

SAINTS *Alive!*

Miracles happen because of you



Every Dog has a Purpose

Patients can heal through NEW pet therapy program

Imagine yourself in the hospital. Your caretaker mentions the hospital has animal-assisted therapy and asks if you would like to try it. You say yes and shortly after, a therapy dog and her handler visit your room. You get to pet the dog and talk to the handler for 10 to 15 minutes. After the visit, you are smiling, feel less tired and more optimistic! These uplifting services are available now at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital.

Pet therapy builds off the pre-existing human-animal bond. Interacting with a friendly dog can help many physical and mental issues patients may have. It can also release endorphins and produce a calming effect which can help by alleviating pain, reducing stress and improving a patient's overall mental state. That is exactly what Marsha and her 3-year-old black Labrador Retriever do when they visit HSHS St. Clare Memorial

Hospital patients and colleagues. Marsha retired from being a lifelong electrician five years ago and has always loved dogs, especially the moment she had her first encounter with a service dog in public. "Working dogs have always amazed me. They grab my attention," said Marsha.

About three years ago, Marsha said goodbye to her sixth Labrador and that is when she found Greta. "Greta is the calmest dog I have ever raised. I remember thinking to myself 'maybe this is it, maybe this is what I am supposed to do, have a therapy dog,'" said Marsha.

She embarked on a five-week class with Health Healers, and together they respectively became certified as a handler and a therapy dog.

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From their first day at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital, Greta and Marsha have been welcomed with open arms by caregivers and patients. “It really is therapy for all patients and staff at St. Clare,” added Marsha. “You may not be having a bad day or even a good day, but you see Greta enter the room and you get that sense of excitement and endorphin rush.”

Patients may get distracted by the dog when they make contact by petting or cuddling, playing on the floor and smiling a lot. That dog then becomes your companion, your friend and a reason to smile.

“It is amazing to see both colleagues and patients light up when Greta comes to visit. She sure can make a stressful day brighter in moments!”

Deanne Ziemer, Nursing Manager –
Surgical and Outpatient Services,
HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital.

Greta and Marsha can connect with any patient, even if there is a language barrier. “I sit on the floor with pediatric patients and teach them words that deal with a dog like ‘sit’, ‘stay’, ‘heel’. And then teach them how to communicate those to Greta through hand signals,” said Marsha.

Because of your support, Greta and Marsha can walk the halls of HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital, reducing stress and anxiety, and putting a smile on the faces of everyone they interact with.

Exceptional Care Through Continued Education

YOU help shape the future of health care



HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital strives to bring patients the best care possible in our community. Continuing to educate our colleagues is a key part of maintaining an exceptional level of care. Each year our hospital caregivers are presented with academic scholarships made possible by donors like **YOU!**

The scholarship program is essential to helping the current generation of health care professionals at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital thrive. Having the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and ability to provide exceptional care to patients is important.

Erika Haberli is a recent scholarship recipient who is completing her bachelor’s degree in Medical Laboratory Science from the University of Cincinnati in May of 2023. When Erika was in high school, she participated in a career exploration class where she learned about different health care careers and toured various departments. “Medical lab was a career I never heard of, and when we did the tour, I fell in love with it,” said Erika.

She currently serves HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital as a Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT). Her job is vital to the health care team, as she

Exceptional Care, continued

often produces patient results. Erika uses advanced procedures to perform testing and provide results that are essential in diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. According to the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science, 60 to 70% of all decisions regarding a patient's diagnosis, treatment, hospital admission and discharge are based on the results of the tests medical laboratory professionals perform.

"I am fascinated by science and the healthcare field. I also love working with patients and being hands on, so for me this was the perfect balance of both."

Not only will her further education help with her current career goal of becoming a department facilitator, but it will also enhance the patient experience at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital. "My education will benefit our patients because it will give me a deeper understanding of my current work environment, as well as highlight the administrative portion, not usually seen," said Erika. "Working as a MLT I get many questions from patients, providers and nurses about interpretations of tests. By furthering my further education, I can better explain the reasonings and our interpretation."

Balancing school and work can be a struggle for most looking to continue their education. "Receiving this scholarship was like a wave of relief," stated Erika. "I was working 12-hour shifts with only one day off a week, just to pay for my education. Going into this semester with a scholarship allows me to focus on schoolwork without the added stress."

When donors like you support HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital, you are **INVESTING** in your own community members, ensuring the best possible care is available right here in Oconto Falls.



100 Years of HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital

The 100th anniversary of HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital was marked with a special Mass and community health fair earlier this summer. These events drew in numerous community members and leaders along with representatives from various hospitals and religious communities

"The celebration was a beautiful culmination of our past, present and future," said Chris Brabant, President and CEO, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital. "I want to thank our donors, because without them we wouldn't be able to provide exceptional care for our local community."

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, 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 (CMH) 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."



HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital Named Top 100 Critical Access Hospital

The Chartis Center for Rural Health has named YOUR hospital in YOUR community as a 2022 Top 100 Critical Access Hospital in the United States!

“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 every day,” said Chris Brabant, CEO, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital. “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, they used the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX™ which assesses hospital performance in areas such as quality, outcomes, patient perspective, cost and financial efficiency.

Because of your support, caregivers at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital have been given the tools necessary to succeed and the ability to provide exceptional care to your local rural community. This recognition could not have happened without your support.



Inspire others to support your passion!

Create an online fundraiser with JustGiving

JustGiving™

Creating your own personalized fundraiser for HSHS St. Clare Foundation is now easier than ever. JustGiving has the tools you need to create your own personalized fundraising pages and allows you to invite your friends and family to give online.

Whether you want to dedicate your birthday, celebrate a milestone, honor a loved one, create a team challenge, or host an event, you can pay it forward and support a cause close to your heart.

Getting started is easy. Just visit <https://justgiving.com/campaign/sco> and click “Start Fundraising.” You can then customize your link and you can then customize your link and INSPIRE your friends and family with your personal story. Customize your page with stories, photos, and videos.

This is an **easy and effective** way to make a difference in the lives of patients and families being cared for at **YOUR** hospital. Donations are directed straight to the program of your choice at HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital. There is no minimum requirement or hidden fees and the page expires when you want it to.

FALL 2022



Need assistance or have questions?

Contact Shane Starr at Shane.Starr@hshs.org or (920) 884-5905.