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**DAMOND BOATWRIGHT** FACHE President and CEO



**BILL BLUM** Chair **Board of Directors** 

#### Dear Friends,

In 2022, HSHS remained committed to its mission of revealing and embodying Christ's healing love for all people through our high-quality Franciscan health care ministry. Our mission guides all that we do, from our everyday interactions with patients to our vision for the future.

We rolled out a number of initiatives at HSHS this year that show our commitment to our patients, communities and colleagues. Mid-year, we implemented the Patient Preference Policy across the system to assure caregivers and colleagues that HSHS stands with them should they be confronted with racism, discrimination or bigotry by patients or visitors. As a Catholic ministry that believes in the inherent dignity and worth of all people, this was an important policy for us to enact to support our colleagues.

We were thrilled, but not surprised, when earlier this year HSHS was named one of the top 150 best places to work in health care by Becker's Healthcare Review. HSHS strives to create a desirable and rewarding workplace culture, with competitive benefits and opportunity for career growth. While these recognitions are wonderful, we will not stop making improvements at HSHS in the areas of professional development, diversity and inclusion, colleague engagement workplace culture and more. There's always room for growth and improvement.

Our colleagues are the heart and soul of our mission, and we would not be able to serve our patients and communities without them. In past years, we have strived to make sure colleagues knew how much we appreciated their dedication to our mission. In 2022, we took that a step further and provided colleagues with a tool to recognize and be recognized. The HSHS Appreciation Hub allows colleagues the opportunity to give other colleagues cheers, kudos, thanks and praise either publicly or privately. The Appreciation Hub also hosts award nominations and allows leaders to deposit points into colleagues' accounts that they can then redeem for rewards. The tool has been well received, and we have seen a high level of engagement since its launch.

It is a testament to our Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, our ministry and the colleagues who carry on its legacy today that we are beginning to plan to celebrate our 150th anniversary in 2025. When our Sisters came from Germany, it was their mission to serve as they were asked. As time went on, they saw the needs of their communities grow, and through their visionary leadership, they grew their ministry to meet those needs. Today, HSHS is a \$2 billion multi-state, multidiscipline health system with more than 13,000 colleagues. We are privileged to be entrusted with such an incredible legacy, and the mission that called our Sisters so many years ago is now

Within this year in review, we hope you will enjoy reading highlights from our ministries across Illinois and Wisconsin. HSHS has much to be proud of - from our state-of-the-art facilities to our community benefit efforts, our dedicated colleagues and more — and we will continue to be guided by our mission for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Damond Boatwright President and CEO

Bill Blum

Chair, HSHS Board of Directors





## President and CEO tours HSHS ministries

When HSHS President and CEO Damond Boatwright started with HSHS in June 2021, he set up time to tour each HSHS ministry to see the facilities and meet colleagues. His tours weren't meant to be a one-and-done visit, however. In 2022, Damond remained committed to continually round on each HSHS ministry to meet face to face with colleagues, see our mission in action and receive feedback from the frontlines. During these visits, he attended daily huddles, toured specialty service areas, met with administration and more. He visited every hospital ministry at least twice during the year, as well as a number of speciality clinics.

To show appreciation to colleagues who were working on the Thanksgiving holiday, Damond and his son, DJ, visited HSHS St. John's Hospital, as well. Damond already has plans to host town hall meetings at each ministry in early 2023. These visits are something Damond said he plans to do on a regular basis, as he feels it's mutually important for him and the colleagues who serve HSHS.





#### Patient preference policy **implemented at HSHS**

HSHS implemented a new patient preference policy across all ministries in 2022 to assure caregivers and colleagues that HSHS stands with them when/if they are confronted with racism, discrimination or bigotry by patients or visitors. The policy states that HSHS will not routinely accommodate any requests from patients and authorized decision makers that would violate non-discrimination laws.

HSHS has not, and will not, tolerate acts of discrimination against patients, visitors, providers, staff, colleagues and those associated with HSHS. Our Sisters have served as an outstanding example of this since the early days of our health system — even during a time when segregation and racial oppression were prevalent across the nation. During the 1908 Race Riots in Springfield, Ill., violent racial attacks occurred over two days near what is now HSHS St. John's Hospital. When those needing care because of the riots arrived at St. John's, the Sisters cared for them side by side, regardless of race. Despite the horrific violence of this riot, there was peace inside St. John's. According to the archives of the Hospital Sisters, "When no more rooms were available at the hospital, patients were laid on mattresses on the floor — black and white patients lying side by side. Interestingly, once the injured entered St. John's Hospital, they set aside all prejudice. antagonism and hatred."

The policy stemmed from repeated accounts by clinicians and colleagues about how they have been

treated based on their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation and other stereotypes. HSHS felt it was incumbent on them to do their part to change this behavior and eradicate hate. Colleagues have been encouraged to speak with supervisors who will be ready to listen, understand what is happening and take appropriate action when this behavior has been seen. Colleagues are also strongly encouraged to report instances that arise through IRIS, HSHS's risk management tracking system

The new HSHS patient preference policy provides leaders with tools to establish a plan of action and/or care plans when negative patient preference issues arise. The policy outlines how to handle patients and visitors who make inappropriate requests, including how to inform them of the risks, consequences of refusing service and potential transfer. The policy also includes some exceptions where certain sensitivities should be accepted, such as sexual assault victims. In implementing this policy, HSHS continues to follow all aspects of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA).

Prior to the official implementation, HSHS offered training sessions on the new policy to all leaders. All patients who come to HSHS for care, regardless of the cause or severity, must be treated as a unique person of incomparable worth, with the same right to life and to adequate health care as all other persons.

# Strongline Staff Safety System piloted, implemented at two HSHS hospitals

In early 2022, HSHS piloted the Strongline Staff Safety System in the emergency departments at HSHS St. Vincent and St. John's hospitals. After a successful pilot period, the system was implemented in September at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital and in December at HSHS St. John's Hospital. The technology is available to all colleagues at St. Clare and St. John's — nurses, physicians and allied health clinicians, as well as support and administration staff.

The Strongline Staff Safety System is a personal, bluetooth-based badge with "panic button" functionality. By double clicking a button, the colleague alerts designated responders that he or she feels unsafe. It also communicates a location to switchboard and security personnel, as well as to nearby responders. The technology emphasizes early intervention and de-escalation during confrontation. The goal is to get help when needed.

As we know, everyone has a role in safety. We want all colleagues to feel safe at work and when a situation does arise, colleagues can feel at ease knowing help can be called at the push of a button.





# Prevea Health reaches milestone with completion of first ambulatory surgery center

In June 2022, Prevea Health opened a new, state-of-the-art surgery center in Green Bay for same-day, outpatient surgical care, including diagnostic and preventive procedures.

The Prevea Surgery Center is the first ambulatory surgery center (ASC) for Prevea Health and first multi-specialty ASC in the Greater Green Bay region for medical specialties including: Ear, nose and throat; gastroenterology; ophthalmology; orthopedics; plastic surgery; podiatry; and urology. Common procedures and surgeries performed will include ACL repair, cataract removal, colonoscopy, tonsil and adenoid removal, ear tubes and more.

"Many of these procedures are currently offered by our Prevea Health physicians at our HSHS hospital partners, including St. Vincent and St. Mary's hospitals," said Dr. Ashok Rai, President and CEO, Prevea Health. "Our new surgery center allows us to continue providing high-quality care for those select procedures, but with the added benefits of lower costs and easier access for patients."

Prevea Health physicians continue to perform hospital-based surgeries at all six HSHS hospitals in Wisconsin. The shift of select, one-day surgeries and procedures to the new Prevea Surgery Center allows for more space and appointment availability for all patients in need of surgical care, whether within the HSHS hospitals or at the new Prevea Surgery Center, and ultimately helps to meet a growing demand for surgical services in Northeast Wisconsin.

The approximately 33,000 square foot facility is comprised of a spacious waiting/reception area with technologies to keep patients' loved ones apprised of their status, five operating rooms, 10 procedure rooms, 28 surgical preparation and recovery rooms, and 8 post anesthesia care unit (PACU) rooms. A separate discharge corridor also allows for patient privacy and comfort as they leave the surgery center following their procedure and recovery.



In May 2022, for the first time ever, all foundations of HSHS conducted their annual colleague giving appeals simultaneously. While the HSHS foundations have traditionally held their own colleagues appeals on their own schedules, the **All Together** appeal built on the **We Are HSHS** mantra and recognized the common mission that is shared by colleagues across all ministries.

The **All Together** campaign was a huge success with more than 1,500 colleagues across the system committing more than \$800,000. These funds will be used to enhance the care environment for patients and to provide emergency financial assistance to colleagues in need.



# HSHS named one of Becker's **Top 150 places to work**

In April, Becker's Healthcare released their **150 Top Places to Work in Healthcare in 2022** list, which
highlights hospitals, health systems and health care
companies that promote diversity within the workforce,
employee engagement and professional growth.

This year, Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) was among the esteemed honorees for going above and beyond to foster a great workplace culture, benefits and colleague satisfaction.

HSHS offers opportunities to build successful careers above and beyond the average health care provider or company. HSHS encourages professional development and promotes leadership from within. HSHS also offers unique wellness and personal benefits to ensure colleagues strike a positive work/life balance, as well as colleague recognition programs to highlight their accomplishments.

"These kinds of recognitions are wonderful — but we will not stop here," said Damond Boatwright, HSHS president and CEO. "We will continue to improve on our professional development, diversity and inclusion, colleague engagement, workplace culture and more at HSHS. There is always — and I mean always — room for growth and improvement. We will strive to be even better for the benefit of our colleagues and the patients and communities we serve."

He continued, saying, "I know I am biased, but this recognition from Becker's just simply highlights what I already knew in my first year here — we have amazing people, unique benefits that promote wellness, opportunities for growth and a great workplace culture. I truly appreciate the colleagues who, through their service, has made HSHS one of the best places to work. I'm so proud to be a part of the HSHS family and that we've been recognized as one of the best in the country."

# HSHS Appreciation HUB

# established for colleagues

While HSHS has long had a tradition of celebrating our colleagues' milestones and important events, we heard from colleagues and leaders that there were opportunities to make our recognition efforts timelier and more meaningful. In addition to celebrating events such as service milestones and retirements, we also know that colleagues value day-to-day recognition from their leaders, and we wanted to find a way to better empower our leaders to build strong relationships within their teams.

HSHS set out to design a new program that could accomplish those goals and streamline our recognition efforts across the system. After researching best practices and various partners, HSHS implemented the HSHS Rewards and Recognition Program. The first phase of the program was streamlining our service awards and retirement gifts and implementing new hire gifts. Then, in August of 2022, we implemented the HSHS Appreciation Hub — an online portal where leaders and colleagues can send and receive recognition and redeem them for a wide array of gifts and rewards. Additionally, each week we observe Thankful Thursday where leaders are encouraged to dedicate time to building connections with their teams and recognizing their colleagues' efforts.

The HSHS Appreciation Hub has proven to be a valuable tool in our efforts to build a culture of recognition at HSHS. Through the hub, colleagues are able to receive recognition for both their contributions to the HSHS mission, as well as celebrate career and personal milestones from their first day through their retirement. Types of recognition include new hire recognition throughout their first year, service awards for milestone anniversaries, birthday and Christmas gifts and e-cards for professional and personal events. Additionally, the appreciation hub includes ways to send recognition to colleagues for everyday examples of demonstrating our core values or going above and beyond. Leaders have the ability to award recognition points through the hub that colleagues can redeem for rewards.

Through just five months since implementation, more than 49,000 recognitions have been sent, including more than 18,000 recognitions where leaders have awarded recognition points to colleagues.

#### HSHS welcomes several

#### new system-wide leaders in 2022



RACHELLE BARINA
Senior Vice President
and Chief Mission Officer



KIM HODGKINSON
Senior Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer



THERESA HORNE
Senior Vice President
and Chief Nursing Officer

HSHS welcomed several new system-wide leaders to the organization this year.

Rachelle Barina began her role as senior vice president and chief mission officer in February. Rachelle came to HSHS after nine years at SSM Health where she served as regional vice president of mission integration. In that role, she was responsible for mission integration, formation, spiritual care, community health, ethics, philanthropy and church relations across SSM Wisconsin. SSM Wisconsin includes more than 14,000 associates, 90 clinics, seven hospitals, a health plan, and home care and hospice services. Beyond her regional responsibilities, Rachelle also served as an ethicist for SSM.

Rachelle holds a doctorate of philosophy in health care ethics from Saint Louis University; a master's of theological studies from Vanderbilt University; a bachelor's in theology and religious studies from Saint Norbert College; and is a certified health care ethics consultant. She also serves as a faculty member at the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics at Saint Louis University.

Kim Hodgkinson was announced as the new HSHS senior vice president and chief financial officer (CFO) in April, and she began in July. Kim has 30 years of experience in health care finance operations, revenue cycle, managed care strategy, information technology, Epic implementations, supply chain, treasury and investments and retail services within complex health systems. She served as CFO at Mount Carmel Health System, a member of Trinity Health, in Columbus, Ohio, prior to joining HSHS. Kim has served in CFO roles at several other notable Catholic health systems in her career, including PeaceHealth, Aurora Health Care and Ascension.

Theresa Horne was named the system's first senior vice president and chief nursing officer in May. This new executive leadership role at HSHS was seen as critical for improving nursing and patient care. Theresa began her role in June. She came to HSHS from Tenet Healthcare, where she served as the system chief nurse and vice president of clinical operations. At Tenet, she was accountable for quality, safety, regulatory, nursing practice and leadership within 60 acute care facilities with 17,000 licensed inpatient beds, around 170,000 inpatient admissions, 27 surgical hospitals and 400 ambulatory surgery centers.

Theresa's 37-year career also includes having served as chief nursing officer of St. Dominic's Memorial Hospital in Mississippi. Prior to that, she served seven years in a variety of administrative roles, including associate vice president of clinical operations at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in Florida. She is a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, serving almost 21 years on active duty in a variety of clinical and administrative positions in facilities overseas and in the U.S. She was deployed to Iraq for 11 months in 2003, serving as a nurse practitioner with the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Tikrit, Iraq.

In September, the hire of **Damian Skelton**, the system's first vice president of facilities, was announced. In this role, Damian supports HSHS's strategic plan of moving to one unified organization as he oversees all HSHS facilities, design and construction, clinical engineering, real estate and security.

Damian came to HSHS from Medxcel Facilities Management, an Ascension company, where he served as area vice president. In this role, he oversaw an annual operations budget of \$120 million and 400 FTEs for 30-plus hospitals in Tennessee. Alabama, Florida and the northeastern



**DAMIAN SKELTON**Vice President of Facilities



MARK EVARD
Vice President of Revenue Cycle



JOANNE MASSON
Vice President of Care Management

United States. He has been responsible for over 13.2 million square feet of health care and medical office space and has deployed over \$800 million in capital budget improvement projects. Damian has worked in health care facilities management since August 2001.

Mark Evard is the new HSHS vice president of revenue cycle as of September. Mark came to HSHS from CHI St. Luke's Health in Houston, where he has served as division vice president of revenue cycle. With nearly 30 years of health care experience, Mark has been responsible for providing leadership, strategic vision and administrative direction to all division revenue cycle leaders and team members. During his tenure at St. Luke's, Mark oversaw the \$100 million implementation of Epic hospital billing, established a governance committee to improve performance inefficiencies, and redesigned portions of the department, which yielded \$500,000 in cost savings.

Joanne Masson accepted HSHS's offer to serve as vice president of care management in November. Joanne came to HSHS from Steward Health Care in Dallas, where she currently served as the vice president enterprise of care management. Joanne brings over two decades of case management leadership to HSHS. She has held various roles in case management at HCA Corporation, Tenet Healthcare and Health Management Associates, amongst others.

In this role, Joanne works collaboratively with key stake holders to centralize and standardize case management policies, practices workflow and data reporting within the system; establish strategic, tactical and financial plans to optimize the efficacy of clinical case management operations; and remove barriers to optimal performance including decreasing length of stay, reducing readmissions, ensuring regulatory compliance, reducing denials, and enhancing population health management.





# Partnering with Safe Families for Children to help families in crisis

Since 2015, HSHS Illinois has partnered with Safe Families for Children to offer support for families in crisis. Safe Families for Children surrounds families facing a crisis with caring, compassionate community and wraparound resources. They partner with trained volunteers to host vulnerable children and create extended family-like support systems for families in crisis and/or socially isolated families.

HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield developed the first hospital-based partnership with them to work with our NICU families in crisis and socially isolated families (primarily single moms) who need care for their children during a medical crisis. This past year, we expanded our partnership by donating space to them for their Springfield/Central Illinois office, across from HSHS St. John's campus. With this, they are able to provide a safe space for their families in crisis to meet with them and receive wraparound services, family coaching and crisis support.

Over this past year, HSHS Illinois adopted protocol to begin partnering with Safe Families at HSHS St. Elizabeth's to assist families in the Metro East area. There are currently plans to launch similar partnerships at HSHS St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur and HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital in Effingham, with an eventual goal to launch partnerships across all Illinois ministries.

#### Health screenings for older adults

Older adults are disproportionately affected by chronic disease, with conditions like heart disease, stroke and diabetes among the leading causes of death. These conditions threaten independence by limiting the ability to perform basic tasks, contribute a significant cost burden and affect overall quality of life. Meanwhile, studies indicate Americans — including older Americans — delayed medical care during the pandemic and reported negative impacts to their health as a result.

When asked to provide health screenings at UW-Eau Claire's Academy for Lifelong Learners for those "55 and better," HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital and Prevea Health leapt at the opportunity to offer blood pressure, blood glucose and cholesterol checks, along with a stroke risk assessment. Approximately 50 attendees opted for the health screening, which included a results consultation and education on chronic disease prevention and management. HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital Stroke Coordinator Annie Letkiewicz worked with staff for months to plan and implement these efforts.

"The screenings provided the opportunity to identify potential health concerns as well as ways to learn how to manage and prevent chronic diseases," Letkiewicz said. "It was truly a pleasure to be able to provide this service to our community."



Chronic disease prevention and management ranked among the top priorities in the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessments for Chippewa and Eau Claire counties.

The annual academy returned in 2022 after taking a pandemic pause. HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital has been recognized by the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association for meeting the latest research-based standards for resuscitation care with the Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke GOLD Plus Quality Achievement Award.

#### 10,000 smiles and counting in Brown County

In Wisconsin, one third of children are on Medicaid. Of this population, only 28 percent receive dental care. Improving access to dental care can lead to better overall health and a reduction of patients seeking emergent dental care services in hospital emergency departments.

Oral Health Partnership (OHP), a nonprofit founded in Green Bay, provides underserved children living in Brown County and surrounding counties access to preventive, restorative and emergency dental services at no cost. It offers a school-based dental care program, five clinic locations throughout Green Bay, and partners with three Green Bay hospitals — including HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center — to provide treatment for complex dental conditions that require an operating room setting. In 2022 alone, a record 10,056 children were treated.

As an OHP partner, HSHS St. Vincent and St. Mary's hospitals provide operating room space and the assistance of its surgical staff to OHP physicians at no cost to OHP or the patient. Procedures may include the treatment of multiple cavities in young children, abscessed teeth and/or teeth extraction. Through direct grants, more than \$150,000 has been donated to support these efforts and more than 3,000 patients have been treated in HSHS facilities.





#### HOSPITAL SISTERS Mission Outreach

#### **Equipping to thrive** in Migori, Kenya

In July 2022, representatives from Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach traveled to Migori, Kenya, to attend the groundbreaking for a 60-bed mother/baby hospital. Kenya Relief, who has been working in Migori for 20 years, and is a long-time partner with Mission Outreach, is constructing the new hospital with the goal of reducing infant and maternal mortality rates in the Migori region. They are currently 20 times higher than that of the United States.

Mission Outreach has made a multi-year commitment to the "Equipped to Thrive"

Mission Outreach has made a multi-year commitment to the "Equipped to Thrive" mother/baby hospital. The organization intends to provide up to five 40-foot containers of medical supplies and equipment, which are procured from hospitals and clinics around the Midwest. In addition, health professionals from Mission Outreach and Hospital Sisters Health System will donate capacity building services, such as: biomedical support, inventory management, supply chain optimization, and nursing education to the project.

"Our goal is to support the work of Kenya Relief to improve health and create opportunity for citizens of Migori to learn and work in the hospital," said Erica Smith, executive director of Mission Outreach. "COVID-19 has reminded us that global health is local health, so we're looking forward to also learning from our Kenyan partners as we share resources and information."

Mission Outreach estimates it will invest approximately \$250,000 into the project, with a sizable return on investment anticipated. The contribution of donated medical supplies, equipment, and services to the "Equipped to Thrive" project will be worth about \$2.5 million. The new hospital is scheduled to open in phases, with the birth center opening in 2024 and other specialties following over the next three years.

#### Biomedical equipment program growing

Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach saw an upward trend in the donation of biomedical equipment in FY 22, with more than 750 pieces of equipment (including necessary transformers) worth approximately \$700,000 procured. This equipment, when accompanied with support services, will assist hospitals and clinics in low-resource settings around the world.

The Mission Outreach Biomed program, led by bioengineer Ratish Kumar, was able to assess, evaluate and repair more than 400 pieces of equipment worth \$320,000. This equipment, with the required transformers, went on shipments to countries such as Tanzania, Sudan, Paraguay, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Ghana, Cuba, Venezuela, South Sudan, Zambia, South Africa, the Philippines, and other destinations where access to high-quality biomedical equipment is very limited.





## Investment in rural health

A partnership between Mission Outreach, St. Elizabeth Hospital in Arusha and the Rotary Club of Green Bay will have lasting impacts on the health and wellbeing of thousands of people throughout northern Tanzania.

On Dec. 16, 2022, a container of medical supplies and equipment from Mission Outreach arrived at St. Elizabeth Hospital. It held 1,309 pieces of medical equipment/boxes of supplies weighing 17,881 pounds. The value of the contents, in American dollars, was \$432,029 — an impressive return on a \$38,000 investment (the comprehensive cost to create and ship the container). More importantly, this container of supplies will save the lives of people who otherwise may not have access to even basic health care.

#### HOSPITAL SISTERS MISSION OUTREACH BY THE NUMBERS | FY 2022



28 Countries served.



\$9.2 million

Value of supply and equipment donations.

Midwest hospitals and clinics partners who gave supplies and equipment.



9,743
Volunteer hours donated - equivalent to 5 full-time employees.



46

Containers of medical supplies and equipment shipped.

758
Containers of medical supplies and equipment shipped since





#### HSHS St. John's Hospital

# Matthew Fry joins HSHS as St. John's president and CEO

Matthew Fry joined the HSHS team as president and CEO of St. John's Hospital on Sept. 19, 2022. Matt moved to Springfield with his wife Amanda, and children, Charlotte (Charlie, 4), Samantha (2) and Matt Jr. (10 months). When he accepted the position, Matt was serving as the assistant administrator/COO at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center (ABSMC) in Oakland, Cal. Prior to this

role, he held the positions of area operations executive/COO for Sutter Valley Medical Foundation in Sacramento; director of clinical operations at Sutter Physician Services in Salt Lake City; and home health administrator at Sutter Care at Home in San Leandro, Cal. Matt is currently working on his Doctor of Healthcare Administration from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Miss., and expects to complete the program in 2023.

Matt jumped into his role at St. John's by rounding with leaders, communicating with colleagues during a town hall and participating in a CEO panel at Southern Illinois University Medical School. He also wasted no time introducing himself to the Springfield community, joining the Knights of Columbus, attending multiple breast cancer walks and riding in the Parent Place Halloween Parade Presented by HSHS Medical Group.

Fry's missioning ceremony took place on Dec. 7. "I am blessed to be able to serve at St. John's Hospital. The colleagues and community have been welcoming, and I am excited about all of the work we will accomplish together in the coming years," said Fry.

#### Prayer service for an end to the pandemic



and priest chaplain Fr. Callistus gathered in the critical care unit to pray for the end of the pandemic. The space, once filled with COVID-19 patients, was blessed with holy water. Prayers were offered for the healing of both hospital colleagues and the community as we move forward into the next season of health care, never forgetting the lives that were lost.

On April 7, St. John's colleagues, leaders

# First responders recognized with **stork pinning program**





HSHS St. John's Hospital is renewing its tradition of awarding stork pins in recognition of first responders who assist in the pre-hospital delivery of an infant. On Aug. 11, three members of the Springfield Fire Department and two members of the Chatham Fire Department were honored for their assistance with a healthy delivery on Father's Day, June 19, 2022.

"Delivering a baby pre-hospital is a badge of honor for first responders," said Tina Molohon, RN, TNS, TCCC, trauma coordinator, HSHS St. John's Hospital. "We are so excited to once again offer the stork pin program to our region."

The baby delivered by the firemen was Corbin Sarsany. "I hate to think what would happen if it weren't for the fire departments," said Sara Sarsany, Corbin's mother. "They were there just in time and did their job efficiently. We are so thankful to them and owe them everything."

St. John's Hospital provides emergency childbirth education to the emergency medical services (EMS) community free of charge. All five firefighters pinned in August received their emergency childbirth education from St. John's. St. John's will continue to award stork pins to EMS personnel who deliver a baby pre-hospital who is then taken to St. John's for care.





# Community pet blessing

On Oct. 2, members of Springfield community brought their pets to HSHS St. John's for a pet blessing as part of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi celebrations. Priest chaplain Fr. Callistus led the brief ceremony on the lawn of St. John's Pavilion. It was a meaningful celebration of the joy that pets bring to our lives and the work that God has given us to care for them as his creatures.







#### Easter time made memorable

For children, Easter is a special time when the Easter bunny visits, eggs are decorated and hidden, and springtime activities are plentiful. Thanks to generous donors and volunteers, children staying at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital did not miss out on the joy of Easter this year. Abby Sgro and her family spearheaded an Easter event,

donating and planning activities, in honor of their daughter Adelie's first birthday. Adelie spent several days in the pediatric intensive care unit this year fighting RSV, and both Sgro daughters spent time in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

Pediatric patients and their families enjoyed an Easter egg hunt in the healing garden, a special visit from the Easter bunny, surprise window washers, a visit from children's hospital mascots CJ and Joey, guest readers, cookie decorating, Easter baskets, sing-a-longs and so much more! Each NICU patient also received an Easter onesie. In addition to the Sgro family and other generous donors, the St. John's Family Advisory Board, SIU resident staff volunteers, St. John's College of Nursing students, foundation staff and friends of the family all donated their time and talent to make the event possible. "All of this is more than worth it if one child, one family, feels happy today," said Sgro.



# Garden club receives national award for healing garden

The Springfield Civic Garden Club received a prestigious national award from the National Garden Clubs, Inc., for their work in the Panda Cares Center of Hope Pediatric Healing Garden at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital. The garden was chosen as the overall winner in the G-3 therapy gardens category.

Garden club members volunteer their time to decorate the healing garden at the beginning of each season. Additionally, they tend to the garden each week to make sure the flowers are beautiful and blooming for our patients and their families.



# Named area's best children's hospital

HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital was named Readers' Choice for Best Children's Hospital by The State Journal-Register this fall. President and CEO Matthew Fry, Chief Nursing Officer Allison Paul, and Women and Infants Center Nurse Manager Jessica Gonko were present to receive the awards. Two St. John's Hospital colleagues were also named finalists in this year's awards: Donna Chestnut, MS, RD, for best dietitian and Amy Nichols, RN, for best nurse/nurse practitioner.

#### Santa's Workshop provides Christmas cheer



HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital hosted Santa's Workshop, a Christmas gift store for pediatric patients who spent the holiday in the hospital. Parents and guardians were able to shop for Christmas presents free of charge to be opened on Christmas Day. In addition to free presents for our pediatric patients, Santa's Workshop also had a hot cocoa station and volunteers to help wrap gifts.

Toys and gifts were donated by community members. Santa's Workshop was sponsored by Mike McGraw and the McGraw family who graciously donated the funds to help run the Christmas gift store and purchase needed supplies.



Honoring legacy donor of \$1.125 million scholarship gift

In June, St. John's College of Nursing honored and remembered the late Patricia Ann Sur Hart who endowed \$1.125 million to the college to establish a scholarship fund.

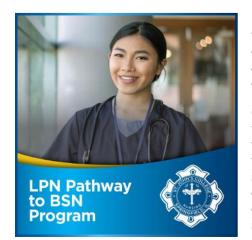
A native of Effingham, III., Patricia Ann Sur Hart (1934-2021) was a 1955 graduate of St. John's Hospital School of Nursing. After working in Denver, Colo., as a registered nurse for about two years, she returned to Springfield, III., and continued her education at St. John's Hospital School of Anesthesia. She then entered the workforce as a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

In 1970, Pat moved to Lexington, Ky., and began working at Good Samaritan Hospital. Pat married Emette Hart in 1972, and they enjoyed many years together, traveling extensively. She enjoyed golfing, sewing, political conversations, reading and rooting for University of Kentucky basketball.

Pat was aware of the sacrifices her parents made to send their three children to college. That surely was a factor in Pat donating one of the largest single gifts to St. John's College of Nursing to be used for endowed scholarships. The first scholarship recipient of the newly established endowment was Raven Smith of Springfield, Ill., a senior at St. John's College working toward her Bachelor of Science in nursing.



# St. John's College offers first LPN to BSN pathway program in Illinois



In January, St. John's College of Nursing announced a transition plan of study for the licensed practical nurse (LPN) professionals seeking to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. LPNs now can achieve a BSN in the same amount of time it would take to earn an associate degree. This is the first and only LPN pathway to the BSN program in the state of Illinois.

Charlene Aaron, PhD, RN, chancellor of St. John's College, credited the inspiration for this new pathway to Capital Area School of Practical Nursing students who were motivated to find a better way to enhance their education and advance their degrees. "Many barriers to achieving the higher degree have been removed," said Dr. Aaron. "We are excited to be the first nursing college in the state to offer this pathway. Recognition of prior learning contributes to the credits for completion of the BSN, and a tailored transitions course is a part of the first semester curriculum."



HSHS St. Mary's Hospital

#### Share Walk for Remembrance & Hope

In honor of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month in October, the HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Share Program hosted the Share Walk for Remembrance and Hope. The gathering invited families to Decatur's Nelson Park for a walk along the lake shore, a memorial service and reading of each child's name to celebrate their lives.



**DR. VINIL BHUMA** 

## HSHS St. Mary's welcomes new chief medical officer

On July 11, HSHS St. Mary's Hospital welcomed Vinil Bhuma, MD, MBA, CPE, FAAFP, FACMQ, SFHM, as its new chief medical officer (CMO). Dr. Bhuma came to St. Mary's Hospital from UnityPoint Health-Trinity Regional Medical Center in Fort Dodge, Iowa, where he was chief medical information officer, as well as the president of the medical staff. He also served as chair of the board of health and medical director for the Webster County Health Department in Iowa. At the national level, he is the current chair for the accreditation advisory board for the Det Norske Veritas (DNV) accreditation organization and vice-chair of the professional certification board for Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS).

During his first months with St. Mary's, Dr. Bhuma has focused much of his attention on physician communication, hoping to continue to boost HCAHPS scores in this area. He continually meets with physicians regarding trends and encourages them to reach out to discuss ideas and opportunities for better communication. Additionally, a digital communication board will be added to the physician lounge to increase awareness around initiatives and hospital events.



## Cancer Survivors' Day Celebration

Every year, Cancer Care Specialists of Illinois, Decatur Memorial Hospital and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital join together to celebrate cancer survivors. This year's event took place on June 5 at Fairview Park. Food was provided by Notorious PIG and attendees enjoyed live music from the local band, Pizzazz! Hundreds of community cancer survivors attended to celebrate each other's successes.

## St. Mary's hosts students interested in health care

In June, the Jerry J. Dawson Civic Leadership Institute (DCLI) health care boot camp program provided first-hand experiences in the medical profession to Decatur high school students. The week-long program consisted of job shadowing at HSHS St. Mary's Hospital and Decatur Memorial Hospital (DMH), first aid and CPR training and a trip to St. John's College of Nursing. The first day of boot camp included a lunch and discussion with Drew Early, president & CEO of DMH, and Theresa Rutherford, president & CEO of St. Mary's.



#### Minority Donor Awareness Month **prayer service**

On Aug. 2, HSHS St. Mary's partnered with Life Goes On and Gift of Hope in holding a prayer service in honor of National Minority Donor Awareness Month. National Minority Donor Awareness Month aims to save and improve the quality of life of diverse communities by creating a positive culture around organ, eye and tissue donation among populations that are often under-represented on organ donor registries

The prayer service included readings, prayers and a candle lighting ceremony honoring those who have donated organs to those waiting for transplants. A donor drive was held after the service to encourage community members to learn more about organ donation and join the organ and tissue registry.



# **Relaxation and Renewal Room** for colleagues

On July 19, HSHS St. Mary's held a blessing ceremony for a new colleague space, the Relaxation and Renewal Room. The space is meant to provide respite from the realities of serving in health care and demonstrates St. Mary's dedication to the mental health of its colleagues.





# Cancer Care Center community outreach efforts to screen and educate our communities







For Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in March, St. Elizabeth's Hospital wanted people to understand how important it is to not delay preventive screenings, which could detect colon cancer in its earliest stages. The clinical team at St. Elizabeth's Radiation Oncology Center held a colorectal cancer awareness drive-through event to giveaway free at-home colon cancer test kits.

Using the InSure ONE at-home screening test, patients picked up their specimen kit in early March and returned samples to the Cancer Care Center of O'Fallon by the end of the month. St. Elizabeth's laboratory analyzed the specimens, and results were reviewed by a physician and provided to each participant and their primary care provider.

Of the 129 at-home screening kits that were given away, 112 were returned and five tested positive for cancer cells, allowing for treatment to start at this very early stage.

"Most of the colorectal cancer patients do not have a family history and may not have symptoms. This is why it is important to get screened when you are eligible," said St. Elizabeth's Radiation Oncology Center Medical Director Camille Williams, MD. "If caught early, colorectal cancer can be successfully treated, so it is important not to delay preventive screenings."

St. Elizabeth's Cancer Care Center also hosted the inaugural Breast Cancer Awareness Fun Walk in October 2022 for survivors of breast cancer and their family and friends who support them to recognize each patient's past and present journeys and offer visible support from

our community. The event was free to all, and over 400 people attended this first-time event, which included a 1.5-mile walk, free t-shirts, giveaway goodie bags, breast cancer education and mammogram appointment scheduling opportunities.

Donations of any amount were accepted to be used to fund transportation to relieve some of our patients' financial burdens, especially as it relates to transportation, which is a barrier to care and a challenge in this region. Close to \$3,000 was raised and will be used to purchase gas cards and transportation vouchers for patients in need in the coming year.

# Leading the region with new surgical technologies to best **serve our patients**



Three new surgical systems have been implemented at the hospital, including deep brain stimulation with the StealthStation S8 Surgical Navigation System, Aquablation therapy with AQUABEAM Robotic System and the Luminous pulse laser. HSHS St. Elizabeth's Foundation has provided more than \$1 million of funding to support the purchase of these new surgical technologies.



Advanced neurological system helping Parkinson's patients: St. Elizabeth's was the first in the Metro East region to utilize the StealthStation S8 Surgical Navigation System for deep brain stimulation (DBS), which has greatly expanded our neurological services, especially for patients suffering from Parkinson's Disease. DBS can be used as a treatment for essential tremor, Parkinson's disease, dystonia, epilepsy and other conditions and is FDA-approved. It uses a small, pacemaker-like device placed under the skin of the chest to send electrical signals through extensions and very thin wires (leads) to an area in the brain that controls movement. This implanted device delivers an electrical current to specifically mapped areas of the brain to improve the functions of those parts. In combination with medication, DBS therapy can greatly help people with Parkinson's enjoy an improved quality of daily life.

A new minimally invasive, robotic treatment for enlarged prostates: Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), or an enlarged prostate, is a non-cancerous condition where the prostate has grown to be larger than normal. One in two men ages 51 to 60 have BPH and, if left untreated, BPH can cause significant health problems, including irreversible bladder or kidney damage, bladder stones and incontinence. In 2022, St. Elizabeth's purchased the AQUABEAM Robotic System to be the first hospital in our service area to offer Aquablation therapy for the treatment of lower urinary tract symptoms due to BPH. It is the next step to furthering our commitment to robotic surgery and men's health, and we are very proud to offer this advanced yet minimally invasive treatment to our patients.

**Investment in technology to treat kidney stones:** St. Elizabeth's invested in a Lumenis Pulse Laser, a new laser technology to ease the treatment of kidney stones. The system allows urologists the precision to perform minimally invasive procedures to remove kidney stones of all sizes. For patients, it means 20% faster procedures, less anesthesia use, faster recovery times and a greater likelihood the procedure can be performed on an outpatient basis without a hospital stay.





# Youth Adaptive Try-athlon offers inclusive opportunity for youth with physical challenges to 'run their race' with joy





HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital held its inaugural "Meet Me at the Finish Line" Youth Adaptive Try-athlon in September 2022 to offer children with disabilities the opportunity to experience the feelings of accomplishment and joy with the backdrop of cheering friends and family.

The adaptive try-athlon was for kids up to 15 years old who are overcoming physical challenges. Seventeen kids participated in swimming, biking and run/walking events. Adaptive bikes were donated by the Sullivan, Ill., chapter of AMBUCS, whose chapter members volunteered their time at the event to help fit the athletes to the appropriate style bike. Over 150 people attended the event as volunteers, cheerleaders, buddies, and family and friends of the athletes.

The idea came from the passion and commitment of physical therapist Alex Kastl, who had volunteered in an adaptive triathlon in the St. Louis area when he was in college. "I thought it would be great for this area, to promote health and wellness while also helping the kids gain self-confidence," said Kastl. "I just wanted to give these kids a chance to do something they had never done before."

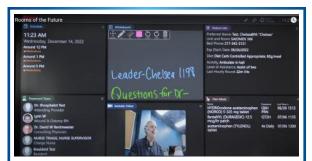
Jamie Wellbaum, mother of one of the athletes and a physical therapy assistant at St. Anthony's, shared after the event, "Cole is still so proud that he is still wearing his medal! As a parent, it was nothing short of amazing. And as a therapist to these sweet kiddos, I witnessed them crush their goals, meet new friends, families finding support to help them, and newfound confidence in our patients."

# **First in nation** to use new advanced surgical table for urology procedures



HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital is the first hospital in not only the nation, but even North or South America, to install and use the newly developed Nautilus operating table and X-ray system from Dornier MedTech. This innovative unit gives urologists a high degree of flexibility, increasing patient comfort and enhancing examination quality.

With the Nautilus' C-arm and motorized free-standing treatment table, X-ray images can be taken during procedures from different planes without having to reposition the patient. The high-resolution imaging from unprecedented positions and angles offers doctors a wider area to X-ray in one image, helping with diagnosis and treatment.



# Increasing **patient experience** through technology

HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital recently piloted a new program that uses technology to improve patient communication.

Current communication boards in each room are manually updated by staff. Virtual boards are like classroom smartboards. When a patient's electronic chart is updated, it shows on the display in the room so the patient and family can see the exact details of care. The virtual boards also allow for telehealth consults with a physician who may not be at the hospital, but he/she could evaluate the patient and discuss with the care team, patient and visitors in the room together.

# Partnership supports children and families in the community

HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital has been the main supporter of the Crisis Nursery of Effingham County since its beginnings in 2017. The Crisis Nursery's mission is to prevent and protect children from trauma, abuse, and neglect by providing a free, 24-hour emergency shelter care program for children birth through age six.

Several hospital colleagues volunteer their time to serve on the Crisis Nursery board due to their passion for helping families and children in our area. Through this connection, we often co-host events designed to help spread their mission and gather resources and support.

During Child Abuse Prevention Month in April 2022, we partnered with the nursery to "stuff the truck" with donations of childcare supplies and monetary donations to help them continue providing vital 24/7



support to families in our community. The event was held in St. Anthony's Health Center parking lot and gathered over 4,700 diapers; almost 400 snack items; toys/art supplies and clothing items; and more than \$1,400 in monetary donations.

Our mission to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality Franciscan health care ministry extends well beyond the doors of our hospital. Our support and partnership with the Crisis Nursery of Effingham County continues to be one of the best examples of this mission in action.





#### **Wound Care Center opens**

HSHS St. Francis Hospital opened a specialized Wound Care Center this year. After a ribbon cutting and blessing of the space, the wound care team started seeing patients in March 2022. St. Francis partners with Healogics, the nation's leading provider of advanced, chronic wound care services, to manage chronic or non-healing wounds.



President and CEO Jim Timpe noted, "The decision to start an outpatient center, devoted exclusively to wound care, reflects our commitment to a need in the community to address an overall increase in chronic non-healing wounds. I'm proud we can offer easy access to these proven therapies conveniently within our facility."

The team of specially trained professionals works in partnership with the patient and their primary physician throughout the course of treatment with the goal of achieving the best possible standard of living for the individual. Patients who benefit from treatment at the wound care center are those suffering from wounds that haven't healed within a reasonable time frame, are diabetic or have pressure ulcers, infections or compromised skin grafts.





# St. Francis recognized with **five-star rating**

HSHS St. Francis Hospital received a five-star overall hospital rating for quality from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in 2022, the top score in the federal agency's ratings system.

HSHS St. Francis Hospital President and CEO Jim Timpe shared, "This rating truly reflects the work our colleagues and physicians have accomplished to enhance the care they provide to our patients and family members. We are committed to continue providing this exceptional level of care to those who entrust us with their health care."

The CMS' overall hospital rating summarizes a variety of more than 100 measures divided into five areas of quality reflecting common conditions that hospitals treat, such as heart attacks or pneumonia. The overall hospital rating shows how well each hospital performed, on average, compared to other hospitals in the U.S., ranging from one to five stars. The more stars, the better a hospital performed on the available quality measures. Out of the 3,121 hospitals ranked nationwide through this rating system, only 431 hospitals, or 13.81%, received the five-star overall hospital rating.

# Robinson Brothers Homecoming Concert III returns

HSHS St. Francis Foundation and hospital administration were extremely excited to bring back the Robinson Brothers for a special public event after a multi-year hiatus, due to the pandemic. The Robinson Brothers Homecoming Concert III offered two performances in October 2022 at the Litchfield Community Center. This year's theme was "Together, We Can Beat Cancer," and proceeds raised were dedicated to expanding St. Francis' Cancer Center. A total of \$86,000 was raised over the event weekend.

The event was an opportunity for St. Francis to highlight the important care offered within the cancer center. Since it opened in 2017, the center has been dedicated to providing patients with quality oncology treatment close to home. With the increasing volume of patients, the future expansion will double the existing area to 11 infusion spaces and create the necessary room to accommodate the expected need over the next 20 years. The planned expansion will include removing walls and reconfiguring hallways to create one large infusion space with a centrally located nursing station.

The Robinson Brothers are from Litchfield and graduated from Litchfield High School. The brothers were excited to return to their hometown and stated, "Cancer affects us all. We are 100 percent behind this cause."





# HSHS St. Joseph's Foundation and SOGA honor physicians for **dedication and service**

HSHS St. Joseph's Foundation in Breese dedicated the women and infants center surgery suite at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in June 2022. The suite was dedicated thanks to a contribution made to St. Joseph's Foundation from Southern OB/GYN Associates (SOGA), who made the donation in honor of SOGA physicians Dr. Richard Dermody and Dr. Penny Gozia.

Dr. Dermody founded the SOGA practice in 1981 after completing his residency at Southern Illinois University (SIU) in Springfield. At that time, Dr. Dermody was the only obstetrician/gynecologist on staff at St. Joseph's (family practice physicians also were delivering babies then) and was on call 24/7 year-round for his patients. Dr. Dermody retired from SOGA in 2004 and moved to Seattle to be closer to family.

Dr. Gozia joined Dr. Dermody at the SOGA practice in 1987. Dr. Gozia came to Breese from Vandalia where she worked briefly after finishing her residency at SIU-Springfield. In addition to all her clinical duties, Dr. Gozia assumed the responsibility of running the practice, as well, and in 2003 received her Master of Business Administration from SIU-Edwardsville. Dr. Gozia retired from SOGA in 2019 to spend more time with her family.

Dr. Anne Doll-Pollard, president of SOGA, shared how Drs. Dermody and Gozia worked together to build the practice. "They were dedicated to the practice and their patients. They would take every-other night and weekend call. If one was on vacation, the other assumed all the duties of seeing patients in the office and taking call at night and on weekends," she said. "They treated the whole patient and ensured that patient care was always first. It is our honor to honor them in this way."

Both doctors also helped to educate the nursing staff in the women and infants center, as well. In fact, Dr. Gozia still returns on a regular basis to help educate new staff members.

#### St. Joseph's welcomes Aaron Puchbauer as **president & CEO**



On Aug. 15, 2022, Aaron Puchbauer (pictured at left in center) began serving as president and CEO of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Breese. Puchbauer had previously served as president and CEO of HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital in Shelbyville since 2017.

Puchbauer began his career with HSHS in 2009 as an administrative fellow at HSHS St. John's Hospital and the system services center in Springfield. After his fellowship, he was appointed director of operations at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield before serving there as interim president and CFO.

Puchbauer completed all his higher education at the University of Missouri in Columbia. He has a bachelor's degree in agribusiness management, a bachelor's in business administration-finance and banking, and master's degrees in business administration and health administration. He is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and was recognized with the Tomorrow's Leaders Award (top 10 Catholic healthcare leaders in the nation under 40) by the Catholic Health Association.

"It has been an honor to join the dedicated colleagues, providers and volunteers at St. Joseph's Hospital. I look forward to supporting the excellent health care they provide to the community," Puchbauer said.

#### Supporting our community

Throughout the year, the colleague mission team at HSHS St. Joseph's in Breese looks for opportunities to participate in activities that meet community needs. One such activity involved partnering with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a volunteer organization that builds beds for kids who are sleeping on the floor. In March 2022, colleagues at St. Joseph's held a drive to collect bedding. As another means



of supporting the organization, a number of our colleagues participated in a bed build in May 2022 sponsored by eight squadrons of Clinton County Sons of The American Legion in Beckemeyer. Alongside more than 50 volunteers, they helped build 30 beds for Clinton County kids.

Encouraging local students to consider health care as a career choice is another way we support our community. This past year, St. Joseph's donated medical equipment and supplies to Mater Dei Catholic High School to support their new nurse aid program that began this 2022-2023 school year. The items included beds, bedside tables, a stretcher, CPR manikins, linens, and other medical equipment and supplies that had been replaced with newer items to support the program.



# Auxiliary and Share donations help support hospital

HSHS St. Joseph's Auxiliary is committed to promoting and advancing the welfare of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital through various means of volunteer services and fundraising. As a demonstration of this commitment, the auxiliary presented a check to hospital department representatives in May 2022 to help enhance their services to the community. The auxiliary donations were funded from proceeds from the gift shop, quilt raffles, book sales and other activities.

St. Joseph's Hospital, auxiliary and Share representatives presented a combined donation of \$14,000 for the women and infants center. The donation purchased an additional enhanced infant warmer, which will help more than 500 babies born at the hospital each year, as a warmer is used after every delivery. Share, a support group for anyone who has lost a baby, used proceeds from their annual fall walk-a-thon for their part of the donation.

The auxiliary also presented a donation of \$7,000 to the hospital's surgery department for equipment which will assist with colonoscopy procedures. The hospital used the funds for a carbon dioxide (CO2) insufflation device and a new monitor.



HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital honored the following registered nurses who continued their clinical development growth in the nursing career ladder

#### Platinum level: Lyndsey Gelly

#### Gold level:

Holly Delen
Emily Duffin
Stephanie Grant
Samantha Hempen
Melissa Menietti
Tammy Rench
Irene Siebert

#### Silver level:

Casey Bifoss Caitlin Harrison Vicki Huelsmann Caitlin Sullivan

## Registered nurses honored for professional growth and advancement

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland honored four registered nurses who continued their clinical development growth by participating in the hospital's Nursing Clinical Ladder (NCL) program in 2022.

The NCL promotes the lifelong pursuit of expertise of the clinical nurse. The overall goal of the program is to continue to provide high-quality nursing care and opportunities for clinical nurses to experience professional growth and advancement. To apply for the program, nurses must complete a pledge of participation to commit to the program over a determined timeframe.

There are four levels of clinical growth outlined in the program, Bronze, silver, gold and platinum. Each level outlines requirements for achievement that increase the higher the level. These include references from co-workers/managers and some exemplars (written illustrations of the nurse's professional practice) about patients the nurse has cared for and learned from. Nurses also are required to have a selection of continuing education pertinent to their unit.

Each level has monetary awards for recipients who achieve that level, funded by the HSHS St. Joseph's Foundation in Highland. A total of \$6,000 was divided among the four individuals, depending on the level of achievement reached.





# Spreading joy to **our patients**

Our inpatient care team is always providing fun ways to improve patient experience. In spring of 2022, they added bird feeders outside the patient room windows.

For Halloween, the inpatient care colleagues coordinated a Halloween parade to walk by patient windows. Hospital colleagues and their family members joined in and dressed up as well.



# Caring for our community

Patrick Small, director of emergency services, was awarded the I Promise Award for living our mission and going above and beyond to show care and respect to a man and his son.

Patrick was contacted by another colleague who stated someone needed help at the front desk. When he arrived, he found a father in distress and very anxious because his six-year-old son wouldn't take the medication he was prescribed. While talking to the father, Patrick learned his son was recently seen at another health care facility where he was diagnosed with an ear infection. His father was very worried and concerned his son wouldn't take the medication, so he brought him up to the hospital because he didn't know what else to do.

Patrick took the father and son to the hospital's Lavender Room — a calm, relaxing room that is often used by colleagues. He not only talked to the father, but also talked to the child to understand why he wouldn't take the medication. After some discussion Patrick was able to get the boy to take the medication.

# St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval®



HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Hospital Accreditation by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a

health care organization's commitment to providing safe and quality patient care.

HSHS St. Joseph's underwent a rigorous, unannounced onsite review for a week in mid-May 2022. During the visit, a team of reviewers from The Joint Commission evaluated compliance with hospital standards spanning

several areas, including emergency management, environment of care, infection prevention and control, leadership, medication management, and rights and responsibilities of the individual.

"HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital is pleased to receive reaccreditation from The Joint Commission, the premier health care quality improvement and accrediting body in the nation," added hospital President and CEO John Ludwig. "I am proud of all our colleagues as they continue to work together to develop and implement approaches to offer quality care combined with compassion to the patients in our community."





# Remembering our past and investing in our future

Our growth and success this past year can be attributed to our unwavering commitment to providing high-quality health care for the residents of Bond County. Additionally, this past year brought new opportunities that allowed us to honor our past as we invested in our future.

As part of our ongoing commitment to patient safety, we began the year by going live on Epic, our new electronic health record system. Epic provides a safe and secure technology platform for a patient's health information to be shared with nurses, physicians and other caregivers. It also enhances transparent communication across locations and specialties.

"This past year, we have accomplished much together for our community. We honor our past and the good work of those who preceded us, while making plans and progress to ensure exceptional care into the future. All of our achievements, especially being one of only 431 hospitals in the U.S. to receive a CMS five-star rating, demonstrates why Holy Family continues to be our community's first choice for quality health care."

- Kelly Sager, President and CEO

We also are continually committed to improving access to care, thus we introduced two new therapies to assist patients in returning to their active life. Four of our physical therapists advanced their knowledge. Two became certified in pelvic floor therapy and the other two in lymphedema therapy. Pelvic floor therapy helps those with incontinence or pelvic pain issues, while certified lymphedema therapists help patients with lymphedema, a condition caused by the disruption of the lymphatic system which leads to painful swelling and possibly infection.

We also were excited to invite community members back to our hospital for weekly Friday Mass and our monthly, in-person diabetes support group meetings.

During the summer of 2022, we announced a significant investment in our hospital. To ensure a successful future for HSHS Holy Family Hospital, we began planning and implementing a project to remove the unoccupied structures that formerly housed the nursing home, known as Fair Oaks, to provide additional efficiencies for our facility. Additionally, to improve patient access and privacy, renovations were made to the main lobby/registration area.

Lastly, our biggest achievement in 2022 was receiving a five-star overall hospital rating for quality from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the top score in the federal agency's ratings system. This achievement is truly a demonstration of the hard work and dedication of our colleagues and physicians in elevating the quality and compassion we deliver to each and every patient.



# Education center offers nursing students hands-on experiences

This past year, an education center was established at HSHS Holy Family Hospital to provide clinical simulation labs to students who are enrolled in nursing programs. The center better prepares students for their clinical experience as it allows them to learn, practice and enhance their skills using computerized, programmable manikins in a no-risk, safe environment.

Holy Family President and CEO Kelly Sager shared her excitement at welcoming nursing students as a clinical site and the ability for them to practice their skills in the education center. "This offers many area students a chance to experience health care in a rural setting, while also growing our own future nurses. I'm confident that many may choose to stay in our rural hospital setting to care for family, friends and neighbors, another way we are continuing to keep care local," she said. "For those who move on to any number of health care settings, we will have given them a great learning environment to provide high-quality compassionate care anywhere."

# New Epic electronic health record system launched

In January 2022, HSHS Holy Family Hospital went live with Epic, a new electronic health record (EHR) system. This technological platform allows patients' medical information to be shared with nurses, physicians and other caregivers in one integrated system, enhancing transparent communication across hospital locations and specialties.

Holy Family patients now have access to Epic's patient portal, MyHSHS, a convenient, secure and confidential resource to view their medical records, manage appointments and communicate with providers. Patients can access MyHSHS from any computer or mobile device.

Holy Family's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ryan Jennings shared, "By using the same EHR, clinicians now have access to more complete and accurate information about the care of their patients at Holy Family Hospital or in one of our clinics. It puts important medical information, essential for diagnosis and treatment of patients, immediately at the fingertips of doctors and caregivers, including built-in alerts that help improve patient safety," he said. "Epic ultimately allows our caregivers to spend more time at the patient's bedside."



# Auxiliary donates highest annual amount ever

This past year, HSHS Holy Family Hospital Auxiliary presented HSHS Holy Family Hospital with the highest annual amount it has ever donated to the hospital — \$445,000, representing the funds raised by the auxiliary in 2021. These funds will assist the hospital in investing in technology to provide more services locally and enhance patient safety. With this donation, the auxiliary has raised over \$7.9 million for the hospital since 1957.

"Words can't express how extremely grateful we are to our auxiliary members for their dedication and loyalty to our hospital and the community we serve," said Kelly Sager, Holy Family president and CEO. "Their outstanding efforts and ongoing support allow us to enhance technology and elevate care for our patients and community."

Holy Family Hospital Auxiliary was formed in 1957 to support the mission of the hospital and its related entities. The auxiliary volunteers continue to live this out by supporting the hospital with volunteer hours and very generous financial contributions.





# Colleagues raise awareness at homecoming parade

Colleagues from HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital participated in this year's homecoming parade to promote the hospital foundation's initiative to purchase a new 3-D mammography machine for the hospital.

Imaging services at HSHS Good Shepherd include X-ray, MRI, CT, mammography, nuclear medicine and the addition of a brand new ultrasound machine. Our team of expert radiologic professionals offers industry leading imaging services and care, locally in Shelbyville.







# Good Shepherd welcomes Chad Markham as president and CEO

On Aug. 11, HSHS announced the appointment of Chad Markham, president and CEO of HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital in Effingham, Ill., to serve in an additional leadership role as president and CEO of HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital in Shelbyville, Ill. Markham has served as president and CEO of St. Anthony's since September 2021.

Before joining HSHS, he served as chief operating officer with UnityPoint Health's St. Luke's Hospital and previously held a variety of health care leadership roles at UnityPoint Health and MercyONE Hospital in Sioux City, Iowa.

Markham is a mission-driven, colleague-focused leader who is passionate about delivering high-quality, personalized health care and ensuring the well-being of all hospital colleagues. He and his wife, Michelle, have three children, Quincy, Libby and Rosie.

# New electronic health record system launched

In January, HSHS Good Shepherd went live with Epic electronic health record (EHR) system as part of its ongoing commitment to patient safety and excellent patient care. The new system has streamlined health information so it can easily be shared among caregivers, enhancing transparent communications across locations and specialties.

The switch to Epic allowed Good Shepherd Hospital to offer patients MyHSHS, an easy tool for health care management. MyHSHS, powered by MyChart, is a free online personal health record patients can access securely from their home computer, laptop or mobile device. MyHSHS gives patients the ability to view their medical record online and become an active participant in their own health and wellness.





## HSHS Medical Group



#### Schwartz Rounds

#### encourage caregivers

Recognizing the emotional challenges that can come from working in health care, HSHS Physician Enterprise introduced Schwartz Rounds, a multidisciplinary forum where caregivers discuss the difficult emotional and social issues that arise in caring for patients. Very different from clinical or ethics rounds, Schwartz Rounds are not about what happened, but how it felt. The mission of Schwartz Rounds is to promote compassionate health care and strengthen the relationship between patients and caregivers.

During a session, three panelists begin by sharing their own experience on the chosen topic. Discussion then opens to the whole room as other attendees share their own perspective, experience, encouragement and challenges with the emotions that come from caring for patients. Anything shared in sessions is completely confidential.

Dr. Michael Hushion, a physician with Prairie, served as a panelist for a session. He shared about the experience: "This was the first program like this I have taken part in. It is a great program for members of our care teams to come together to address aspects of medicine which are not commonly discussed with one another. It allowed us all to see we have similar feelings and emotions about difficult situations. These sessions will hopefully allow us more insight into our own biases so we can provide even more compassionate care to our patients going forward."

#### Stronger together:

#### **HSHS Physician Enterprise**

HSHS Medical Group and Prairie Cardiovascular have been partners in care for many years as physician groups of Hospital Sisters Health System in Illinois. In 2022 we joined as one division - HSHS Physician Enterprise.

To patients, we're the same HSHS Medical Group and Prairie Cardiovascular they have trusted for years.

Joining our administrative teams as Physician Enterprise





behind the scenes allows us to strengthen our referral network, implement process improvements, enhance the effectiveness of our electronic health record system, and continue to improve care coordination for our patients.

**HSHS Medical Group** 

#### 30 billion heartbeats and counting

Prairie's mobile cardiac telemetry program, Prairie Patient Care, grew exponentially in 2022 and celebrated the milestone of monitoring over 10,000 patients throughout the year. That's over 30 billion heartbeats! Monitored patients are located across our service area in Illinois, several states, and even in other countries. Patients enrolled in Patient Care receive the industry's first fully waterproof-submersible arrhythmia monitor which allows for continuous, 30-day near real-time monitoring.

#### Prairie Education and Research Cooperative supports clinical

## supports clinical advancement

Founded in 1983, Prairie Education and Research Cooperative (PERC) is a not-for-profit organization that focuses on medical education and research in an effort to improve our overall healthcare environment. By participating in research, both locally and non-locally, we are improving treatments and discovering better technologies that will improve the quality of life for those in our community and beyond.



Department of Continuing Education

Our participation includes our involvement in current clinical trials (local site), developing protocols and providing data management for current and future trials (multi-center), doing outcomes research, as well as wound and angiographic analysis (SynvaCor). In addition, PERC provides continuing medical education (CME) opportunities to our health care professionals so that they are kept abreast of these treatments and technologies and are well educated and qualified to care for their patients.

## Primary care patient growth

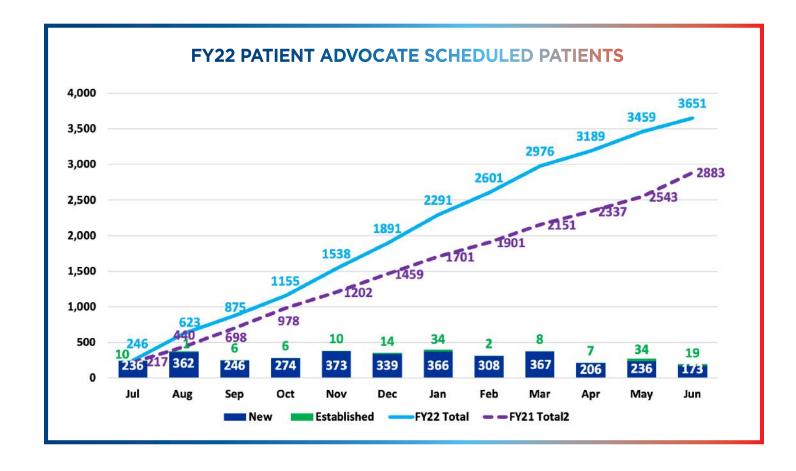
Primary care is the foundation of health care. Helping patients connect with a primary care physician or provider is an important step in connecting them with the resources they need to manage their health. Kim Schneider, HSHS Medical Group's patient advocate, significantly increased new patient appointment scheduling since last year. In fiscal year 2022, Kim scheduled 3,651 patients, 27% more patients than last fiscal year. Of these, 95% were new to HSHS Medical Group.

This year, Kim has started monitoring our appointment reminder portal for patients who respond to reminders via text. This allows us to help patients who respond with non-scripted responses to ensure their needs are addressed.

Kim also began monitoring the central scheduling in basket within Epic. She monitors this for appointment requests from patients who do not have an assigned HSHS primary care provider.



KIM SCHNEIDER
Patient Advocate



# PERC 2022 FAST FACTS ## of physicians and providers PERC is currently working with. ## of physicians and providers PERC is c

## HSHS PHYSICIAN ENTERPRISE BY THE NUMBERS | FY 2022

**HSHS Medical Group** 

1096

Colleagues

310

Physicians and Advanced Practice Clinicians

> 148 Clinics

linics

Around **800,915**Patient Visits

**Prairie Cardiovascular** 

394

Colleagues

115

Physicians and Advanced Practice Clinicians

45

Clinics

Around
237,159
Patient Visits





# International nurses help offset staff shortages

With a nursing shortage and increasing vacancy rates, getting creative to help offset staff shortages meant looking at the opportunity of utilizing international nurses — something our sister hospitals in Illinois were already doing.

International nurses generally have five to 10 or more years of experience and come from diverse geographic areas such as the Philippines, Kenya, Nigeria and the Caribbean islands, and in many cases have already practiced in other parts of the world.

At HSHS St. Vincent and HSHS St. Mary's hospitals, we've created the International Nurse Residency Program to support these nurses as they transition into their professional practice at our hospitals. The three-session structured learning experience exposes nurses to areas including risk, quality, palliative care, cultural and social differences, as well as physical and soft skills.

"Through the process of developing and following through with this program, we have had the opportunity to get to know these nurses and mutually learn from one another regarding culture and nursing practice," said Casey Scray, MSN, RN, clinical education, HSHS Eastern Wisconsin. "Having them here on contract for 30 months is an obvious benefit for the staffing of our hospitals, but we hope that working here, being accepted and embraced into our teams will encourage them to want to stay after their contracts end. These individuals are very compassionate and dedicated in their care for others, as well as exuding positive energy and teamwork."

The nurses stay with us for 30 months and have been practicing in the adult medical-surgical and critical care units at HSHS St. Vincent and HSHS St. Mary's hospitals.

"I've worked abroad for most of my nursing career, and in every country where I've worked and lived, there's always a big adjustment I know I need to face," said Elaine Tolentino, RN, medical-surgical, HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center. "Immigrating to the U.S. became easier because of the international nursing program that HSHS St. Vincent and St. Mary's hospitals offered. I felt heard and accepted as they learned about my culture, and it also gave me knowledge on how I could adjust to the norms in the U.S. The discussions we had gave me confidence that I can adjust well in my work field."



#### Prevea and St. Vincent Hospital perform **first WATCHMAN procedure**

On July 27, 2022, Prevea Heart Care performed its first WATCHMAN procedure at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital.

The device is for patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (AF) and offers an alternative to long-term blood thinners with the WATCHMAN left atrial appendage closure implant. The implanted device is proven to reduce stroke risk in people with AF not caused by a heart valve problem.

Congratulations to Prevea electrophysiologist Dr. James Hansen and Prevea interventional cardiologist Dr. Anas Sarhan, as well as our Prevea staff and HSHS St. Vincent Hospital colleagues on continuing to advance medical care to patients who can be treated with this safe, minimally invasive procedure.

# Students welcomed from across Northeast Wisconsin for **Healthcare Bootcamp**

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital welcomed high school students from across Northeast Wisconsin for its first Healthcare Bootcamp event on Aug. 18, 2022. The bootcamp for juniors and seniors interested in a career in health care is designed to educate and showcase the various roles within a hospital setting.

"As a trusted source of health care in northeast Wisconsin for more than a century, we are committed to fostering a passion for health care in our communities," said Kayla Coopman, talent sourcing strategist and organizer of the event. "Welcoming these students into our hospital is just one way we can do that, and we also want students to see the variety of roles health care has to offer."

Students took part in the event, which included learnings in the emergency department, intensive care and surgical units, and in pediatrics at HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital. Students also had the chance to meet physical, occupational and respiratory therapists, and radiology and medical imaging experts.

Twenty students from the communities of Ashwaubenon, Oconto Falls, Green Bay, Gillett, Appleton, Sturgeon Bay, Kewaunee, Luxemburg, Oshkosh, Sheboygan, Neenah and Bark River, Mich., participated in the event.



Continued on next page.





# Picnic held to honor NICU graduates and the medical heroes who provided life-saving care

On Sept. 30, 2022, HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital hosted a picnic for former patients and their families of the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).



"Few understand the experience of having a child in the NICU," said Betsy Carney-Hoffman, NICU nursing manager, HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital, where she has provided care to patients for 40 years. "It can be a difficult experience for parents and caregivers, and one that has ripple effects far outside the days, weeks or months a baby spends in our care. This special event provides the opportunity for our former patients and their families, and those who cared for them, to reunite and connect on their shared experiences."

In addition, the picnic honored the unit's medical heroes — past and present — who have provided life-saving care to our communities' tiniest and youngest patients for more than 50 years.

"As we honor our 'NICU graduates,' this also allows us to pause and show deep appreciation for our physicians, providers and caregivers," said Betsy. "Reuniting with former patients — young and old — reaffirms how incredibly special our work is. The picnic is a chance to connect us to our past, celebrate our present and envision our future as Green Bay's longest-standing and serving NICU."

#### New sign shines light on Green Bay's first and only children's hospital

A HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital sign is now prominently displayed outside HSHS St. Vincent Hospital. It's a symbol of our commitment to providing exceptional pediatric care, and a milestone in HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital's multi-million-dollar renovation efforts to enhance pediatric patient care and experiences.



On Feb. 2, 2022, the illuminated sign, weighing 500 pounds and measuring nearly 13 feet high and 22 feet wide, was installed approximately 80 feet up on to the hospital's red, brick exterior near the corner of Webster Avenue and Porlier Street.

"Our new sign is a reflection of this, who we are and what we do. It isn't just our way of letting you know we are here. It's our way of making you feel assured that from the moment you arrive here, your child is going to be in the best hands possible," said Amber Chibuk, executive director, HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital.



# We will be here — HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital marketing campaign

HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital announced a new marketing campaign in 2022: We will be here/Always here. This robust ad campaign will run through June 2023 - targeting parents, grandparents and caregivers from throughout Northeast Wisconsin, the Lakeshore and Michigan's UP. We are honored to partner with folk/pop musician, humanitarian and Green Bay native, Kristen Graves as the creator and voice behind the heartfelt and gentle song, "I will be Here" which is featured in our commercials now playing on a variety of media platforms, including digital, radio and television.

Kristen's talent in penning the touching lyrics to this song, matched with her powerful, melodic voice, help convey what we at HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital want our patients, families and communities to know that we will always be here for you.

## Special visit from "Queen Elsa"

In late summer 2022, the Princess Program
Foundation paid a visit to HSHS St. Vincent Children's
Hospital in Green Bay. They brought Queen Elsa,
who visited with many of our patients including
10-year-old Willow, who is featured in the photo.
These special visits are coordinated through the HSHS
St. Vincent Children's Hospital Child Life Team, which
is solely dedicated to creating positive experiences
for every child in our care.





# HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center

92% SCHOOL PASS RATE

100% STATE EXAM PASS RATE

# HSHS St. Mary's CNA School provides opportunity for **tomorrow's** health care workers

HSHS St. Mary's Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) School is helping to prepare students for employment as nursing assistants. The CNA school is designed for those looking to advance their career as a member of the health care team working in direct patient care.

The school has a unique approach where the learning and training environments are based in our local hospitals, where the students, upon graduation, immediately transition to working in our hospitals as a nursing assistant.

The program offers students the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to provide direct care under the supervision of a licensed nurse. Students participate in classroom sessions, hands-on labs and clinical experiences to develop the knowledge, skills and abilities to provide safe patient care.

"Becoming a CNA is a great stepping stone for anyone interested in nursing," said Emily Halla, DNP, MS, BSN, RN, HSHS St. Mary's CNA School primary instructor. "Working as a CNA is a great starting point to learn health care basics, terminology and processes."

The program follows all federal and state regulations for nurse-aide training programs. It is approved by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services as an official nurse-aide training program. Upon successful completion of the program, students are eligible to take the Wisconsin Nursing Assistant Competency Exam and work at a HSHS Wisconsin hospital as CNAs with the opportunity to grow.

When asked about their experience, a program graduate shared the following, "The CNA school was absolutely terrific. It was so nice to be able to get more of the one-on-one learning, ask any questions I may have and learn with great teachers. They truly care about you in this class and make sure you are prepared to take on the job of a CNA."

# Wisconsin attorney general visits HSHS St. Mary's to promote **Prescription Drug Take Back Day**



On Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022, Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul hosted a press conference in the Atrium at HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center to promote the statewide Prescription Drug Take Back Day initiative.

Attendees included local media; hospital leaders; Green Bay Police Department; Paul Krupski, Wisconsin Department of Health Services director of opioid initiatives; and Jeff Stumbras, executive director of behavioral care for Prevea Health and HSHS Eastern Wisconsin hospitals and Libertas Treatment Centers. **Left:** Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul joined local leaders at HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center to recognize the past success of Wisconsin as a national leader in Prescription Drug Take Back Day efforts.

"Safe drug disposal has a number of community benefits," said Stumbras. "It eliminates confusion of how to dispense and dispose of medications appropriately; prevents drugs from entering our water treatment systems and waterways; minimizes the risk of accidental poisoning; eliminates expired medications that may no longer work; and reduces misuse of any medications by others, particularly teenagers who are particularly vulnerable to risk-taking when experimenting with drugs that are often located in our homes."

HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center was one of two collection sites in the city of Green Bay for Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 29. Between the two sites, 202.2 pounds of medications were collected. Other HSHS ministries in Wisconsin also participated in the statewide initiative, including HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital, HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital.

#### Blessing of the **Animals**

On Oct. 4, people all over the world celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis is known as the patron saint of animals, and his life of love and service is followed by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, the founding institute of Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS).

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis, HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center in Green Bay, HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls hosted blessing of the animals events — free and open to the public.

Pets of all kinds, and their people, participated in these outdoor, ecumenical events. Community members also were welcomed to bring photos of their pets to be blessed.







"I feel fortunate to have a career as a nurse. Helping people in their most vulnerable moments can be so rewarding."

- Kelsey Frericks, RN





# Emergency department nurse named 2022 Nurse of the Year

Kelsey Frericks, RN, emergency department and critical care trauma program coordinator, was named as HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital 2022 Nurse of the Year in Wisconsin.

Each year, one nurse is chosen as nurse of the year. Nurses nominate a colleague from their unit, and those nominations are then reviewed by nursing leadership and the hospitals' professional nurse practice council.

"If I were to use a sports analogy, a nurse is the quarterback of the team," said Shana McClone, chief nursing officer at St. Nicholas Hospital. "They need to see the whole patient and anticipate the patient, family and community needs. Especially during the pandemic, nurses were there to provide care for the most vulnerable while working to connect with the human side of nursing."

"Kelsey is a role model nurse who takes pride in the work she completes every day," said Cassandra Limberg, Kelsey's longtime manager. "She treats not only her patients with care, respect, competence and joy but also treats her colleagues in the same manner."

Kelsey, a graduate of Sheboygan South High School, started at St. Nicholas Hospital in 2018 as a critical care registered nurse. She graduated from Lakeshore Technical College with an associate degree in nursing in 2017 and recently completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.



# New, robotic surgical system added for minimally invasive procedures

When a patient can undergo robotic surgery for a minimally invasive procedure, it allows them to recover faster, get home from the hospital sooner and feel less pain and discomfort after their surgery. HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital has provided advanced, robotic surgical care since 2018 and is pleased to welcome a new, state-of-the-art robotic surgical system to its fleet of technology.

The da Vinci Xi Surgical System is one of the most advanced robotic surgery technologies available in the world, supporting surgeons in performing minimally invasive surgery. It offers a three-dimensional, high-definition (3D-HD) vision system, special instruments and computer software that allows surgeons to operate with enhanced vision, precision, dexterity and control. The 3D-HD image is highly magnified, offering surgeons a close-up view of the surgical site, and the instruments have mechanical wrists that bend and rotate to mimic the movement of the human wrist. After a surgical site is accessed through minimal incisions, the system translates the surgeon's hand movement into smaller, more precise actions of the instruments.

"We are always here for our patients and communities and committed to ensuring they have access to the latest in medical technologies and facilities," said Justin Selle, president and CEO at HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital. "We're excited to now offer this world-class technology in robotic surgical care in our operating rooms, which we redesigned and expanded in 2017 to better meet our community's health care needs of the future."

#### HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital welcomes Flight for Life medical helicopter

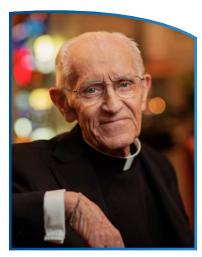
On June 29, 2022, HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital welcomed one of the new Flight for Life medical helicopters to train security and medical teams in the hospital's medical air transport landing zone.

St. Nicholas Hospital is grateful to Flight for Life and all its emergency services partners for helping to provide the best possible care to patients.









MONSIGNOR EDMUND KLIMEK

# Father Klimek Healing Presence Award recipient named

HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital named Cory Brixen as the recipient of the 2022 Father Klimek Healing Presence Award. The award, which is the highest honor a colleague can receive at the hospital, was presented May 11, 2022.

Cory is a physical therapy aide on the hospital's rehabilitation floor, but she has also held positions with environmental services, nutrition services and patient transport.

During the award presentation, through tears, Cory said, "I'm so proud to work here. Thank you all for thinking of me. I am truly honored."

In her nomination letter, fellow colleague Britney Olesiak says Cory embodies compassion, joy and care into her daily work. "She brings treats to celebrate a co-worker's birthday or department celebration, organizes mission mentor activities, helps with local backpack drives, donates food items and so much more."

A second peer-nomination letter from Donna Stolp says, "Cory seems to just be in the right place at the right time, just as Father Klimek was."

Monsignor Edmund Klimek, who the award is named after, passed away in 2013 after serving as the HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital chaplain for more than 45 years. Among his many accolades in the community and hospital, Monsignor Klimek established the pastoral care department at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in 1972. He was also the first hospital chaplain to receive the Catholic Health Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.

The Father Klimek Healing Presence Award was established in 2000 to recognize and carry on Monsignor Klimek's profound contribution to the Hospital Sisters' mission and his compassionate love of Christ.



# Award of Hope for efforts to promote organ, tissue and eye donation

HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital has been presented with the bronze Award of Hope for its 2021 organ donation efforts. The award from UW Organ and Tissue Donation was presented to hospital staff May 18, 2022, during a small ceremony. It recognizes a hospital's commitment to offering hope through donation and maximizing the life-saving gift of organ and tissue transplantation.

Anne Pretasky, lead member of Sacred Heart Hospital's organ donation committee and manager of the critical care unit, says this honor symbolizes the entire hospital's passion for donation. "We are so humbled to receive the Award of Hope and even more humbled to work with families who see the value in selflessly donating their loves one's organs to someone in desperate need."

Currently more than 110,000 people across the United States are waiting for a lifesaving organ, tissue or eye donation; more than 2,000 of those people are men, women and children in Wisconsin, according to Donate Life Wisconsin.

UW Organ and Tissue Donation Executive Director Michael Anderson says it's important for hospitals to keep the donation conversation going. "It is a pleasure to collaborate with the outstanding staff at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital who provide the opportunity to include donation as part of its compassionate end-of-life care," he says. "Those who are waiting for a transplant will be given a second chance at life because of health care donation teams and generous donors."

#### John Wagner expands president and CEO role



HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital are pleased to announce the appointment of John Wagner as president and CEO of both hospitals.

John has served as president and CEO of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital since 2019. "I am truly honored to have the opportunity to serve as president and CEO for HSHS Sacred Heart in addition to St. Joseph's Hospital," said John. "I look forward to continuing to advance our mission by working closely with our colleagues and physician partners to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care."

Prior to starting at HSHS, John spent a decade with UnityPoint Health in Iowa in various clinical and leadership roles, including director of operations, director of performance improvement and employer relations, director of rehabilitation services and as a physical therapist.

Since moving to the Chippewa Valley in 2019, John has been involved in the United Way, Chippewa County Economic Development, and volunteering at the Sojourner House in Eau Claire.





Above (I-r): Damond Boatwright, president and CEO, Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS); Sister Jomary Trstensky, chair, Hospital Sisters Ministries; The Most Reverend David L. Ricken; Dan Boettcher, board chair, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital; Dr. Ashok Rai, president and CEO, Prevea Health; Chris Brabant, president and CEO, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital.

# Community gathers to honor, celebrate 100th anniversary

A special Mass and community health fair to mark the 100th anniversary of HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital drew community members, and religious community and hospital leaders to the hospital campus in Oconto Falls on June 1, 2022.

"Today is a beautiful culmination of our past, present and future," said Chris Brabant, president and CEO, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital, during an outdoor Mass of Celebration with The Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL. "I want to thank our colleagues and providers, because without them we wouldn't be able to care for our community; and it's how they care for our patients that make them so special."

In the homily, The Most Reverend David L. Ricken echoed Brabant's message of gratitude to colleagues and providers at St. Clare Memorial Hospital, particularly for their work amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. "On behalf of the community of faith, thank you," he said. "You are the heroes in all of this, and you still are — day after day."

Damond Boatwright, president and CEO of Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS), also addressed those at the Mass of Celebration. He acknowledged the hospital's history and significance in the community and its transition from Community Memorial Hospital (CMH) to HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital eight years ago.

"When Community Memorial Hospital joined HSHS in 2014, it aligned with our mission, vision and values, and the colleagues at CMH joined our Catholic health care family," said Boatwright. "Our calling in Catholic health care is not to simply heal a person's physical ailments. We are called to care for one's body, mind and spirit. We are called to go above and beyond to help those in their time of need."



## Every scar tells a story: This one is a story of survival

"It was a beautiful day for a ride," said Jeffrey Vincent when describing the day he and his fiancé took a leisurely motorcycle ride. The sun was shining, and it was nearly 90 degrees. Jeffrey's fiancé was riding on her own bike as they neared a T-intersection in Oconto Falls.

"I approached the intersection and watched the oncoming truck turn left in front of me," Jeffrey recalled. "I let off the throttle and paused. I just had an uneasy feeling." He was right to be cautious. In the next instant, a car following the truck also turned left. "I laid on the brake as fast as I could and aimed for the centerline thinking 'maybe, maybe, maybe'." But it was too late. Jeffrey was knocked unconscious as the car collided with his bike and his fiancé watched.

Jeffrey suffered several injuries, including a broken collarbone and broken ribs, a complete tear of his bicep muscle from his bone and a torn ACL. Helicopter transport immediately took him to the hospital, and after several surgeries, he was ready to start his therapy journey.

Hard work comes naturally to Jeffrey as he grew up on a dairy farm and has been part of a carpenter's union for over 30 years. He knew the work that lay ahead with his therapy. At HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital, he saw several therapists who evaluated him based on his needs and set rehab plans for each of his major injuries.

Not only did his therapist serve him in the hospital, she also ensured he had "homework" to focus on when away from the clinic so he could continue therapy between visits. "Recovering from injuries can be both stressful and painful, but Jeffrey has been able to laugh and joke with us despite this. Overall, he has a great spirit and attitude despite everything he has gone through," said Megan Piotrowski, physical therapist, St. Clare Memorial Hospital. "He has been an absolute joy to work with, and I have no doubts he will achieve his goals."

"I know the benefits of therapy. In order to feel better, you need to have some pain," stated Jeffrey. "Before my therapy, I couldn't do something as simple as cleaning my ears. After a few therapy sessions, I got enough strength back to be able to do that again."

#### HSHS St. Clare named a Top 100 Critical Access Hospital in the U.S.

HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital has been recognized as a 2022 Top 100 Critical Access Hospital in the U.S. by The Chartis Center for Rural Health.

"This recognition as a Top 100 Critical Access Hospital in the country is a testament to the tremendous work and dedication shown by our colleagues, medical providers and leaders at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital every day," said Chris Brabant, CEO. "We take great pride in the care and service we provide to our patients, and the peace of mind we provide to our rural communities in making high-quality health care accessible and close to home."

The Chartis Center for Rural Health is part of the nation's largest independent health care advisory firm, The Chartis Group. To compile the list of the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals by state, The Chartis Group used the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX™ which assesses hospital performance in areas such as quality, outcomes, patient perspective, cost and financial efficiency.

Founded as Oconto Falls City Hospital in 1921, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital has been providing care for northern Wisconsin communities for more than 100 years. It is a federally designated critical access hospital offering 24-hour emergency care, urgent care and a variety of other services.





#### Keeper of the Tradition Award recipient named

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital has named Vicky Steinmetz the recipient of the 2022 Keeper of the Tradition Award. The award, which is the highest honor a colleague can receive at the hospital, was presented May 11, 2022.

Vicky was born at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital and has worked in various departments over the last 43 years. Currently, she is an inventory technician in supply chain who works to ensure colleagues have the supplies needed to care for patients, which has been an even more robust task during the COVID-19 pandemic.

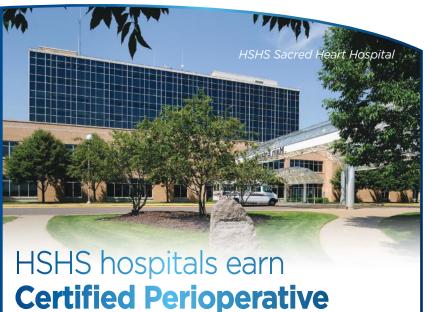
Through tears, as she received the award, Vicky said, "This is my vocation, and I'm so glad I'm here; everybody helps everybody."

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Director of Supply Chain Services Angela Jager says Vicky not only has a great relationship with colleagues, but also outside vendors, couriers and business partners critical to the hospital's supply chain.

In his nomination letter, Vicky's colleague, Lance Katcher says Vicky is always offering words of kindness and wisdom while using a calm voice and open heart. "This woman has shown time and time again that St. Joseph's Hospital is her home, and it's obvious she loves it with all her heart." savs Katcher.

A second peer-nomination letter from Brandy Sikora says Vicky is a true team player. "Not only does Vicky show empathy and compassion, but she lends a hand to anyone that needs help. I cherish working with her every day."

This marks the 20th year the HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Keeper of the Tradition Award has been given to a colleague who carries on the traditions of Christian hospitality, servant leadership and the mission of the Hospital Sisters into his or her everyday work.



# **Nurse Strong designation**

HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls earned the Certified Perioperative Nurse (CNOR®) Strong designation from the Competency and Credentialing Institute. This international designation is a mark of distinction and demonstrates a commitment to upholding the highest standards in patient safety.

CNOR® designation is given to facilities in which more than 50% of eligible nurses have obtained CNOR® credentials. The process for a nurse to become credentialed in the specialized field of perioperative care requires a minimum of two years of perioperative nursing experience and includes a rigorous exam that assesses the nurse's knowledge and skills.

Perioperative care refers to the collaborative care provided to a patient from the time of surgical admission to when the patient goes home.

CNOR® certified nurses who have mastered the standards of perioperative practice further a culture of professionalism and advanced outcomes in surgical patient recovery. An estimated 40,000 nurses around the world hold the CNOR® credential.



#### New chief nursing officer named

**HSHS Sacred Heart** and St. Joseph's hospitals announced the appointment of Travis Christman as chief nursing officer.

Christman has been part of the HSHS family since 2009 when he started as a registered nurse in the post anesthesia care unit at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire. Since then, he has held numerous



TRAVIS CHRISTMAN Chief Nursing Officer

leadership positions, including director of cardiology, progressive care, oncology, critical care and cardiopulmonary services.

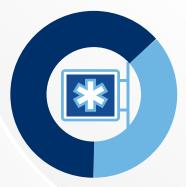
"From the time I started CNA work. I was convinced nursing is what I wanted to do," says Christman. "I find it to be a very honorable profession — helping people when they need you most. Now, I have the opportunity to be the leader for nurses and other clinical team members and hope to impact them and patients in a positive way."

Christman is a graduate of the nursing program at Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) in Eau Claire and serves on the CVTC Alumni Association Board, as well as the advisory committee for the Open Educational Resource Nursing textbooks program being led by CVTC.

Christman officially began his new role on February 20, 2022.

Year in Review | 2022 Year in Review | 2022

## By the Numbers | HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM FY 2022



63,691 TOTAL ADMISSIONS 40,950 IN ILLINOIS 22,741 IN WISCONSIN



**7,674 BABIES BORN**5,163 IN ILLINOIS
2,511 IN WISCONSIN



279,934
EMERGENCY VISITS
178,767 IN ILLINOIS
101,167 IN WISCONSIN



1,545,742
OUTPATIENT REGISTRATIONS
989,367 IN ILLINOIS

556.375 IN WISCONSIN



53,491 SURGICAL CASES 32,080 IN ILLINOIS 21,411 IN WISCONSIN



2,562 LICENSED BEDS 1,140 IN ILLINOIS 1,422 IN WISCONSIN



1,746 STAFFED BEDS 1,038 IN ILLINOIS 708 IN WISCONSIN



911,447 UNIQUE LIVES SERVED 509,397 IN ILLINOIS 402,264 IN WISCONSIN

## Care Improvements

HSHS ACO:	Quality	<b>Improvement</b>

Domain	Measure	CY2019	CY2020	CY2021	CY2022
Care Coordination/ Patient Safety	Fall risk screening	70%	90%	98%	96%
Preventive Health	Influenza vaccine	64%	78%	81%	_
Preventive Health	Tobacco users with intervention	59%	98%	83%	90%
Preventive Health	Depression screening and follow up	34%	68%	90%	86%
Preventive Health	Colorectal cancer screening	61%	71%	82%	76%
Preventive Health	Breast cancer screening	64%	69%	78%	78%
At-risk populations - INVERSE	DM hemoglobin in poor control >9%	22%	18%	15%	17%
At-risk populations	HTN BP control	75%	74%	78%	77%
Preventative health	Statin therapy for cardiovascular diseases	82%	85%	87%	86%

HSHS Medical Group's pre-visit gap closure team serves as an extension of the doctor's office to help patients with the full scope of managing their health care. They make sure the patient's records are complete, so a primary care physician or provider has the full picture of the patient's health information. If a test has been done with a specialist but the record isn't present, they make sure it is recorded. A quality advocate will help patients complete chronic labs, preventive treatment, and screenings such as colonoscopies and mammograms.

Our colleagues have also worked to standardize the process of rooming patients by asking the same screening questions in all our clinics, whether a patient is in a primary care office or a specialty office. This allows us to measure quality outcomes more consistently.

Training is underway for health equity, focusing on demographic data and how we can better serve our patients based on their race, sexual orientation and identity.

The chart above details some of the quality care areas where HSHS has seen improvements year over year.

At HSHS Medical Group, improvement through standardization and proactive patient outreach has enabled us to improve our reported quality metrics. The table above shows our year-over-year improvement.





## Our system of care

HSHS is a highly integrated, multi-institutional health care system comprised of 15 hospitals and more than 250 physician practice sites in Illinois and Wisconsin. The system serves rural and midsized communities throughout both states. HSHS is committed to delivering high-quality, compassionate, holistic and cost-effective health care services to all who seek it. Sponsored by Hospital Sisters

Oconto Falls

**WISCONSIN** 

**ILLINOIS** 

Ministries, our mission is to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high-quality Franciscan health care ministry. That mission is carried out every day by nearly 13,000 colleagues and more than 3,200 physicians who care for patients in our facilities.

Through our care integration strategy, investments in state-of-the-art facilities and technology, and substantial community benefit programs, we continue the legacy of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis to care for the residents of the communities we serve, with a special emphasis on the poor and vulnerable.

HSHS Hospitals

Prevea Health

HSHS Medical Group Clinics

Prairie Cardiovascular



HSHS St. John's Hospital
HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital
St. John's College of Nursing
HSHS St. Mary's Hospital
HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital
HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital
HSHS St. Francis Hospital
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital | Breese
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital | Highland
HSHS Holy Family Hospital
HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital
HSHS Medical Group
Prairie Heart Institute

### HSHS Wisconsin

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital
HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital
HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center
HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital
HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital
HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital



