

# FRIENDS & Family

## One Shot At A Time

Your support allowed Dennis to receive lifesaving compassionate care

Dennis works in the global operations and supply chain industry, living all over the world - including China and Mexico. Dennis and his wife Gabriela, moved to Wisconsin in early 2020, where he now works for Kohler. They love everything about Sheboygan, enjoying all it has to offer with the close friends they've made while living and working in the area.

It was early September 2021. Gabriela was visiting family in Mexico while Dennis was at home isolating as he battled COVID-19 for 8 days. "I remember my wife calling me and saying 'Dennis, something tells me I have to get back to you today'," Dennis said. Together they found a flight for her to come home several days earlier than planned. While she was traveling, Dennis visited HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital to get his vitals checked and receive monoclonal antibody treatments. This treatment is used to help reduce the effects of COVID-19 by injecting antibodies into the bloodstream to help slow down the infection. After his treatment his vitals looked good, so Dennis returned home.

The next morning Gabriela checked on Dennis. "I woke up and found it very difficult to breath. I recall not being able to breath at all, that scared me," said Dennis. They called an ambulance to have him taken to HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital. While preparing for transportation to the hospital, the paramedics took his oxygen saturation levels. A normal oxygen saturation level is 95% and higher; Dennis was in a dangerously low range of 50-60%!

What was going through his mind? "I was concerned about surviving," said Dennis. He arrived at the hospital, where he spent a total of four days in the COVID-19 intensive care unit (ICU). Fortunately, no intubation was required. While there, the nursing staff would give daily updates to his wife and his sister. "The nursing staff was excellent! I have never seen that level of follow up before. They were so courteous and professional. Every hospital should strive for this standard of care!" exclaimed Dennis.



After eight days in the hospital, Dennis experienced complications and began bleeding internally. In a very short time, he lost nearly two liters of blood, so much so that his nails began to go grey, and he lost color in his complexion. "The nursing staff responded quickly and took the necessary emergency procedures needed to ensure I would be okay," said Dennis. Thanks to the expertise and speed of care, there was no permanent damage.

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*I remember thinking to myself, “God, my life is in your hands. If this is the end, then I look forward to seeing you in heaven.”*

Dennis spent 12 days total at HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital and was released to the comforts of his own home. He had purchased tickets to the Ryder Cup, Sheboygan’s once-in-a-lifetime PGA Tour event. Due to his recovery schedule following his release, Dennis knew he would not be in any condition to attend the Ryder Cup. “Gabriela and I knew what we wanted to do,” said Dennis. They generously donated the tickets to HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital colleagues. “The real heroes over the past 18 months are the nurses, doctors and hospital staff. We wanted to donate those tickets to them, to give the staff a break away from their high stress environment,” said Dennis.

“We have lived in a lot of large cities, including Shanghai, China and Cleveland, Ohio. We are so thankful to be in a community that has a hospital like HSHS St. Nicholas and that they had a bed and ICU when my life depended on it. Without that, I very well may not be here today.” Dennis is so grateful to be part of a community filled with compassionate and generous people, including **YOU**, who make this level of care possible.

## Taking Control

Your support helps those struggling with opioid addiction get their lives back

Substance abuse has been a key priority for the health and safety of Sheboygan County. Deaths from opioid overdoses have become a problem in our community and thanks to **YOU** we have been able to assist those in need to overcome their addiction and get their lives **BACK!**

Patients who walk through the doors of HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital seeking help with their addiction are offered long-term recovery options. A buprenorphine treatment is administered, which is a lifesaving medication and acts as a long-term treatment option. From there patients are connected to a recovery coach from the Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization where they can seek support and have guidance on their path to recovery.

Since the program’s inception, over six months ago, 24 patients have begun buprenorphine treatments to begin their journey to getting their life back.





# The Weight of the World, **LIFTED!**

## Charity Care Program Helps Those in Need

Over the month of December, HSHS St. Nicholas Foundation was able to assist 52 families within the community through the Charity Care Program. Just over \$260,000 was dispersed to assist these families, who fall within the federal poverty level and have outstanding balances that they have been making payments on.

Each family received a letter around the holidays, sharing the news that their medical debts have been taken care of and paid in full. This is a result of significant generosity from the community and donors like **YOU!**

**“Thank you from  
the bottom of  
my heart**

for not only helping financially, but  
also reminding me there are  
still kind, caring people out there!”

**“Words cannot  
express how  
thankful I am.**

May God continue  
to bless you as you  
share your generosity.”

**“Receiving this gift  
has given me hope.  
It also has restored my faith  
in mankind, something I had  
pretty much given up on.”**

**“Thank you so much  
and God bless you in so  
many ways!”**



# Thank You!



## Inspire others to support your passion!

Create an online fundraiser with JustGiving

Start an online fundraiser with JustGiving and inspire others to join you in supporting HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital. It is so easy! Whether you want to honor a loved one or celebrate a major milestone, like your birthday, wedding, or special event – there are endless opportunities to share your passion with your friends and family. Creating an online fundraiser is an EASY and EFFECTIVE way for you to make a difference in the lives of patients and families being cared for at YOUR hospital.

This is another opportunity to give back to a program or service that means the most to you! To create your fundraiser for HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital visit <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sns> today!

Need help? Contact [Shane.Starr@hshs.org](mailto:Shane.Starr@hshs.org)

## Giving Tomorrow Starts Today

Leave your legacy through planned giving

Planned gifts, or legacy gifts, offer a great opportunity for both HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital and you as a donor. These gift arrangements are a way to reflect **YOUR** values, leave a legacy of giving, and make a significant impact on patients seeking our care. Planned gifts can be directed to a particular fund or for a particular use. Ways to make a planned gift include:

- Will/Bequests
- Charitable Trusts
- Life Insurance
- Stocks and Securities
- Retirement Plans
- Real Estate

If you have a question about planned giving, consult your attorney, accountant, or financial planner.



For more information, please contact  
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