

Thank you for supporting our frontline caregivers.



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Investing in the health of our communities

Generating, stewarding and distributing donations to enhance the quality of healthcare at Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital, Ascension Calumet Hospital and Ascension Medical Group clinics in the Fox Cities.



Ascension
St. Elizabeth Hospital
Foundation

Message from our director



Together, we faced unprecedented challenges in 2020. Our doctors, nurses and frontline associates have been tirelessly fighting the battle against COVID-19. Each and every day, they continue to show up, demonstrate compassion and provide the best and safest care for our community.

We are extremely grateful to you for your continued generosity, partnership and support. From an anonymous donor who purchased two ventilators to countless organizations and individuals who donated meals—your generosity, thoughtfulness and kindness made an impact.

“For there is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.” —*Amanda Gorman*

Thank you for being that light and for your unwavering investment in our mission.

Chad Hershner

Financials (as of June 30, 2020)

Assets

Current assets	\$365,089
Outstanding Pledges	\$42,508
Investments	\$8,316,514
Total assets	\$8,724,111

Liabilities and fund balance

Total Current liabilities	\$98,072
Total Fund Balance	\$8,626,039
Unrestricted	\$3,459,600
Temporarily restricted	\$2,493,897
Permanently restricted	\$2,672,542
Total liabilities and fund balance	\$8,724,111

Community Benefit partnerships

As a non-profit health system, Ascension Wisconsin is committed to improving the health of residents in our communities. Ascension is proud to collaborate with organizations that are committed to making a difference. We believe that partnering with mission-driven organizations positively impacts change.

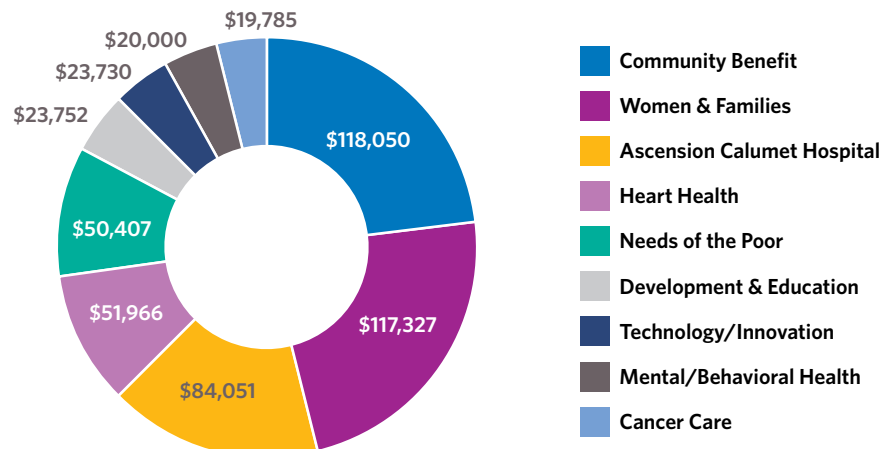
In collaboration with Ascension Community Health, Mercy Health Foundation and St. Elizabeth Hospital Foundation, we partnered with local organizations to improve our communities in Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties. In Fiscal Year 2020, we invested \$237,550 back into our local communities supporting programs in the areas of healthy living, mental & behavioral health, domestic violence prevention and diversity & inclusion.

One program focus is on Be Well Fox Valley. Working with leaders from Ascension, as well as three other health systems and five public health departments, Be Well Fox Valley put together a Food as Medicine program plan to be launched in the first half of 2021.

Be Well envisions a Fox Valley where all people have the opportunity to live longer, healthier and happier. The program engages a broad spectrum of people from the community working together to advance a culture of health and well-being for all in the Fox Valley.



Grant distribution



Distribution includes internal grants to support Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospitals & AMG Clinics, funding for continuing operations for programs to benefit the vulnerable and community benefit.



Brenda Riska, nurse on Fremont 4 at Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital, pictured above with her family.

Challenges bring rewards

"After working as a nurse for almost 15 years at Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital, it was something I could have never imagined. I felt like the whole world was shutting down, but here inside the walls of the hospital, we were fighting the fight. Many times, it was real and scary and other times, it was very rewarding."

Brenda Riska began working at Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital straight out of nursing school in the surgical unit, and now on the Orthopedic and Neurology floor on Fremont 4. She remembers hearing about COVID in the news in January. At the time it seemed like something we would not deal with locally, but then the 4th floor became one of the primary COVID units. Brenda realized we were truly on the frontlines of this pandemic. It was a

Anonymous donor donates ventilators

"When this donor called me about wanting to help the local healthcare systems, I wasn't surprised," said Ann Engelhard, Vice President of Donor Services and Gift Planning with the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region.

"Through our conversations and her granting history, I knew that air quality and funding asthma research were central interests. I could hear in her voice she really wanted to be part of the staff support network. When she suggested ventilators, to support the respiratory care staff with the additional tools to battle this crisis, I reached out to Chad at Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital Foundation. He cried when I told him what she wanted to do. Her generosity hopefully saved lives, supports our community's healthcare workers and will have a lasting impact."

challenge taking care of patients that would decline so quickly and struggle to breathe. Conversations with patients were difficult both physically and emotionally. Dressing in the full PPE was an adjustment as well as finding new ways to communicate with patients using the whiteboard or writing on paper. We had everything in place to help our patients, both young and old, that needed our help and care.

There is hope

Brenda describes her experience as both stressful and rewarding. It was rewarding when she was able to discharge her first COVID patient, a sweet man in his 80s, who had been on vapotherm and bipap. They didn't know if

he would pull through. "I was so excited for him the day he was discharged and able to go home. You could just see it in his face how much he appreciated everything and how thankful he was." Brenda stayed late that day to help discharge him after taking care of him for three weeks. It was a sign of hope that we can get through this.

There was a young lady in her 40s that needed two liters of oxygen when she was admitted and within a week her family was saying goodbye. "I still think about her almost every day."

"What I saw was more of our team coming together. We always worked well together, but we got even closer, especially with the physicians and staff from other departments. It was new to all of us. We also cross trained more with other job categories to help with patient loads and to provide the best care possible. Other associates were willing to help in new areas of the hospital."

Community support

Brenda said that the Foundation support for her department was great to have during these trying times. "Just knowing that they were assisting our staff with childcare, financial needs and donations was really appreciated."

The support from the community was also incredible. "There was a day, sometime at the beginning of the pandemic, I was getting ready to go home. I remember looking out the window and saw a man putting out a sign in front of the hospital 'Heroes work here.' It really was a great feeling. I, along with my coworkers, felt so honored — honored to be here to help fight this." She added her appreciation for community donations of meals, t-shirts and cards. "Even associates from other units around the hospital that were not working on the COVID units were sending us small gifts just to say thanks. It meant so much to all of us. Thank you."

Last year we changed the way we provided care. This year we need to help others know the importance of receiving the vaccine and getting back to feeling safe and comfortable.



Anonymous donor within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region donated funding for new ventilators shown here.

Top 10 gratitude reflections 2020

1. \$14,332 was provided to support our associates at Ascension Mercy, St. Elizabeth and Calumet Hospitals to assist with groceries, utilities, mortgage or rent payments.
2. Over 3,800 meals or individually-wrapped treats were donated for our frontline caregivers from our community.
3. An anonymous donor within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region donated the funding to purchase two new ventilators.
4. More than \$27,000 was donated to purchase new HALO bassinets for our Women & Families Unit at Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital.
5. The Foundation allocated \$50,000 to support associate self care needs during the pandemic.
6. The Foundation granted more than \$350,000 to support the mission-based programs and services in our healthcare systems.
7. With a challenge grant from Lynne Cumings Keller, \$95,000 was raised to purchase TMS equipment for our behavioral health program.
8. A friend of the Foundation donated 24 portable cribs to provide safe sleep for families in need.
9. The Dolores M. Zuleger Fund for Nursing Excellence was established to provide financial support for nursing education.
10. Associates at Ascension Calumet & St. Elizabeth Hospitals and area AMG Clinics donated over \$67,000 for our associate campaign.

Foundation staff

Chad Hershner

Director of Philanthropy

Nikki Knight

Foundation Coordinator

Julie Miskoviak

Communications & Events

Coree Van Thiel

Grants Manager

Heather Zoromski

Gift Officer

Mission statement

Our mission is to live out the healing ministry of Christ with special emphasis on those in need. By generating, stewarding and distributing funds, we enhance the quality of the health system services, programs and other community health initiatives.

ASCENSION ST. ELIZABETH HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

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* Current February 2021