



A Parent's Worst Nightmare

Your support ensured Ella's life-saving care



On Saturday, Nov. 20, 16-year-old Ella Hattendorf was spending time with her friends just like any other weekend, but for her mother Jodi, it was anything but normal.

"I remember getting a phone call that every parent fears. The sheriff was on the line and informed me that Ella was involved in an accident," recalled Jodi. "Ella had hit her head, and the paramedics were still evaluating her. The sheriff told me to meet them at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital's Emergency Department (ED)."

Because they live so close, the Hattendorfs arrived before the ambulance. Jodi and her husband Tim, who is a first responder, watched the ambulance "come in hot" with sirens and lights blazing. "That was the moment when Tim's heart sank and I knew how serious this was," said Jodi, who as a nurse herself, knew what that meant.

Shortly after the ambulance arrived, the charge nurse appeared and escorted Tim and Jodi to the family room. "She was visibly shaking as she informed us of Ella's

critical condition," recalled Jodi. Within minutes they were being escorted back to the Imaging department. They were met by Dr. Karl Greene, Ella's neurosurgeon, who explained that she suffered several skull fractures, brain bleeds and a herniated brain stem. While he shared this news with Tim and Jodi, the rest of the team transported Ella for emergency surgery, which was necessary for her survival. In surgery, they removed a section of her skull to relieve the pressure as her brain continued to swell. Ella's prognosis was not promising. Dr. Greene was not sure that Ella would survive the surgery, so he encouraged Tim and Jodi to bring Ella's three siblings in to say their "goodbyes," in case their sister did not make it.

After nearly five hours, Dr. Greene returned to the family to bring the best news he could: Ella made it through surgery! She was still in critical condition and on her way to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), but she was alive. Ella was in medically induced coma for the next five days. The unknown was the scariest part for the Hattendorfs, "What would her prognosis be? Would she ever be "normal" again? Would she need a tracheostomy or a feeding tube? Would she walk or ever be able to live independently?" These are things no parent ever wants to worry about.

By the end of the week, Ella began to show signs that she could breathe on her own. Shortly thereafter, her caregivers slowly weaned her off her sedation medication. In time, Ella began to wake up enough that they felt comfortable with extubating her and she began to successfully breath on her own! The doctors and nurses who cared for Ella on her first night in the PICU were in absolute shock at how well she was

continued on page 4

Phase Updates:

*We are so excited to share with you an update on the project **YOU** made possible. Thank you!!*



Phase One:

Completed April 2021

The south wing, which includes the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), is complete! Patients now have access to updated pediatric critical care spaces that are bright and welcoming, featuring the natural landscapes and beautiful colors of the water ways and lakes found in Northeast Wisconsin.

Phase one saw upgrades to the seven existing PICU rooms. Two of these rooms have been upgraded to negative pressure rooms, which is a common method of infection control and is used to isolate patients with contagious airborne diseases, like COVID-19. The updated rooms now feature new camera monitoring, improved technology, sleep accommodations for parents, and additional sound masking for a more comfortable stay.

"For the patients, everything about the pediatrics and PICU space is designed to meet their needs. This includes having up-to-date technology to be able to receive world class pediatric care. It also allows patients and their families to receive their care close to home," Dr. Thomas Huffer, Executive Medical Director, HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital



Phase Two:

Completed October 2021

The east wing is completely renovated and features six upgraded patient rooms in the pediatric unit, with one room having negative pressure capabilities. All rooms on the east wing have been updated to include camera monitoring, improved technology, sleep surfaces for parents and sound masking for a more comfortable stay. Phase two also saw the addition of our one-of-a-kind interactive video wall. This state-of-the-art technology allows patients and families a unique experience to get outside of their hospital rooms for some physical activity through interactive play.

Phase Three:

Completed February 2022

Phase three includes a brand-new nurses' station with state-of-the-art technology and features three additional PICU rooms – expanding HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital's PICU to a 10-bed unit – as well as another pediatric room.

"When I walk up to 10th floor to begin my workday, I am no longer met with the buzzing of alarms or the beep of an IV pump, instead I am met with a twinkling ceiling full of stars with the calm crackling bonfire in the background. I know that when a child is admitted to our floor, they are feeling this same sense of calm and serenity. We couldn't be more thankful for the donors that supported our cause and realized how much this does affect children, families, and our health care family," said Ashley Thompson, Child Life Supervisor, HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital



Phase Four:

UNDERWAY

The remodeling of the north wing is underway and focuses heavily on family. This renovation includes seven more pediatric rooms to complete our 14-bed pediatric unit, a family laundry room and storage rooms. The north wing will feature a brand-new mother's room, a space for new mothers to breastfeed their babies while at the hospital. There will also be a new family lounge, a space to provide families respite during long hospital stays. The new family lounge will feature a kitchenette, TV area, and computer station. Updated shower rooms and bathrooms will also be included in this renovation.

Phase four also features a brand-new secure entrance to the 10th floor at HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital where visitors will now be let into the space by using a digital kiosk. Child Life will have their own new relocated suite providing the kids with another opportunity to step out of their rooms to engage in creative play and art projects, as well as the addition of a teen lounge, specific to meet the needs of our adolescent patients.



continued from page one



“That night was easily the worst night of our lives!” exclaimed Jodi.

healing. “One of the nurses told me that Ella may be in a coma for months, and that she honestly didn’t think she would survive the first night,” said Jodi. But Ella proved them wrong.

Ella continued to amaze them daily with how well her recovery was going. Once Ella was physically able to get out of bed, she had to wear a specially made helmet to protect the area of her brain where they had to remove her skull.

She would need to wear this until the swelling reduced enough that they could surgically replace the section of the skull that was removed.

“That night was easily the worst night of our lives!” exclaimed Jodi.

Physically and cognitively she is making strides to be back to where she was prior to her accident. “We are so grateful that everything lined up perfectly and Ella was able to come to HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital,” said Jodi. “We truly are so lucky. The standard of care Ella and our entire family received was amazing.” Whether it was the doctors or nurses, Jodi added that everyone involved was extremely supportive and friendly.

The critical care that saved Ella’s life and the support that her family received throughout their entire journey was only possible because of donors like YOU! Your gifts to HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital ensure children like Ella can receive life-saving care right here in YOUR community.

World’s Smallest Heart Pump

Your support brings breakthrough device to Northeast Wisconsin

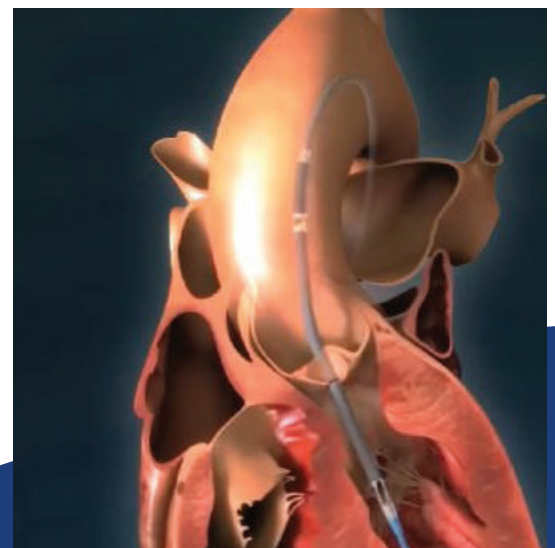
A new procedure at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Heart Center is now helping patients with advanced heart failure. Thanks to donors like you, interventional cardiologists now can perform “protected stenting” procedures with the new Impella® Heart Pump.

The device is inserted by a catheter through a small incision in the patient’s thigh and is advanced through the arteries and into the heart. From there, the pencil-sized pump pulls blood from the left ventricle and releases it into the aorta, providing the necessary pumping support, which increases blood flow to vital organs. Following the procedure, the pump is removed. “The Impella® Heart Pump allows us to support a weakened heart for the 30-45 minutes that it takes to implant stents into critically diseased coronaries,” said Dr. Todd Fergus, interventional cardiologist.

After reflecting on one of his recent patients, Dr. Fergus added, “I would say it is a miracle, but really, it’s just the result of modern medical technology.”

Not only can the device be used for stenting, it can also be used for a multitude of other procedures. Valve treatments or a bridge to heart surgery on patients with advanced heart failure are just a few more ways the Impella® Heart Pump can be used.

Because of donors like **YOU**, interventional cardiologists at HSHS St. Vincent and St. Mary’s Hospitals have access to the most advanced technology allowing them to save the lives of patients all over YOUR communities.



Approaching the Finish Line

HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital renovations nearing an end

The vision that we set out to achieve in 2018 is almost a reality as we enter the final stages of the HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital renovations. **YOU** decided to Join the Fight.

We are so excited to share with you an update on the project **YOU** made possible. Thank you!

Now children from all around Northeast Wisconsin the Lakeshore and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan will have their special updated state-of-the-art space for care. "Our community has gone above and beyond to answer the call to support the children we serve, and the renovation to our PICU and pediatric unit does not disappoint!" said Ken Nelson, Chief Nurse Executive, HSHS Wisconsin. "This area combines the latest technology with bright and open rooms to create enhanced spaces that are both healing and comforting. I am grateful for our donors, and very proud of our teams that have embraced the mission of HSHS to provide outstanding care for our kids."

As construction nears an end, the goal remains the same; to create a safe, and comfortable environment for children and families who enter **Green Bay's FIRST and ONLY Children's Hospital**. "At HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital, kids are a big deal," said Amber Chibuk, Executive Director, HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital. "They're at the center of everything we do, and we recognized the need to update our facility. To best serve the unique needs of children, we wanted to make sure every detail here is even more tailored to kids."





There is a **NEW** star that shines bright in Green Bay. In February, HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital added exterior signage, prominently displaying Green Bay's FIRST and ONLY children's hospital.

The new illuminated sign measures nearly 13 feet high and 22 feet wide and can be seen nearly 80 feet up on the hospital's exterior corner by Webster Ave and Porlier St. "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.

Thank You!

