrals to primary care providers and other community resources for follow-up care. Research shows that the more times you ask a patient how you can help them with their disorder, the more likely it is they will take the necessary steps to fully recover.”

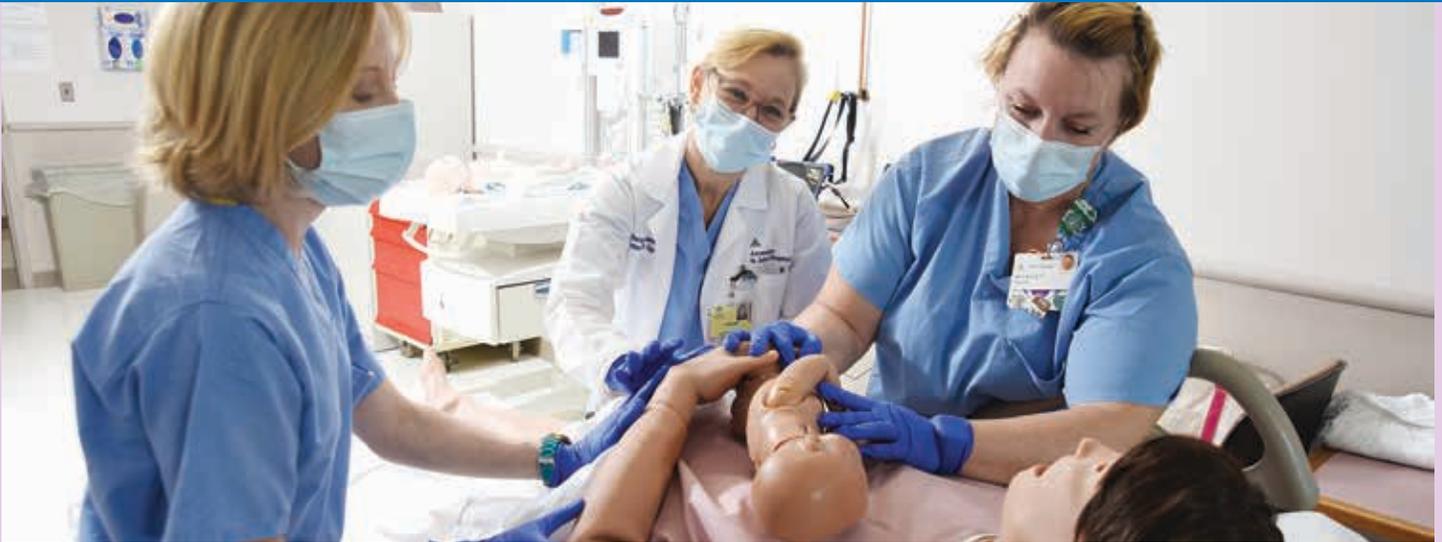
Marjorie said peer recovery coaches — staff at Ascension St. John who have been through addiction recovery — also talk with patients in the MOUD program.

“The patients can relate to the peer recovery coaches because they’ve been through the same experience,” Marjorie said. “Another component of the program is follow up. The coaches and I make post-discharge calls to see how the patient is doing and how follow-up care is going.”

As a permanent community endowment built by gifts from thousands of individuals and organizations, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan supports a wide variety of activities benefiting education, arts and culture, health, human services, community development and civic affairs. Since its inception, CFSEM has distributed more than \$1.3 billion through more than 80,000 grants to nonprofit organizations.

For more information about the Michigan Opioid Partnership, visit [CFSEM.org/opioid](https://www.cfsem.org/opioid).





Dr. Cassie Laasch-Hand, Dr. Stacey Lemanski and Michelle Florin, RN, practice on the new patient simulators in a mock birthing scenario.

## Realistic patient simulators help hone skills to improve patient care

In a medical emergency, patients need to feel confident that their hospital staff is fully trained and ready to provide the latest treatment protocols using the best available equipment.

Thanks to the many generous gifts supporting medical education, Ascension St. John Hospital medical staff continually hone their skills at the hospital's Alexander M. Nick Simulation Laboratory and Patient Education Safety Center to meet those patient needs.

One medical simulation technique involves the use of whole body mannequins which mimic real-world medical conditions. Ascension St. John recently used Medical Education Capital Needs funds — donated by community members, foundations and universities — to purchase one new-mother and one baby simulator mannequin to support obstetric, gynecological and pediatric patient care. The new mannequins have the latest computer software and capabilities that render the previous models obsolete.

Ascension St. John practitioners from obstetrics to pediatrics, family medicine to surgery, continually use the mannequins during mock surgeries and procedures. These simulations help medical teams learn, practice and assess their medical skills. The teams work together in the controlled simulation environment toward the goal of enhancing quality of care and patient safety, especially in urgent or difficult situations.

"Running the simulations provides our department with educational opportunities and allows us to practice and be prepared for obstetric emergencies," said Cassie Laasch-Hand, MD, FACOG, Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and liaison to the Department of Graduate Medical Education at Ascension St. John. "In addition to

reviewing technical skills, we can also practice and focus on teamwork, communication skills and documentation."

Dr. Laasch-Hand said the Obstetrics Department has annual simulation sessions for all its practitioners.

"We also run interdisciplinary sessions to involve doctors and nurses at the same time," she said. "Our most recent simulation session focused on postpartum hemorrhage. Last year, our simulation focused on shoulder dystocia (a type of birth trauma)."

Steve Sherrard, CCEMT-P, EMSIC, Simulation Technologist at Ascension St. John, said the mannequins are the closest thing to treating an actual human patient.

"They breathe, sweat, talk, blink, have a heart rate — just like a live patient," Sherrard said. "They also respond to treatment and medication.

"Since Ascension St. John is a teaching hospital, medical students, residents, fellows and nurses can refine their skills using the mannequins before seeing actual patients. The new mom simulator is actually two-in-one; medical students can perform gynecological exams as well as baby deliveries. Our simulators are incredibly useful tools that help our doctors provide the best possible patient care."

The Simulation Center has five mannequin simulators plus five electronic simulators for robotically performed surgeries and procedures. The center opened in 2012, thanks to more than \$1 million in generous donations, including a large percentage from Ascension St. John doctors and nurses, and a generous estate gift from Mr. Nick.

## Bridging the gap: Gifts support doctors as they prepare for residency

Making the leap from medical school to a residency program isn't always simple for aspiring medical practitioners. For one thing, medical school graduates aren't guaranteed residency placement. Residency programs typically have more applicants than open spots. A complex algorithmic formula determines residency matches. These factors contribute to the thousands of medical school graduates who remain unmatched each year. And without residency experience, a doctor cannot become a practicing physician in any state.

To help support postgraduate medical doctors who are in a "gap year" and have not yet matched with or entered a residency program, Ascension Providence Hospital created the Medical Education Scholars Program (MESP) in 2021.

The program — which began fully funded for its initial academic year thanks to generous philanthropic gifts — provides additional curriculum for up to two program postgraduates (or "scholars"). They engage in four academic pillars: medical education, research, simulation and professional development. This training allows the scholars to continue preparing for residency and subsequent practice as physicians. Active Ascension Providence Hospital doctors serve as MESP faculty.

The program is open to highly qualified U.S. and international medical school graduates during their gap year. The application process is competitive. Applicants must, among other prerequisites, demonstrate deep passion for academic medicine and medical education, and make a one-year commitment to the program. The program has robust oversight with regular meetings with the scholars to review their progress toward objective achievements and milestones.

The first two MESP scholars for the 2021-2022 academic year are Heraa Hasnat, MD, and Lahib Doua, MD. In a written testimonial to thank donors who generously supported the program, the scholars expressed their gratitude for the educational opportunities they're receiving.

"The four program pillars have contributed to our growth in ways we could not have expected," Dr. Hasnat and Dr. Doua wrote. "The program has guided our intellectual and personal growth, enhanced our medical knowledge, and equipped us with skills that allow us to contribute to the field of medicine."

Among the skills Drs. Hasnat and Doua have developed through the program involved conducting medical research and publishing their findings. Their research focused on COVID-19.



The MESP helps postgraduates prepare for residency.

"There's a severe lack of opportunities for postgraduate students to participate in and lead research projects; the scholars program has given us the experience of both," Drs. Hasnat and Doua wrote. "We learned how to thoroughly perform literature searches, write research proposals and do presentations for the Institutional Review Board, and draft manuscripts for submission to research journals. We experienced firsthand the excitement, frustration, nervousness and sense of achievement that comes with successfully publishing research."

Drs. Hasnat and Doua also highly appreciate the mentorship they receive, which includes residency application preparation, mock interviews and personal statement guidance.

"The scholars program transformed our gap year into the experience of a lifetime," Drs. Hasnat and Doua wrote. "It gave us the opportunity to learn and equip ourselves with the necessary tools to realize our dream of becoming the best doctors possible."

Both MESP scholars recently matched into residency programs — Dr. Doua in Internal Medicine at CMU Health in Saginaw, and Dr. Hasnat in Family Medicine at Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield.

The MESP is seeking funding for its second academic year to support two new postgraduates. To make a gift, contact Patricia Warner at [patricia.warner@ascension.org](mailto:patricia.warner@ascension.org) or 248-465-5007. You can also make a gift by visiting [stjohnprovfoundations.org/meded](http://stjohnprovfoundations.org/meded) or by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone.



## Thankful family gives back to support other stroke patients



Mary Pat and David Lawrence

**Mary Pat and David Lawrence** made a generous gift to support the stroke program at Ascension St. John Hospital in gratitude for the care Mary Pat received after she had a stroke in 2019.

When Mary Pat's stroke occurred, she came to the Emergency Center at Ascension St. John Hospital, as it was close to their Grosse Pointe Shores home and has been the family's hospital of choice for years.

"I was amazed at how fast everything happened in the Emergency Center," Mary Pat said. "I was extremely scared, and the staff calmed me down, were so positive the whole time and kept my husband informed — all while expertly taking care of me medically."

After her initial care in the Emergency Center, Mary Pat was admitted for inpatient care. While this was one of the most frightening times of her life, Mary Pat said she and David were extremely pleased with her experience.

"I couldn't have asked for better care or better staff taking care of me; I had excellent treatment," Mary Pat said.

Now serving approximately 845 stroke patients annually, Ascension St. John Hospital has been a leader in stroke care for over 40 years. It is a certified Comprehensive Stroke Center, one of only 11 in Michigan with this top designation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. This means the hospital is equipped to treat the most complex stroke cases and provide specialized care that can lead to better outcomes and shorter hospital stays.

Historically, stroke patients were treated on the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and this could overburden the ICU. In 2020, Ascension St. John Hospital opened a dedicated Stroke Unit to provide the highest standard for clinical service and transform into a best practice model for treatment of stroke patients. The specialized unit features 22 private rooms, its own rehabilitation gym, and utilizes the latest treatment and rehabilitation methods. The multidisciplinary team includes dedicated rehabilitation therapists, care management team, Advanced Practice Nurses certified in stroke care and a pharmacist.

The Lawrences are pleased knowing their donation has helped stroke patients. "I'm happy there is now an enhanced environment and more space specifically for stroke patients to go along with the excellent care provided," Mary Pat said.

In appreciation for their generosity, a private room on the Stroke Unit is being named for the Lawrences. Their gift qualified them to become members of the McQuade Society, and they are pleased with the personal navigation assistance they receive for their health services at the hospital.

David and Mary Pat have three grown children — Amy, David Jr. and Kyle — and two grandchildren, Kyla and Conor, who all live nearby. The family speaks fondly of Ascension St. John and understands the importance of having quality care close to home. The Lawrences first became acquainted with the hospital when one of their sons was just a baby and needed emergency surgery. They've since used the hospital for their care, including Mary Pat's cancer care several years ago.

## Grateful patients pay it forward by building a culture of philanthropy

Longtime Ascension Providence Hospital supporters **Ann and David Conrad** of West Bloomfield know firsthand about the exceptional care provided by the Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery Program at the hospital.

In 2006, Ann avoided potential paralysis thanks to the surgical expertise of Teck-Mun Soo, MD, Program Director of the Neurosurgical Residency, Chief of Neurosurgery at Ascension Providence Hospital, and the Medical Director of Complex Spine Services. Dr. Soo skillfully diagnosed and resolved Ann's cervical vertebral degeneration, giving her many years of quality life.

"I would have been a paraplegic if not for Dr. Soo," said Ann, who had a career in investment management for 40 years. "He isn't just a surgeon — he's an artist."

Ann and David are continuing their longstanding practice of paying their gratitude forward. Thanks in part to their recent generous gift, Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield, acquired a Mazor X Stealth Edition Robotic Guidance System for spinal surgery. This state-of-the-art technology will significantly improve the planning process, accuracy and navigation of spine instrumentation, leading to better surgical outcomes. This robotic system will keep residency training at the forefront of technological innovations in spine surgery.

The couple's close relationship with Ascension Providence goes far beyond the Mazor X and the many other gifts they've made over the years. Ann and David are also helping cultivate a culture of philanthropy among Ascension associates.

"Giving back to organizations you believe in is all about caring, all about the future," said Ann. "David and I are very grateful to Ascension Providence. We hope our gifts and volunteerism will help other people benefit from the same exceptional care we've received."

Ann has been an Ascension Providence volunteer for the past 15 years. She served on the Friends' Ball Committee for many years and chaired the event twice. Currently, she's a member of the Ascension Providence Foundation Board and chairs its Fund Development Committee. David has also served in this capacity.

Ann led a recent Fund Development Committee initiative to create a Foundation learning module to help Ascension associates learn the value of philanthropy and how it impacts operations across the healthcare system.



David and Ann Conrad

"Ascension has learning modules for just about every area in its hospital system, but it lacked one for the Foundation," Ann said. "We found that employees didn't fully understand the role of the Foundation and how much funding contributes to technology, buildings, and many other things."

David, who worked for Detroit Bank and Trust in many roles, including assistant branch manager and director of human resources, added that this particular learning module is adaptable for Ascension sites across the country.

"People make gifts to their local hospital based on the care they received," he said. "The Foundation members here are adding components to the module to make it locally oriented. Building an internal culture of philanthropy is a superb return on investment."

Ann and David's generous gift supporting the Mazor X robotic system purchase reflects their strong support of the Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery Program. **Medtronic**, the manufacturer of Mazor X, likewise made a generous gift-in-kind to help bring this advanced technology to Ascension Providence.

Ascension Providence launched the Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery program in 2006. Today, more than 90 percent of its spine procedures are minimally invasive. Due to the small size of the incisions, patients experience faster recovery times with less tissue and muscle damage, pain, blood loss and infection.

"David and I are forever grateful to Dr. Soo and Ascension Providence for helping to preserve our lifestyle," Ann says. "We support their desire to educate the next generation of neurosurgical spine surgeons with tools like Mazor X. It's part of Dr. Soo's legacy, and we strongly believe in it."



Winners Katherine Jerso and Maricel Tampos (holding prize bags) are pictured with co-workers and members of the Well-being Council.

## You helped create a great working environment and improved associate satisfaction!

Your gifts in support of the COVID-19 Relief Fund at Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital were used to create an Associate Appreciation Program for those on the front lines of patient care.

Each month, hospital leadership randomly selects an associate from each of 18 patient care areas at the Warren and Madison Heights campuses to receive a custom gift basket. So far, Blake's Orchard & Cider Mill baskets, Meijer-themed gift baskets and gift bags containing Painting with a Twist gift certificates have been given away. Other themed wellness and seasonal baskets are planned.

You have helped associates receive recognition at a time when it is needed the most. Your generosity is appreciated

and makes a difference! Fellow teammates are happy for their co-workers, and associates are excited and asking about future "mystery baskets." This initiative, created by the Shared Governance Well-being Council, is truly helping boost associate morale!

One Pharmacy associate, leaving work after a busy day, was presented with a gift basket by hospital leadership. When they approached her, she initially thought something was wrong or perhaps she was in trouble. That couldn't have been further from the truth...she was told the gift basket was "just because we all appreciate her so much!" The surprise brought tears to her eyes — she was so happy to be thanked for her dedicated service.

## Our Foundations are on Facebook!



Ascension St. John Foundation and Ascension Providence 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.

## Thank you to THE GUILD and Fontbonne for supporting Ascension St. John Hospital

**THE GUILD** and **Fontbonne Auxiliary** joined together in 2021 to commit a combined gift of \$1 million to support the Your Child, We Care campaign for Ascension St. John Children's Hospital. So far, each group has made \$100,000 payments toward their \$500,000 pledges for the expansion and renovation project.

Last year, THE GUILD opened a coffee shop annex next to the Gift Shop across the hall from the Guild Coffee Shop. This addition helps serve staff and visitors in a more streamlined way. Proceeds from both locations benefit the hospital. THE GUILD also made a \$100,000 donation to the DeMars Family Endowed Fund Against Human Trafficking.

THE GUILD Dinner returns on June 15 at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. Due to a new format, capacity will be limited, so please get your sponsorships soon. Also, the Ascension St. John Medical Staff/GUILD Golf Outing will be held on Sept. 12, and it is anticipated to be another sellout!

The Fontbonne's initial payment toward its pledge for the Your Child, We Care campaign was included in a donation check of \$265,000, presented to Dr. Kevin Grady, President,

Ascension St. John Hospital. In addition, \$70,000 of the donation supported the GetWellNetwork, an interactive patient care system, and \$35,000 supported the DigniCap® Scalp Cooling System for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. Remaining funds paid off the balance of the Fontbonne's gift to name the new Pediatric Emergency Department reception desk.

In lieu of an in-person event in 2021, the Fontbonne held a White Christmas Ball "Gifts from God" mail-to-donate fundraiser, chaired by Aspa Raptis. More than \$58,000 was raised for the Cracchiolo Family Birthing Center to purchase 31 delivery supply carts to help provide safe care for newborns.

The Fontbonne will hold the 2022 White Christmas Ball on Dec. 2 at The Henry in Dearborn. The event will posthumously honor Dr. Robert Veneri and Dr. David Zalenski. For details, contact Lorna Zalenski at 313-590-5607 or llz523@aol.com.

## Thank you to volunteers for generous donations to Ascension Providence Hospital

The **Our Lady of Providence League (OLPL)** and the **Providence Park League (PPL)** volunteer groups recently donated a combined total of nearly \$125,000 to the Ascension Providence Foundation to support Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield and Novi campuses.

These funds include payments on generous capital pledges for the Ascension Providence Cancer Center in Southfield and the construction of the Novi campus hospital, as well as donations to purchase labor and delivery carts, and oncology care totes for cancer patients. In addition, the contribution helped assist in the creation of an OLPL endowment; interest earned on the endowment will support patient programs, equipment and services.

OLPL has also committed a new significant pledge of \$300,000 to support the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit renovation project at Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield.

Funds for the OLPL and PPL donations to the hospital come from Gift Shop proceeds, vendor sales and an annual volunteer golf outing, as well as personal gifts from generous volunteers.



Pictured l-r: Roland Cruickshank, Interim President, Ascension Providence Hospital, accepts a donation check from Jim Hynes, OLPL President, and Jim Rankine, PPL President.

## More than 1,300 children had a Merry Christmas because of you!

Your gift supporting the Christmas Store fund at one of the following Ascension hospitals: Ascension Providence Hospital, Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital and Ascension St. John Hospital provided children and their families with a Christmas they won't forget!

You made it possible for each family in need to receive a Kohl's or Meijer gift card that parents used to purchase clothing and toys for their children. Each child was also given an age-appropriate book and individual candies; infants received layettes. Parents also received a Kroger gift card (courtesy of the Kroger Co.) for food during the holiday.



Children were identified through physician practice groups, social workers, partnerships with schools, community agencies and local churches.

Below are two notes of appreciation:

*"My daughter and I are honored and grateful for your loving kindness and thoughtfulness, especially during a weakened economy. Your donation helped provide my child with needed gear for the winter such as gloves, a scarf, a hat and snacks for school. She is a growing child and replacing her gear is vital! I had the funds to keep her safe and warm - thank you."*

*— From a cancer patient with a young daughter*

*"The families are very grateful and told us that the gift cards allowed them to get their children gifts and food for Christmas!"*

*— From a community partner who helped distribute gift cards*

You can give a child a "Merry Christmas" this December by making a gift through the Christmas Store fund. You can visit this secure website: [stjohnprovfoundations.org/christmas](http://stjohnprovfoundations.org/christmas) or use the giving envelope in this newsletter. Please write "Christmas Store at (name of hospital)" you would like to support: Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital; Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi and Southfield; or Ascension St. John Hospital.

## Leaving a legacy through a planned gift

The Thomas Mackey Center for Infectious Disease Research recently opened on the Ascension St. John Hospital campus. Unfortunately, Mr. Mackey, who donated generously to create the center, did not see the opening come to fruition due to his passing shortly before the completion of the project. Yet his generous support for the state-of-the-art lab will impact infectious disease research nationally.

In addition to his generous support for the lab's construction and equipment needs, Mr. Mackey provided written notice that the Ascension St. John Foundation was included in his estate plans through a bequest. By including Ascension St. John in his will, Mr. Mackey's legacy and impact on the community will live on for generations.

A bequest is a written statement in a donor's will that a percentage of the estate or specific assets will be transferred to the charity at the donor's death. Bequests are easy to establish and don't require the donor to surrender assets during their lifetime.

If you have included the Ascension St. John Foundation or Ascension Providence Foundation in your estate plans or would like to learn how, please contact Stan Simek, Planned Giving Manager, at 313-343-7702 or [stanley.simek@ascension.org](mailto:stanley.simek@ascension.org). This allows the Foundation to properly record your plans and personally thank you for your legacy commitment.

## Announcements

### New board members named



**Jim Riehl III** has joined the Ascension St. John Foundation as a member of the Board of Trustees. He has been General Manager at Jim Riehl's Friendly Automotive Group for 15 years. Jim started out in the automotive industry working part time

for his father during high school and joined the family business full time after graduating from college with a bachelor's degree in automotive marketing management. Jim is currently the treasurer of the Metro Detroit Cadillac Dealers Ad Association and Local Marketing Association board.



**Tel Ganesan** is a new member of the Ascension Providence Foundation Board of Trustees. He is a serial entrepreneur, movie producer and distributor, motivational speaker, investor and philanthropist. Tel is Founder and Executive Chairman of

Kybba, Inc.; which provides innovative technology solutions for Fortune 500 companies. Tel is President and Founder of the Kybba Kidz Foundation, which helps orphans and underprivileged individuals with education and job placement. He volunteers for several community organizations, including the National Veteran Business Development Council.



**Tanya Griffith** was named as a member of the Ascension Providence Foundation Board of Trustees. She is Director of Corporate Relations & DEI Partnerships, Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Health Sciences and Diversity Programs at Oakland

University. Previously, Tanya worked at Community Social Services of Wayne County as Public Relations and Development Manager and in other roles prior to that. She volunteers for several organizations including the Detroit Regional Chamber Health Care Council and Association of Fundraising Professionals.



**M. Therese Jamison, DNP, ACNP-BC,** has joined the Ascension Providence Foundation Board of Trustees as a member. She is Founding Director of Nursing at Lawrence Technological University (LTU). She has an extensive history as an educator for under-

graduate and graduate nursing students and has been a professor at LTU since 2016, and she was a professor at Madonna University. M. Therese is a contingent Nurse Practitioner in Cardiothoracic Services at Ascension St. John Hospital. She is a member of several professional organizations.

### Leadership changes for local ministries

Ascension Michigan has announced changes to the leadership structure of the local ministries to align with the regional organizational structure of the hospitals.



**Gary Druskovich, MD, MBA,** has been named Regional President and Chief Executive Officer for the Metro West Region: Ascension Providence Hospital (Novi and Southfield campuses), Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital and Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery.



**Kevin Grady, MD,** is Regional President and Chief Executive Officer for the Metro East Region: Ascension St. John Hospital, Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital (Madison Heights and Warren campuses) and Ascension River District Hospital.



Thank you to Fran Wolok, a local artist, who generously donated artwork for the SM Gavini Center for Cancer Prevention at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi. You can view Fran's work on Instagram @franwolok1028.

## Event supports Infant Mortality Program



Pictured (l-r) are: James Beesley, individual winner, and event co-chairs Peter Cracchiolo and Andrew Cracchiolo.

The 9th annual Flew Shot Invitational raised \$83,643 to benefit the Sister Betty Granger Infant Mortality Endowment at Ascension St. John Hospital. This fund helps provide at-risk mothers with the essential tools, resources and support to safely care for their infants, thus reducing infant mortality and having a positive impact on the lives of families throughout Michigan.

The Flew Shot event was held on Oct. 8, 2021, at the premier sporting clay course at Fox Hollow Farms in Metamora. Thank you to the Cotton family for hosting the event and to the dedicated sponsors and supporters. Since its inception, Flew Shot has raised \$630,795 for Ascension St. John Hospital.

The 2022 Flew Shot individual winner was James Beesley, who had a score of 62 out of 66 shots. The winning team included: Michael Cytacki, Doug Fox, Darryl Hayes and Drew VanTongeren.

## Thank you to our generous event sponsors

The sponsors listed here supported the Ascension St. John Foundation Flew Shot Invitational event with \$5,000 or more to benefit the Sister Betty Granger Infant Mortality Endowment. Thank you for your generosity!

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For information on upcoming events or sponsorship opportunities, please email [specialevents@ascension.org](mailto:specialevents@ascension.org).



## Save the date

For event details, visit [stjohnprovfoundations.org/events](http://stjohnprovfoundations.org/events) 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. Ascension St. John and Providence Foundations reserve the right to postpone or cancel events based on the COVID-19 situation. We will follow the guidance of Ascension leadership and state and national recommendations.

### Providence Golf Classic

**Mon., June 6**  
**8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.**

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*

### GUILD Dinner

**Wed., June 15**

Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, Grosse Pointe Shores  
*Proceeds to benefit Ascension St. John Hospital*  
*For information, email: [TheStJohnGuild@gmail.com](mailto:TheStJohnGuild@gmail.com)*

### Swing into Summer

**Fri., June 17**  
**11 a.m.-10 p.m.**

St. Clair Golf Club, St. Clair  
*Proceeds to benefit enhancements to the Emergency Department at Ascension River District Hospital*

### Lochmoor Fights Cancer

**Thurs., Aug. 11**  
**1:30 p.m. Shotgun Start**

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

### Jerry Williams Shootout for the Cure

**Fri., Aug. 12**  
**8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.**

St. Clair Golf Club, St. Clair  
*Proceeds to benefit the Jerome F. Williams Gastric Cancer Program*

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

**Mon., Sept. 12**  
Location TBD  
*Proceeds to benefit Ascension St. John Hospital*  
For information, email: [TheStJohnGuild@gmail.com](mailto:TheStJohnGuild@gmail.com)

### Macomb-Oakland Golf Outing

**Mon., Sept. 19**  
**8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.**

Cherry Creek Golf Club, Shelby Township  
*Proceeds to benefit Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital*

### Pink Out the Path

**Sat., Oct. 1**  
**4 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi  
*Proceeds to benefit the Elliott Breast Care Center*

### Fontbonne White Christmas Ball

**Fri., Dec. 2**  
The Henry, Dearborn

*Proceeds to benefit Ascension St. John Hospital*  
Event will posthumously honor Dr. Robert Veneri and Dr. David Zalenski  
For details, contact Lorna Zalenski, 313-590-5607 or [llz523@aol.com](mailto:llz523@aol.com)

### Friends' Ball

**Sat., April 22, 2023**  
Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi  
*Proceeds to benefit Ascension Providence Hospital*

## Thank you for helping a patient in need and honoring an Ascension doctor for Doctor's Day 2022!

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

Your gift helped a patient who could not afford urgent needs after discharge from the hospital! Your gift was used to help a patient obtain lifesaving prescription medications, medical equipment, diabetes education classes, food, electricity and more through the HOPE (Helping Our Patients in Emergencies) Fund.

If you wrote a tribute note to honor a special doctor in your life, it was shared with that physician. Your heartfelt note helps to uplift and encourage doctors in their lifesaving work at a time when it is needed the most. Thank you!



Here is a sampling of the tributes received this year:

To: **Ronald Grose, MD** — Just a note to say I appreciate that you're always there for me, especially since you not only listen, but you actually "hear" me. I want to thank you for your help and advice when my husband passed away. I did follow your advice and input. It helped tremendously. Again, thank you for everything.

To: **Douglas Hames, MD** — Your concern, care, attitude and truthfulness are outstanding! My wife and I are so lucky that God brought you into our lives.

To: **Mark Lebeis, MD** — Thank you for being the extraordinary doctor that you are. So dedicated, thoughtful, kind, caring and compassionate. For always being there, always listening, being extremely generous with your time and always making me laugh. Thank you from the bottom of my mended heart.

To: **Peter McCann, MD** — Dr. McCann helped us both during times of difficulty. We called him, and he told us to come in immediately. He treated us, relieved our pain and saved our vision. We will always be grateful to Dr. McCann.

To: **Tihomir Mihaylov, MD** — You are the best! We are grateful for your excellent care and for teaching our son during his medical school rotation. He continues to rave about the experience he gained under your supervision. We will never forget all that you have done for us!

To: **Benjamin Osowa, MD** — A compassionate and caring doctor and person! He took special care of my wife until she passed away last year. Now Dr. Osowa cares for my physical needs, but he even helped me deal with my emotions after my wife died. He spends all the time I need with him, and I consider him a friend. His staff is also the best.

To: **Ronald Pierskalla, MD** — Thank you for your concern about any health problems I may have. You always make me feel comfortable discussing them with you. At 91 years of age, that means a lot. Once again, thank you.

To: **Howard Terebelo, DO** — Dr. Terebelo has been a lifesaver to me. He is very patient and kind. He allows me plenty of time to ask questions. He always answers texts or phone calls and always looks out for my best interest.



Dylan Hobbs recently came with his family to deliver his \$3,000 donation for the NICU. Pictured here are (l-r): Dr. Athina Pappas, Division Chief, Neonatology; Susan Kelley, RN, Nurse Manager, NICU; Jason Hobbs; Janice Hobbs; Dylan (in front); Meadow Hobbs; Sandra Scerri, RN, Director, Nursing; and Dr. Kevin Grady, President, Ascension St. John Hospital.

## Boy Scout making a difference for NICU babies

Dylan Hobbs, a 13-year-old Boy Scout from Troop 256 out of Washington Township, raised \$3,000 for NICU babies at Ascension St. John Children’s Hospital. He collected cans, purchased a pallet of water bottles to sell at the Woodward Dream Cruise, and created a GoFundMe page to raise donations.

The majority of Dylan’s gift was used to purchase an enclosed display case he selected as a way to exhibit photos of infants who have graduated from the NICU. He also coordinated his troop’s donation of 100 infant onesies which

were imprinted with “NICU graduate” on them. These are given to NICU families when their infants are discharged. Remaining funds may be used to purchase a car seat for a family that does not have one.

All of Dylan’s hard work, dedication and compassion came from his experience as a NICU baby. Dylan was born at 32 weeks, weighing just 1 lb. 12 oz. at birth; he stayed 77 days in the Ascension St. John NICU. Dylan is now a thriving teenager with a passion to make a difference!

## Update your mail preferences

To receive the *Spirit of Giving* newsletter via email, or to opt out of receiving future editions, please scan the QR code on your cell phone or tablet and complete the form. Thank you for helping us update your mail preferences.



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## A woman in need of a lifesaving mammogram needs your help!

When a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, she is more likely to die if she doesn't have access to early breast cancer detection through a mammogram screening.

The cost to cover an entire screening and reading for one woman is \$200. Your gift at one of the levels listed below is critical for a woman who cannot afford a mammogram:

- \$50 - helps a woman in need
- \$100 - covers half the cost of a mammogram
- \$200 - covers the cost of one mammogram
- \$400 - covers the cost of two mammograms
- \$1,000 - covers the cost of five mammograms

Your gift will help save a life from breast cancer. A mammogram screening and reading can find tumors that are too small to feel. If a woman can get prompt treatment, it will improve her chances of survival.

Due to a surge in need, there is a shortfall in funds to support the Because We Care breast cancer program, which provides free mammograms/readings for women in need.

Please consider making a lifesaving gift today!

Your donation, at any level, is urgently needed and deeply appreciated.



To make a gift, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2p92fmyw> or scan the QR code below. You may also use the envelope inside this newsletter, and write "Because We Care" next to the "Other" box.



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**If you would like to learn more about giving opportunities at Ascension hospitals and entities in southeast Michigan, please call 313-343-7480.**