

Saints Alive!

Miracles happen...

Because of YOU!



SUMMER 2020



I thank all of you who welcomed and supported me from the early years to today. You have all made this my dream job.



A Message from Foundation Director, Bobbi Giles

Nearly 15 years ago, I walked into HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls, Wis. for the first time. I was the newly appointed Director for the HSHS St. Joseph's Foundation and I was eager to begin my new career in health care philanthropy. From that moment to now, I have served the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis and the Hospital Sisters Health System with clarity, purpose and a passion inspired by those who came before me. I learned "from the best" in Chippewa Falls and in 2013, I was called to serve the same mission - in a new location.

Oct. 2013 found me in Green Bay as the Director of the HSHS St. Vincent and St. Mary's Foundations. Again, I learned much in my new role and continued the gratifying work of supporting our hospitals' mission through charitable giving. It is now 2020 and I am returning to my roots. In August, I will be back in Western Wisconsin, serving as director for both HSHS Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's Foundations. It would appear my journey has come full circle.

I return home to be closer to family but I leave Green Bay with extreme gratitude (and an equal amount of sadness). I thank all of you who welcomed and supported me from the early years to today. I am especially grateful to the dedicated team of fundraising professionals I have had the privilege of working with each day, to my fellow hospital colleagues, to the faithful members of our Foundation Leadership Council and of course, to our AMAZING donors. You have all made this my dream job.

I will miss you, Green Bay and all who answered my call with a "yes". Please know I will carry each of you with me as I depart and if you're ever so inclined, I am "just a phone call away".

Edited by Alyssa Clarke.
Saints Alive! is a quarterly publication.

• If you would like to opt out of receiving future fundraising requests, email us at
• EWfriends@hshs.org, call us at (920) 433-8653 or write the HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary's
• Foundation at P.O. Box 11706, Green Bay, WI 54307-1706, Attn: Development Department.



One Step at a Time

You helped Griffin go the extra mile

For many, the start of a new year conjures feelings of inspiration and excitement for the future. The start of 2019, however, delivered something of the opposite for a Door County family – a cancer diagnosis.

“It was like getting punched in the gut,” said Kevin, recalling the day he and his wife, Tracy, learned their 16-year-old son, Griffin, was battling acute myeloid leukemia (AML). “It was one of the toughest days of our lives.”

Their fear turned to faith and hope as they sought care from the Prevea pediatric oncology experts at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital in Green Bay.

Griffin’s care team and the staff at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital became more like family as his treatment plan required him to stay at the hospital for weeks at a time.

“We loved our nurses, we loved our doctors – and even those who came to clean our room each day, or those we met in the cafeteria,” said Tracy.

“They kept all of us in mind – not just Griffin – but our entire family, who was also affected by this,” said Kevin.

Griffin, a rising student-athlete in his hometown, became sidelined by cancer but committed to staying strong throughout treatment.

“I thought, ‘I’m going to get through this, and this is not what is going to take me down,’” he said.

Determined to make the most of his time during hospital stays, Griffin signed up for the Walking for Health program led by the Child Life Department at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital. Patients who are able, are encouraged to walk laps within the pediatric unit hallways, and are rewarded with a special bead for each mile achieved.

“We encourage patients who are able to get up and stay active during their hospital stay as it can really help with

their healing and recovery,” said Amy Hagel, Child Life Specialist. “Griffin is a wonderful example of this.”

Griffin made up his mind he would do more than just walk laps. He would jog at times, too, for an average of 3 to 4 miles each day. By the end of his 5-month treatment course, he covered a distance of 9 full marathons! That’s 236 miles!

“I just kept thinking about where I wanted to be when I got done with treatment, and I wanted to be in shape – and that kept me going,” recalled Griffin, who had the full support of his doctors and family on his efforts to stay fit.

Griffin is now finished with chemotherapy, but will continue to be monitored by his pediatric hematology-oncology care team at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital – all of whom continue to be in awe of Griffin’s grit and determination throughout his cancer journey.

“Griffin has always been a go-getter, a very goal-oriented person,” said Kevin. “That’s something as a parent you can be very proud of.”

Thanks to your generous support, Child Life at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital continues to expand much-needed services and programming like “Walking for Health” for hospitalized children and their families.

College Student Improves NICU Experience

22-year-old completes \$30,000 fundraiser

As a newborn, Josh Wiesner tipped the scales at a whopping 14 pounds, 7 ounces. He was the largest baby born in all of Wisconsin in 1997! Large for gestational age (LGA), Josh's body had trouble managing his blood sugar, and spent a week in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital. The now 22-year-old recently completed a \$30,000 fundraiser for that same NICU.

The origin of this special gift came during a volunteer experience. Josh shared, "I've spent hundreds of hours

helping the NICU nurses, preparing medical kits, stocking supplies, folding clothes, as well as welcoming patients and visitors."

Through conversation, Josh discovered a hefty wish list. He said, "The NICU is such a special place. I wanted to do more to show my gratitude."

Without hesitation, Josh added "philanthropist" to his volunteer job description and aimed to raise \$30,000. In a few short months, Josh met his goal!

Josh's personal passion for the NICU is not just a part of his past and present, but his future too. Josh recently completed the pre-med program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and aspires to be a doctor.

Thanks to Josh's fundraiser and your thoughtful generosity, NICU parents now benefit from **five brand new recliner chairs** and **ten bathing tubs** specially designed for premature babies.



To Josh, and all our community partners who supported this initiative, thank you!

12 Months: 12 Gifts of Healing and Hope

Become a monthly donor today

Providing renewed health and hope to patients at HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital is now easier than ever. By becoming a monthly donor, you can continually comfort and heal the patients in our care.

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



As a monthly donor, you can:

- 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 acknowledgement 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/svbgch/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"

HSHS Colleagues Overwhelmed with Gratitude

You gave them hope

We recently shared with you, our Colleague Emergency Assistance Fund that was established by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation to support our furloughed colleagues. The fund provides emergency financial assistance for HSHS colleagues who face unusual and severe financial strain during the pandemic.



As one grateful recipient reported, ***“Thank you for reminding us that working at HSHS is more than just a “job” – it’s a family.”***

“My family and I just wanted to say “thank you” from the bottom of our hearts for the gift cards that were received yesterday. It put a smile on all our faces to know that we were able to get groceries and gas for the week and not have the financial burden.”

“While we know this is a difficult time for everyone, and there are families in much more stressful situations than we are, the little extra we were able to get from this wonderful organization was amazing.”

“Thank you again. And, thank you for reminding us that working at HSHS is more than just a “job” it’s a family.”



As of June 1, more than 1,100 grocery cards and 800 gas cards have been distributed to Wisconsin colleagues.



Foundation Debuts New User-friendly Tool

Create your own fundraiser

HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital has the tools you need to create your own personalized fundraising page to raise funds for hospital programs and services like child life, pediatric cancer, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, or greatest need. The platform, called “JustGiving,” allows you to invite your friends and family to give safely and securely online.

Whether you want to dedicate your birthday, celebrate a milestone, honor a loved one, create a team challenge, host an event, or create a fundraiser “just because,” you can pay it forward and support an area close to your heart.

Visit <https://justgiving.com/campaign/svch> and click **“Start Fundraising.”**

JustGiving™

This is an easy and effective way to make a difference in the lives of our patients and their families. Donations are directed straight to HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital. Additionally, there are no minimum fundraising requirements or hidden fees.

