



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



It's our mission,
our promise, and
our family coming
together to care
for yours.

2018 Annual Report Message from Our HSHS President and CEO and Board Chair

Over the past year, much like the past 140 years HSHS has existed, our ministries have provided high quality and compassionate care aligned with our Franciscan heritage and mission. This year's highlights include new partnerships and affiliations with nationally recognized programs, such as MD Anderson, investing and upgrading our facilities, accolades from Becker's Hospital Review and working to improve the health status of our communities.

All of these accomplishments would not be possible without our dedicated colleagues and physician partners who work tirelessly to care for our patients. Our mission is to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality Franciscan health care ministry; HSHS is blessed to have a team of committed caregivers who exemplify our mission.

As a Catholic health care provider, HSHS has a long and rich tradition of addressing the health needs in the communities we serve. We are proud that two of our community health improvement efforts were recognized by the American Hospital Association (AHA) this year. HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Ill. was awarded for the Enos Park Access to Care Collaborative that increased access to care and reduced emergency department visits for non-emergent health needs in the Enos Park neighborhood. Additionally, HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls, WI, was recognized by the AHA for donating more than 2,700 pounds of food from its community garden to local food pantries this year.

HSHS ministries also contribute to other needs through our broader community benefit programs. This includes health education, subsidized health services, research and community building activities.

For more than 140 years, our mission to share the healing love of Christ has remained constant. On behalf of the HSHS family, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve our patients, their families and our communities in the healing tradition of Jesus Christ and St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Starmann-Harrison".

Mary Starmann-Harrison
President and CEO



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen J. Bochenek".

Stephen J. Bochenek
Chair, Board of Directors

2018 Annual Report Message from Our President and CEO

Dear Friends,

It's the continued mission of HSHS Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's hospitals to offer free health education and care to all, regardless of ability to pay, in western Wisconsin.

Since the Sisters began caring for people in the Chippewa Valley nearly 134 years ago, it has been the goal of the hospitals to offer as much benefit to the community as possible. In the late 1800s, those services included an insurance plan provided by the Sisters, care to all and even raising chickens to feed those in need. They did all they could to provide quality care to people in our communities.



Our hospitals have changed drastically since then, but what hasn't changed is the compassion every colleague feels as they care for patients. Our mission to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our quality Franciscan health care ministry remains the same. And our vision to provide whole-person healing continues.

It's easy to provide this kind of quality care to all because we see the amazing outcome - happy, healthy patients. The truth is that we don't just give compassionate care inside of our hospital walls, but we work with the community wherever we can reach them.

Colleagues from our hospitals provide free mental health education by certified instructors several times a month. Nurses from our hospitals offer blood pressure screenings and other health assessments, free of charge, during no-cost events sponsored by the hospitals.

We know that sometimes it's difficult to afford food and heat, much less health care maintenance. That's why we offer as much care, education and help before people need it - because knowledge is power. We give people the power and education to stay as healthy as possible.

However, when they need us, we're here.

What we're doing isn't new to us, in fact, it's habit. It's a way of thinking that started with the Sisters and it continues through the compassion of our colleagues. This isn't just a job to us. The passion to give back is ingrained in our hearts.

That's why it will continue to be a top priority for our hospitals.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Bagnall".

Andrew Bagnall, FACHE

President and CEO

HSHS Western Wisconsin Division

HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David R. Kiefer
Chair

Andrew Bagnall

Lon Blaser, D.O.

Patricia Darley

James Docksey

Sister Bernadine Gutowski, O.S.F.

Jeffrey Halloin

Greg Heiler, M.D.

Gerald Jacobson

Peter Mannix

Charisse Oland

Our Family

Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) is a multi-institutional health care system comprised of 15 hospitals and an integrated physician network across Illinois and Wisconsin.

WISCONSIN

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital

2661 County Highway I
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
StJoesChipFalls.org
877-723-1811

HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital

900 W. Clairemont Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54701
SacredHeartEauClaire.org
715-717-4121

HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center

Green Bay, WI.
920-498-4200

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital

Green Bay, WI
920-433-0111

HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital

Sheboygan, WI
920-459-8300

HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital

Oconto Falls, WI
920-846-3444

ILLINOIS

HSHS St. John's Hospital

Springfield, Ill.
217-544-6464

HSHS St. Mary's Hospital

Decatur, Ill.
217-464-2966

HSHS St. Francis Hospital

Litchfield, Ill.
217-324-2191

HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital

Effingham, Ill.
217-342-2121

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital

Breese, Ill.
618-526-4511

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital

Highland, Ill.
618-651-2600

HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital

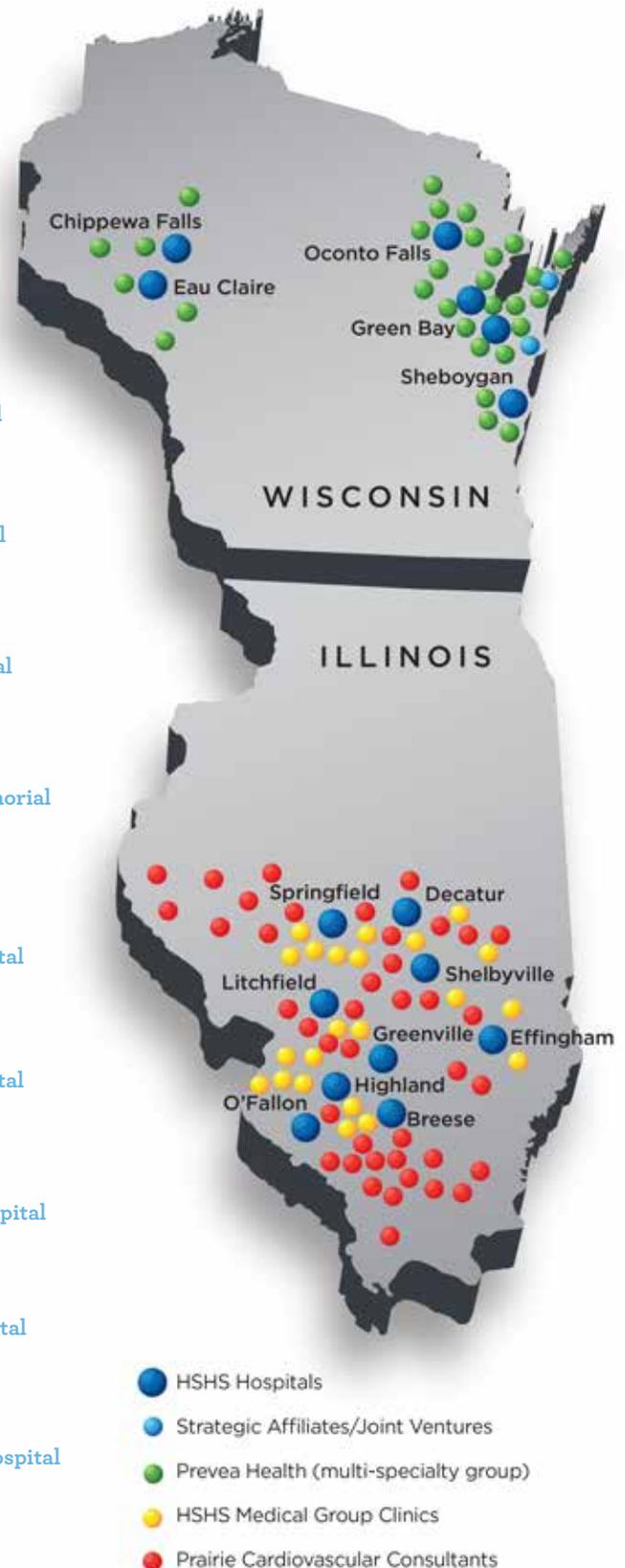
O'Fallon, Ill.
618-234-2120

HSHS Holy Family Hospital

Greenville, Ill.
618-664-1230

HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital

Shelbyville, Ill.
217-774-3961



HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital

By the Numbers



9,084

TOTAL ADMISSIONS



858

BABIES BORN



23,848

ED VISITS



414

PHYSICIANS



301

NURSES



82,150

OUTPATIENT REGISTRATIONS



4,831

SURGICAL CASES



1,103

COLLEAGUES



234

VOLUNTEERS

Delivering New Options for Moms



Comfort takes center stage

in the newly renovated Women and Infants Center at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital; at least until baby arrives and steals the spotlight.

However, even then, convenience is key for moms- and dads-to-be during the labor and delivery experience.

“Everything I could possibly want or need was right there in my room,” said Sherri Johnson, HSHS Sacred Heart Women and Infants Center patient. In fact, once Sherri was admitted to her room she was there until discharge. Labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum care all happened in one comfortable space thanks to an \$8.7 million renovation to HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital Women and Infants Center.

“We spent thousands of hours planning this new center, with input from doctors, patients, nurses, architects and many others,” said Katie Jelinek, HSHS Sacred Heart Women and Infants Center facilitator.

The renovated space was unveiled during a ribbon cutting, blessing and official opening April 30, 2018.

Backed by the latest technology and highly skilled staff, the renovated center offers a fully customizable experience that is comfortable, safe and relaxing.

Eight labor/delivery/recovery/postpartum rooms were created along with an expanded special care nursery and a C-section operating room on the same floor. Amenities were also expanded to include luxurious hydrotherapy tubs for pain relief and/or delivery, essential oil inhalers, surround sound speakers for personalized music, large private showers, baby bathing sinks, designated lactation consultation rooms, blanket warmers and state-of-the-art security with private security codes.

Staff is also proud to be the only hospital in the area to incorporate birthing hammocks in several rooms, which provide support and mobility during labor.

“The birth experience is one of the most beautiful and memorable events for a family,” Katie said. “We believe families are the heart of our mission and we are thankful for the opportunity to be a part of their memories for decades to come.”

Maximizing the Gift of Life

Long after one life ends, another may blossom for many more decades thanks to generous organ, tissue and eye donors and their families.

In fiscal year 2018, four organ donors from HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital each chose to save up to eight lives through transplants. Hearts, lungs, pancreas and livers were selflessly donated to those on the organ donation waiting list. Currently there are more than 2,000 men, women and children in Wisconsin waiting for a life-saving gift.

“Thanks to the organ donation program...

in 1987, our daughter, who was 15 years old, was able to have a cornea transplant,” said Jaci Fuller, an HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital volunteer. “Debbie started having eye infections at 2 years old. It left scars on the cornea and affected her eyesight. She was teased about her thick glasses and shunned by her peers.

“We are grateful for the donated cornea because she is able to live a productive life.”

-Jaci Fuller



In August 2017, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital was recognized for its efforts to provide families with donation options and information. The award from the American Tissue Services Foundation allows many more people to heal after burns, severe scarring, and eye injuries, and in reconstructive surgeries for patients such as breast cancer survivors.

On April 1, 2018, HSHS Sacred Heart colleagues joined organ and tissue recipients and donor families as a flag was raised in the hospital’s healing garden. The goal was to also raise awareness about donation needs.

The emotional decision to donate a loved one’s organs and tissue not only saves lives, but also increases a recipient’s strength, mobility and independence.

“We are honored to be able to connect eligible donors and their families to those with a dire medical need,” said Anne Pretasky, director of critical care services at HSHS Sacred Heart.

Donation is also known to help the healing process for family members grieving the loss of a loved one.

“My 15-year-old daughter Karin was killed in a vehicle accident on icy roads on Feb. 3, 2006,” said Denise Sekora. “We donated her eyes, bone and tissue. I am glad we consented knowing that Karin was a very giving person and I know that is what she would’ve wanted. It consoles me to know she was able to give of herself to others.”

Annually, HSHS Sacred Heart participates in the “orange dot” campaign through Donate Life Wisconsin. It’s a way for colleagues to share why they’ve chosen to register as organ donors. It’s also a focused effort to raise awareness about the need for more people to join the three million Wisconsinites who’ve already registered online or through the Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles.



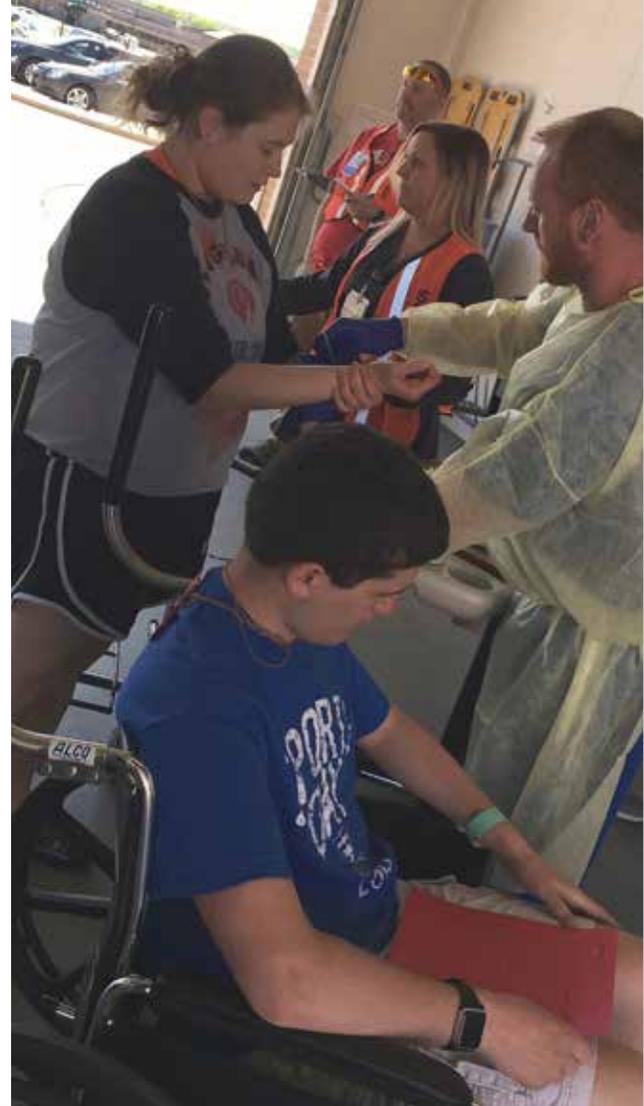
Mass Trauma Drill Provides Invaluable Training

Colleagues at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital responded to a mass trauma drill in May 2018. The training was a partnership between the hospital, UW-Eau Claire police, city of Eau Claire police, Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office, Eau Claire Fire & Rescue and Eau Claire County Emergency Management as well as other Eau Claire hospitals.

The situation involved a mock active shooter on UWEC's campus. Fifteen 'patients' were transported to HSHS Sacred Heart in various ways. Most hospital staff did not know this drill was taking place, making it a true hands-on learning opportunity.

In the emergency department, staff triaged and treated these patients while also involving colleagues from other departments as a real trauma situation may require.

That evening's local news featured HSHS Sacred Heart colleagues working calmly during simulated chaos. After the event, a hospital debriefing was held to determine where there's room for process improvements and what practices and procedures worked well. Since that time, smaller drills within the emergency department have taken place to improve upon mass trauma training.



Robin Schultz, registered nurse and emergency services director, said you never know what type of cases will come through the doors, therefore being prepared for anything and everything makes for the best patient care and colleague development.

School Safety



An overwhelming angst about school shootings across the nation prompted local media to talk about school safety, including a deeper look into adolescent behavioral health, during a town hall discussion May 22, 2018.

HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in conjunction with Prevea Behavioral Care Clinical Coordinator Jeni Gronemus participated in the media-hosted event. As part of a panel of local experts, Jeni offered insight about the mental make-up of those who commit shootings and the underlying mental health issues that accompany the behavior.

“The issue is not one-size-fits-all,” Jeni said. “There’s not an easy answer and there are so many factors that come into play including the fact that there isn’t a basic profile of a school shooter.”

The event, which included a live TV broadcast and on-site audience participation, received positive comments within the community. Jeni said anything the community can do to eliminate the stereotype surrounding mental health issues is a big step in the right direction. Also, she said encouragement and even training for parents is essential to help adults recognize signs of depression, anxiety and possible dangerous behaviors such as drug and alcohol use.

In fiscal year 2018, L.E. Phillips-Libertas Treatment Center, a service of HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital, saw 4,493 outpatient visits, 173 residential admissions and 1,389 detoxification admissions for alcohol, drug and behavioral health conditions.

At HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, the only facility in the area licensed to provide inpatient mental health care to people ages 12 to 18, 1,279 inpatient admissions happened in fiscal year 2018.

HSHS Joins the Movement to End Human Trafficking

All 72 counties in Wisconsin have been affected by human trafficking whether sex or labor-related. That’s why HSHS Sacred Heart and St. Joseph’s emergency departments joined forces with Eau Claire Police Department, Wisconsin Department of Justice and an advocacy group called Fierce Freedom to bring awareness to hospital colleagues.

In fiscal year 2018, colleagues heard the devastating reality that trafficking is happening in the Chippewa Valley. Not only that, police said Wisconsin is known to be a popular “training school” for trafficking recruiters.

Sixty-three percent of U.S. sex trafficking survivors report being seen in an emergency room sometime during their captivity, according to Fierce Freedom.

Colleagues and hospital volunteers were given information related to recognizing and reporting the signs of human trafficking. Indicators include patients who are accompanied by a controlling person, patients who demonstrate fearful or nervous behavior, avoidance of eye contact and an unawareness of the current date or their location. Physical signs include bruises, self-harm injuries and reproductive health issues.

Mary Weider, an emergency room nurse at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital said the training is invaluable. “Not only does this affect or touch me as a nurse, but also as a mom,” she said. “I think the more people you can make aware of this situation the more you’ll spread the word to help end it.”

This was the first human trafficking training session held at the hospital, but not the last. The director of emergency medical services, Robin Schultz said additional trainings will be held at HSHS Sacred Heart and St. Joseph’s hospitals in the future.



“It Could’ve Gone So Terribly Wrong.”

An Eau Claire Family’s Stroke Experience Motivates Healthier Lifestyles

It was a cold Wisconsin winter morning when 34 year old Chris Niles was found unresponsive in the parking lot of an Eau Claire fast food restaurant. He was rushed to HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital where doctors determined he had suffered a hemorrhagic stroke; the most deadly kind of stroke. Just fifteen percent of all stroke patients experience this type of brain bleed.

“He had no use of his right side and he didn’t know where he was or even who he was,” said Chris’ mom Bonnie. “He didn’t know anything. He kept looking around the room like [hands in the air] and he couldn’t say anything either.”

Over the next several days Chris’ brain started to swell and his condition worsened. His care team wasn’t sure he’d wake up, and if he did, the deficits would likely be severe.

Stroke program coordinator, Jeannie Pittenger was part of Chris’ care team. “One of the things I always talk to family and the stroke patient about is that their attitude will make or break them,” she said.

That comment seemed to resonate with an unconscious Chris because as days turned into weeks, Chris woke and regained enough movement to make the transition to inpatient rehabilitation.

“It was a major, major improvement when he got into a wheelchair,” said Bonnie, “except they wanted to give him speeding tickets because he was going so fast down the hall and then around corners and he was running into people.”

Chris’ progress was remarkable, in part because of his determination, but also thanks to new technology in the rehabilitation department.

The Bioness Vector Gait and Safety System is a medical device that gives support to patients who are relearning how to walk. It also provides an element of safety for therapists.

A mechanical track is mounted overhead and a trolley runs on the track. The patient wears a harness that provides support as he or she walks. The therapist can customize the amount of weight assistance so patients can practice walking with less than full body weight. In the Chippewa Valley there is currently no other above ground gait and safety system in a hospital.

“It made a world of difference in Chris’ recovery,” said Bonnie, “because it could’ve gone so terribly wrong he wouldn’t have been able to get therapy.”



In March 2018 Chris celebrated the one year anniversary of his stroke. It sounds odd to say “celebrate”, but Bonnie said that’s exactly what it was; a celebration that Chris not only survived this deadly stroke, but pushed through recovery to the point where he now is back to fixing computers and electronics, volunteering with the Eau Claire Children’s Theater and even driving.

“He’s stubborn and I asked him to please use that stubbornness to excel and he’s done that and I’m so proud of him,” said Pittenger.

Every day Chris’ confidence builds, his vocabulary improves and his thankfulness for what he said was a “wake up call” to live a healthier lifestyle, grows.

“It’s awesome,” he said smiling.





“We had our three children here and we’re so thankful Sacred Heart is in our community for when we need them. It’s always our choice.”

-Jessica Jansen



“They have always taken really good care of me, especially when I had my prostate cancer surgery. They made me feel really at ease.”

- Keith Johnathan

Partnership to Expand Access to Care

On January 3, 2018, HSHS Sacred Heart and St. Joseph’s hospitals announced a formal affiliation with OakLeaf Clinics, an independent, physician-owned medical practice. The legal move allows the organizations to provide “strong and seamless care for patients,” said Andrew Bagnall, President and CEO of HSHS Western Wisconsin Division.

The affiliation builds on an already strong relationship and collaboration between the two health care organizations.

“This reflects a commitment to provide expanded access to care and a continued focus on growing the provider base in the Chippewa Valley,” said Bagnall.

This strategic alignment allows HSHS to expand coordinated care efforts to improve cost, quality and clinical outcomes. It will be used to enhance physician growth and keep care local.

The announcement was made with colleagues and local media present and was also streamed live on the hospitals’ Facebook pages. Over five days, the video was viewed 2,800 times with 4,607 people reached. The news release was posted to our hospitals’ Facebook pages post-event with 3,726 clicks and more than 18,000 people reached.

President of OakLeaf Clinics, Chris Longbella said “Our mission and commitments to our patients remains the same. We are dedicated to providing our patients with compassion, trust and lifetime of individualized care.”



HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital

Benefits for the Poor

	2018	2017
Charity Care at Cost	3,435,102	3,107,594
Unpaid Cost of Medicare and Other Public Programs	9,579,101	9,891,922
Community Health Services	532,000	527,272
Health Professions Education		
Subsidized Health Services		
Research		
Financial Contributions	53,887	12,594
Community Building Activities		
Community Benefit Operations		
	13,600,090	13,539,382

Community Benefit Numbers



Benefits for the Broader Community

Community Health Services	479,290	736,976
Health Professions Education	1,306,030	970,973
Subsidized Health Services	3,569,613	3,277,475
Research		
Financial Contributions	89,829	85,788
Community Building Activities	166,906	58,326
Community Benefit Operations	15,059	259,182
	5,626,727	5,388,720
Total Community Benefit	19,226,817	18,928,102



HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital

Benefits for the Poor

	2018	2017
Charity Care at Cost	1,564,216	1,239,788
Unpaid Cost of Medicare and Other Public Programs	6,068,258	5,729,389
Community Health Services	50,546	64,292
Health Professionals Education		
Subsidized Health Services		
Financial Contributions	12,291	20,676
Community Building Activities		
Community Benefit Operations	16,041	
	7,711,352	7,054,145

Benefits for the Broader Community

Community Health Services	145,319	192,876
Health Professions Education		625
Subsidized Health Services	575,284	380,965
Financial Contributions	24,218	2,888
Community Building Activities	62,132	32,343
Community Benefit Operations	6,542	71,081
	813,495	680,778

Total Community Benefit	8,524,847	7,734,923
--------------------------------	------------------	------------------



HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital

By the Numbers



2,965

TOTAL ADMISSIONS



361

BABIES BORN



291

PHYSICIANS



122

NURSES



1,943

SURGICAL CASES



344

COLLEAGUES



140

VOLUNTEERS



“It’s important to offer sessions that reduce the stigma associated with addiction.”

- Toni Simonson

L.E. Phillips-Libertas Treatment Center Puts Patients First with Collaboration

Patients are reaping the benefits of an exciting collaboration. L.E. Phillips-Libertas Treatment Center of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls was welcomed as a member of the Hazelden Betty Ford Patient Care Network in November 2017.

Toni Simonson, executive director of L.E. Phillips-Libertas Treatment Center, said "both organizations are focused on delivering services that result in excellent patient outcomes. The clients of L.E. Phillips-Libertas Treatment Center will benefit from this key collaboration as they continue to be served by dedicated colleagues who will now have access to additional research, best practices and clinical teamwork.

"This joint effort supports our mission and dedication to excellence."

The Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation launched its Patient Care Network, the first of its kind in the addiction treatment industry, this fall. Members gain access to tools, resources and collaborative consultation for their organization's leadership, staff, patients, families and communities. This is especially timely as the nation's opioid crisis places added pressures on individuals, families and communities.

"This important collaboration will enable both organizations to bring our expertise and resources to bear against the opioid crisis and the wider long-standing problems associated with addiction to alcohol and other drugs in the state of Wisconsin," said Bob Poznanovich, executive director of business development and community outreach for the national nonprofit addiction treatment provider Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, which is headquartered in neighboring Minnesota.

Simonson, of L.E. Phillips-Libertas, concluded by saying "we couldn't ask for a better partner - right in our backyard. It makes a lot of sense for us to join this innovative program to move us closer toward our shared goals of improving outcomes and educating the stakeholders in our state on the need to address the disease of addiction."





Treatment Center Offers Education to Reduce the Stigma of Addiction

Not only does HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital's L.E. Phillips-Libertas Treatment Center provide a full spectrum of adult substance abuse services, as well as outpatient mental health and substance abuse services for adolescents, but treatment center staff work to educate the public as well.

Toni Simonson, treatment center director, said it's important to offer sessions that reduce the stigma associated with addiction. The free seminar, based on addiction, recovery and the brain, addressed the relationship between genetics and environment, the impact of active addiction on the brain and why addiction is now considered a brain disease. Ideas of how to rewire and heal the addicted brain in recovery also was shared.

The treatment center also offers free monthly, ongoing education and support programs as a community service to the public and professionals.

Community Garden

Cultivating Fresh Food for a Growing Concern

With help from his parents and other Eagle Scouts, Trevor Opsal mostly measured twice and cut once while building a garden shed from the ground up. The shed, completed in early fall 2017, holds much needed shovels and other tools used in the HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Community Garden.

The garden is a way for families who are strapped, to grow their own nutritional food. Others also are encouraged to grow and donate all yields to food pantries throughout the Chippewa Valley.

During a recent Chippewa County census, it was revealed that 14 percent of Chippewa County residents are considered food insecure - more than 8,700 people.

When HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital conducted its last Community Health Needs Assessment and determined food insecurity was a top concern, the hospital answered back.

Throughout the season, the plots on property adjacent to L.E. Phillips-Libertas Treatment Center in Chippewa Falls were sowed by volunteer gardeners, and a few hundred pounds of fresh vegetables were harvested.

Since its first year, not only has the garden acquired more growers and a locked 8-foot fence, but it also boasted an increased yield each year. By the end of the 2017 growing season, garden director and volunteer Roger Elliot recorded an astounding 2,731 pounds of food either taken home to a needy table or donated.



In a community like Chippewa Falls, where people are prideful and humble, food insecurity often is overlooked. Now those people in need have one less thing to worry about as they get back on their feet.

Heads Up

Concussions and our youth

Former Green Bay Packers Quarterback Brett Favre has been a proponent of no-tackle youth football for several months, even putting his fame behind a proposed tackle football ban in Illinois that was dropped recently, but a local physical therapist said Favre is just looking out for the health and wellbeing of kids.

Mike Erickson, physical therapist and licensed athletic trainer at HSHS St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart hospitals, said he agrees with Favre's sentiment. "Brett Favre is not trying to end football," Erickson said. "He's trying to make football safer for youth."

As pee wee and Pop Warner football leagues start to ramp up for the fall season, Erickson said parents should know the facts about concussions and take the condition seriously.

Erickson said young brains are more sensitive to chemical changes from a concussion as they develop throughout the teen years and beyond.

But concussions are nothing new, Erickson said.

"They've been around a long time. In the past we called concussions a dinger, getting your bell rung or seeing stars. All of those situations are concussions – a mild traumatic brain injury," he said. "All concussions, no matter how huge the impact or how small the hit, can present differently. The smallest hit can be a fairly severe concussion."

Dr. Erik Dickson, chief physician executive for the local HSHS hospitals, said a recent study found that one in five middle and high school student athletes report suffering a concussion.

"We really need to try to do our best to protect the brain," Dickson said. "It's probably a good idea to wait until after seventh grade or so before we start allowing tackle football so we're not causing any more trauma in those real high developed portions of the brain in children."



The problem is that a concussion can be difficult to diagnose, Erickson said. There's also a stigma associated with calling out a concussion.

Favre estimates in his career he's had thousands of concussions. As science confirms chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a neurodegenerative disease found in people who have had multiple head injuries, more and more athletes and health care professionals are speaking out to keep athletes safe.

In February, the Eau Claire YMCA dropped its fifth and sixth grade tackle football program for this fall – opting for flag or touch-type football. The Eau Claire School District joined the YMCA's offensive line by nixing tackle football for its seventh graders and implementing a flag football program instead.

Erickson said all of these changes are wins for the kids in our community.

"There is a risk to competitive concussions," he said. "If we delay tackling in football, there still may be concussions, but far fewer."

The terminology is exposure to risk of concussions.

"If a child practices football two hours a week and plays in competition for one hour a week, times the amount of weeks in a season, times five to seven years, that's a lot of time you just reduced yourself of getting a concussion," Erickson said.

But football is not the only place children can sustain concussions, it's just getting the most attention right now. Erickson said hockey, skateboarding or biking without a helmet are all concussion-risky situations.

"Concussions are going to happen every day. Be safe about activities," he said. "Do you let your kids ride bikes without a helmet? Think about the kids' long term future."



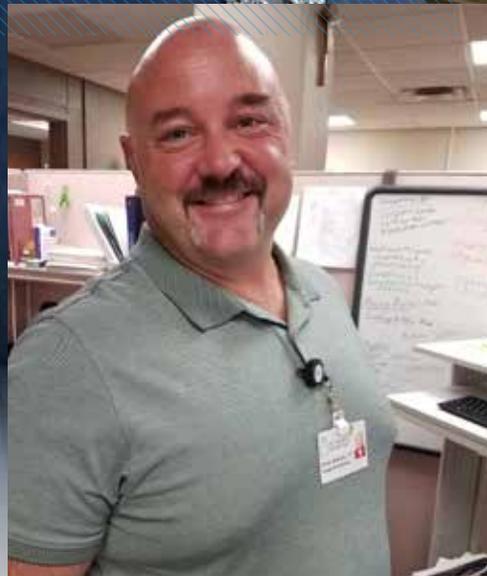
"I choose to work at HSHS to companion people in their grief. I think I was just meant to be here. It feels like family."

Jennifer, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital



"I choose to work at HSHS because I love the people here. I've been here for 13 years and I really have fun here."

Erika, Health Information Associate at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital



"I choose to work at HSHS because I believe in the mission. We don't just heal the body. Our colleagues are tasked with healing the mind and soul as well. Our colleagues live and breathe compassion. This is why we serve."

Chris, Home Health physical therapy manager with HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital

“Our wound centers heal wounds by the best means possible to enable patients to gain their quality of life and activity back,” said the hospital’s program director.



Hospital Receives Awards for Healing High Percent of Wounds

Year after year, HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital’s Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine heals the sick. In fiscal year 2018, the hospital’s wound center received the Center of Distinction award and the Robert A. Warriner III Center of Excellence award from Healogics, the nation’s largest wound care management company.

The Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine in Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire received recognition for outstanding clinical outcomes for 12 consecutive months, including patient satisfaction higher than 92 percent, and a wound healing rate of at least 91 percent within 30 median days to heal.

“Our wound centers heal wounds by the best means possible to enable patients to gain their quality of life and activity back,” said the hospital’s program director.

The hospital’s centers offer highly specialized wound care to patients suffering from diabetic ulcers, pressure ulcers, infections and other chronic wounds that have not healed in a reasonable amount of time. Advanced treatments include hyperbaric oxygen therapy, negative pressure wound therapy, bio-engineered skin substitutes, biological and biosynthetic dressings and growth factor therapies.

Healogics is a national provider of advanced wound care services. HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital’s wound care center is a member of the Healogics network of nearly 800 centers, with access to benchmarking data and proven experience treating approximately 2.5 million chronic wounds.

900 WEST CLAIREMONT AVENUE • EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701 • 715.717.4121
SACREDHEARTEAUCLAIRE.ORG

2661 COUNTY HIGHWAY I • CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729 • 715.723.1811
STJOESCHIPFALLS.ORG

