

Supporting Ascension Mercy Hospital and clinics in the Oshkosh area

the SPIRIT of Giving

SPRING 2023

CATH LAB IS THE “HEARTBEAT” OF THE HOSPITAL

The cardiac catheterization lab, also known as a “cath lab,” is an advanced area in the hospital where cardiologists and other heart specialists evaluate heart function and diagnose cardiovascular conditions.

Since 1950, heart disease has been the leading cause of death in the United States. Chances are that you, a friend, neighbor or loved one has been impacted by heart disease and treated at Ascension Mercy Hospital.

Important information received in the cath lab helps the care team diagnose and treat blockages to save lives and make a plan of care as soon as possible. It is a more non-invasive procedure with a shorter recovery time for the patient than other options.

Jenna Vis, Regional Director of Imaging Services and Cath Lab for Ascension Fox Valley Region Hospitals, shared that Mercy Health Foundation’s support has enabled her department to improve patient care with improved and advanced technologies.



“Thank you to the donors of Mercy Health Foundation for equipping us with the tools to provide exceptional patient care.”

JENNA VIS
Regional Director of Imaging Services

“Through the generosity of the Foundation and its donors, we were able to replace an echocardiography bed to improve patient safety and ease of use and purchase an intravascular ultrasound used to evaluate the coronary arteries prior to cardiac intervention,” Jenna said. “Thank you to the donors of Mercy Health Foundation for equipping us with the tools to provide exceptional patient care.”

Jenna added, “The cath lab is truly at the heartbeat of our hospitals. It is so important in treating heart disease. At Ascension Mercy, we are currently planning to upgrade our imaging to increase the visuals available to our providers. This will enhance and improve the display for our cardiologists and the overall experience for our patients.”

Gifts to Mercy Health Foundation directed to our heart fund will support your local Cardiac Catheterization Lab at Ascension Mercy Hospital, making it possible to enhance equipment and offer more complex procedures, saving even more lives in Oshkosh.

Cath labs truly are the “heartbeat” of our hospitals!

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR MGO



Daniel Woolf started his work to support the mission of Mercy Health Foundation in March of 2022 as your Major Gift Officer. Dan shares with us below about how he partners with donors to best meet their needs and makes their gifts connect in the best way to support Ascension healthcare in Oshkosh.

I was born and raised in Neenah, and have always called the Fox Valley home. I currently reside in Appleton with my family, and our oldest attends the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh as a Physics Major (the younger two are still undecided). In my free time, I volunteer as a national cycling coach for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and also enjoy traveling, music and meeting new friends.

I have been with Ascension for almost a year and it's been an incredible experience. Previously, I worked in the printing industry for 30 years mainly in business development and served dozens of non-profit organizations over the years to help them engage with their stakeholders. That gave me a wealth of knowledge to apply to my role here at the Foundation.

For me, it's about having the opportunity to partner with our donors to find meaningful ways to support Ascension Mercy and celebrate all of the great work we do here. I'm honored to be able to serve our donors, board members, and providers to help enhance the quality of care for our patients.

At its core, 'philanthropy' can best be defined as empathy. When you open your heart to others, you can impact change for your fellow humans.

Please reach out with any questions or just to have a conversation at 920-810-8288 or daniel.woolf@ascension.org. I look forward to it!

DAN WOOLF
Major Gift Officer
Mercy Health Foundation



WAYS TO GIVE

You can support Mercy Health Foundation in various ways:

DONATE:

You can make a one time or recurring online donation by scanning the QR code, entering the URL link or using the enclosed remittance envelope to mail at your convenience.
ascension.org/giveMHF

IN-KIND:

Donations can be dropped off in the Foundation office at Ascension Mercy Hospital on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Contact Nikki at nikki.knight@ascension.org or call (920) 831-1475 to coordinate your in-kind donation.

VOLUNTEER:

Contact Amy Brownson at amy.brownson@ascension.org to learn more about volunteer opportunities at Ascension Mercy Hospital.



MEET YOUR NEW STYLIST

We are excited to share that the **Oasis**, A Hair Salon will be reopening this spring and with the support of **Marianne Kasten**, our new stylist.

Marianne has been a master stylist for many years. In 2000, she decided to expand her craft by adding in wigs to help cancer patients feel better about themselves and answer their questions.

“There are so many different changes that treatment can do to patients’ hair, nails and skin,” Marianne said. “At about the same time as I started working with the wigs, I also started working for the Look Good Feel Better program through the American Cancer Society. The program is no longer available, but I am proud to be a part of the reopening of the Oasis and Joy hair salons at Ascension Mercy and St. Elizabeth Hospitals and to share the knowledge that I learned from that experience.”

For the majority of her career, Marianne has owned and managed salons while providing oversight to as many as 22 employees. Marianne was born in Loosduinen, The Hague, in the Netherlands. Her parents immigrated and she became a naturalized citizen of the United States.



“I am proud to be a part of the reopening of the Oasis and Joy hair salons at Ascension Mercy and St. Elizabeth Hospitals and to share the knowledge that I learned.”

MARIANNE KASTEN
Master Stylist



Personally, Marianne is married and has two children. For fun, she enjoys yoga, going for walks, crafting, reading and traveling to the Netherlands when possible. Professionally, Marianne truly enjoys what she does.

“Sadly, when you are suffering from hair loss due to cancer treatments there are very few options available to you. Many questions arise and many of them are personal. That is what drew me to join in opening the Joy and Oasis salons. They are absolutely beautiful facilities and so much good can be done for the patients peace of mind. I love the fact that all patients are treated equally and are able to utilize the services at the salons with no cost to them,” Marianne said.

The Oasis salon will supply wigs and head coverings for females of any age experiencing hair loss. The salons are fully funded through foundation support and donations. We are excited to reopen the salon to meet the needs of patients by providing holistic care to treat the whole person, especially our cancer patients being treated at Michael D. Wachtel Cancer Center at Ascension Mercy Hospital or Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital’s Cancer Center. Services offered will include consultation services for wigs, shaving heads and haircuts.

Marianne is looking forward to helping patients find answers to the questions they may have in a private, calming space. She adds, “It is one less thing that they need to concern themselves with. Then they can focus on healing. And when I give of myself to a person it always comes back two fold, and I feel like I have made a small difference in our world.”

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GUARDIAN ANGELS AT ASCENSION MERCY HOSPITAL

Every day, associates at Ascension Mercy Hospital, often referred to as Guardian Angels, work to provide exceptional patient care close to home. Now, patients have the opportunity to honor their Guardian Angel. The Guardian Angel program provides grateful patients, their families and friends the opportunity to recognize this exceptional care.

Recently, **Cassy** was recognized for providing life-saving care in the Ascension Mercy Hospital Intensive Care Unit. Thank you, Cassy for providing personalized, compassionate care!

To learn more about Guardian Angel, please visit:
bit.ly/AscGuardianAngel

guardian
angel



SAFE PLACE FOR NEWBORNS

Safe Place for Newborns is a non-profit organization supported by Ascension Wisconsin, saving the lives of babies in Wisconsin. The program provides education and awareness about the Safe Haven Law in Wisconsin and allows new and expectant mothers to relinquish their baby with no questions asked.

Your support makes this program possible.

“The Foundations and their donors have been like my army behind the scenes, financially supporting the program and looking for funding opportunities,” says Tricia Burkett, Safe Place for Newborns State Coordinator.

In 2001, Wisconsin enacted the Safe Haven law which allows any parent to safely surrender their unharmed newborn up to 72 hours old, to any EMT, hospital employee or at

any fire or police station - with no questions asked. Since then, more than 300 newborns have been safely relinquished.

“This program protects and saves lives,” says Tricia. “We know this is a difficult time and we’re here to reassure women that their babies will be safely cared for and that they will not be punished in any way.”

Safe Place for Newborns is a free program that provides education to all public organizations as well as support to mothers across Wisconsin. Additional support for pregnant women during crises is offered through the Safe Place for Newborns 24/7 crisis line at **1-877-440-BABY (2229)**. Visit safeplacefornewborns.org for more information.

