

Dear Chamber Member,

I have met several of you, and for those of you I haven't yet met, I look forward to it! I appreciate the warm welcome our family has received from this amazing community. Our team at HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital is truly incredible and I feel so blessed to be here.



I wish I was writing to celebrate the end of the pandemic, but instead I am asking for your help and support as we are in another COVID-19 surge. The health care industry nationally has seen nurses and other health care workers choosing to leave their profession because of the overwhelming nature of this pandemic. This unfortunately requires many colleagues to step up with extra efforts, especially when there is a rapid influx of patients, taking on additional shifts and sacrificing time with family.

Our dedicated health care team at St. Anthony's is working extremely hard and while committed to their calling, they are feeling the strain of caring for our friends and neighbors. As health care leaders, we are staying on top of the situation by being attentive to needs, filling in where needed, and creatively trying to build up morale.

I invite you to show love for your community health care workers by sponsoring a meal for our health care teams during periods of surge. Food is always appreciated, but most importantly, this act of generosity helps the team feel acknowledged and supported by the community.

If you are interested in supporting our colleagues in this way, I would like to offer you a few simple ways to make this happen:

1. You can make a cash donation to our Foundation designating your contribution to be used to buy lunch or dinner for the staff. Check can be made payable to **HSHS St. Anthony's Foundation**, and sent to my address below. To make an online contribution, please go to <https://giving.hshs.org/sae/Donate.aspx> and select **Colleague Support**.
2. If you would like to place an order for our staff, you may coordinate a time and date through Michael Wall, director of philanthropy. You can contact Michael at [Michael.Wall@hshs.org](mailto:Michael.Wall@hshs.org) or 217-347-1854. This will help us coordinate efforts so our colleagues know in advance that food will be provided during their shift and can plan accordingly, as well as give us the opportunity to share with them who is supporting them by providing the meal.

Health care teams in the region are experiencing similar challenges, while continuing to be here for our community members. If St. Anthony's isn't your first choice to support with a donation, please consider making a similar donation to another hospital of your choosing. We are all in this together.

God bless and hope you have a happy and healthy New Year,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad Markham". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chad Markham, MBA  
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**St. Anthony's**  
Memorial Hospital