



# SAINTS

# Alive!

Miracles happen because of you



## Continuing the Fight AFTER CANCER

New knowledge of cancer care shaping  
the future

Sharon Panske was diagnosed with Uterine Carcinosarcoma, a rare and aggressive cancer, in July 2020. "I remember thinking, 'this is going to kill me'," said Sharon. "I have too much I want to do. I plan on living longer." Thankfully she did just that. After a five-month battle, she rang the celebration bell at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers because she was cancer free. Sharon had won the fight, but the battle continued.

Following her treatment, Sharon began experiencing numbness and random sharp-shooting pains in her feet. The kind that takes your breath away. She decided to visit her neurologist to see what could be going on. That's when she found out she was suffering from chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN). It is a debilitating side effect of chemotherapy for nearly 60% of patients who receive common chemotherapy treatments.

Her doctor prescribed medication to diminish the pain and discomfort CIPN was causing her. However, that only took the edge off. She continued to have difficulty even executing her daily routines, which required the use of a walking stick at times.

Sharon had great support from a group of friends who also went through cancer treatments. It was these friends who told her about a new research study taking place through the HSHS St. Vincent Cancer Research Institute.

"If there is something out there that can help, I will try it," stated Sharon. As soon as she could she applied to take part in the trial for the transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) device.

The TENS device works by delivering small electrical impulses through electrodes that attach to a person's skin with adhesive pads. These pulses flood the nervous system reducing its ability to transmit pain signals to the spinal cord and brain. Because of YOU and your support, the HSHS St. Vincent Cancer Research Institute is able to offer these research opportunities to our community and is the only research center in the region currently enrolling participants in this study.

Sharon, a resident of Richland Center, did not let the 3.5-hour commute stop her from participating in this clinical trial, especially if there is was chance for relief. "It's not going to hurt to try it," she said. "Hopefully it can help more people in the future as well."

Each patient is asked to wear the TENS unit 5 hours a day, attend a few visits to the Cancer Research Institute, and

# Continuing the Fight

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complete questionnaires. Some participants are randomly selected to receive a placebo TENS unit so researchers can track the effectiveness of the actual device.

Sharon completed her portion of the clinical trial in April. "I did get a benefit from taking part in this study, shooting pains are not as consistent, and the tingling is gone," Sharon mentioned when asked about how she is feeling now. "I definitely notice a difference."

With your support of the HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary's Foundation, **YOU** are helping the HSHS St. Vincent Cancer Research Institute advance the knowledge of cancer treatments for the future, right here in our community. Because of your generosity, Sharon was able to take part in this clinical trial, and now she can move more freely and is hopeful for a comfortable future ahead.



## HARD HATS REQUIRED

HSHS St. Children's Hospital renovations  
continue thanks to YOU!

## PHASE ONE: COMPLETE

Thank you for choosing to Join the Fight. YOU pushed this forward, and YOU helped realize this monumental achievement. The complete vision we set out to achieve back in 2019 is still being realized, but progress is continuously being made. We are so excited to share that updates to the south wing, which include the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), are complete! Patients now have access to common spaces that are clean, bright, and welcoming. All areas feature the natural landscapes and beautiful colors found in Northeast Wisconsin. This phase saw upgrades to the seven existing PICU rooms. Two of these rooms have been upgraded to negative pressure rooms, too! This is a common method of infection control and used to isolate patients with contagious airborne diseases. The updated rooms now feature camera monitoring, improved technology, sleep accommodations for parents, and additional sound masking for a more comfortable stay.

"We are very excited about the renovations in the PICU particularly, as well as on the entire pediatrics floor. The updates in the PICU will allow our pediatric intensivists to provide the highest level of pediatric care in our region," said Dr. Thomas Huffer, Executive Medical



Director with HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital. One of the biggest goals of this renovation is to create a safe, clean and comfortable environment for children and families who enter HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital. It is also important to update technology, equipment and the healing environment to ensure the best care possible. "We designed the space to meet the needs of children and their families. We wanted them to feel comfortable in the space, so we chose nature scenes of Northeast Wisconsin and colors that would be warm and welcoming," said Dr. Huffer.

Thanks to YOU, children of Northeast Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan now have a state-of-the-art PICU that is designed specifically for the unique needs of our pediatric patients and their caregivers.

## PHASE TWO: HARD HATS REQUIRED



The east wing is currently being renovated and will feature seven upgraded patient rooms, including one room with negative pressure capabilities. All rooms on the east wing will be updated to include camera monitoring, improved technology, sleep surfaces for parents, and sound masking for a more comfortable stay.

## PHASE THREE/ FOUR: ON DECK

The final two phases of the project (center rooms and north wing) will include the addition of eight private patient rooms and three PICU rooms – for a total of ten PICU rooms and 14 patient rooms. Two of the three PICU rooms will have private bathrooms and each room will be bigger and more comfortable for patients and families. There will also be a new, updated family lounge, a mother's nursing room for breastfeeding moms, a teen lounge, and the Child Life Services Center. Additional safety features will secure entry to the unit and include security cameras to ensure the safety of all patients and families. Aesthetic enhancements will also be part of the final phases with more natural landscapes and beautiful colors found in Northeast Wisconsin. Stay tuned for a big technology announcement in the final phases, too!

*HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital is Green Bay's first and only children's hospital. With every detail tailored specifically to kids, HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital delivers exceptional health care to children while making them feel comfortable and supported. Again we are thrilled to share this amazing progress that YOU helped achieve.*



## FOR THE CHILDREN

HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center Emergency Department gets facelift, adds two child friendly rooms

Being admitted to the Emergency Department (ED) can be scary for any patient, especially children. Thanks to supporters like you, two rooms in the southeast corner of the HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center Emergency Department received a facelift to ease the minds of children who visit the ED.

"It was important for us to create a space that was child-friendly, where we could provide the quality care St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center Emergency Department prides itself in while still making the children and their loved ones comfortable," said Lea Ann Laabs, Emergency Department Manager at HSHS St. Mary's Hospital. "Being in the Emergency Room can be frightening for a child and their parents. These beautiful rooms will ease those fears."

The updated rooms now feature enhancements such as artwork, murals, and frosted glass to coincide with the Northeast Wisconsin theme of HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital. Seeing hospital equipment can be intimidating and scare children during their stay, new cabinetry was installed to hide the medical equipment. Stools and chairs have been added as well to go with the overall updated design. New and improved lighting features were also installed, which allows children to select their favorite color to light their room!

## Your Gift Impacts Everyone

100% of YOUR support makes a difference

Did you know that 100% of your donation helps families who walk through the doors of both HSHS St. Vincent and St. Mary's Hospitals? Your contribution allows our medical professionals to continue to stay current with the best medical practices, which ensure their patients are getting expert care during their stay.



## 12 Months: 12 Gifts of Healing and Hope

*Become a monthly donor today*

Providing renewed health and hope to patients at HSHS St. Vincent and St. Mary's Hospital is now easier than ever. By becoming a monthly donor, you can continually comfort and heal the patients in our care. As a monthly donor, you will contribute/receive:

- Make automatic monthly donations paid from your credit card.
- Designate your gift to a specific need like cancer care or to the area of greatest need.
- Receive an annual acknowledgment letter for tax purposes.
- Elect to change or suspend your donation at any time.

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1. Visit our secure, online donation form at <https://giving.hshs.org/svsm/donate>.
2. Select a monthly gift amount or add your own.
3. Check "Make this a monthly gift"
4. Provide your contact info, payment method, and any optional details.
5. Click "Donate Now".

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact us at 920-433-8620 or [WI-Foundations@hshs.org](mailto:WI-Foundations@hshs.org).