



HSHS
St. Joseph's
Foundation

FALL 2020

GIVING *Hope*

Miracles happen because of you

A Message from our New, HSHS Wisconsin CEO, Andy Bagnall

Dear Friends,

I want to take a moment to address you directly, to share with you our hospital's journey with Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). But first, I want to extend my deepest appreciation for your support and friendship. This year, donors like you have lifted the spirits of our colleagues and our patients many times over. Whether you made masks by hand, sent a donation to the Crisis Response Fund or prayed for our health care workers, our hospitals were better for it.

As the COVID-19 cases appeared in our community this spring, our operations shifted dramatically. Necessary at the time was limiting visitors to the hospital, distributing vast amounts of PPE to health care workers, and canceling all elective procedures - all of which had a huge financial impact on our hospitals. This was done, of course, to keep our patients safe.

The effects of COVID-19 on our employees were equally challenging. Our colleagues made the decision to come to work every day to care for the sick and vulnerable – something they are called to do. Colleagues were faced with tough choices - some had to isolate from their families, others were met with long hours and tough assignments, and everyone experienced the uncertainty of this pandemic.

And while there were challenges, I cannot overstate how proud I am of our colleagues, our physicians and our community. What I witnessed was the goodness of people like you surrounding our health care professionals with love and support. Your care and generosity were truly inspiring.

As we build back and recover from the effects of this pandemic, we will stay focused on the needs of our patients and the families we serve. Please know, your gifts will continue to make this care possible.

You are an integral part of our future and I thank you once again for your support.

Warm regards,
Andy Bagnall



Giving Hope is a quarterly publication, edited by Alyssa Clarke.
If you would like to opt out of receiving future fundraising requests, write the
HSHS St. Joseph's Foundation at 2661 County Highway I, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.

Accomplishing more together

A look back on what you made possible in 2020

Every day, people across the Chippewa Valley trust our hospital with their health care needs. As a generous donor to HSHS St. Joseph's Foundation, your gifts enable HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital to provide patients and families with the health, hope and healing they need.

While COVID-19 has changed our world, amazing things are still happening at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital because of your support. From providing transportation assistance to helping prepare for the coronavirus pandemic, you made this and so much more possible.

Here's a quick look at the impact you made:

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

With your donation, patients who lacked access to transportation or those who experienced fatigue after treatment were provided **transportation assistance, free of charge.**



ADVANCED EDUCATION

Your gifts taught, inspired and empowered colleagues at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. **Because of you, colleagues were given opportunities to attend specialized training and certification seminars** to advance their skillsets in the field of health care.



DRUG & ALCOHOL REHABILITATION

Several individuals who couldn't afford life-saving care through L.E. Phillips - Libertas Treatment Center were given a second chance because of people like you. You gave these patients and others the tools they needed to cope with life and to live successfully in recovery.

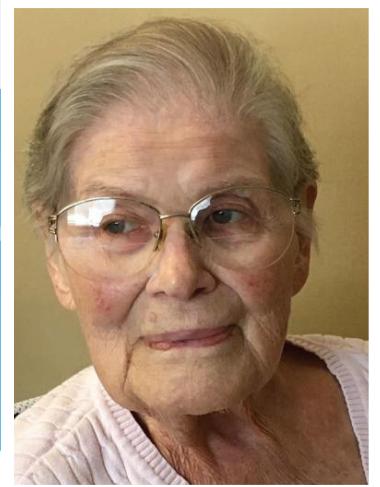


COVID-19

You helped us prepare and respond to the evolving demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. From generous donations to **hand-written notes and deliveries of coffee, flowers, masks and more**—your generosity knows no bounds.

COLLEAGUE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Because of people like you, hundreds of colleagues experiencing financial hardship were assisted during the COVID-19 pandemic. **The Colleague Emergency Assistance fund provided extra relief during an already difficult time.**



Helping Doris During Her Last Days

Hospice in the time of COVID-19

Doris was a reserved and quiet woman. Although she worked outside the home for many years as a bank teller and bookkeeper, the center of her life was always her husband and family. They knew her loving nature, her dry sense of humor, her acute judgment of character and her skill as an avid seamstress.

For 89-year-old Doris, getting to spend time with her family always meant a lot. For the better part of the past 12 years, Doris lived with her daughter Kathy. But in the spring of 2019, Doris was diagnosed with colon cancer. As her cancer progressed through the summer, it became harder and harder for Kathy to care for her mother in her home. Fortunately, Kathy was able to find a wonderful nursing home for Doris.

But in the fall, her physical therapist noted she was slipping, and Doris's oncologist suggested it was time for hospice care. Kathy began researching options for her mother. She spoke to the hospice care team at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. "I was so impressed with the nurse I spoke with," recalled Kathy. "It was a comfortable and comforting call."

Throughout the fall and winter, the nursing home and her hospice team continued to monitor Doris's condition. "I visited mom regularly—a couple hours almost every day," shared Kathy.

In an effort to protect patients, in mid-March as the COVID-19 pandemic spread, health care facilities were forced to restrict visitors from visiting loved ones. Kathy did what she could to see her mother, even if that meant standing in a flower bed outside her mom's nursing home

window. "I would call her and we would talk over the phone through the glass window," shared Kathy.

In time Doris became weaker, finding it harder and harder to even hold the phone. That's when Kathy received the news: her mother was given maybe two weeks to live.

"I knew she wanted to be surrounded by family. I knew she didn't want to spend her last few days alone," said Kathy.

"I called my siblings, who both live in California, and explained our situation." The family agreed in-home hospice care would be the best option for Doris.

Kathy spoke to her hospice care nurse at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital and explained the situation.

Within 48 hours, the hospital had all the arrangements made for Doris. This included delivering a medical bed to Kathy's home, scheduling in-home hospice nursing care and coordinating efforts to keep Doris comfortable. Meanwhile, Kathy's two siblings and their families flew in to be at their mother's side.

Kathy said, "It was difficult for us to grasp what was happening. There were no more diagnostic tests, no more medications, no cure. We needed St. Joseph's hospice care to help us face the

Over

path forward. If we wanted to be with mom in her final days, the only option was to bring her home."

On April 22, Doris returned to Kathy's home. "When the ambulance door opened, she was grinning like it was Christmas, Halloween and her birthday all rolled up together," laughed Kathy.

Their time together was peaceful. "Hospice placed mom's bed in our family room where she could look out the big window into our wooded backyard."

In the days ahead, family came to see her. Dinners were spent together. The family soaked up the small amount of time they had left with Doris.

On April 27, Doris took her last breath with family by her side.

Hospice care provided through HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital allowed Doris to live her last few days just as she wished – surrounded by family. When you make a gift to HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, you bring comfort to patients and families like Doris and Kathy.

HSHS St. Joseph's Volunteer Partners Charity Ball

Event Postponed to 2021

In an effort to protect our community and colleagues as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the Volunteer Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital has decided to postpone the 49th Charity Ball.

The Volunteer Partners Charity Ball event, that was originally rescheduled for Saturday, Oct. 24th, will now be postponed until May 1, 2021.

Although the ball has been rescheduled, raffle tickets remain available! Pay \$20 per ticket and have three chances to win a \$1,000 prize. Only 500 tickets will be sold.



To purchase tickets, connect with a Charity Ball Committee member or the HSHS St.

Joseph's Hospital Volunteer Services Director, Brandy Sikora at Brandalee.Sikora@hshs.org.



Sharing your impact

Newsletter receives fresh, new look

We want you to know how important your generosity is to our patients, their families, and our caregivers. To achieve this, the HSHS St. Joseph's Foundation publishes a quarterly newsletter highlighting the many ways in which you make a positive impact at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital.

To celebrate the generosity of those who have helped support our mission, we have given this newsletter a makeover. While the overall content remains the same, the re-designed newsletter features a new name, Giving Hope. The newsletter name change from Mission Moments to Giving Hope reflects the hope your gifts bring to people in our community.



Do you have a story to share?

Let us know at ewfriends@hshs.org and you could be featured in a future publication!

