

GIVING *Hope*

Miracles happen because of you

Denny and Karen Zacho: Our COVID-19 Experience

Your support equipped the Zachos' caregivers

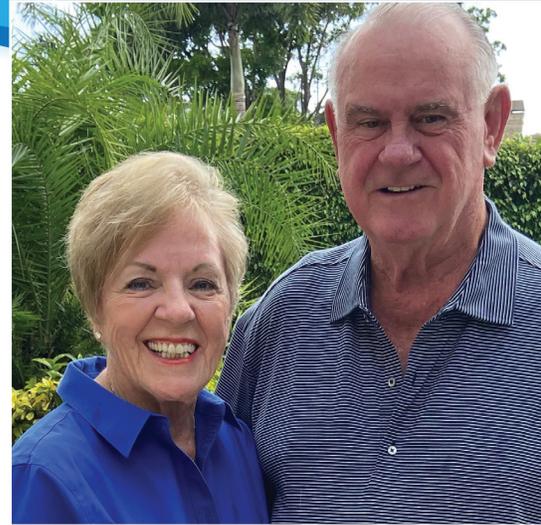
Hundreds of HSHS nurses, physicians and support staff cared for Denny and Karen Zacho, a couple hospitalized for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) last summer – he for seven days and she for six days. Their ordeal began the weekend of July 4th when Karen developed a cough and both experienced extreme fatigue. A home pulsometer test revealed the couple's oxygen levels were in the high-80's. As a precaution, they both sought care.

While in the Emergency Room, physicians encouraged the Zachos to continue monitoring their oxygen levels after they were discharged and while at home. Two days later, Denny's symptoms worsened and he returned to the hospital where he was admitted for low oxygen levels and pneumonia. Karen experienced shortness of breath – a key symptom of coronavirus – and was admitted to the hospital the next day. Both Denny and Karen tested positive for COVID-19.

Denny recalled, "The emergency room staff was very helpful. Everyone responded so quickly." Within hours of being admitted, Denny received Remdesivir, an antiviral drug used for the treatment of COVID-19.

"I was never fearful" shared Karen. "I felt so comfortable with the HSHS care team. We were both in such good hands."

The couple received vapor breathing treatments and antibiotics while hospitalized. However, Denny's symptoms weren't improving. His doctor said he could enroll for a convalescent plasma treatment. The treatment provided Denny with COVID-19 antibodies by giving him blood plasma donated by people who



had recovered from the virus. "This was a game changer. As soon as they gave it to him, he seemed to start improving," said Karen, who was comforted by the doctors and nurses working to treat her husband.

Despite the visitor restrictions imposed because of the highly-infectious virus, Denny and Karen did not go through their illness alone; their hospital rooms were right next door to each other. They were just a phone call (or a knock on the wall) away.

Thankfully, the health of Denny and Karen Zacho are now back to normal. "You can survive this virus," Denny says. "Don't let fear take over; keep the faith because you can survive. We are so lucky to have great doctors and staff right here in our community. We had everything we needed at our HSHS hospital. They truly saved my life."

Every day, hope is being restored for families like the Zachos, and that translates to more lives saved. None of this would be possible without your incredible support of HSHS hospitals in the Chippewa Valley.

Thank You for Standing with US

Together, we rise to the COVID-19 challenge

On March 12, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic. Over the past year, our heroic team has worked closely and selflessly to contain one of the greatest public health threats our community has ever faced. While our fight isn't over yet, we have made great strides, thanks in no small part to your support!



A personal message from the Chief Nursing Officer:

This past year, I have witnessed countless acts of bravery and dedication – endless hours monitoring a patient's oxygen levels, countless calls to families unable to sit by their loved one's side and numerous hours spent donning, doffing, and cleaning personal protective equipment.

It is literally impossible to list all of the things our caregivers did for the community and people we serve. Donations from generous people like you were used to train our caregivers as our understanding of the virus evolved, purchase new equipment as the technology advanced and care for our patients with true compassion.

As COVID-19 reached the Chippewa Valley, our doctors, nurses and caregivers were faced with so much unknown, but they stepped up to help in whatever ways they could.

We are now a year into this pandemic. These caregivers have held the hands of patients in pain and shed tears as patients died – all while missing time with their own families.

These professionals have worked past the fatigue and frustrations to find lights... little, sparkling lights of hope, care, comfort and joy in the darkest of corners.

Through it all, they found ways to show compassion, to care deeply, to provide expert clinical care and to help patients heal!

*Your gifts to the HSHS St. Sacred Heart Foundation helped the caregivers at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital who heal people. **Thank you for standing with us.***

Sincerely,

Jennifer Drayton RN, MS, Chief Nursing Officer
HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital • HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital



COVID-19 Testing Platform Advances Women's Health

Donor Generosity Purchases New Technology



The month of March marked one year since the coronavirus turned our lives upside down. It also marked a new advancement in COVID-19 testing for our laboratory when the brand new Hologic® Panther testing platform arrived and began operation. Purchased through donor generosity, this platform takes our hospitals' testing capabilities to a whole new level.

In the past, our laboratory could only process about 50 COVID-19 tests per week. These were reserved for patients being admitted to the hospital. The remaining Emergency Room, Urgent Care, and clinic tests were sent out to other processing sites and patients waited 48-72 hours for their results. Panther

drastically increases our capacity to more than 200 tests per week. This allows all COVID-19 tests to be processed in-house with results for Emergency Room and Urgent Care patients available in about two hours.

"The Panther changes how we perform testing for SARS-CoV-2 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 Hospital and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital.

In addition to COVID-19 tests, Panther also processes many common women's health tests including those for yeast and bacterial infections as well as tests for sexually transmitted diseases such as human papillomavirus (HPV). In the past, patients waited for up to seven days for their results, but this new equipment now provides patients and their doctors with the information they need within hours. It also allows multiple tests, like Pap and HPV, to be run on the same sample. "Again, the Panther has transformed our testing for women's health issues," Dr. Ridenour shares. "We can expand the testing we offer and speed up turnaround times - allowing clinicians to better serve patients."

Through the generosity of donors like you, patients in our community are receiving their test results faster - results they need to make important decisions about their personal care and the precautions they take for others. Your support continues to advance our care for both coronavirus and women's health.



Golf & Tennis Classic Returns

Join us for a socially-distant event supporting our caregivers

We are happy to announce the return of the HSHS Sacred Heart Golf & Tennis Classic.

Monday, July 26, 2021 Eau Claire Golf & Country Club

Join us for our 30th year at the picturesque Eau Claire Golf & Country Club. Participants will receive a generous “thank you” gift and have chances to win additional prizes throughout the day. Proceeds from this friendly competition will support our local caregivers through scholarships and an assistance fund for hospital colleagues experiencing extreme financial emergencies.

As always, the health and safety of the community is our first priority. The Classic, held outside, will adhere to CDC guidelines at the time of the event. Because of that, space is limited.

For more details and to register, please visit <https://www.hshs.org/SacredHeart/Giving/Golf-Tennis-Classic>



Double or Triple Your Giving Employer gift matching

Many employers encourage their employees to support nonprofits by offering a matching gift program. Sometimes they even double or triple your gift to our hospital! Many companies also match gifts from retirees and spouses.

Every employer’s program is different, so ask your HR representative if your company has a matching gift program today.

Your Gift Matters

Your support of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital continues our lifesaving work to care for all who need us. With your gifts, you put your faith in our mission to provide compassionate care to all, regardless of their ability to pay. These crucial dollars also provide the additional resources needed to address this global pandemic.

Thank you!

