

*2021 Year in Review*

# OUR **COMMITMENT** TO OUR **COMMUNITIES**



*Welcome!*

**DAMOND  
BOATWRIGHT**

*New HSHS President & CEO*



**HSBS**  
Hospital Sisters Health System



**DAMOND BOATWRIGHT**  
FACHE  
President and CEO

## Dear Friends,

This year showed the endurance, perseverance and dedication of our colleagues like never before. HSHS, along with the world, entered the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we continued to see shifts in health care that required us to be nimble and adaptive. While COVID-19 has been one of the biggest challenges in our lifetime, there was so much we could celebrate throughout the year and many accomplishments to be proud of.

HSHS saw record-high surges of COVID-19 patients throughout the year, but we know it would have been much, much worse without the development and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines. The vaccines were a complete game-changer in the fight against COVID-19. When we administered the first doses to colleagues in December 2020, you could feel the excitement and hope in the air. Vaccine distribution for colleagues and the broader public was in full swing at HSHS by January 2021. Between HSHS and Prevea, we administered over 345,000 doses of Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines throughout the year.

Our team responded to changing needs of patients during the pandemic by expanding innovative patient services such as drive-thru care and telemedicine. These models allow us to continue to provide the same level of care to our patients in non-traditional ways that meet the patient where they are and deliver care the way they want. As we learn to live with COVID-19, HSHS is committed to expanding these services even more for the convenience of our patients.

Mid-year, we bid farewell with gratitude to Mary Starmann-Harrison, who served as HSHS president and CEO for more than 10 years, and welcomed Damond Boatwright as her successor. The latter half of the year has been a time for a lot of introductions, visits, meetings and colleague bolstering as we entered a new leadership era at HSHS. The vision for HSHS's future is clear and true to our mission — to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high-quality Franciscan health care ministry. We remain committed to provide patient-first care to all in our communities and be innovative in our delivery of care for the benefit of our patients. As we move into the future, HSHS will continue to base its foundation on the mission that started more than 145 years ago by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. It is an honor to carry on the legacy of our Sisters for years to come.

HSHS has exciting plans for the future of our ministry. In the immediate future, we will look to recover and rebuild from the effects of COVID-19. Our ministry is in a good place operationally, but the pandemic has taken a toll on all of us emotionally and physically. We are committed to providing for the needs of our colleagues who have given so much in order to provide the highest quality of care to our patients as we come out of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the longer-term future, we look to sustain our mission by making investments in our ministries and identifying ways we can further our mission.

HSHS takes pride in being leaders in our community, who so many turn to in times of trouble and uncertainty. We are called to be competent, compassionate caregivers and our nearly 13,000 colleagues embody Christ's healing love to others every day. It is a privilege to serve our communities and be the trusted caregivers of choice, following in the footsteps of our Hospital Sisters of St. Francis.

Sincerely,

Damond Boatwright

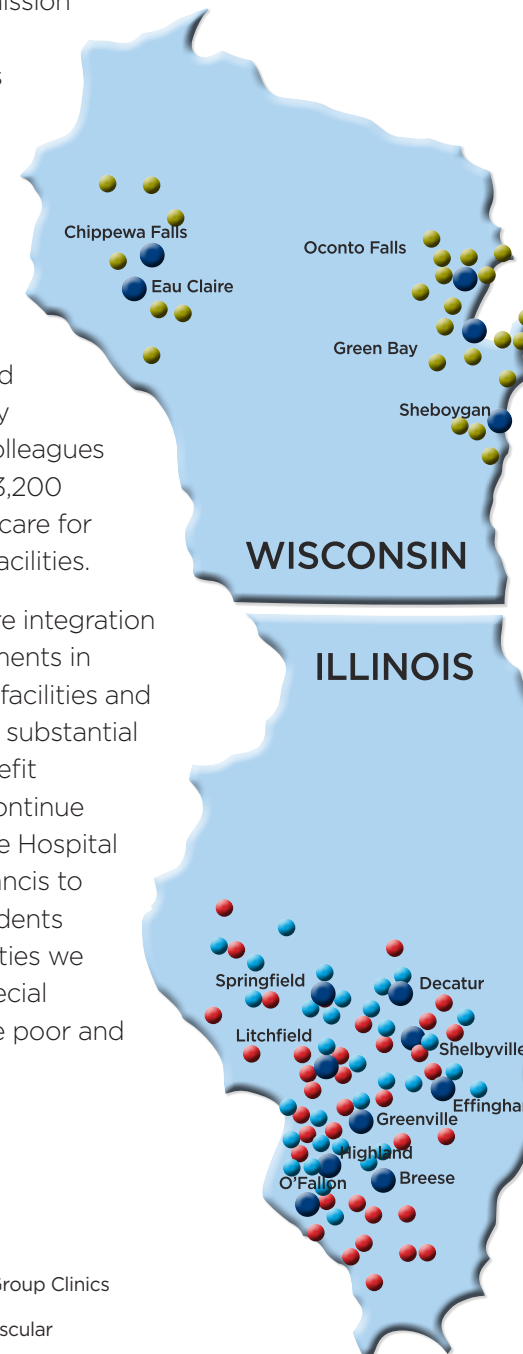
Bill Murray

## Our system of care

HSHS is a highly integrated, multi-institutional health care system comprised of 15 hospitals and more than 250 physician practice sites in Illinois and Wisconsin. The system serves rural and mid-sized communities throughout both states. HSHS is committed to delivering high-quality, compassionate, holistic and cost-effective health care services to all who seek it. Sponsored by Hospital Sisters Ministries, our mission is to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high-quality Franciscan health care ministry. That mission is carried out every day by nearly 13,000 colleagues and more than 3,200 physicians who care for patients in our facilities.

Through our care integration strategy, investments in state-of-the-art facilities and technology, and substantial community benefit programs, we continue the legacy of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis to care for the residents of the communities we serve, with a special emphasis on the poor and vulnerable.

- HSHS Hospitals
- Prevea Health
- HSHS Medical Group Clinics
- Prairie Cardiovascular



## What's inside:

<b>Hospital Sisters Health System</b>	
New system president and CEO .....	4
In memoriam .....	6
Please welcome .....	7
Vaccinating our communities .....	9
<b>Community benefit</b>	
Community garden harvest .....	14
Supporting children in the community.....	15
Foundation delivers lunches to farmers....	15
Opioid treatment a top priority.....	16
Giving back .....	17
Thanksgiving baskets .....	17
<b>System building and growth .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Physician partners .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Technology and telehealth .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Recognition and rewards .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>HSHS Illinois</b>	
HSHS St. John's Hospital.....	26
HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital.....	28
St. John's College of Nursing .....	30
HSHS St. Mary's Hospital.....	32
HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital.....	34
HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital ...	36
HSHS St. Francis Hospital.....	38
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Breese.....	40
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Highland.....	42
HSHS Holy Family Hospital.....	44
HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital .....	46
Prairie Cardiovascular .....	48
HSHS Medical Group .....	50
<b>HSHS Wisconsin</b>	
HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Green Bay.....	52
HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital.....	54
HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital.....	56
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital .....	58
HSHS St. Mary's Hospital .....	60
HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital .....	62
HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital .....	64
<b>FY 2021 by the numbers .....</b>	<b>66</b>





## HSHS welcomes new system president and CEO **Damond W. Boatwright**

In June 2021, HSHS welcomed Damond W. Boatwright, MHA, MHS, FACHE, who began his service as president and CEO. He succeeded Mary Starmann-Harrison, who retired in July after serving HSHS for a decade.

“Damond is a bright, talented and innovative leader with over 25 years of experience in the health care industry,” Sister Jomary Trstensky, OSF, chair of Hospital Sisters Ministries (the public juridic sponsor of HSHS). “His passion for working in Catholic health care was profoundly evident throughout the interview process.”

Damond came to Springfield, Ill. from Madison, Wis. He previously served as regional president for SSM Health Wisconsin, a role he had been in since 2014. Some of his accomplishments at SSM Health Wisconsin included achieving growth in several key service lines; successfully integrating of one of the largest independent multispecialty groups in Wisconsin; maintaining top decile patient satisfaction and quality scores; and developing and chairing SSM Health Wisconsin’s first advisory council on inclusion, diversity and equity.

Prior to SSM Health Wisconsin, Damond served in various leadership roles at Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) from 2001 to 2013. His career at HCA took him to hospitals in Virginia, Florida, Missouri and Kansas, serving in executive leadership roles with increasing responsibilities.



In the press release announcing his appointment to HSHS, Bill Murray, chairman of the HSHS Board of Directors said, “Damond’s leadership record at HCA and SSM is exemplary. I am confident he will provide the leadership needed to help HSHS continue working through the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Damond is committed to moving HSHS forward as an integrated healthcare ministry, ensuring that high-quality health care is accessible to all our communities.”

Damond is originally from Charleston, S.C. Though he once aspired to become a physician, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at The Citadel in Charleston in 1994. It was a chance meeting with a Citadel alum who worked in health care administration that led him to pursue a career in health care.

Damond worked full-time at HCA while completing his Master of Health Administration and Health Sciences (MHA, MHS) at Medical University of South Carolina. After finishing graduate school, he worked as an administrative fellow for Duke University Health System in Raleigh, N.C.

“I’m truly humbled and appreciative of this wonderful gift to be part of the HSHS family,” said Damond. “The opportunity to be a servant leader and help continue to lead our ministries into the future is truly a blessing. We are going to be stronger together.”

Damond has served as a board member at the Catholic Health Association and is the immediate past chair of the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA). He received Modern Healthcare’s Up and Comer Award in 2009, and in 2010, he was featured in Becker’s Hospital Review’s Hospital and Health System Leaders to Know. In 2020, he was named as a WHA Distinguished Leader. He also was recently honored as In Business magazine’s 2021 Executive of the Year in Madison, Wis.

Damond has been involved in a number of interesting extracurricular activities throughout his life. He was a college football player who served as varsity football captain at The Citadel, and he is proud to be a certified judge with the Kansas City Barbecue Society. He has also been involved in the Knights of Columbus as a 4th degree knight and honor guard member.

Damond and his wife, Makeba Williams, MD, have two children, Damond Jeremiah (DJ), 9, and Shelby Ruth, 7. Makeba is a physician who specializes in obstetrics and gynecology. In their spare time, they like to cook and enjoy the outdoors.

Damond has already made an impact on HSHS. He has spent his first several months touring the ministries of HSHS, forging good relationships with other HSHS leaders and colleagues, and mapping out a vision for the future of HSHS.



# In memoriam

## Sister Marianna Kosior, OSF, the visionary leader of HSHS, leaves a lasting legacy for HSHS



Sister Marianna Kosior, OSF, the woman who had the vision to incorporate Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) and was the first CEO, entered eternal life on Dec. 11, 2021.

When she entered the congregation of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, a career was the furthest thing from her mind. She was ready to devote her life to God and the service of His people. However, the path that God paved for her was something that most women, including those not in religious life, could not imagine possible.

In 1979, Sister Marianna's calling was to be one of the first women CEOs of a multibillion-dollar corporation. It was at this time she was named executive vice president of HSHS — a system only three other religious communities could identify with at that time. She pioneered the process that brought the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis to the concept of a corporate system which continues today to be modeled after throughout the United States and the world.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, a lot of change confronted Catholic hospitals in the United States. This was particularly the case with the introduction of Medicare and Medicaid in the 1960s, which increased the complexity of running a hospital. Amidst these vast health care changes, the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis knew the creation of HSHS was a fundamental and necessary step to enable their Franciscan health care ministry to survive, grow and thrive. By 1978, many religious congregations that had founded and sponsored hospitals were finding it difficult to keep up with the demands of governance and management, forcing some to close their hospitals. In addition, religious congregations saw a decline in vocations, and the Second Vatican Council elevated the role of laity to prepare them for roles they had already begun to assume in hospital administration.

Under the leadership of Sister Marianna, the Provincial Council of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis continued the journey of discernment to create an organization that would oversee the management and operations of the hospitals while keeping the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis at the helm. At the young age of 51, Sister Marianna's vision was that a health system would preserve the ministry. She also saw this as the opportunity to embrace the role of the laity in the church's work of Catholic health care. Sister Marianna had an unwavering belief that the future of Catholic health care would be built on strong systems and lay leaders.

The first step along the journey was the incorporation of Franciscan Administrative Services, Inc., or FASI, in 1973. FASI was a consulting office, providing oversight for finance and investments, insurance, major construction projects and pension programs. However, the hospitals themselves shared no formal connection other than a common board of directors. Sister Marianna and the Provincial Council knew that the hospitals needed more centralized leadership. In 1977, they began to evaluate other alternatives for the sponsorship of their hospitals, a discernment process that would lead to the incorporation of HSHS.

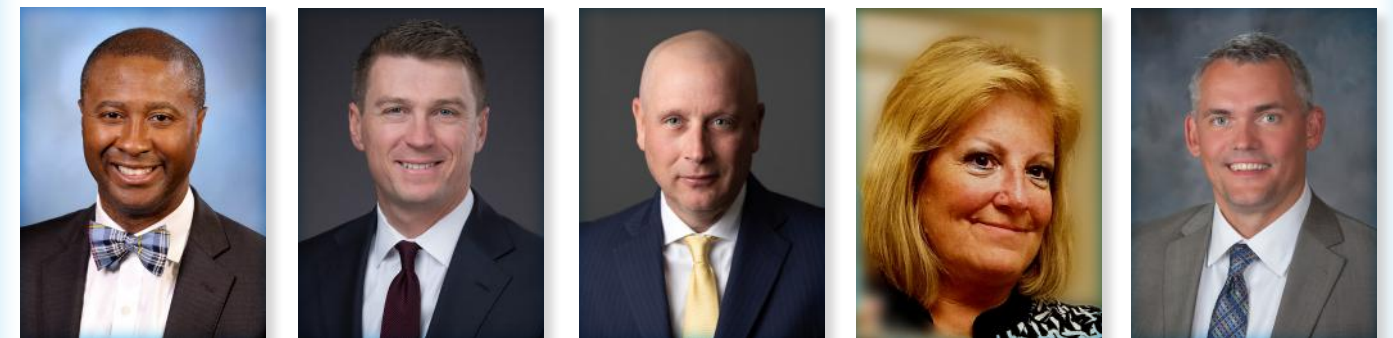


On January 1, 1979, the Sisters established Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS). Since her term as Provincial Superior was completed, Sister Marianna was named executive vice president. In 1980, she became president of the system, a position she held until her retirement in 1989. One of her main contributions was writing the administrative manual, which details how the Sisters' hospitals related to the system and the central procedures that would follow throughout. In Catholic health care in the United States, this was a new and untested concept.

Only three other religious communities in the U.S. had pursued a similar path. When Sister Marianna was named president of HSHS in 1979, she became one of the first woman CEOs of a corporation with more than \$200 million in assets.

Today, the mission of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis is embodied by nearly 13,000 lay colleagues of HSHS in Illinois and Wisconsin who plan to sustain the ministry for years to come.

## Please welcome:



From left: **DAMOND BOATWRIGHT** President and CEO, HSHS | **ANDY BARTH** President and CEO, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire, WI | **TODD SMART** VP and Treasurer, HSHS | **KELLY ROSSI** VP Revenue Cycle, HSHS | **CHAD MARKHAM** President and CEO, HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, Effingham, IL

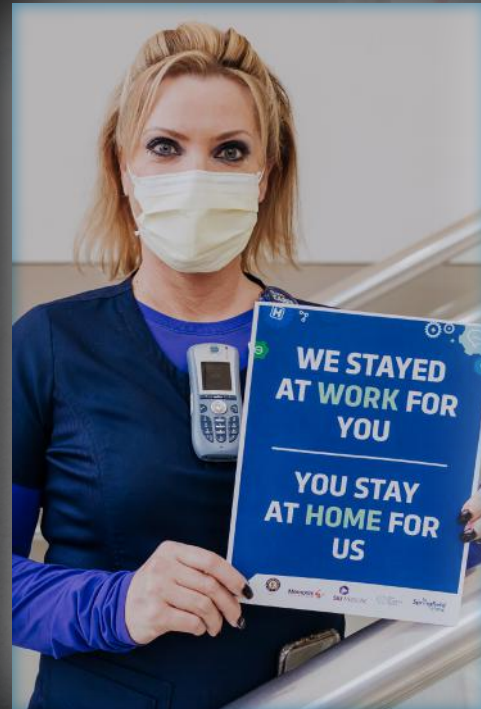
Continued on next page.



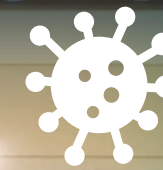


“Dear health care workers, your service alongside the sick, carried out with love and competence, transcends the bounds of your profession and becomes a mission. Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ, can be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father. Be mindful of the great dignity of your profession, as well as the responsibility that it entails.”

— His Holiness Pope Francis’ message for the Thirtieth World Day of the Sick



# Vaccinating our communities



## Clinic set up to roll out vaccines to colleagues, public

**Prairie Cardiovascular** came alongside other HSHS ministries to serve our patients during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prairie partnered directly with the **HSHS St. John's Pharmacy** team to deliver more than 15,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to members of the community. The clinic was held in Dove Auditorium at Prairie Heart Institute and ran from December 2020 to the end of April 2021. Prairie colleagues participated in all aspects of vaccine awareness and administration, including patient MyChart enrollment, vaccine clinic registration, vaccine administration, clinic concierge and valet parking. A variety of Prairie colleagues participated in this clinic, including physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Prairie nurses also administered COVID vaccines to residents of Hope School in Springfield.

## COVID-19 vaccine clinic delivers more than 27,000 doses

In December 2020, **HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital's** board conference room was transformed into a COVID-19 vaccine clinic. Initial doses were given to frontline colleagues with community availability soon opening in phases based on eligibility. The first dose was administered on Dec. 17. By Feb. 11, 2021, 10,000 doses had been delivered to colleagues, frontline workers from other industries, teachers and the general public. When the clinic closed on April 29, a total of 27,271 doses had been given! Vaccinations were then made available at HSHS Medical Group facilities.

The vaccine clinic took a tremendous amount of planning to operationalize. The health and well-being of those in our community is always our number one priority, and the colleagues, providers and volunteers were extremely proud to be able to deliver this important vaccine to so many.



**COVID-19 PATIENTS  
PER MINISTRY | 2021**

**2,387**

HSHS St. John's Hospital

**1,908**

HSHS St. Vincent's Hospital

**1,272**

HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital

**998**

HSHS St. Mary's Hospital  
Decatur

**950**

HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital

**871**

HSHS St. Anthony's  
Memorial Hospital

**706**

HSHS St. Mary's Hospital  
Green Bay

**426**

HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital

**244**

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital  
Chippewa Falls

**241**

HSHS St. Francis Hospital

**226**

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital  
Highland

**207**

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital  
Breese

**72**

HSHS Holy Family Hospital

**51**

HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital

**32**

HSHS Good Shepherd  
Hospital

**HSHS Holy Family Hospital  
Partnering with Bond County Health Department  
to educate and vaccinate**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, HSHS Holy Family Hospital partnered closely with the Bond County Health Department (BCHD) to educate community members about the virus. Jointly, Holy Family and BCHD sent press releases and recorded radio interviews to provide timely updates. Kelly Sager, Holy Family's president and CEO, and Dr. Ryan Jennings, Holy Family's chief medical officer, also did numerous radio interviews to educate the community. Holy Family supported the BCHD by offering drive-thru vaccine clinics in early phases of vaccine availability.

**HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Breese  
Assisting the Clinton County Health Department  
with vaccinating community**

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Breese partnered with the Clinton County Health Department to support their efforts to educate the community about the virus and keep everyone safe. St. Joseph's took the additional step of offering vaccine clinics for health care providers and community members. Nursing supervisor Barb Eilers volunteered at the health department's community vaccine clinics. When there were doses to use up, you would often find her at local outdoor sporting events and restaurants offering patrons the vaccine.

**HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Highland  
Assisting the Madison County Health Department with  
vaccinating community**

Since the beginning of the pandemic, HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Highland partnered with the Madison County Health Department to support its efforts to educate the community about the virus and keep everyone safe. When vaccines became available, St. Joseph's took the additional step of offering vaccine clinics for health care providers, county and city officials/representatives, teachers and other community members.

**Prevea and HSHS Wisconsin community COVID-19  
vaccination clinics**

Prevea Health were strong leaders in the communities they serve with administering COVID-19 vaccines. As Wisconsin Department of Health Services announced phases of vaccination, Prevea and HSHS knew they needed to take another step forward in making receiving a COVID-19 vaccination as easy and convenient as possible for members of the community.



*Damond Boatwright, HSHS president and CEO, receives his COVID-19 booster shot at the HSHS Medical Group drive-thru in Springfield, Ill.*

Prevea and HSHS created the Prevea Community COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, the first of its kind in northeast Wisconsin and one of the largest in the state, which opened Jan. 18, 2021. Located inside the Kress Events Center, the clinic had capacity to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to more than 10,500 people each week. The community vaccination clinic in Green Bay was one of several operated by Prevea Health and HSHS Wisconsin across the state. Additional locations were established as well within various health centers throughout the Greater Green Bay region, Oconto Falls, Gillett, Lena, Mountain, Suring, Marinette, Shawano, Sheboygan, Kohler, Oostburg, Manitowoc, Altoona, Augusta, Chippewa Falls, Cornell, Ladysmith, Eau Claire, Menomonie, Mondovi and Rice Lake.

Through December 2021, a total of 257,922 vaccines were administered statewide. An additional 27,189 boosters were administered, as well as 3,178 third doses to those who are immunosuppressed.

**Boosters become available at HSHS Medical Group**

HSHS Medical Group offered COVID vaccines at their drive-thru locations as the FDA and CDC expanded vaccine eligibility to the broader public. Drive-thru vaccines and COVID testing were open to the public and could be scheduled online or by phone. Established patients also could receive COVID vaccines at HSHS Medical Group primary care offices. As of December 2021, 35,000 COVID vaccines were administered throughout their service area.

HSHS Medical Group launched a virtual office platform in response to COVID-19. More than 11,200 virtual office visits were hosted in 2021.



*A colleague from HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire, Wis., receives her COVID-19 vaccination.*



## Testing

### Bringing community COVID testing in house

While much of the conversation about COVID-19 has surrounded vaccines, testing remained critical in preventing the spread of the virus in our communities. Teams from **HSHS St. Vincent and Sacred Heart hospitals** and Prevea Health worked to find an opportunity to drastically improve community testing.

Traditionally, turnaround times for COVID-19 test results stretched from 24 to 72 hours. To achieve quicker turnaround and increase testing volumes, our lab team and dedicated leaders worked tirelessly to secure the proper Hologic Panther equipment and determine processes to bring COVID testing in-house. Processing tests locally by our lab teams at HSHS St. Vincent and Sacred Heart hospitals allows clinicians to better serve patients.

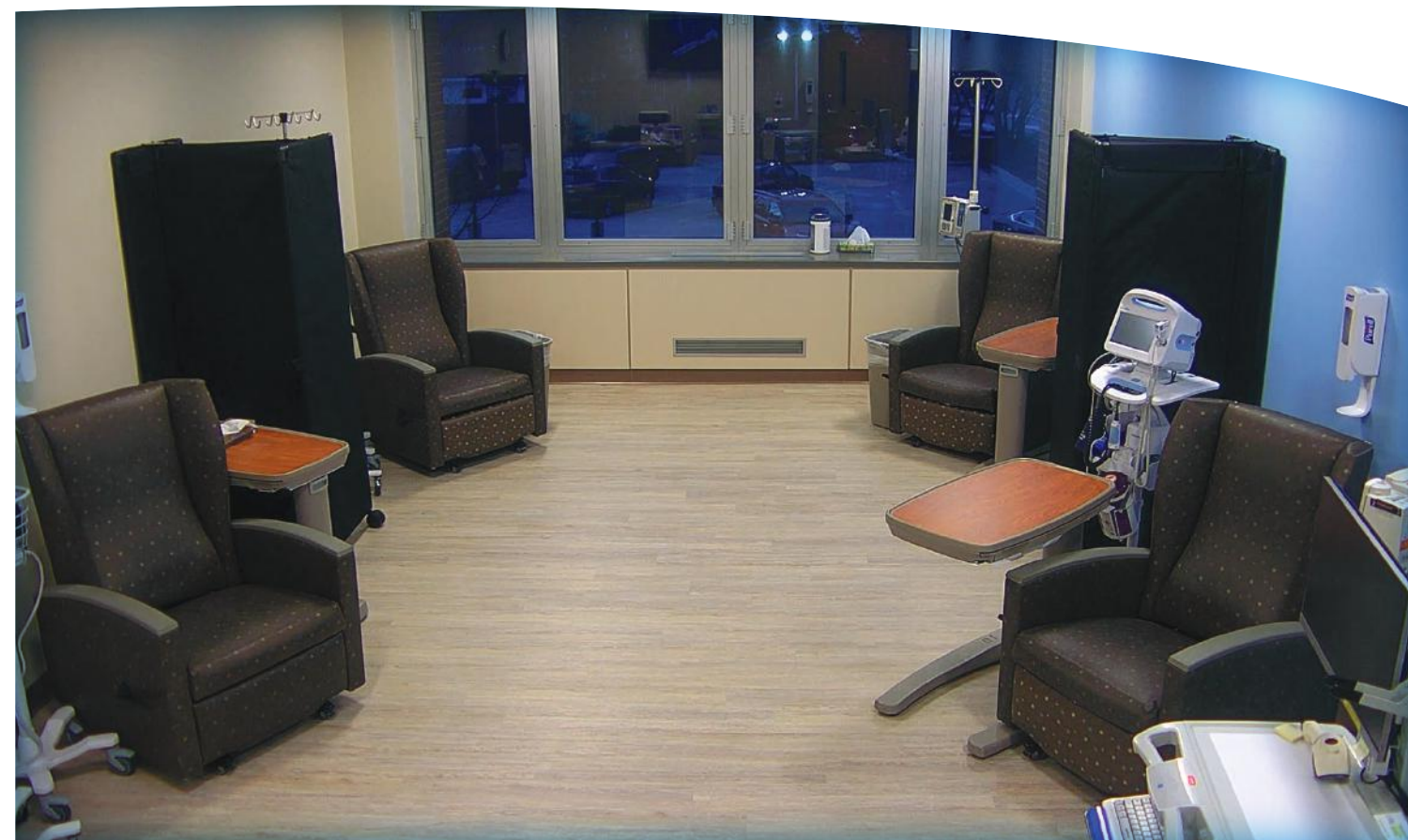
"The Panther changes how we perform testing for COVID in the lab. We now not only have the resources to fulfill all testing needs internally in a timely manner, but we can offer testing more widely to the community as well," says Dr. Rob Ridenour III, pathologist at HSHS Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's hospitals.

Bringing community testing in-house means a community member with COVID-19 symptoms can be tested and learn their result in as little as 24 hours. It also means contact tracing, quarantine and isolation starts in hours not days, reducing the spread of the virus significantly.

The transition to testing in-house took place on Nov. 1, 2021. In the last two months of the year, nearly 35,000 community-collected PCR tests were processed across the state.



Testing at HSHS includes walk-in clinics and drive-thru care.



**Above:** Infusion room for COVID-19 patients.  
**Below:** Plastic face shields were donated to HSHS St. John's Hospital, Springfield, Ill., by Ford Motor Company.

## Treatment

### Monoclonal antibody infusions

We know the best defense against COVID-19 is vaccination. But for adult and pediatric patients age 12 years and older who test positive for COVID-19, monoclonal antibodies provide hope as an effective way to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 infection among non-hospitalized patients. At **HSHS Wisconsin** hospitals and Prevea Health, a team established infusion therapy sites across the state to help care for patients who qualify for outpatient monoclonal antibody infusions.

During 2021, more than 1,000 infusions were administered in eastern Wisconsin and more than 500 infusions were administered in western Wisconsin. By providing infusion therapy, our teams were able to help prevent hospitalizations and lessen symptom severity for better patient outcomes.

**HSHS Medical Group** offered monoclonal antibody infusions to patients in Illinois. New formulations of monoclonal antibodies became available in the fall of 2021 that allowed for subcutaneous injection instead of intravenous infusion, which allowed HSHS Medical Group to expand treatment options for patients with COVID-19.



## Safety

### Ensuring safety during COVID

An important safety initiative undertaken by **HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital** was the investment and installation of cameras in COVID-19 patient rooms to help prevent patient falls. Nursing staff could better keep a close watch on the patients while also ensuring stewardship of personal protection equipment (PPE) usage.



# Community benefit



## Community garden harvest benefits local food pantries

The community garden at **HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital** in Chippewa Falls produced more than 3,500 pounds of locally grown food during the 2021 growing and harvest season. All the produce was donated to 11 area food pantries. Since 2013, when hospital volunteers began the garden project, more than nine tons of produce have been donated.

Each spring, St. Joseph's Hospital volunteers prepare the soil, ready the irrigation system and pull weeds so the garden plots are ready for planting. Any community member can rent a plot to grow food for those in need, or themselves if resources are limited. Hospital volunteers collect the produce and make weekly deliveries to pantries and food kitchens where families in need receive the donated fresh produce.

Long-time garden volunteer, Roger, is proud to see the food benefitting neighbors in need. "It's nice when we carry in all the produce because these food pantries don't often get fresh fruits and vegetables right out of the garden," he said. "We enjoy growing the food and know it's appreciated."

The community garden is located on HSHS property near St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls.

*This year's harvest included 34 types of produce and herbs such as apples, yellow and green beans, carrots, tomatoes, ground cherries, lettuce, squash, raspberries, eggplant, potatoes, radishes, basil and a variety of peppers.*

## Supporting children in the community

**HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital** has been the main supporter of The Crisis Nursery of Effingham County since its beginnings in 2017. The crisis nursery's mission is to prevent and protect children from trauma, abuse and neglect by providing a free, 24-hour emergency shelter care program for children birth through six years of age.

In Sept. 2021, St. Anthony's colleagues and other community members stepped up to offer support for a new service provided by the crisis nursery. After Meghan Rewers, executive director of The Crisis Nursery of Effingham County, became a certified car seat technician, St. Anthony's held a drive for brand new, still-in-box car seats among their colleagues and community members through the month of September (National Child Passenger Awareness Month). Through the drive, eight new car seats were donated to the hospital, along with \$1,225 in contributions made to HSHS St. Anthony's Foundation, which were used to purchase 13 additional new car seats. In total, 21 new car seats were donated to the crisis nursery.

St. Anthony's manager Ashley Dillingham coordinated the drive. "The services that The Crisis Nursery of Effingham County provide helps us take care of the health and well-being of our community as our mission calls us to do, even outside the walls of our hospital," she said. "I am so grateful for our colleagues and community stepping up and supporting the crisis nursery in this way. This will help the crisis nursery provide a safe car seat to those whose current car seat may not pass inspection, keeping kids safe."



*Representatives from HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital present Meghan Rewers, executive director of The Crisis Nursery of Effingham County, with some of the car seats donated through the hospital's car seat drive held in September. From left: Michael Wall, director of philanthropy; Chad Markham, president and CEO; Rewers; Bobbi Kinkelaar, chief nursing officer; and Mike Janis, executive director of ancillary and outpatient services.*

## Foundation leadership council delivers lunches to area farmers twice a year

The **HSHS St. Francis Foundation** Leadership Council and its agriculture committee delivers lunches twice a year to farmers around the Litchfield, Ill. area.

Distributions occur during spring planting and again during harvest season. The spring lunch distribution also honors the feast of St. Isidore, the patron saint of farmers. Victory Lane Ford, a local car dealership, donates to cover the cost of the lunches.







## HSHS hospitals make opioid treatment a top priority

With the rise of opioid addiction and deaths across the country and in HSHS communities, HSHS hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin have prioritized making opioid treatment available at their facilities.

In 2021, the HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital Emergency Department expanded its emergency services to include an opioid recovery program. The project is funded by a \$134,499 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) administered by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Care and Treatment Services.

To enhance local emergency services and better meet the needs of Sheboygan and its surrounding communities, the St. Nicholas emergency department developed additional processes and protocols so patients can be assessed anytime, day or night. This is for those who may be overdosing, withdrawing or just ready to start recovery from heroin or pain pills. Those seeking help may be started on a lifesaving medication to aid them on their path to recovery and are connected with recovery coaches from Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization. The medical team at St. Nicholas emergency department then coordinates treatment for the patient with the appropriate treatment center.

“Without medication and treatment, these patients have an 85 percent rate of relapsing within one year,” said Jeff Stumbras, LCSW, LMFT, SAC-IT, executive director of behavioral health at St. Nicholas and Prevea Health. “This new option inside our emergency department creates a continuity of care that can save the lives of those struggling with opioid addiction.”

St. Nicholas Hospital is one of three hospitals in Wisconsin to receive funding from SAMHSA to implement this new program in its emergency department.

In Illinois, a substance abuse, treatment and recovery program, provided in conjunction with Gateway Foundation, is now available in six HSHS Illinois hospital emergency departments. This program focuses on warm hand-off services for the treatment and recovery of patients presenting with substance use disorder. A team of individuals work to identify, screen and transition patients from the emergency department directly to a treatment bed.

The team consists of a certified addictions counselor to perform intake screenings and assessments to determine appropriate program placement. This individual is in regular contact with referral sources to help resolve potential barriers to effective treatment.

A staff person with lived experience provides support and outreach and is on the team as well to serve as a role model for long-term stable personal recovery and to provide appropriate coping skills. Lastly, a clinical leader oversees client services and ensures compliance with established program standards and service delivery objectives.

More than 60 individuals went through the program in FY21. Plans are in place to fully deploy the initiative across all nine HSHS Illinois hospitals by March 2022.

HSHS is committed to continuing to provide compassionate care to those suffering from addiction and finding more ways to aid our communities in the opioid epidemic fight.



## Giving back to the community

Colleagues at **HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital in Breese** continue to provide for those in our community in many ways. Examples include:

- In celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph’s in March, colleagues collected comfort items such as socks, crossword puzzles, books and other items for three local nursing homes — Breese Nursing Home, Aviston Countryside Manor and Carlyle Healthcare Center.
- Emergency department colleagues supported local EMS by donating air fryers and food to three EMS agencies.
- To promote sun safety, four local pools received sunscreen donated from the hospital for their sunscreen stations.
- The hospital partnered with the local YMCA to collect and donate school supplies to Clinton County schools.
- In recognition of National Hunger Action Month in September, colleagues partnered with HSHS Rescue Flight to collect donations for local food pantries.
- In honor of the Feast of St. Francis in October, colleagues donated items to the local humane society.
- St. Joseph’s Breese colleagues also adopted 15 local families during the holiday season. Coping for Kids, Eden’s Glory and local churches assisted the hospital’s mission team to identify items each family needed.

## Corporate colleagues collect and deliver Thanksgiving baskets for Springfield families

One of the charitable drives that colleagues at the corporate office did in 2021 involved collecting items to make Thanksgiving baskets for Springfield area families. Departments signed up to fill a basket, and then colleagues brought in items for the basket. In all, colleagues collected and donated 62 baskets.





# System building and growth



## Mobile mammography unit **benefits** patients in rural communities

In June 2021, Prevea Health, in partnership with **HSHS Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's hospitals**, began providing mobile mammography services to residents in rural western Wisconsin communities. During the first six months, 355 patients used mobile mammography services. Of those patients:

- 37 required additional imaging for suspected breast cancer.
- One was diagnosed with breast cancer.
- 47 received a mammogram for the first time.
- 24 had not had a mammogram in more than five years.

"These numbers indicate the importance of not only a mobile mammography service in rural communities, but also early breast cancer detection," says Megan Bauer, mobile imaging coordinator and mammography technologist. "These 355 women now have an accurate picture of their breast health, and we know that detecting potential cancers early will help save lives."

The mobile mammography unit is equipped with technology that has the capability to provide 3-D and/or digital images. It features two changing rooms and a waiting room and is staffed by a registered mammography technologist.

"Many women may not otherwise receive a mammogram due to the burden of traveling to another community where services are available," says Megan. "By coming to them, we hope more women will find the service convenient and schedule an appointment as soon as possible."

The unit was purchased with funds donated by private donors to the HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital Foundation and the HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, the philanthropic, charitable arm of the hospitals.

## Prevea opens **dedicated facility** for physical therapy



In October 2021, Prevea Health opened a location dedicated to physical therapy services, Prevea Therapy, in Ladysmith, Wis.

"Having a dedicated therapy location allows us to enhance access to therapy services to the residents

of Ladysmith and surrounding communities," said Dr. Ken Johnson, chief medical officer and vice president of operations for Prevea Health in western Wisconsin. "People also do not need a referral or prescription to see us."

Therapy is one of the fastest-growing services of health care today. Through skilled physical therapy Prevea Health can help patients avoid surgery, prepare for and recover from surgery, relieve pain and manage chronic conditions.

Prevea Therapy is the second Prevea Health location in Ladysmith. The Prevea Ladysmith Health Center at 1101 Lake Ave. West opened in 2019. It offers family medicine, women's, behavioral and orthopedic care, and more.

## Behavioral health program **sees growth**

In partnership with a Hillsboro Area Hospital program, **HSHS Medical Group** has implemented an integrated behavioral health program in Hillsboro and Greenville and will extend the service into Breese early 2022.

The program is designed for patients with depression or anxiety that has not improved with initial treatment; patients who need a second opinion on diagnoses; patients with bipolar affective disorder II; and patients who have chronic medical issues and compliance with treatment has been an issue. The collaborative care helps a team of providers treat patients early and proactively and focuses on proper diagnoses for risk-adjusted patients.

The program takes the relationship that already exists between primary care physicians and patients and adds two more providers: a care manager (LCSW) and psychiatrist. These providers form a team with the patient to help set their treatment goals. The care manager and psychiatrist discuss patient needs and medications weekly, while the psychiatrist also provides education to the patient. The primary care physician and psychiatrist are available to each other to collaborate on patient care.

## Kilton Foundation Grant **awarded**

**HSHS St. Francis Hospital** in Litchfield, Ill. was recently awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Kilton Foundation. The funding will be used for new equipment for the physical therapy/ortho department and to purchase five additional infusion chairs for the cancer center.

Funds donated by the Kilton Foundation are used for the betterment, improvement and advancement of the community of Litchfield and the surrounding agricultural communities for the enrichment of the lives of the residents these communities.

"We are extremely grateful to be the recipient of a portion of this funding from the Kilton Foundation. This generosity will allow us to provide our patients with state-of-the-art equipment to provide a more personalized and advanced recovery utilizing the latest in rehab technology," said Director of Rehab Services Blake McAfee.



# Physician partners



## Prevea interventional cardiologists among first in northeast Wisconsin to use **'world's smallest heart pump'**

Advanced heart failure is a chronic, progressive condition in which the heart is too weak to pump enough blood throughout the body.

For some patients with advanced heart failure, it may be determined their condition is too severe to undergo a typical stenting procedure to increase blood flow. So, how can a patient in these circumstances safely get the care, or more specifically, the stent they need?

Prevea Health interventional cardiologists Drs. Jennifer Davis, Todd Fergus, Simil Gala and Anas Sarhan are now providing a procedure called, "protected stenting" with the Impella® Heart Pump at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital. The Impella is the only FDA-approved, non-surgical heart pump proven safe and effective to assist the pumping function of the heart during stent placement and ensure blood flow is maintained to critical organs.

During the protected stenting procedure, an interventional cardiologist uses a catheter to insert the pencil-sized pump into a small incision on the patient's femoral artery, then advances it through the arteries and into the heart.

The pump, referred to by its maker, Ambimed as "the world's smallest heart pump," reduces the workload of the patient's heart muscle as the interventional cardiologist places the stent.

"It assists the pumping function of the heart to efficiently deliver blood and oxygen to the entire body and ensures blood flow is maintained to critical organs," said Dr. Gala. "This allows us to more safely perform the stenting procedure and better ensure a successful outcome for these patients. Our team is proud to be among the first in northeast Wisconsin to use this advancement in medicine to care for our patients who are critically ill with heart disease."

When the support of the pump is no longer needed following the protected stent procedure, the interventional cardiologist will remove it before the patient leaves the hospital. In addition to stenting, the Impella Heart Pump can also be used when performing procedures such as valve treatment or serve as a bridge to heart surgery on qualifying patients with advanced heart failure.



## Partnering with St. John's College of Nursing

Prairie Cardiovascular supported St. John's College of Nursing with student observations in clinics to meet guidelines for community health nursing. The student observations in clinic included sharing caseloads with the student nurses and helping the student nurses to gain an understanding of the role.



HSHS Medical Group



## Skilled nursing and primary care **at home**

The HSHS Medical Group Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) program offers skilled nursing care delivered by compassionate geriatric specialists. The program addresses and improves the ability to take care of high-acuity patients living in short- and long-term intermediate skilled nursing facilities, as well as assisted living facilities, within the communities of Breese, Greenville, Highland, Carlyle, New Baden, Trenton, Shelbyville, Decatur and Springfield, Ill.

Beginning in 2018 with 11 sites and 91 patients, the program now includes four physicians and four nurse practitioners who see more than 3,000 patients at 52 sites across central and southern Illinois.

In 2021, in addition to rounding in nursing homes, skilled facilities and assisted living facilities, the nurse practitioners working with our SNF program began seeing patients in their homes. They are now in 68 patient homes in 29 different communities. Patients have access to providers 24/7 and direct access to nursing staff.

Home-based primary care is a new standard of care for high-risk, medically vulnerable homebound patients. It extends the time patients can remain at home rather than transferring to a facility. It also provides caregiver support and helps alleviate stress and other challenges for everyone involved in the patient's care.

## Prevea ear, nose and throat physician **now seeing patients in Altoona and Chippewa Falls**



**JENS BROWN, DO**  
Otolaryngologist

Prevea Health welcomed Jens Brown, DO, to its family of care in the Chippewa Valley. Dr. Brown is a board-certified otolaryngologist specializing in ear, nose and throat (ENT) care for adults and children. He sees patients in Altoona at the Prevea Altoona Medical Office Building and in Chippewa Falls at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital.

"I welcome patients of all ages and provide quality, compassionate medical care to children, teens and adults alike," says Dr. Brown. "I strongly believe in patient advocacy and evidence-based medicine tailored to meet the individual needs of each patient. This approach helps my patients receive the expert workup, diagnosis and treatment they deserve."

Dr. Brown completed a Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) degree at A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona, and a residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at Michigan State University. He is certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.



# Technology and telehealth



A woman has her temperature taken at the automated temperature screening kiosk in HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, Highland, Ill.

## Hospitals purchase automated temperature screening system

To help keep its patients, visitors, colleagues and medical staff safe through the pandemic, **HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital** in Highland, Ill. and **HSHS St. Francis Hospital** in Litchfield, Ill. were some of the first HSHS hospitals to invest in automated temperature screening systems, thanks to funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The screening kiosk is fast, highly accurate and prints out a label when someone is cleared. A hospital volunteer or colleague is available to answer questions and provide assistance.



## Neonatal virtual care launched

**HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital** in Eau Claire, Wis. is delivering more resources and expertise than ever before when it comes to caring for newborns. It launched neonatal virtual care services inside its women and infants center in partnership with Children's Minnesota, home to a neonatal team of experts caring for extremely premature babies born across three sites in St. Paul, Minneapolis and Coon Rapids.

The neonatal virtual care features technology that allows Sacred Heart Hospital patients, families and the maternal care team to see, hear and communicate with newborn specialists at Children's Minnesota Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. This new service allows our hospital to provide an enhanced level of care for babies who experience an unexpected medical complication that requires critical attention after delivery, such as breathing difficulties.

## New technology at HSHS places emphasis on importance of hand hygiene

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, HSHS began using exciting new technology to better measure hand hygiene compliance, showing our dedication to hospital acquired infection (HAI) reduction. The technology is called SwipeSense, and it replaces manual hand hygiene observations with "secret observers." Manual observations have been shown to have flaws that falsely elevate hand hygiene compliance rates. SwipeSense removes many of these flaws by using an objective system of sensors. SwipeSense creates a digital map of our facilities by placing location sensors throughout the facility. The location sensors are programmed to know if they are in a location where hand hygiene should occur upon room entry and exit. There also are sensors installed on the hand sanitizer and soap dispensers in these monitored areas. Colleagues wear a badge that connects to the sensors and identifies when and where hand hygiene is performed. The location sensors and hand hygiene sensors send their data to communication hubs that report the data back to a dashboard where the data is accessible.

The system allows for integration with other technologies to make system maintenance easier and give HSHS more meaningful data. For example, the system is linked with our human resources program so new colleagues are automatically enrolled with SwipeSense which allows for easier badge distribution. The system also is linked to our electronic medical record (EMR) which allows our infection prevention teams to determine if more colleague education is needed to know the best hand hygiene to use when caring for patients. For instance, with C. difficile patients, soap and water should be used as opposed to hand sanitizer, and that can be communicated to the colleagues. It also allows us to only monitor hand hygiene when a room is occupied with a patient. Further, the system allows colleagues to get an individual report on how they do personally for the first time. This allows us to celebrate successes and foster healthy competitions.

SwipeSense recommends that facilities set their goal for hand hygiene compliance at 80 percent. While that goal seems low, SwipeSense can only give a purely objective view on hand hygiene, and there is some room for subjectivity in hand hygiene monitoring that SwipeSense lacks. For example, SwipeSense is not able to know if hand hygiene was not performed because a colleague was trying to prevent a fall for a confused patient trying to get out of bed, or other emergency situations.

HSHS has made significant progress with improving hand hygiene in 2021. For example, **HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital** in Effingham, Ill., which was the first to have the SwipeSense system installed in 2020, has maintained high marks and achieved the 80 percent goal many months. We also have have numerous colleagues who can celebrate maintaining greater than 90 percent compliance. More recent installations also are having successes, with many seeing increases in compliance percentages compared to the previous year. This data also is reflected in our HAI data. Nationwide, there were significant increases in CLABSI, CAUTI, VAE and MRSA rates during the pandemic; rates increased by as much as 47 percent. A statement from the Association of Professionals in Infection Control stated that the United States lost nearly a decade of progress towards HAI reduction. HSHS has not seen these increases that many other facilities have, and has even seen significant reductions in some HAIs during this time, thanks in large part to the SwipeSense technology.





## Recognition and rewards



### Recognized with top grades for hospital safety

**HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital** in O'Fallon, Ill. received an "A" Leapfrog hospital safety grade for both spring and fall 2021. This national distinction recognizes St. Elizabeth's achievements in protecting patients from harm and error in the hospital. The fall recognition marks the seventh time in a row that St. Elizabeth's received this top grade.

**HSHS Holy Family Hospital**, Greenville, Ill.; **HSHS St. Vincent's Hospital**, Green Bay, Wis.; **HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital**, Eau Claire, Wis.; and **HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital**, Chippewa Falls, Wis., received an "A" Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade for fall 2021. This national distinction recognizes these ministries' achievements in protecting patients from harm and error in the hospital.

The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization, assigns an A, B, C, D or F grade to general hospitals across the country based on over 30 national performance measures reflecting errors, injuries, accidents and infections, as well as systems hospitals have in place to prevent harm.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program based exclusively on hospital prevention of medical errors and harms to patients. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

### 2021 Guardian of Excellence Awards

Several HSHS hospitals earned Guardian of Excellence Awards® from Press Ganey, the national leader in health care consumer and workforce engagement.

- **HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital** in Eau Claire, Wis. received a 2021 Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award® for achieving and sustaining excellence in clinical quality.
- **HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital** in Effingham, Ill. was named a 2021 Guardian of Excellence Award® winner, recognizing them as a top-performing health care organization achieving the 95th percentile or above for performance in clinical quality.
- **HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital** in O'Fallon, Ill. was named a 2021 Guardian of Excellence Award® winner by Press Ganey, for being a top-performing health care organization achieving the 95th percentile or above for performance in clinical quality.

These awards reaffirm the commitment of our colleagues and medical staff in providing exceptional, high-quality care to our patients.

### Recognized for higher quality maternity care

The Family Maternity Center at **HSHS St. Francis Hospital** in Litchfield, Ill. is proud to be recognized by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois with a Blue Distinction® Centers (BDC) for Maternity Care designation, as part of the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program.

"St. Francis is pleased to receive this Blue Distinction® Center designation for quality for our maternity services," said Elisa Feldmann, RNC, nurse manager of the family maternity center. "It shows that when people choose to deliver at St. Francis, they are making the right choice for excellent, compassionate care. We continue to raise the bar in our facility on behalf of our patients to continue providing quality care close to home."

To help address racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health care and to help ensure the better health of mothers, the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association enhanced its quality evaluation for the maternity care program to address key factors driving the United States' maternal health crisis such as preventable or treatable pregnancy-related conditions, high utilization of Caesarean sections, and racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health care.

### HSHS hospitals earn ACR accreditations

**HSHS St. Francis Hospital** in Litchfield, Ill. was awarded a three-year term of accreditation in nuclear medicine as the result of a recent review by the American College of Radiology (ACR).

St. Francis Hospital's radiology manager, Jen Lewis, RT(R) (M)(CT)(MR), said, "This was our first time applying for this accreditation, so we are extremely proud of our imaging staff for achieving this high level of care. It shows their commitment to ensuring the images captured are clear and comprehensive to help the radiologist diagnose issues patients are experiencing and demonstrating the highest standard of diagnostic care for our community."

**HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese**, Ill. was awarded a three-year term of accreditation in ultrasound as the result of a review by the American College of Radiology (ACR). The accreditation is for seven ultrasound modalities: obstetrical, gynecological, general ultrasound, vascular, peripheral ultrasound, cerebrovascular, abdominal and deep abdominal.

### National recognition for efforts to improve cardiovascular treatment

**HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital** in O'Fallon, Ill. and **HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital** in Eau Claire, Wis. have received American Heart Association achievement awards for implementing quality improvement measures that ensure cardiovascular patients receive efficient and coordinated care, ultimately leading to more lives saved, shorter recovery times and fewer returns to the hospital.

St. Elizabeth's was awarded with the Get with the Guidelines® Stroke Award Gold Plus Award and placed on the Get with the Guidelines® Stroke Award Target Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll and Sacred Heart received the Get with the Guidelines®-Stroke Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award.

- For the 11th year in a row, **HSHS St. Anthony's Wound Healing Center** was named a recipient of the Healogics® Center of Distinction Award, the nation's largest provider of advanced wound care services. The wound healing center has won this award every year since it opened in 2010.
- **HSHS St. Joseph's Wound Care Center in Highland**, Ill. was also named a Healogics® Center of Distinction Award winner.
- **HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese**, Ill. earned the Go Clear Award™ for its work in eliminating hazardous smoke during surgical procedures. The award is presented by the Association of perioOperative Registered Nurses (AORN).
- **The cardiac rehabilitation program HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland**, Ill. was recertified by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation. This recertification is recognition of St. Joseph's Hospital's commitment to improving the quality of life of patients by enhancing standards of care.
- The Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) awarded accreditation to **HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland, Ill., HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese, Ill., and HSHS Holy Family Hospital in Greenville, Ill.** laboratories after on-site inspections. Receiving these accreditations demonstrates HSHS's commitment to ensuring the highest standard.





EMS Educator/Facilitator Matt Roberts is pictured with the realistic, hand-painted manikin used for training purposes.



**HSHS  
St. John's  
Hospital**

## HSHS St. John's Foundation unveils **EMS mobile simulation training lab**

To provide area emergency medical service (EMS) providers with the most realistic and comprehensive training environment available, HSHS St. John's Foundation secured a mobile simulation training lab for use both inside and outside the hospital.



Housed in an ambulance, the simulation lab is used for recertification training, skills and process improvement, equipment familiarization and more.

The purchase was made possible by many generous donors, including donations to St. John's Foundation in memory of longtime emergency department director Amy Jones, RN, and emergency medical services educator Al "Doc" Lewin.

Al Lewin's wife, Donna, is pictured next to the mobile simulation lab with her daughter, Alyssa, and granddaughter, Violet.



## CONNECT moves to **state-wide model**

To centralize all transfer-related calls among the HSHS Illinois hospitals, the CONNECT program at St. John's Hospital moved to a state-wide model this year. The CONNECT program previously facilitated transfers and bed placement for St. John's, but with the transition it now accepts transfer calls for all nine HSHS Illinois hospitals while house supervisors at St. John's coordinate bed placement.

"We want to make it easy to transfer patients to one of our Illinois hospitals, but we also wanted the ability to easily transfer patients back to the HSHS Illinois hospital closest to home when they no longer need the higher level of care provided at one of our larger hospitals," said Wendy Michael, director of patient care operations at St. John's.

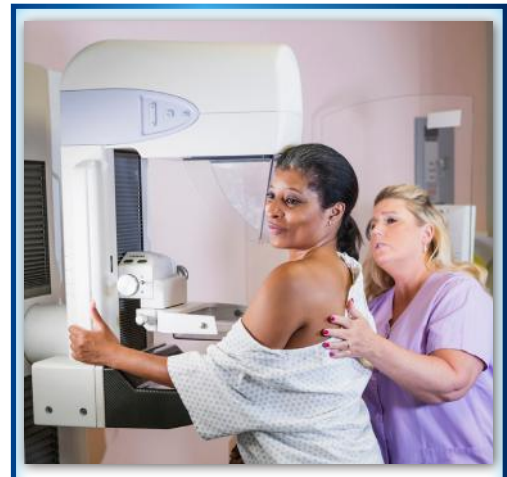
## HSHS St. John's is home to **next-generation PET/CT scanner**

As part of an ongoing effort to offer patients the most cutting-edge medical imaging technology available, St. John's Hospital acquired the Biograph Vision, a next-generation PET/CT scanner, in February 2021.

Biograph Vision uses the latest technology to help physicians detect disease and better understand disease progression for accurate and early treatment decisions, all with short scan times and a wide opening for enhanced patient comfort.



Diagnostic radiologist Dr. Brittany Varney views images taken with the new PET/CT scanner.



## Cancer center offered **Mammogram Mondays in October**

To help ensure uninsured and underinsured women receive their annual mammogram, The HSHS St. John's Cancer Center offered Mammogram Mondays in October. Fifteen women received mammograms through this initiative funded by generous donors through HSHS St. John's Foundation.





## Panda Express donates \$1 million to HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital



HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital unveiled the Panda Cares® Center of Hope, an outdoor healing garden and playroom, on June 30. Made possible by Panda Express® guests and associates, Panda Cares funds will also support programming within the children's hospital to enhance the mental, emotional, spiritual and physical well-being of pediatric patients and their families. This will include art and music therapy, horse therapy, spiritual care and bereavement services, classroom tutoring, theme parties, nutrition programs and physical, occupational and speech therapy.

The Panda Cares Center of Hope is a nationwide initiative in partnership with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN Hospitals).



## Newly remodeled, family-centered NICU opens in HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital



March 9 was an exciting day for families, colleagues and physicians as the babies moved from the existing space into the newly expanded neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Innovative features of the new family-centered unit include single family rooms where parents can stay overnight; expanded rooms that allow NICU twins and their families to stay together; and a family respite lounge and overnight sleep suites.

This new NICU also has the ability to offer couplet care, which will enable moms and their NICU babies to heal together in the same space while the mother is still a patient in the hospital. St. John's is one of only a few hospitals and medical centers in the United States to offer this innovative concept. As the only level III NICU in the region, the hospital cares for about 700 babies annually from 39 counties across an approximate 80-mile radius in Illinois.



To the delight of our pediatric patients, Batman and Spiderman washed windows at the children's hospital in September.





The St. John's College of Nursing simulation mobile unit is used to inspire young students to join the field of nursing and to improve the quality and safety of nursing care throughout the state through access to advanced educational tools. The mobile unit is equipped with high-fidelity manikins and associated medical equipment to impact the quality of nursing education in areas that do not have access to high fidelity labs.



## St. John's College of Nursing partners with Greenville University

St. John's College of Nursing and Greenville University (GU) announced a partnership in May that gives GU students a four-year path to earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. This will decrease GU students' nursing school journey from five years to four years. Students will be admitted in fall of 2022.

"All of us at St. John's College of Nursing are excited about this partnership," said Charlene Aaron, PhD, RN, chancellor and professor at St. John's College of Nursing. "It enables GU nursing students to stay on campus all four years and enjoy the full college experience while receiving the outstanding clinical education St. John's College is known for."

Clinical experiences will take place at HSHS Holy Family Hospital, Greenville and other HSHS hospitals in the southern part of the state. A new mobile simulation lab on the GU campus will give students hands-on experience and allow them to learn, practice and enhance skills in a no-risk, safe environment.

"We are happy to be partnering with St. John's College of Nursing. They offer a top-notch BSN program with many connections for placement in hospitals and clinics across our region," said Suzanne Davis, JD, MBA, president of Greenville University. "This collaboration has been in the works for quite some time so it's great to see it come to fruition for current and future Greenville University students."



Students experienced the impact St. John's Breadline plays in the community, especially during the holidays. While volunteering, they assembled more than 1,000 meals, assisted with sponsor correspondence, organized donations for the annual Christmas Eve toy distribution and decorated candy bags for the Christmas meals.



St. John's College of Nursing students adopted a stretch of Ninth Street this year, just east of the main college campus, through the City of Springfield's Adopt-A-Street program. This activity qualifies as community service hours for students who participate.

**85%**  
GRADUATION RATE

**86%**  
NCLEX PASS RATE

**50**  
SJC AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

**100%**  
JOB PLACEMENT AFTER GRADUATION

**99%**  
OF STUDENTS RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID ASSISTANCE

**\$256,095**  
IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 86 STUDENTS





**HSHS  
St. Mary's  
Hospital**

## Theresa Rutherford returns to HSHS St. Mary's Hospital

In January of 2021, **HSHS St. Mary's Hospital** was blessed to be joined, once again, by Theresa Rutherford, this time as president and CEO. Theresa had previously served at St. Mary's as chief nursing executive and chief operating officer.

While serving as chief operating officer, Theresa oversaw the \$13 million renovation and expansion of the hospital's lobby, laboratory and emergency department. She also played a major role in HSHS becoming the exclusive home to Prairie Cardiovascular Consultants.

In between her time at St. Mary's, Theresa served as CEO at HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital in Effingham for seven years, overseeing that ministry in a growing and competitive market.

When she returned to St. Mary's in January 2021, her instincts as a nurse, leader and HSHS colleague led the ministry through the tough times.

Over the past year, the hospital has hired many new colleagues, made its way through a global pandemic and reconnected with the mission of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis.



**THERESA RUTHERFORD**  
President and CEO



## Good Samaritan Inn provides meals and meaningful volunteer opportunities

**HSHS St. Mary's Hospital** has the opportunity to extend the hospital's mission to the greater Decatur area through colleagues that volunteer to feed the hungry at the Good Samaritan Inn.

Like many other organizations, 2021 was a hard year for this local meal service. Lack of volunteers and donations often made it difficult to serve those in our community. St. Mary's colleagues help provide and serve meals to more than 100 community members one Sunday each month. Often, entire departments join together to volunteer at "Good Sam" and make it a team building activity. St. Mary's colleagues have made such an impact that one colleague was recently asked to serve on the board.

Whether St. Mary's colleagues are serving and preparing meals at the scheduled time or filling in when they are low on volunteers, colleagues always mention how their "cup is filled" when they volunteer at the Good Samaritan Inn.

## Vascular services welcome new providers

In 2021, **HSHS St. Mary's Hospital** and **Prairie Cardiovascular** became the exclusive home to vascular surgeons Dr. Christopher Gram and Dr. Jeffrey Trachtenberg. Together they have nearly 50 years of experience and have been serving patients in the Decatur area for the past 20 years.

St. Mary's expanded its vascular service line in recent years in preparation for the addition of these two physicians. The expansion included a \$1 million renovation of the hospital's vascular lab to enable these new physicians to work with the latest technology and caring team.

Drs. Gram and Trachtenberg are seeing patients on the first floor of the hospital. The other Prairie providers moved into a recently remodeled suite in the 1770 building just west of the main hospital.



## 60 years on the lake celebrated



In August 2021, HSHS St. Mary's Hospital celebrated the 60th anniversary in its current location on Lake Decatur. The event was held on the hospital's lawn and was hosted to honor current colleagues, as well as the hospital's history.

Matt Bennett, chair of the St. Mary's Board of Directors, spoke to a crowd of colleagues, community members and several Hospital Sisters, commemorating the work of our local Sisters who helped create the ministry.

With the need for compassionate and quality health care for the people of Decatur and the surrounding communities, the Sisters recognized the opportunity for expansion and purchased 14 acres in 1948. The groundbreaking for the new hospital was in 1957, and the building was completed in 1961. The transfer of 114 patients, including 12 infants, to the new hospital took place on August 28 of that year. Six ambulances and two limousines transferred most of the patients, while four persons in traction were moved one at a time by a moving van.

"The foresight of the Hospital Sisters led to what is now a beacon of health and hope in our community" said Theresa Rutherford, president and CEO. "St. Mary's has been a vital part of Decatur and Macon County for 144 years, and we hope to celebrate many more milestones overlooking Lake Decatur."





## Developing our workforce

HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital addressed the challenge of workforce shortages by implementing new programs to help bridge the gap for the hospital and those seeking clinical care positions.

While the job opportunities in health care are great, the cost of getting trained may be more than some can afford. To help solve this issue, St. Elizabeth's, in partnership with Midwest Career Source (MCS) and St. Clair County's Workforce Development Apprenticeship program, created a new certified nurse assistant (CNA) program. It is an opportunity for those interested in health care to train on-the-job, while getting paid, to open the door to numerous career paths within the hospital and HSHS.

The program was recognized in a special proclamation from Governor JB Pritzker, along with other organizations supported by the St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants.

The hospital also began a four-week RN internship program, held in the summer and winter. The interns work in all nursing departments. Interns have noted the experience far outpaces their school clinicals because they get to see a full nursing shift, they work with the full team of patients the nurse is assigned and it helps them develop confidence in the clinical setting.

St. Elizabeth's Chief Nursing Officer Regina Peterson, DNP, RN, said, "It's not only about the clinical expertise. These programs also highlight the heart, compassion and mission of HSHS which is what makes us more than co-workers, we become family."



## St. Elizabeth nurses touch hearts across the world with a **small act of kindness**

Colleagues at **HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital** have seen firsthand how the safety precautions and visitor guidelines affect patients during the pandemic.

In January 2021, patients Frank, 93, and Masako "Terry," 86, a married couple of 63 years, were both in the hospital with COVID-19 but in separate areas. When a family member mentioned they are typically inseparable and very dependent on each other, their nurses Kim Presson and Hannah Schlemer made a plan.

The couple were treated to a special "dinner date" night where they could see each other, hold hands and eat together for the evening, just as they had done for so many years.

When Frank first spotted his wife as he was rolled into her room, he said, "oh, honey, you look beautiful." The couple spent close to two hours together sharing desserts and watching tv, all while holding hands.

With the patients' permission, a single Facebook post was shared on St. Elizabeth's page. This small, caring gesture reached more than 17,000 people, and the story was reported on by nearly 100 news outlets across the United States and in 14 other countries. Some of the national outlets included USA Today, People Magazine, CNN, FoxNews (national) and more.



## Mission moments

Colleagues and leaders at **HSHS St. Elizabeth's** are proud to follow in the footsteps of our Hospital Sisters and live their mission inside and outside our walls. This includes supporting other Catholic Sisters communities such as the Poor Clares in Belleville.

St. Elizabeth's provided flu shots and COVID-19 vaccinations to the Sisters living at the Poor Clare Monastery of Our Lady of Mercy this year. Colleagues in the career development ladder program coordinated a collection drive to gather health care essential items, as they knew the Sisters have taken vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and enclosure.





Along with other HSHS Illinois hospitals, HSHS St. Anthony's launched a "Here with You" brand marketing campaign featuring hospital colleagues fulfilling their calling.



## New HSHS St. Anthony's CEO proud to join organization that **achieves excellence despite pandemic**



**CHAD MARKHAM**  
President and CEO

When Chad Markham joined **HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital** in September 2021, he knew from the interview process it was a quality organization with compassionate and talented caregivers. But soon after his arrival, he realized even more what quality health care St. Anthony's offers to the community when the hospital received the 2021 Guardian of Excellence Award® from Press Ganey, the national leader in health care consumer and workforce engagement. In November 2021, Press Ganey recognized St. Anthony's as a top-performing health care organization achieving the 95th percentile or above for performance in clinical quality.

"I am incredibly proud of the remarkable efforts and teamwork of our staff. This award, along with others the hospital has received this past year, demonstrates our colleagues' and medical staff's dedication to achieving excellence for our patients, even in the midst of a pandemic," Markham shared. "This shows the residents of Effingham and surrounding communities can receive top-rated care close to home."



## Wheelchair-accessible transportation option for patients now available

**HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital** now has a wheelchair-accessible van to offer patients transportation assistance. The van is used for patients being discharged from the hospital who otherwise would not have a ride home.

Ashley Dillingham, manager of case management, outpatient behavioral health, guest and volunteer services, shared, "While there are some wheelchair-accessible transportation options in our community, this van fulfills a need for

transportation assistance in a timely manner, especially for our patients who are ready to go home or to a nursing facility."

The van was made possible through a variety of fundraising efforts, including San Damiano grant funds awarded from the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, a gift from the hospital auxiliary and proceeds from previous foundation events and appeals.



## Pet therapy brings **smiles and joy**

To bring smiles to the faces of patients, visitors and colleagues, **HSHS St. Anthony's** launched a pet therapy program in partnership with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. Certified therapy dogs and their handlers visit patients and colleagues at the hospital weekly to spread joy.

Ashley Dillingham coordinates the program. "Our hospital not only focuses on the physical well-being of our patients, but also on their emotional and spiritual health. We have long wanted to introduce pet therapy. Studies have shown a decrease in both blood pressure and stress levels during therapy dog visits," she explained. "Whenever the dogs visit, it is wonderful to see such joy on patients' and colleagues' faces."

St. Anthony's has guidelines and procedures in place addressing pet certification, hygiene practices and physician/patient consents to ensure safety and cleanliness of the visits.





## Current hospital facility celebrates 50th anniversary of its opening

October 25, 2021, was the 50th anniversary of **HSHS St. Francis Hospital's** current building opening, marking half a century of delivering high-quality care and dedicated service from this facility to the residents of Litchfield and surrounding communities.

A celebratory mass was held and attended by three Hospital Sisters who were stationed at St. Francis Hospital for the move to the new location in 1971 — Sisters MaryAnn Fable, Ann Pitsenberger and Janelle Athorp. Also in attendance at the mass was Sister Jomary Trstensky, chair of Hospital Sisters Ministries. The four Sisters are pictured above with St. Francis Hospital leadership.

In a speech at the groundbreaking in 1968, Mother M. Noel said, "The value of Catholic hospitals is being challenged today from many avenues and the challenge is in our hands, not only to provide top-notch health facilities and comprehensive health care, but also to provide apostolic health services."

St. Francis Hospital President and CEO Jim Timpe noted, "Challenges are numerous today as well as we face a pandemic, personnel shortages, competitive markets and many social and economic issues. Colleagues at St. Francis face these challenges, just as the Hospital Sisters did, with confidence and faith. We remain committed to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people and to the health care ministry established here. We also greatly thank the entire community for its ongoing support of the hospital."



## St. Francis Way Clinic opens on hospital campus

To address the need for enhanced behavioral health services in the area, St. Francis Way Clinic opened on the hospital's campus in September 2021. The clinic offers behavioral health services to help patients break down barriers keeping them from engaging in treatment and recovery services. The clinic is operated by the Macoupin County Public Health Department.

Behavioral care providers on staff oversee programs and services which include medication-assisted treatments, individual and group therapy, case management support and more. It is open to individuals ages 18 and older.

"Adding behavioral and substance use care programs next to our facility benefits patients who may otherwise present at an emergency department that may not have a full spectrum of mental health resources available," said Jim Timpe, president and chief executive officer of HSHS St. Francis Hospital. "It is a collective effort to address the very urgent mental health crisis in our region. We are proud to support the growth of programs through ongoing coordination with the Macoupin County Health Department and other community partners."



## CuddleCot donated to family maternity center

Losing a baby is one of the hardest things a couple can go through. For Chris and Lacey Apple of Oakland, Ill., they experienced this loss April 18, 2007, when their daughter, Ava Grace, passed away just 25 hours after being born.

"All we wanted as a family, as new parents, was more time with our baby," Lacey shared.

In memory of Ava, the Apple family started a fundraiser to purchase a CuddleCot, which has a cooling pad in the bassinet to slow the infant's physical changes, allowing the family to have more time with the baby upon his or her passing.

HSHS St. Francis Family Maternity Center Manager Elisa Feldmann said, "We are grateful that the Apples have chosen to offer comfort to others facing the same tragic loss through this donation."





## Clinton County Rural Health expansion now complete

Ribbon cutting for Clinton County Rural Health.

While the first phase of the new facility opened in November 2020, April 2021 marked the completion of the renovation of the previous medical practice office space, offering more clinic space to provide patients with additional amenities and convenience.

**HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital** President and CEO Chris Klay shared, "This project affords us the space to better support our patients and existing providers and will assist us in recruiting new providers," he said. "This is an important step in ensuring we continue to provide quality care to the residents of this area."

Since the new clinic opened, two new primary care physicians have joined Clinton County Rural Health, Dr. Jonathon Hoskins and Dr. Alexander Workman.



Nurses station inside the Clinton County Rural Health expansion.



Neonatal nurse practitioner (NNP) Sheila Malusky and Tracy Mensing, RN, demonstrate a mock telemedicine consultation with a neonatologist.

## Prenatal and neonatal care services expand

Access to care is always a focus at **HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese**. In 2021, the hospital partnered with Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Medicine and HSHS St. John's Hospital to expand access to prenatal and neonatal services.

Prenatal patients needing level II ultrasounds now receive results more quickly as a SIU provider reads scans as the ultrasound technician is performing it. This allows for immediate follow up with a maternal fetal medicine provider. If needed, SIU also will provide virtual genetic counseling visits so the patient doesn't have to travel for these appointments.

Through the partnership with St. John's Hospital, the women and infants center now has an additional telemedicine provider for our littlest patients. When a consult is needed on a newborn in distress, colleagues can reach out to neonatologists at St. John's via telemedicine. This service has been offered at St. Joseph's with a different medical facility, but the partnership with St. John's provides additional resources when patients need it most.

## Partnering with area school children to encourage colleagues

During the Thanksgiving season, **HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese** partnered with All Saints Academy and Breese School District 12 to invite students to color and write notes of encouragement and thanks to hospital staff. Hospital colleagues were overjoyed to read the notes.







*The wound care team was recognized by Healogics for clinical excellence.*



**HSHS**  
St. Joseph's  
Hospital | Highland

## HSHS St. Joseph's Wound Care Center recognized for clinical excellence

The Wound Care Center at **HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland** cares for area residents with chronic wounds which have not healed in a reasonable amount of time, offering them hope and healing. This past year, the wound care center received the Healogics® Center of Distinction award, the nation's largest provider of advanced wound care services.

The center achieved outstanding clinical outcomes for 12 consecutive months, including patient satisfaction rates higher than 92% and a minimum wound healing rate of at least 92% within 28 median days to heal. The wound care center offers advanced care, including negative pressure wound therapy, total contact casting, bio-engineered tissues, biosynthetic dressings, growth factor therapies and hyperbaric oxygen therapy.



## Children donate bench in memory of parents and their long-time service to the hospital

Raymond and Dolores Firkus were dedicated to serving **HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland**. Together, they worked or volunteered for a combined 90-plus years. In loving memory of their parents, the Firkus family donated a bench to sit in the hallway of the hospital near the plants Dolores watered and cared for as a volunteer.

Raymond began working at St. Joseph's Hospital as an X-ray technician in 1949 and was eventually promoted to department supervisor. He retired in 2000 after serving more than 50 years. He continued to volunteer at the hospital until his death in 2002.

Early in Raymond's career, Dolores offered her support to the hospital's ministry by transporting Hospital Sisters

(who couldn't drive) to Springfield for appointments, shopping and visits to the Motherhouse, with her young daughter Marikay at her side.

As one of the first volunteers, Dolores officially began volunteering at St. Joseph's in 1968. In 1980, she began working as a pharmacy technician at the hospital. When she retired in 1997 at age 70, her service to the hospital was far from over. She immediately began volunteering and served as a messenger, lay associate and was an auxiliary member. When she could no longer drive, she would take the St. Joseph's Hospital Friends Van so she could continue to volunteer. Dolores passed away in 2020.



## Giving back to the community

The colleagues at **HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland** continue to support the mission by serving the community in different ways. Examples from 2021:

- The inpatient unit collected and donated items to local nursing home patients and partnered with the Grantfork Jaycees to collect blankets for community members in need.
- In recognition of National Hunger Action Month in September, colleagues partnered with HSHS Rescue Flight to collect donations for local food pantries.
- Colleagues conducted a basket raffle which raised more than \$1,400 for Highland Area Christian Service Ministry.
- During Christmas, St. Joseph's colleagues made the holidays brighter for five local families through the hospital's annual adopt-a-family project.





Our surgical service colleagues are proud of their newly renovated space that improves their process flow and increases patient experience.



HSHS Holy Family Hospital

## HSHS Holy Family unveils newly renovated surgery department



In summer 2021, **HSHS Holy Family Hospital** unveiled its \$3 million surgical services renovation. It included all new state-of-the-art surgical equipment, private patient rooms for surgery prep and post-procedure privacy and a centralized nurses' station for improved department and family communication.

HSHS Holy Family President and CEO Kelly Sager shared, "The investment we made in our surgery renovation allows us to elevate patient care and patient experience for those who come to us for their surgery. This project enhances our ability to continue serving as our community's first choice for quality health care."



One person who made Holy Family his first choice for surgery was Gary McKee of Hazelwood, Missouri. Gary chose Holy Family for his total hip replacement and said he would make the choice again. He has used larger St. Louis hospitals for other surgeries in the past and he saw a distinct difference in Greenville.

"If I pushed the nurse button, they walked right in the door – they were so responsive. It was VIP treatment throughout – from the first call to schedule my surgery, to the postoperative care and physical rehab to get me up and moving, to when they were wheeling me out to leave, to the follow-up calls afterward – it was all great," he said. "The nurses and therapists went above and beyond – all very professional and caring. After the great VIP care I received, why would I go anywhere else?"

Gary McKee, a total hip replacement patient.



## Supporting Bond County residents by giving back

**HSHS Holy Family Hospital** is an integral part of the community. That is why the hospital gives back to the community in many ways.

- The hospital sponsored a free pool day at the Kingsbury Park District pool in July 2021. Holy Family provided sunscreen packets to pool goers all summer to promote sun safety.
- Various hospital departments often conduct their own drives to live out our mission. To support area students, Holy Family colleagues collected back-to-school supplies during the month of July for students at Greenville Elementary School.
- Emergency department colleagues collected new

blankets for residents living in local health care facilities, while inpatient unit colleagues collected pet supplies for the Bond County Humane Society.

- To assist those with food insecurity, colleagues collected donations for local food pantries alongside HSHS Rescue Flight during National Hunger Action Month in September 2021. In November, colleagues donated to a Thanksgiving Food Drive, which benefited the Greenville Senior Center Food Pantry.
- Colleagues spread Christmas cheer by generously donating gifts toward the Bond County Toys for Joy program in December.

## Mission moments

The **HSHS Holy Family Auxiliary Thrift Shop** has been a mainstay in the Greenville community since September 1990. While the thrift shop was closed for a short time at the start of the pandemic, it reopened in June 2020 with safety guidelines in place.

The auxiliary and its thrift shop support the community by giving back to the hospital. In 2021, the HSHS Holy Family Hospital Auxiliary presented a \$300,000 donation to the hospital. Since 1957, the auxiliary has raised more than \$7.4 million for the hospital.

These funds were used to upgrade the cardiac monitor system. The upgraded equipment communicates across all nursing units, allowing patients to be monitored throughout the hospital as they receive care.







## Community garden expands

In partnership with First Presbyterian Church in Shelbyville, **HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital** expanded the Shelbyville Community Garden. With garden sites at the church, private homes and Good Shepherd, the group had their most successful harvest ever, producing more than 660 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables from the hospital garden alone for families in need.

Thanks to grants from the San Damiano Foundation, Lumpkin Foundation and Farm Credit of Illinois, the hospital made some major improvements to the garden in 2021. The garden was moved back to its original site on the south side of the hospital, the garden shed was relocated and a new water line was dug for easy access. New deeper beds were built and mushroom compost from Regenerative Live Farms was used in the raised beds.

In 2022, the hospital has plans to double the garden beds and start a small free-standing food pantry on the hospital's campus filled with non-perishable foods and produce from the community garden. The food from the new food pantry will be available 24/7.

## Urology services now available

**HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital** continues to add services the Shelbyville community has not seen in recent years. This latest addition is a partnership with Springfield Clinic and Dr. Scott Morgan to bring urology services to the hospital.

This addition allows patients in our community to stay close to home for their consultations, surgeries and follow-up care. Dr. Morgan is a well-known surgeon in the region.

Good Shepherd is excited to continue to grow service lines and provide more diverse care options for the Shelbyville community.



## Red Event fundraiser offers meals to go

Like many events, celebrations and gatherings in recent years, the **HSHS Good Shepherd Foundation's** signature event, the Red Event, had to make a few changes in 2021. While this event is typically a large gathering with food, fellowship and laughter, it was transformed into the Red Event: On the Go! — where donors picked up their gourmet food to take home.

The Red Event committee came up with several delicious gourmet meal options for supporters to choose from and used an online portal to collect orders and sponsorships. The community really seemed to enjoy this unique option.



## Holiday meal prayer cards benefit patients and more

The **HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital** Dietary Department works with the Shelby County Jail to provide meals for inmates. While placing prayer cards on patient trays for the Thanksgiving holiday, one of the mission team members had the idea to include prayer cards with the meals that go to the jail as well.

The mission team got positive feedback almost immediately. One of the correctional officers contacted the team to let them know how meaningful the prayers were to some of the inmates. Several even taped the prayers to the walls in their cells.

The prayer cards are now included with meals delivered to the county jail on holidays. Sharing the mission with those in our community that may need it most allows hospital colleagues to embody Christ's healing love just as St. Francis did.







A few Prairie Cardiovascular physicians and colleagues "rush" to the aid of a patient during filming of the Alive campaign.

# Prairie Cardiovascular

*The Doctors of Prairie*

## Alive campaign

One of the most rewarding aspects of health care is seeing our patients recover and thrive. Our marketing campaign, Alive, celebrated those moments when our patients leave our care and embark on a fuller life.



## Best place to work

The Springfield Business Journal named Prairie a Best Place to Work in 2021.

"We're honored to carry the title 'Best Place to Work,'" says Kristin Doster, executive vice president of Prairie Heart Institute of Illinois. "Our colleagues are dedicated to high-quality care and have a genuine concern for patients and each other. Their commitment to bringing joy and care into the lives of everyone around them makes Prairie a wonderful place to work and be a patient."




## Ministry growth

Prairie opened vein clinics in Springfield and Decatur to assess, treat and surgically remove varicose veins.

Prairie returned to Belleville in 2021! Dr. Chiu and Dr. Mulkareddy now offer outreach clinics in Belleville once a week.

Prairie welcomed four new physicians, three new nurse practitioners and three new physician assistants to the team in 2021. New team members included two vascular surgeons in Decatur. Five physicians began outreach to new locations, including Shelbyville, Belleville, Greenville and Carrollton.



**PROTECTING THE HEART [of Belleville.]**


Dr. Regina Chiu, an experienced and compassionate cardiologist with Prairie Cardiovascular, is now welcoming patients at our new clinic in Belleville.



**LISTENING TO THE HEART [of Belleville.]**

Belleville got the best! Prairie Heart's Dr. Regina Chiu is ready to serve, protect and listen to the hearts of Belleville in our new outreach location, in addition to the O'Fallon location! Sign up for your appointment in our new office!

**CALL TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT**  
**618-233-6044**  
 311 West Lincoln Street, Suite 200  
 Belleville, IL 62220



prairieheart.org

## Community benefit

Prairie Cardiovascular physicians make education opportunities a priority.

Presentations in 2021 included:

- Dr. Dande's Lunch and Learn presentation at HSHS St. Mary's Hospital
- Dr. Davis' presentation to the Diabetic Symposium
- Dr. Moore's presentation on heart disease at Fit Club
- Prairie's annual Heart of You and Your Patient Conference

Prairie also participates in health fairs to educate the public on heart health and provide free screenings:

- June - Decatur Celebration Health Fair
- July - Madison County Fair Health Information Station
- August - Illinois State Fair Senior Day
- September - Decatur Seniorama Health and Wellness Fair
- September - Senior Celebration Health and Wellness at Illinois State Fair Grounds

## Online patient portal

Prairie Cardiovascular continues to encourage patients to sign up for our online patient portal, MyPrairie powered by MyChart, for the optimal patient experience.

38.6% of our patients are now using MyPrairie. Patients may sign up for and access MyPrairie via Prairie's website at prairieheart.org.

### PRAIRIE BY THE NUMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 2021

**409**  
Colleagues

**123**  
Physicians and  
Advanced Practice Clinicians

**44**  
Clinics

**142,000+**  
Patient Visits





## New clinic serving age 60+ patients

In January 2021, HSHS Medical Group opened a new clinic in Springfield exclusively for Medicare patients and **those age 60 and older**. This clinic is the first of its kind in the area and provides comprehensive health care featuring longer appointment times, chronic disease care and medication management as well as onsite lab and X-ray

and care coordinators. In addition to traditional health care, the team also helps patients navigate the complexities of Medicare plans.

Many patients appreciate this enhanced approach to health care for those over 60. The clinic serves nearly **2,600 patients** and continues to grow.

The comprehensive care team includes two physicians, one nurse practitioner, a pharmacist, nurses, social worker

## Occupational medicine

HSHS Medical Group's employer-based services have flourished, in spite of the pandemic. Occupational health and LeadWell have had the opportunity to meet the needs of employers and their employees throughout their experience with COVID-19.

Occupational health has helped ensure that employers are able to get new colleagues hired and that injured workers are returned safely and efficiently — allowing employers to continue to offer services amid the labor shortage.

LeadWell gives colleagues on the contracted employer's health plan convenient and low-cost access to care — reducing employee absenteeism. Occupational health was notified by a business partner in the large manufacturing sector that in just five years, this partnership resulted in an 89% reduction in worker's compensation expenses. LeadWell has partnered with multiple business in the communities served, and added an on-site clinic with a manufacturing group looking to reduce their overall healthcare spend.

Much of the success of these programs results from the talented and highly-trained physicians who care for patients on a daily basis and provide clinical oversight to the nurse practitioners, athletic trainers, health coach and colleagues within this service line.

**HSHS MEDICAL GROUP  
BY THE NUMBERS | FY 2021**

**805**  
Colleagues

**502**  
Physicians and  
Advanced Practice  
Clinicians

**148**  
Clinics

**600,000+**  
Patient Visits



**HSHS  
Medical Group**

## Permanent drive-thru care

Due to the positive response of our temporary COVID drive-thru sites, permanent drive-thru sites were established in **Decatur** and **O'Fallon** to allow patients access for routine checks such as blood pressures and lab draws from the comfort of their car. The labs that are drawn can be sent to the **HSHS Medical Group** moderately complex lab hubs to provide timely results at outpatient office pricing. We partner with HSHS St. John's Hospital to process the higher complexity labs for our patients. We are exploring additional drive-thru site options within our Illinois footprint.

## Neurosciences growth

HSHS Medical Group added neurology care to our specialty offering in O'Fallon. Two neurologists, **Raghav Govindarajan, MD**, and **Ada Uzo-Okereke, MD**, joined HSHS Medical Group in O'Fallon with outreaches in Breese and Sparta.

**Reuben Valenzuela, MD**, was distinguished as a Partner in Multiple Sclerosis Care by The National MS Society, a prestigious recognition only awarded to a handful of health care providers each year.







## Jim's story: **One last wish**

Once everyone age 16 and older was eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, people had a decision to make. For some, the decision was easy. For others, it required more thought. For Geri Lynn, a nurse by trade, the decision to get vaccinated against COVID-19 came naturally and without hesitation. For her husband, Jim, the learning curve was greater as he had never had a childhood vaccine.

Geri Lynn shared they had let their guard down a bit when it came to COVID-19 precautions. The pair loved spending time outdoors — biking, skiing and farming. In mid to late July, they both got sick with a cold. But it was Jim, age 63, who became very sick and tested positive for the virus. “Jim got to a point where he couldn't lift his hand to his mouth,” recalled Geri Lynn. “His temperature skyrocketed.”

Geri Lynn brought Jim to the emergency department at **HSHS St. Vincent Hospital** where he was admitted. This was the start of a 47-day stay in the intensive care unit (ICU). Due to isolation precautions, the two could not see each other for a couple of weeks. During this time, Jim would text Geri Lynn and share that he wished he would have gotten the vaccine to avoid the pain and stress.

“Everything I heard about COVID, it was all true. He was ventilated, but still somewhat alert and trying to communicate by writing or mouthing words,” said Geri Lynn.

On one particular day, Geri Lynn received a text of desperation from Jim; he was ready to give up. Immediately, Geri Lynn called the ICU nurses station who immediately brought in spiritual care to be with Jim — who reminded him that he was not alone. They gave Jim a wooden cross, that Jim — a faithful man — held onto every day. “Jim would say it's getting harder and this hurts — the ventilator hurts. Then he would say, time is getting shorter,” remembers Geri Lynn.

He also relayed to Geri Lynn that he wanted something good to come from his story; that God would use his story to help others.

*Continued on next page.*



“He really wanted his story to encourage people to get vaccinated so that they wouldn't have to go through what he was going through,” said Geri Lynn.

Jim passed away on Sept. 16, 2021, with Geri Lynn and his care team by his side.

“At the end, the nurses were crying with me. The compassion they have, I just really, really appreciated that. It was so good to know he was at St. Vincent's ICU. I always felt you don't get to work there unless you are the best of the best because situations are so critical. I was reassured knowing he was there.”

Jim's wish became Geri Lynn's mission. In an effort to keep his legacy and spirit alive, Geri Lynn continues to advocate and encourage COVID-19 vaccination in Jim's memory.

## Maintaining our **trauma status**

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Regional Trauma Center at **HSHS St. Vincent Hospital** has again been verified by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) as a Level II Trauma Center — a status it has now maintained for 23 years.

The HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Regional Trauma Center is one of 13 trauma centers in Wisconsin to be verified by the ACS. Comprehensive, on-site evaluations of designated trauma centers are completed by the ACS Committee on Trauma (COT) every three years. Verification from the COT confirms a trauma center demonstrates its commitment to providing the highest quality of trauma care for all injured patients. Level II is the highest ranking a non-university-affiliated emergency center can receive from the COT.

“The verification of HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Regional Trauma Center as a Level II Trauma Center confirms we provide the highest level of trauma care possible for all injured patients,” said Dr. Stephanie Bakey, medical director of the HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Regional Trauma Center. “Those who come to us in need of trauma care — whether it be the result of a car accident, a fall or other serious injury — are in good hands. Our entire trauma team stands by, ready and waiting with skill and compassion, 24/7.”

Trauma is defined as a severe injury caused by a physical force such as a vehicle crash, gunshots, knife wounds, falls, battery or burns; and it is the leading cause of death for individuals up to the age of 45. In 2021, St. Vincent Hospital Regional Trauma Center cared for 1,004 patients. That is nearly three trauma patients a day, every day.

## HSHS hospitals named **Wisconsin Coverdell Stroke Champions**

**HSHS St. Vincent, St. Mary's and St. Nicholas** hospitals have been recognized again by the Wisconsin Department of Health Service's Coverdell Stroke Program as Coverdell Stroke Champions.

### What is the Wisconsin Coverdell Stroke Program?

In 2001, Congress charged the CDC with implementing state-based registries that measure, track and improve the delivery and quality of stroke care. A national registry was established and named the Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry (PCNSR), after the late U.S. senator who suffered a fatal stroke in 2000 while serving in Congress. The Wisconsin Coverdell Stroke Program is one of several state-based registries across the U.S. established as a result of the PCNSR.

As Wisconsin Coverdell Stroke Champions, HSHS St. Vincent, St. Mary's and St. Nicholas hospitals collect and monitor data about their delivery and quality of stroke care for entry into the Wisconsin Coverdell Stroke Program registry. Data from state and national stroke care is analyzed and the hospitals collaborate with other health systems, EMS providers, community health workers and others to improve the quality of stroke care in Wisconsin.

HSHS St. Vincent, St. Mary's and St. Nicholas hospitals have been recognized as Coverdell Stroke Champions since 2017. Their status as champions was renewed as the CDC and PCNSR have awarded the Wisconsin Coverdell Stroke Program a three-year grant to continue its efforts of data collection and stroke care quality improvement.

Currently, stroke experts at our hospitals are participating in the Wisconsin Coverdell Stroke Program's Telestroke Task Force to share and learn about best practices in the use of telemedicine in stroke care.





The gigantic interactive video wall is made up of 32 flat screen TVs.



## HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital renovations near completion

At **HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital**, kids are a big deal. That's why in 2015, with our partner Prevea Health, we built a children's hospital within the walls of HSHS St. Vincent Hospital. Since then our Join the Fight campaign, a multi-million dollar, dual-phase community fundraising campaign, has allowed us to remodel our "hospital within a hospital" with modernized spaces and designs created especially for children and the unique care they require.



Spacious kid-friendly patient rooms equipped with color changing lights.

In 2019, we renovated and carved out spaces inside our emergency department that were designed just for kids – proudly opening our new pediatric emergency center. Construction continued in 2021 as patients now have access to spaces that are updated, bright and welcoming. Ensuring children and young adults feel at home in a healing environment, all areas in the pediatric and pediatric intensive care units feature the natural landscapes and beautiful colors found in Northeast Wisconsin.

The expanded pediatric intensive care unit (PICU), with increased capability to care for critically ill children, now has all new PICU rooms. Two of these rooms have been upgraded to negative pressure rooms, which is a common method of infection control and used to isolate patients with contagious airborne diseases. The updated rooms now feature camera monitoring, improved technology, sleep accommodations for parents and additional sound masking for a more comfortable stay.

Continued on next page.

"We are very excited about the renovations in the PICU particularly, as well as on the entire pediatrics floor. The updates in the PICU allow our pediatric intensivists to provide the highest level of pediatric care in our region," said Dr. Thomas Huffer, executive medical director with HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital. "We designed the space to meet the needs of children and their families. We wanted them to feel comfortable in the space, so we chose nature scenes of northeast Wisconsin and colors that would be warm and welcoming."

The reconfigured 10th floor also includes new rooms in the pediatric unit. Kid-friendly patient rooms are equipped with color changing lights, private bathrooms and seizure monitoring equipment to offer continuous monitoring for peace of mind. In addition, a new gigantic

interactive video wall, updated family lounge, a mother's nursing room for breastfeeding moms, a teen lounge and the HSHS Child Life Services Center creates a comfortable healing environment to ensure the best care possible. Enhanced safety features will secure entry to the unit and include security cameras to ensure the safety of all patients and families. Construction is scheduled to be completed by June 2022.

With every detail tailored to kids, HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital is proud to be Green Bay's first and only children's hospital — where we deliver exceptional health care to children. With updated technology and renovations, we hope to make kids and their families feel that much more comfortable and supported, close to home.

## Special visitors

Even during the pandemic, special visitors found a way to safely brighten the spirits of patients and their families at HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital.

In June 2021, animatronic dinosaurs from Dino Stroll paraded outside the hospital and waved to children in the windows above and even provided some up-close encounters. The life-like dinosaurs danced, roared and interacted with 22-month-old Vega, pictured below, who was able to make a special trip outside the hospital to see them with the help of her dad and our dedicated team of child life specialists.



In December 2021, members of Green Bay Area Fire Fighters I.A.F.F. Local 141 in conjunction with the Green Bay Metro Fire Department (GBMFD) and Central Church geared up to spread another season of holiday cheer for our pediatric patients. In addition to bringing gifts collected by the members of Central Church in Green Bay, a crew of firefighters (along with a very special guest) waved to the children from a ladder truck, which was raised tall enough for the children to see everything from their hospital room windows.







## Prevea expands services on Green Bay's west side

On May 10, 2021, Prevea opened the new **Prevea St. Mary's Health Center**, located just one block west of **HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center** on Green Bay's west side.

At four stories high and approximately 80,000 square feet, the new Prevea St. Mary's Health Center is home to a variety of primary and specialty health care services for adults and children, including audiology, behavioral care, cardiology, endocrinology, general surgery, infectious disease, internal medicine, pediatrics, radiology, urology, women's health care, X-ray, lab, and ear, nose and throat (ENT) services.

The health center is designed to provide patients and providers a space that offers comfort, efficiency, advanced medical equipment and technologies, and the best possible health care experience. Environmentally friendly practices have been used throughout the construction process, including the use of locally sourced materials, LED lighting and low-flow plumbing.

Additionally, in spring 2021, crews broke ground on the new Prevea Surgery Center on the same property as the new Prevea St. Mary's Health Center. This single-story building is approximately 35,000 square feet and will provide same-day, outpatient surgical care by Prevea providers in a variety of medical specialties: ear, nose and throat; gastroenterology; ophthalmology; orthopedics; plastic surgery; podiatry; and urology. Common outpatient procedures that will be performed at the Prevea Surgery Center include (but are not limited to) colonoscopy, tonsillectomy, kidney stone removal, breast reduction, hip and knee procedures, and cataract surgery. The building is slated to be open for patient care in May 2022.



*The new Prevea St. Mary's Health Center located at 1860 Shawano Ave. in Green Bay.*

*Below: Exterior rendering of the new Prevea Ambulatory Surgery Center.*



## Enhancing care for kids

**HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center** has been a cornerstone of community health care for decades and is the only hospital located on Green Bay's west side that provides high-quality, 24/7 emergency care for all ages. In the last two years, the HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center emergency department saw nearly 7,000 pediatric patient visits.

*Two new, state-of-the-art exam rooms designed just for pediatric patients in the emergency department at HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center.*



"We care for children for a variety of reasons whether it be for an illness or injury, at all hours, 24 hours a day," said LeaAnn Laabs, manager of the HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center Emergency Department. "A trip to the emergency room can be unsettling for children and their parents or caregivers, and it's why we want to do everything we can to make them feel comfortable and well cared for."

interactive experience; and are designed to disguise medical equipment that may be intimidating to little ones.

"We wanted to create spaces that are child-friendly and where we can provide the same quality and level of care we pride ourselves on, yet offer children and their loved ones more comfort at the same time," said Leah Bergstrom, director of the HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center Emergency Department.

To enhance care for children in its emergency department, HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center has added two new, state-of-the-art exam rooms designed just for their pediatric patients. The rooms feature artwork and murals that embrace the natural beauty of Wisconsin; the ability to change the color of the lighting in the room for a calming,

Planning for the new rooms began in 2019, but the project was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Work resumed in spring 2021, and the project was completed at the end of May.



**HSHS  
St. Mary's  
Hospital Medical Center**

## Another step forward for new residency program

The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW)-Prevea Family Medicine Residency Program is pleased to welcome its first round of physicians who were matched to the program: Kalpana Bair, MD; Snigdha Kalidindi, MD; Nana Merabova, MD; and Sarah Zeeshan, MD (pictured above).

The MCW-Prevea Family Medicine Residency Program is for physicians who have completed medical school and are interested in the field of family medicine. Physicians train for three years in the program, providing direct medical care to patients under the supervision of experienced faculty physicians and community preceptors.

Fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the MCW-Prevea Family Medicine Residency Program is the first residency program of its kind to be offered in the Green Bay region. It operates as a partnership between Prevea Health, the MCW, Wisconsin Northern and Central GME Consortium (WiNC) and **HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center**.

The MCW-Prevea Family Medicine Residency Program operates out of the Prevea Shawano Avenue Health Center to provide a variety of primary health care services for children, adults and the elderly.

"We are excited to welcome these new physicians and their families to the Green Bay area to enhance access to primary medical care for people of all ages in all stages of life," said Dr. Manal Soliman, MCW-Prevea Family Medicine Residency Program director.

Resident physicians of the MCW-Prevea Family Medicine Residency Program also train at additional Prevea health centers across northeast Wisconsin and at **HSHS St. Vincent Hospital**, **HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital** and **HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center**.

In addition to providing new physicians with advanced training in the field of family medicine, the residency program also serves to address physician and primary care shortages in the region, particularly in rural areas.





## HSHS Eastern Wisconsin Nurse of the Year

**DESARAE ROHDE, RN, BSN, HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital**

Each year, one HSHS nurse in eastern Wisconsin is chosen as Nurse of the Year. Nurses nominate a colleague from their unit, and those nominations are then reviewed by nursing leadership and the hospitals' Professional Nurse Practice Council.

Desarae Rohde, an emergency department nurse at HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital, was honored in 2021 as the 2020 Nurse of the Year. While the COVID-19 pandemic has presented many difficulties, it has allowed Desarae to do what she loves most as a nurse, which is to help people through difficult times.

"Desarae is a role model in our department who demonstrates passion, quality and excellence in nursing by continually striving to learn and become a leader," said Cassandra Limberg, nursing manager, HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital emergency department. "Not only is she a great nurse to work with, but she truly takes pride in being a nurse here."

"To slow the spread of COVID-19, we could not allow patients to have family members with them inside the emergency department for a period of time, which meant we all had to be more than just our patients' medical care providers, but their family members too," said Desarae. "This time has really reinforced for me, and many others, how important it is to be present and communicate with your patients."

Desarae is also celebrated for becoming one of the first to offer to assist with administering COVID-19 vaccinations to the community at the Prevea Community COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at UW-Green Bay, Sheboygan Campus. Her caring for the community extends to her colleagues as well, as this past year she also organized a department-wide weight loss challenge in which her emergency department colleagues lost more than 150 lbs. And, during the holiday season, she led a toy drive at the hospital for children in need.

## Newly renovated entrance now open

HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital's newly remodeled main entrance opened February 5, 2021.

Reconstruction began at St. Nicholas Hospital on the main entrance and emergency department entrance — both located on the Superior Street side of the hospital — in March 2020. The project included remodeling outside and inside of each area, as well as the waiting area. Additionally, security was relocated to the emergency department area. Reconstruction work on the emergency department entrance and waiting area wrapped up in early September 2020.

With the project completed and the opening of the main entrance, the front of the hospital now has a much more updated look and feel.



## HSHS St. Nicholas welcomes HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers

HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital expanded access to leading-edge cancer care, clinical trials and research in Sheboygan as it welcomed HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers and the experts of Green Bay Oncology to its campus.

"HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital has been a trusted source of high-quality cancer care in Sheboygan for many years," said Justin Selle, president and CEO, HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital. "In welcoming HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers, we open the door to a new level of care for our patients and communities, which includes providing access to some of the world's leading cancer clinical trials and treatments."

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers at HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital, 1621 N. Taylor Drive, offers comprehensive medical oncology and hematology care from screening, testing and diagnosis to personalized treatment in a comfortable environment. Care is provided by leading cancer experts Dr. Anthony Jaslowski, Dr. Edgard Badine and Kristin Lohr, APNP, of Green Bay Oncology.

"For 45 years, we've believed where you live shouldn't impact your access to ground-breaking cancer care," said Dr. Jaslowski. "In fact, being closer to home can help with healing and make tough treatment options a little more comfortable. Now we are committed to delivering that depth of care and attention to the Sheboygan community."

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers is comprised of the largest group of oncologists in northeast Wisconsin and provides patients access to state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment technologies, as well as multiple supportive therapies at (five) locations throughout northeast Wisconsin: HSHS St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay; HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center in Green Bay; HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan; HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls; and Door County Cancer Center in Sturgeon Bay.

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers have been accredited by the Commission on Cancer for more than 55 years and is recognized as an Integrated Network Cancer Program — the highest level of accreditation possible for a non-teaching hospital. With decades of experience and a passion to provide patients the best care possible, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers works directly with the National Cancer Institute to bring people in the northeast Wisconsin region access to the newest, leading-edge cancer clinical trials, drugs and prevention studies.







While finishing cancer treatments, Koreen never expected to be the face of new legislation being proposed in Wisconsin that would ban a harmful insurance practice known as 'white bagging.' Koreen's Law was introduced in October 2021.

“It was a Godly miracle and blessing,” Koreen said.

When this journey began, Koreen and Nate had no idea they would become advocates against the white bagging practice. In October 2021, Koreen's Law was introduced into the Wisconsin Assembly, and if passed, the bill would make white bagging illegal in the state.

With more than 80 co-sponsors, plus support from HSHS Wisconsin hospitals, the Wisconsin Hospital Association and patients around the state, the bi-partisan legislation will receive public hearings in early 2022. Koreen is hopeful the proposed bill makes it to the Governor's desk and is signed into law.

“It's a matter of life and death,” said Koreen. “Not every patient is going to get an extension like I did, so banning white bagging has to happen for the sake of peoples' lives.”



## Koreen's Law — proposed legislation to ban the insurance practice known as 'white bagging'

After a frustrating pandemic year, Nate and Koreen were thrilled to change the calendar to 2021. With a new baby due in February, the Eau Claire family was nothing but optimistic about the future. That is, until Koreen was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer weeks before her due date.

The expectant mom delivered her baby early — on Jan. 28, 2021 — and infusion treatments at the Prevea Cancer Center at **HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire** began six days later.

Then in July, six months into her care, Koreen's insurance company said it wasn't going to pay for the medication anymore unless it was dispensed by a specialty pharmacy outside the hospital and mailed to the patient or her hospital's pharmacy — a new insurance practice called 'white bagging.'

Angela Quick, director of oncology at the Prevea Cancer Center at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, said receiving these expensive immunotherapy medications from a third party means her team — and every other hospital in Wisconsin — can't guarantee timeliness, efficacy or safety of the medicine.

“We can trace our own medications — be sure they're delivered on time and to the right place, control how they're mixed in our on-site pharmacy, be sure they are temperature controlled — basically, we know what we're giving patients,” said Quick. “Under this new policy, we have no idea if it's safe and I'm not willing to administer those medications to a patient.”

Angela and Koreen's husband, Nate, spent nearly an entire day on the phone with the insurance company pleading for them to continue paying for hospital-provided medication. With help from HSHS, 12 minutes before the close of business that day, the insurance company approved 90 days of additional care with a safe, regulated hospital-provided medicine. It was not a lot of time, but it was enough for Koreen to receive her final cancer treatment.



Continued on next page.



## HSHS affiliation with Encompass Health

HSHS and Encompass Health have formed a joint venture agreement for an inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Eau Claire. Encompass Health is the largest owner and operator of inpatient rehabilitation hospitals in the country.

The rehabilitation hospital will have 36 inpatient beds and will be called The Rehabilitation Hospital of Western Wisconsin. This hospital will be constructed within **HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital** and will replace Sacred Heart's current 24-bed inpatient rehabilitation unit. Construction on the new rehabilitation hospital is underway with the estimated completion date of August 2022. The current rehabilitation unit at HSHS Sacred Heart will continue to provide patients with essential rehabilitative services during the renovation.

This transition from a rehabilitation unit to a rehabilitation hospital will mean an expansion of services and addition of more jobs to the Chippewa Valley community. Approximately 25 HSHS colleagues who work in the current rehabilitation unit will transition to Encompass Health, with an expectation of the hospital employing around 90 full-time employees in the first year. By the fifth year of operation, Encompass Health intends to employ approximately 110 full-time employees.

## Debuting new hybrid operating room



A new hybrid operating room (OR) at **HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital** brings together radiology/imaging and surgical services into one room, making procedures more beneficial for patients and the medical team.

Dr. Steven Levin, Prevea cardiovascular surgeon at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, says open surgical procedures are traditionally performed in an operating room while endovascular procedures — those that do not require incisions — were done in the radiology department.

“In a hybrid OR we can do both open procedures and those that don't require an incision because the room is equipped with imaging capabilities that provide incredibly crisp, clear images of blood vessels,” said Dr. Levin. “We don't have to move a patient from one hospital department to another; the services instead come to the patient in the hybrid OR.”

Dr. Levin says the hybrid OR's equipment design and layout allows for procedures to be done even more efficiently and with pinpoint precision.

“The hybrid approach can often provide shortened patient stays, reduced recovery time and enhanced patient outcomes,” said Dr. Levin. “This addition takes surgical services to an advanced level I'm looking forward to utilizing to treat patients in our community.” Examples of vascular procedures performed in the hybrid OR include the removal of blood clots and the placement of stents. The traditional operating rooms will continue to be used for those cases that do not require imaging services.





## HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital celebrates 100 years

In 2021, **HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital** celebrated a milestone anniversary — 100 years since it was founded! Since 1921, the hospital has been proudly serving the local, rural communities throughout Oconto County.



Given the COVID-19 pandemic and in order to celebrate this milestone safely, the 100th Anniversary Mass of HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital was postponed for 2022.

In honor of the anniversary, many colleagues shared what the hospital means to them.

“When I think of HSHS St. Clare I think of care and compassion. The way our teams work together to care for our patients is seamless. We are one big family and when help is needed everyone is willing to jump in and offer assistance. The sense of community here brings joy. Seeing the same community members returning for care and building relationships with them truly means a lot, not only to the patients but to the colleagues as well.”

— *Paula B., Emergency Department, 15 years of Service.*

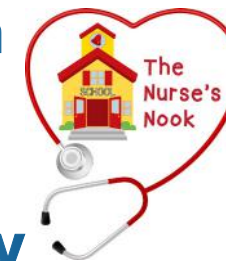
“As a nurse, the Catholic health care directives and spiritual aspects of care have made me feel whole. I’m able to heal not just the body but mind and soul as well. I’m so proud of our hospital as we have expanded all of our services during the 17 years I’ve worked here. We pride ourselves on treating our patients, coworkers and providers as family — many have said they can feel that when entering our doors!”

— *Deanne Z., Surgical and Outpatient Services, 17 years of Service.*

“Once I started working, I quickly learned how amazing this hospital and its colleagues were. I jumped at the chance to join the team! I love how everyone knows each other, even from other departments. We have really amazing colleagues and we all work very well together.”

— *Ana W., Emergency Department, 11 years of Service.*

## Bond Foundation grants \$50,000 to Nurse’s Nook in Oconto County



**HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital** received a grant from the Leon H. and Clymene M. Bond Foundation, Inc. to support the Nurse’s Nook program in Oconto County.

Nurse’s Nook, a program of HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital, provides aid to children and families in need in all five school districts in Oconto County. The program provides aid such as food, personal hygiene products, clothing, medical supplies/devices and transportation assistance for medical appointments.

“As a rural health care provider, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital recognizes that these Oconto County students are not just local children — they are our patients,” said Chris Brabant, president and CEO, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital. “Continued action is necessary to meet their basic health care needs. Addressing these needs provides youth with increased opportunities to learn and succeed in school, and become healthy, contributing community members.”

The Bond Foundation has granted \$50,000 to enhance the efforts of Nurse’s Nook.

“We are immensely grateful to the Bond Foundation for their generous support of this program which is critical to the health and well-being of so many throughout this region,” said Brabant.

It is estimated Nurse’s Nook is utilized by students and families at participating schools more than 750 times each week. In addition, Nurse’s Nook distributes an average of 193 food bags each week. This helps families cover their weekend meals and improve the health and nutrition of children.



## Mobile mammography unit makes regular visits to Oconto Falls

The city of Oconto Falls and its surrounding communities now have greater access to breast health screenings thanks to mobile mammography that is offered on the campus of **HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital**.

In April 2021, a mobile mammography unit started traveling regularly to the HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital Prevea Oconto Falls Health Center located at 835 S. Main St. in Oconto Falls. The unit, fully accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR), is equipped with mammography technology that has the capability to provide 3-D and/or digital images. It also features two changing rooms and a waiting room and is staffed by a registered mammography technologist.

Prevea Health, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital, HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center, HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital and HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital launched the mobile mammography unit in 2018 to provide residents in rural areas greater access to high-quality breast health screenings.



A press conference with Governor Tony Evers was held at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital on July 8, 2021.



## HSHS hospitals set to receive state funding to **expand mental health beds** in western Wisconsin

**HSHS Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's hospitals** are excited to receive \$15 million in state funding as part of Governor Tony Evers' biannual state budget, announced during a press conference at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital on July 8, 2021. The funding will allow our hospitals to expand capacity by adding 22 new psychiatric beds.

The additional beds will enhance the existing units, creating a 33-bed adult unit at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire and a dedicated 18-bed adolescent unit at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls.

"We have been committed to serving the behavioral health needs of our communities for 60 years," said Andy Bagnall, HSHS Wisconsin president and CEO. "This expansion directly aligns with our mission and allows our inpatient services to meet a significant community need."

HSHS Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's hospitals' executive director of behavioral health, Toni Simonson, said securing this grant to expand the hospitals' emergency mental health services is crucial. "I am so thrilled and appreciative of this funding," says Simonson. "This is going to help us serve more community members during a time when mental health needs are rising at an exceptional rate."

Currently, many patients in need of emergency mental health services must be transferred to facilities far outside the Chippewa Valley. This puts a strain not only on patients, but also law enforcement agencies that make those transfers. Simonson says expanding local access to care keeps patients in closer proximity to family support networks and therefore enhances patient recovery.

The initiative to add mental health beds began in 2019 with Senator Kathy Bernier as the lead advocate for additional resources. With help from Representative Jesse James, the legislators worked closely with HSHS Wisconsin leadership to develop a facilities and funding strategic plan.

## Prevea Health offering allergy care in Chippewa Valley



**DYLAN TIMBERLAKE, MD**  
Prevea Allergist and Immunologist

In summer 2021, Dr. Dylan Timberlake, a fellowship-trained allergist and immunologist, joined the Prevea family to provide allergy care for adults and children in the Chippewa Valley. "I was drawn to Prevea because of the people and the strong commitment to patient care," said Dr. Timberlake. "I knew providing allergy care in this setting was the right fit for me."

Dr. Timberlake sees patients at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital and specializes in:

- Allergic rhinitis (hay fever, pet allergy, etc.)
- Allergic conjunctivitis (eye allergies)
- Food allergies
- Bee sting allergies
- Medication allergies
- Asthma
- Eczema
- Hives
- Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions)
- Angioedema
- Recurrent infections

"I am a people person and have always enjoyed solving puzzles, so I was drawn to allergy care — specifically the thought process and customized approach to evaluating the risks and benefits of different therapies," said Dr. Timberlake, a graduate of Northeast Ohio Medical University in Rootstown, Ohio.

Providing evidence-based allergy and immunology care with a patient-centered focus is his top priority.

"Working with my patients, I encourage shared decision making so they are able to take control of their condition for a better quality of life," said Dr. Timberlake. "It's a great feeling to have patients come back and be able to tell me how much better they feel and how I was able to have an impact on their life."

He also completed a residency in pediatrics at Akron Children's Hospital in Akron, Ohio, and a fellowship in allergy and immunology at Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.



L.E. Phillips  
**Libertas**  
TREATMENT CENTER

## \$1 million federal grant awarded to address rural opioid crisis

A \$1 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Rural Communities Opioid Response Program has been awarded to L.E. Phillips-Libertas Treatment Center, a service of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls, to fund a three-year project that addresses the opioid crisis in four northwest Wisconsin counties.

The treatment center will use the HRSA grant, as well as an additional \$15,000 grant from the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation, to implement an opioid response plan developed by the Northwest Wisconsin Heroin Opioid Prevention Education (NW WI HOPE) Consortium, which encompasses Chippewa, Barron, Rusk and Washburn counties. The NW WI HOPE Consortium was made possible by a previous HRSA grant.

### The project includes:

- Community education
- Drug take back events
- Youth prevention programs
- Drug screenings and treatment
- Enhanced collaboration with law
- Recruitment and professional development of alcohol and drug treatment providers enforcement and first responders
- Use of integrated treatment models
- Development of a recovery community
- Data collection

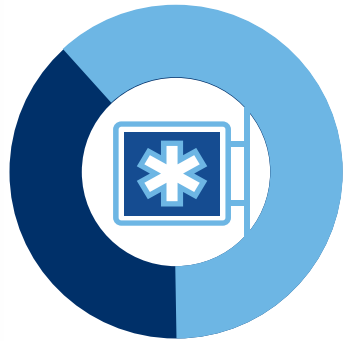
Toni Simonson, executive director of behavioral health at L.E. Phillips-Libertas Treatment Center, says it's an honor to receive this grant on behalf of the NW WI HOPE Consortium.

"Our goal is to strengthen and expand rural opioid and substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery services," says Simonson. "It is the consortium's task to work with diverse stakeholders to enhance the ability of rural residents to access treatment and make the transition toward recovery."



# By the Numbers

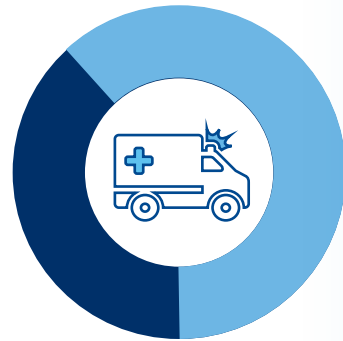
HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM  
FY 2021



**64,459**  
**TOTAL ADMISSIONS**  
41,251 IN ILLINOIS  
23,208 IN WISCONSIN



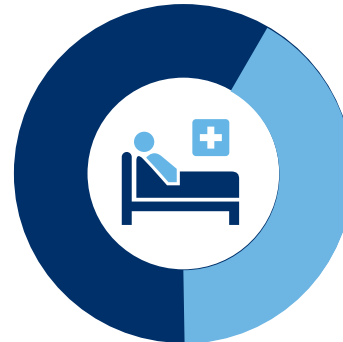
**7,498**  
**BABIES BORN**  
5,051 IN ILLINOIS  
2,447 IN WISCONSIN



**271,060**  
**EMERGENCY VISITS**  
174,215 IN ILLINOIS  
96,845 IN WISCONSIN



**1,490,915**  
**OUTPATIENT REGISTRATIONS**  
954,905 IN ILLINOIS  
536,010 IN WISCONSIN



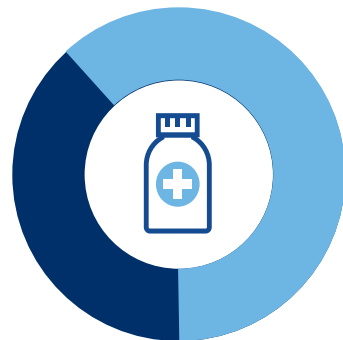
**2,542**  
**LICENSED BEDS**  
1,120 IN ILLINOIS  
1,422 IN WISCONSIN



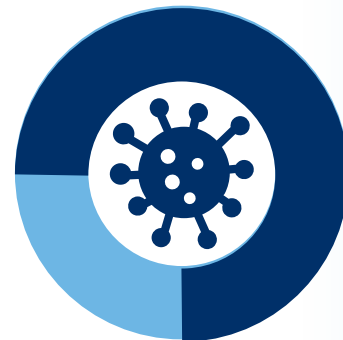
**54,338**  
**SURGICAL CASES**  
31,373 IN ILLINOIS  
22,965 IN WISCONSIN



**12,994**  
**COLLEAGUES**  
8,694 IN ILLINOIS  
4,300 IN WISCONSIN



**3,445**  
**NURSES**  
2,161 IN ILLINOIS  
1,284 IN WISCONSIN



**345,739**  
**COVID VACCINATIONS ADMINISTERED**  
87,817 IN ILLINOIS  
257,922 IN WISCONSIN

## HSHS *Illinois*

HSHS St. John's Hospital  
HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital  
St. John's College of Nursing  
HSHS St. Mary's Hospital  
HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital  
HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital  
HSHS St. Francis Hospital  
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital | Breese  
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital | Highland  
HSHS Holy Family Hospital  
HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital  
Prairie Cardiovascular  
HSHS Medical Group

## HSHS *Wisconsin*

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Green Bay  
HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital  
HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital  
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital  
HSHS St. Mary's Hospital  
HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital  
HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital





**HSHS**  
Hospital Sisters Health System