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Giving Hope is a quarterly
publication, edited by Shane Starr.
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All In!

NEW KNOWLEDGE OF CANCER TREATMENTS SHAPING THE FUTURE!

Since the age of 38, Trisha Taft Burdick began scheduling annual mammograms due to a family history with the disease on both sides of her family. In 2020 she realized she was past due for her annual mammogram, when someone she knew was battling breast cancer, it served as a reminder for her to schedule her appointment.

At age 41, Trisha had a mammogram. A week after her mammogram, she received a phone call from the Prevea Cancer Center at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital notifying her that the test results had found an abnormality that would need to be tested further. Unfortunately, this led to a confirmation of breast cancer. Trisha was then scheduled to meet with an oncologist to discuss treatment options. "You don't

think it can happen to you, especially at a young age," said Trisha.

Her physician explained she had an early stage of breast cancer (1A), and Trisha would need chemotherapy, radiation treatments and surgery. "I remember when the doctor told us it was cancer. My husband was in shock; he went pale and left the room," Trisha recalled.

Trisha underwent a double mastectomy with reconstruction at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital and began her chemotherapy and radiation treatments at the Prevea Cancer Center at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital. "Having everything take place at Sacred Heart made it really easy for me to go through the procedures and treatments," said Trisha. Six rounds of chemo were

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administered: one round, every 3 weeks for five months. She lost all her hair and 40 pounds from being so sick, but she still worked her full-time job from home during her treatments, until it was deemed safe for her to physically return to the workplace due to COVID.

Trisha was approached to take part in a radiation trial with the HSHS Wisconsin Clinical Research Institute. The study was trying to determine whether a short-course radiation therapy (3-4 weeks) after a mastectomy is as safe and effective as the usual 5-6-week treatment course. This study, if proven successful, would limit time patients must miss from work, and reduce their travel and overall costs of treating their cancer.

“I was so happy to do this. If I can help anybody in any way, I am ALL IN!” said Trisha.

Trisha stated how happy she was with her experience at the Prevea Cancer Center at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital. “I can’t imagine having gone anywhere else. I would not trade this experience for anything because of the love and support you feel,” said Trisha. The cancer center provided donated gas cards to help with her travel expenses.

She recalls being greeted with hugs, and nurses and staff spending time laughing, crying, and telling jokes with her in her room. “That is the most valuable experience. I will never forget those moments. They are my healthcare family,” she said.

After six rounds in five months, she completed her chemotherapy treatments. “When I completed my final radiation treatment, I cried. That place was my safe zone,” said Trisha. “I remember having a case of separation depression after my treatments because it was so hard to say goodbye.” After completing all six rounds of chemotherapy, Trisha was ready to ring the bell, which is a tradition for cancer patients in celebration of overcoming their battle with cancer. There was just one thing, there was no bell.

When she was undergoing her treatments, someone had gifted her a bell to use for calling her husband when she needed help at home. “I brought my bell with me that day, so I could ring it in celebration!” said Trisha. “I wore a shirt specially made for me that stated, ‘Straight Out Of CHEMO’”.

As a parting gift to the cancer center, she decided to donate that bell for fellow cancer patients to ring when their battle is over too.

“I cannot tell you how fortunate I am to have been there. I was born at Sacred Heart; both of my sons were born at Sacred Heart. That is where we go!” exclaimed Trisha.

With your support of the HSHS Sacred Heart Foundation, **YOU** are helping advance the knowledge of cancer treatments for the future! Treatments and studies that are typically only being done in academic medicine. Trisha was able to take part in the same clinical trial offered at many academic hospitals, but she could do it right here at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital because of **YOU**.



Back in Business

BOUTIQUE REOPENS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

For several years the boutique at the Prevea Cancer Center at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital has provided resources for patients and their families to offer hope, support, and comfort in a great time of need. "Patients who receive the benefits of the boutique appreciate the mission's impact firsthand and donor dollars support making that mission a reality," said Angela Quick, Director of Cancer Services, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital.

Due to the pandemic, the boutique services were suspended. In January of 2023, visitor restrictions were lifted and the boutique re-opened their doors.

The boutique continues to offer a vast variety of products available to patients and families at no cost:

- Natural skin care products and essential oils.
- Hats, scarves, and access to custom made wigs.
- Blankets and quilts.
- Inspirational reading materials.
- Lip balm, teas, and lozenges.
- Look Good, Feel Better program.

The Look Good, Feel Better program is a monthly program exclusive to the Prevea Cancer Center at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, available at no cost for participants. The program offers hands-on makeup, skincare, wig and head covering techniques and helps women manage appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment.

These may seem like small gestures to you, but they are so BIG to our patients! Through your continued support, the Prevea Cancer Center has hopes to expand offerings to patients through yoga classes and chair massage therapy.

For more information or to make a donation to the boutique, contact Jane Gobler at 715-717-3996 or jane.gobler@hshs.org



You Shape the Future of Sacred Heart Hospital

2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Thanks to your support, the HSHS Sacred Heart Foundation awards developmental and educational scholarships to colleagues each year! Educational scholarships assist colleagues with tuition expenses while they work at Sacred Heart and attend school to further their education. Development scholarships allow colleagues to seek outside education through seminars, conferences, and other skill development activities.

The HSHS St. Joseph's and HSHS Sacred Heart Foundations are proud to announce that this year a total of \$36,706 in scholarships were awarded to 32 colleagues. This included 21 colleagues receiving development scholarships and 11 received educational scholarships.

For more information on scholarships, contact Jane Gobler at 715-717-3996 or jane.gobler@hshs.org.

Directors Cut with HSHS Sacred Heart Foundation Director, Jane Gobler

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am delighted to share with you the immense excitement and enthusiasm surrounding our philanthropic endeavors for fiscal year 2023 at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital. As the Director of Philanthropy, I am fortunate to witness firsthand the profound impact that our mission has on the lives of countless individuals in need. Our commitment to providing compassionate care and healing to all, regardless of their background or means, is the driving force behind our philanthropic initiatives.



Here are some of the projects that we funded in fiscal year 2023:

- School-based mental health counseling.
- Dental care for low-income patients.
- Our SHARE program for families that have experienced the loss of a pregnancy or infant.
- Higher education scholarships for colleagues.
- Development scholarships for colleagues.
- QPR – Question, Persuade, Refer training for suicide prevention.
- Several enhancements and needs for our Women and Infants Department.

I am genuinely inspired by the dedication and generosity of our donors and supporters, whose contributions make these projects possible. Together, we are truly making a difference in the lives of countless individuals, upholding the healing mission of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital. I invite you to join us in our endeavors as we continue to advance the cause of compassionate care and service.

With deep gratitude and anticipation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane" in a cursive script.

Jane

Giving tomorrow starts today

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

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

- Will/bequests.
- Charitable trusts.
- Life insurance.
- Stocks and securities.
- Retirement plans.
- Real estate.

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

For more information, please contact Jane Gobler, HSHS Sacred Heart Foundation Director, at 715-717-4925 or Jane.Gobler@hshs.org.