



HSHS
St. Vincent
St. Mary's
Foundation

SAINTS *Alive!*

Miracles happen because of *you.*



SPRING 2023

Backed by the Pack!

Green Bay Packers
Support Breast Milk Depot
and CNA School

3

Double or Triple your Impact

Ask your employer about
matching gifts!

3

SANE Program Helping Vulnerable Patients

4

Share Your Story

4

Saints Alive! is a quarterly publication, edited by Shane Starr. If you would like to opt out of receiving future fundraising requests, write the HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary's Foundation at P.O. Box 11706, Green Bay, WI 54307-1706

Long Road Home

YOU ARE PROVIDING ADVANCED CARE FOR BABIES LIKE VERA AND LEO

Bethany Heslip has always had a special place in her heart for children. From an early age, she had hopes of becoming a teacher, and one day wanted a family of her own. It was during college that Bethany was diagnosed with uterine didelphys. This is an extremely rare condition, also called a double uterus, which often goes undetected because it doesn't always create physical problems for women. But for some, like Bethany, it can increase the risk of miscarriage or even premature labor.

"I just remember being told that it could be difficult for me to get pregnant and bring my child to full term."

Despite knowing the risks she would face if she became pregnant, Bethany and her husband, Tyler, were ready to start their family after college. The couple became pregnant with their first child, but sadly Bethany miscarried, which reinforced their understanding of just how difficult having a child would be for them.

Years passed by and the Heslip's decided they wanted to try and have a baby again. They met with Dr. Milosavljeic, OB-GYN with Prevea Health. She emphasized the importance of extra monitoring to keep an eye on their baby's growth and development. "Our care was always great; any questions we would have would be

Continued on page 2

Long Road Home

Continued from page 1

extensively answered so we would understand,” Bethany recalls.

After 31 weeks of pregnancy, **more than two months** before their expected due date, Bethany was experiencing abnormal pains and bleeding. Dr. Milosavljeic explained to Bethany she was in labor and immediately sent her to HSHS St. Vincent Hospital for specialized care. After four days of bed rest and medications to slow down her labor, Bethany’s first child, Vera, was born dangerously premature weighing only 3 lbs., 12 oz. Shortly thereafter, Vera was admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital.

Vera spent the next 42 days at the NICU as Bethany stayed by her side 24/7. “We had some really amazing doctors and nurses,” said Bethany. “My nurse was there with me when I gave Vera her first bath. She was so little, and I was worried I might hurt her. My nurse just went through the steps I should take, and she let me process what was happening. I think she realized what a big deal this moment was for me and took the time to let me own it. **We were never just a number at St. Vincent**, my babies and I were shown so much compassion there.”

The Heslip’s experience at the NICU prepared them for the birth of their son, Leo, just three years after Vera was born. Bethany was still high risk and her caretakers at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital once again slowed down her contractions, which allowed Bethany to carry Leo six more weeks. “I was told for every day Leo stayed inside of me, it would mean two fewer days he would have to spend in the NICU.”

Leo was born at 33 weeks, weighing 5 lbs., 13 oz., which was 2 lbs. heavier than his big sister Vera was at birth. Tiny Leo was monitored at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital NICU for 21 days, which was half of the amount of time his sister had spent there. “I felt like I was a part of my babies’ care, even though I could not take them home,” said Bethany. “The nurses gave me a phone number to call at any time, and they would drop everything to inform me how my babies were doing.”

During the summer of 2022, Bethany, Tyler, Vera, and Leo attended the HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital NICU Alumni Picnic. “It was so awesome to see staff, give hugs and see the people who cared for our children,” said Bethany. “It was so emotional at the picnic, seeing those familiar faces who always wanted our babies to come home.”

Because of **YOUR** support, Bethany’s children received an advanced level of care. Vera and Leo are both happy and healthy, and at just 5 years old, Vera wants to become a NICU doctor, just like those who cared for her and her brother.



Backed by the Pack!

GREEN BAY PACKERS SUPPORT BREAST MILK DEPOT AND CNA SCHOOL

In December, colleagues from HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary's Hospital attended the 2022 Green Bay Packers Foundation Luncheon. The HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Milk Depot and the HSHS St. Mary's Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) School were respectively funded in part by a grant from the Green Bay Packers Foundation. Both programs were recently featured in newsletters as donor and community support is crucial to the success of each. **Now YOU'RE on the same team as the Packers!**



“We are so grateful for the Packers’ continued support, not only of our Foundation but also of our patients that these programs benefit! Their investment in both the CNA School and the Milk Depot has such an incredible impact and allows us to go above and beyond with these programs in ways we couldn’t without their support.”

Out of the 243 organizations receiving support, only 4% were fully funded; **both** of our programs received full support and we couldn’t be prouder to be part of that 4%!



Double or Triple your Impact

ASK YOUR EMPLOYER ABOUT MATCHING GIFTS!

Did you know that your employer may match your gift to the HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary's Foundation? Matching gifts occur when a company matches the charitable contribution of an employee to a nonprofit organization.

If you (or your spouse) work for a matching gift company, your gift could be **DOUBLED** or even **TRIPLED!**

This process is very simple. If your company matches charitable contributions, ask your HR department for a matching gift form. After completing the form, send it along with your gift to the HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary's Foundation (forms are also accepted after you send the gift). The Foundation confirms on the form that it has been received and meets the company's guidelines for receiving a matching gift. The Foundation then returns the form to the company. The company verifies eligibility and sends a check to the HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary's Foundation.

SANE Program Helping Vulnerable Patients

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital's Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program is designed to provide care and assistance for anyone who has been sexually assaulted. The caretakers in this program are available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, treating all patients regardless of gender, age, or ethnicity.

"Caring for the survivors of sexual assault is mission-driven work and it is a benefit to the community that we have a program at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital," said Leah Bergstrom, Director of Emergency Services, HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary's Hospitals.

SANE caretakers are registered nurses who are specially trained to collect medical evidence and perform necessary examinations in a trauma informed manner to some of the most vulnerable patients who walk through our doors. During these exams, patients may have their clothing collected as evidence to be sent to the Wisconsin State Crime Lab. This leaves the patient with limited options for clothing to leave the hospital in.

The paper clothes that may be provided in the Emergency Center can add to the stress of the situation for the patient. In 2022, 226 patients were seen for sexual assault, ranging from 5 months to 97 years old. These patients are given new clothes when they are discharged and gift cards for gas or food so they can eat and get to a safe place. That would not be possible without donors like **YOU!**

SANE is always looking for the following items to further assist their patients:

- Stuffed animals.
- Digital camera for injury documentation.
- Journals and black pens.
- Clothing such as sweatpants, yoga pants, t-shirts and comfortable tops. Various sizes and season appropriate.
- Compact stereo unit for background comforting music.
- Gas cards for patients that travel from surrounding counties.

Share Your Story

We in philanthropy want you to know how important your generosity is to our patients, their families, and our caregivers. *Saints Alive!* is a quarterly publication designed to highlight the meaningful impact **YOU** make on our hospital, and how you make miracles happen every day.

The HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary's Foundation raises much-needed funds to support the future care provided at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center,

Do you have a story to share? Do you know someone who had a great experience at our hospital?

Let us know at wi-foundations@hshs.org and you could be featured in a future publication!

