

GIVING *Hope*

Miracles happen because of you

Joy, Heartbreak and Hope

Your support gives the Holmes family a new lease on life



The thought of having cancer never crossed Koreen Holmes' mind as she was 32 weeks pregnant and expecting her second child. In December 2020, she noticed sharp pains in her breast, but she associated it with her pregnancy. "I thought it just mastitis. Cancer never crossed my mind," said Koreen.

2020 had come and gone and the Holmes family ushered in the new year with hope and joy. As they were preparing to celebrate the birth of their son, the pain remained the same. Koreen visited her Obstetrics (OB) provider in January 2021 and told her doctor of her concern, only this time the pain was accompanied with swelling and redness.

Koreen's OB prescribed an antibiotic to help bring relief and treat what they each thought was mastitis. The medication reduced the redness and swelling but the pain persisted, so her doctor ordered a biopsy to see what could be going on.

On Jan. 25, 2021, Koreen's biopsy revealed that she had stage three, triple negative breast cancer (TNBC). TNBC is considered to be an aggressive, fast moving form of cancer and has limited treatment options. So, they had to move fast! With the help of her doctors, she and her husband, Nathan, decided to induce labor to begin treatment for the cancer as soon as possible.

Just three days after the diagnosis, Koreen and Nathan welcomed their healthy baby boy, Reece, into the world. Unfortunately, she needed to begin treatment in the midst of celebrating the newest edition of their family. She started chemo six days later.

Caring for a newborn and a two-year-old is stressful enough, but add battling cancer and times become, as Koreen describes, "really wild." To top it off, the Holmes had moved back to Eau Claire less than a year earlier. They spent a few months with her parents before buying a new house in November. "It all happened extremely fast," said Koreen, "I remember saying to myself, I have to get through this and pray it makes me better."

Koreen tries to stay positive through it all, but battling cancer is draining; physically, emotionally, and financially. She is a stay at home mom and as with any young family, Koreen and Nathan's budget is tight. They've worked hard to be wise with their finances, but the medical bills and financial stress keep mounting. This is when YOU came in!

When you support HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, through your contributions to the foundation, you support families like the Holmes. **Because of YOUR support, the Holmes received financial support for their medical bills from the Matt and Carol Hubler, One More Day Fund.**

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"When we got the email, it was a HUGE blessing," said Koreen "I cannot put into words what this means for our family moving forward."
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Compassionate Care Creates Comfort

Your support brings hope and smiles to those who need it the most

“Be the reason someone smiles today.” That is exactly what YOU are doing when you support the Compassionate Care Fund at HSHS Sacred Heart Foundation. The compassionate care services continue to raise the spirits of cancer patients and their families through small, thoughtful gestures that help them get through one of the toughest moments in their lives.

For over a year now the boutique at the Prevea Cancer Center at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital has been providing resources for patients and their families to provide hope, support, and comfort in a time of great need! Through your donations to the Compassionate Care Fund patients have access to these free products and services.

The boutique has a vast variety of offerings available to patients and families:

- Natural skin care products and essential oils
- Hats, scarves, and access to custom-made wigs
- Inspirational reading materials
- Prosthesis-friendly bra and swimwear samples
- Look Good, Feel Better program

The Look Good, Feel Better program is a monthly program exclusive to the Prevea Cancer Center at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, available at no cost for participants. Providing hands-on makeup, skincare, wig and head covering techniques, the program helps women manage appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment.

These may seem like small gestures to you, but they are so **BIG** to our patients! Through your continued support the Cancer Center hopes to expand their offerings even further to include yoga classes, online support groups, and much more.

For more information or to make a donation to the boutique, call the HSHS Sacred Heart Foundation at 715-717-3980.



On the Road to Fight Breast Cancer

Your support is saving lives in Western Wisconsin

On May 24, 2021, Hospital and Prevea leaders, donors and friends gathered for the unveiling of the new mobile mammography coach and celebrated with an official ribbon cutting ceremony. Mobile mammography coaches have proven to provide convenient access for annual mammograms to remote regions. The level of care it will bring to women in Western Wisconsin is vital to life - thanks to YOU!!

More than 123,000 women in the Chippewa Valley are eligible for mammography services. However, fewer than 25 percent of them will not get their annual screening. Thanks to you, that is no longer the case in the Chippewa Valley.

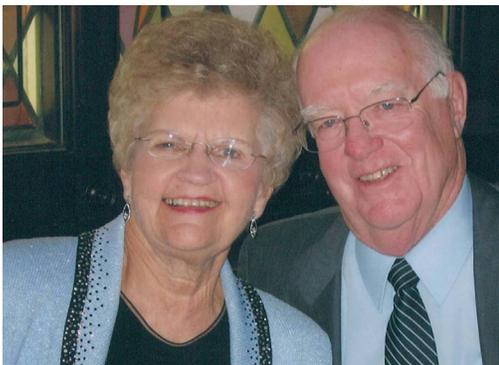




On the Road to Fight Breast Cancer, cont.

“Mammograms provide us an X-ray image of the breast, which can help us detect any tumors or other abnormalities,” said Megan Bauer, mobile imaging coordinator at Prevea Health. “They play a key role in the detection of breast cancer, the second most common cancer among women. If we can catch cancer early with a mammogram, it is likely more treatable. Mammograms can even help us detect some forms of cancer before they develop.”

Early detection is the most important and best defense against breast cancer. Your support is allowing women greater access to mammograms. The mobile mammography bus is expected to serve at least 2,500 women in the area annually, by making stops in Rice Lake, Ladysmith, Cornell, Menomonie, Mondovi and Arcadia. Bringing this technology to women outside of the medical facility and into their own location, increasing the access to screening mammograms.



Matt and Carol Hubler “One More Day Fund” Partnering with YOU to help cancer patients receive financial relief

Since 2013, The Matt and Carol Hubler “One More Day” Fund has been helping relieve financial burdens of single parents battling cancer. The fund was established with the belief that no one should have to second-guess their cancer treatment because of the financial cost – no one should have to choose between their life-saving treatment and their children’s needs.

Carol and her late husband, Matt, former CEO of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, decided to establish this endowed fund to assist the hospital and its patients in providing lifesaving care. Prior to Matt losing his battle with cancer in 2012, Matt lived and breathed the mission of the hospital. When he was diagnosed, he found himself on the receiving end of the mission he believed in so dearly! With your help, the Matt and Carol Hubler “One More Day” Fund continues to be a lifeline for many families in the Chippewa Valley, allowing them to focus on the most important thing of all – treasuring every day with their children!

Neonatal Virtual Care Program

You are delivering more expertise to care for newborns

Is my baby getting the best care? Are they going to survive? Those are just some of the things that families may be thinking when their baby is born prematurely or with health complications. Thanks to your support, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, in partnership with Children's Minnesota, has launched a neonatal virtual care service inside its Women and Infants Center. This partnership gives families access to an expert neonatal team who have years of caring for premature and seriously ill babies.

"The addition of this technology means we can expedite and collaborate on the highest level of care for the precious little ones who need it most," said HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital Women and Infants Center Manager, Maria Green

Newborns are now able to stay at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital's nursery, instead of being transferred to a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at another hospital. The neonatal virtual care service features technology that allows patients, families and maternal care teams to see, hear and communicate with newborn specialists at Children's Minnesota's NICU. This is in addition to the already full-time, 24/7 care provided by the Women and Infants Center caregivers and is provided at no cost to families thanks to YOUR support!



Whether it is reviewing cases, diagnoses, or treatments, this partnership allows for an enhanced level of care for newborns who experience unexpected medical complications. Because of YOUR support, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital is bringing some of the most highly regarded neonatal caregivers right to the bedsides of babies right here in Eau Claire.

12 Months: 12 Gifts of Healing and Hope

Become a monthly donor today

Providing renewed health and hope to patients at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital is now easier than ever. By becoming a monthly donor, you can continually comfort and heal the patients in our care. As a monthly donor, you will contribute/receive:

- Make automatic monthly donations paid from your credit card.
- Designate your gift to a specific need like cancer care or to the area of greatest need.
- Receive an annual acknowledgment letter for tax purposes.
- Elect to change or suspend your donation at any time.

BEGINNING IS EASY!

1. Visit our secure, online donation form at <https://giving.hshs.org/shec/donate>.
2. Select a monthly gift amount or add your own.
3. Check "Make this a monthly gift".
4. Provide your contact info, payment method, and any optional details.
5. Click "Donate Now".

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact us at 920-433-8620 or WI-Foundations@hshs.org.