

SAINTS

Alive!

Miracles happen because of you

Your Generosity Lifts the Vulnerable Patrick's brave story

Senior year of college is a capstone experience for most, but for Patrick Fridland, his final year studying finance at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater was a milestone of a different kind. He was diagnosed with chondroblastic osteosarcoma, a rare, fast-growing pediatric bone cancer.

Cancer was not part of his college plan...

Patrick scheduled an MRI two weeks after the school year began because he felt persistent pain in his leg. The results made his stomach lurch - he had a tumor.

Fortunately, an expert in pediatric cancers was close to his hometown of De Pere. Dr. Jon Brandt, a hematologist/oncologist at HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital, took on Patrick's case. "We were so impressed by Dr. Brandt," recalled Jim and Terry, Patrick's parents. "He usually works with children, but he directed everything to Patrick as an adult."

To eliminate the cancer, Patrick needed ten rounds of chemotherapy and a 35-hour surgery at Froedtert Hospital. He returned to St. Vincent Children's Hospital for 16 weeks of additional care.

"The chemotherapy was horrendous on his body," recalled the Fridlands. He was bedridden for six months. The medication caused burns on his skin and he went into septic shock twice, but Terry said, "He never complained - not once."

Throughout his 200-day hospital stay, the family found comfort in the doctors, nurses and child life specialists who continually lifted Patrick's spirits. "We can't say enough about the care Patrick received - he was in the best hands possible," shared Jim and Terry. "He would banter with the nurses and almost always make them laugh. Everyone made us feel like family."

Finally, Patrick received the good news. He was cancer free!

But life did not go back to normal. The surgery to eliminate the cancer amputated his right leg and also affected his control over his left leg. Patrick started physical therapy at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital to regain his strength.



Patrick also returned to the hospital for follow-up visits and in May 2017, he received the hardest setback of all. His cancer had returned and - chemotherapy and surgery were no longer options.

Patrick started hospice care requesting Dr. Brandt be by his side. No matter what kind of day he was having, Dr. Brandt would walk into the Fridland's home and immediately lift his spirits. "He would joke with Patrick about his 'famous' recliner," said Terry. The recliner was the most comfortable piece of furniture for Patrick and would be moved around the house and even into the backyard.

Though the cancer was beyond his control, Patrick made a choice to live life to its fullest. He filled the remaining time he had with extended family; including trips to Las Vegas, nights at home cozied up to the bonfire in his recliner, and weekly games of Texas Hold'em.

At the age of 24, Patrick lost his courageous battle with cancer.

Not every battle at St. Vincent Children's Hospital is won, but donors like you make sure each patient receives compassionate care from a team of experts. Thank you for giving these patients the best possible chance.

Thankful for you.



You Were Here for Us

Your support in 2020

Day in and day out, your gifts are hard at work. An infant born a few weeks early needing extra oxygen to breathe, a senior in high school undergoing radiation treatment, or a little girl on her way to the emergency room – your support saved all of them. This is the care we provide, whether we’re going through a pandemic or not. **Gifts like yours to the HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary’s Foundation touch every pediatric patient we serve each year, which in 2020 consisted of:**



**13,702
Pediatric
Admissions**



**6,652
Pediatric
ED Visits**

2020 Tax Acknowledgment Receipts

If you would like a summary of your 2020 giving, please email us at ewfriends@hshs.org or phone 920-433-8620.



A New Face at the Foundation

Meet Meggie Cramer

We are pleased to introduce Meggie Cramer as our new Director of Philanthropy for HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary’s Foundation.

Meggie joins the Foundation from Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, where she served as associate director of major gifts. Prior to Rush, Meggie was assistant director of reunion and annual giving for the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. She also worked in fund development roles with the Kindling Group and the Chicago Family Health Center.

An accomplished equestrian, Meggie is a competitive dressage rider and coach of the Northwestern University Equestrian Team. Although residing in Chicago since 2013, “Wisconsin is where I grew up, and I’m eager to re-establish my roots here,” said Meggie. She looks forward to connecting with you soon.



YES! I want to help provide compassionate, comprehensive care to my neighbors, friends, and loved ones!

Here is my gift of \$ _____

To be directed to: *(Please select one)* HSHS St. Vincent Hospital HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center
 HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital

To be used for: *(Please select one)* Where most needed Other _____

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Address _____

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I wish to remain anonymous.

You can also make a gift safely and securely online at giving.hshs.org/svgbch/donate

Please make your check payable to the “HSHS St. Vincent/HSHS St. Mary’s Foundation” and enclose it in the envelope provided. Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Thank you!

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