

Saints Alive!

Miracles happen...

Because of YOU!



HSHS
St. Vincent | St. Mary's
Foundation

SUMMER 2020



**I thank all of you who
welcomed and supported me
from the early years to today.
You have all made this my
dream job.**

A Message from Foundation Director, Bobbi Giles

Nearly 15 years ago, I walked into HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls, Wis. for the first time. I was the newly appointed Director for the HSHS St. Joseph's Foundation and I was eager to begin my new career in health care philanthropy. From that moment to now, I have served the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis and the Hospital Sisters Health System with clarity, purpose and a passion inspired by those who came before me. I learned "from the best" in Chippewa Falls and in 2013, I was called to serve the same mission - in a new location.

Oct. 2013 found me in Green Bay as the Director of the HSHS St. Vincent and St. Mary's Foundations. Again, I learned much in my new role and continued the gratifying work of supporting our hospitals' mission through charitable giving. It is now 2020 and I am returning to my roots. In August, I will be back in Western Wisconsin, serving as director for both HSHS Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's Foundations. It would appear my journey has come full circle.

I return home to be closer to family but I leave Green Bay with extreme gratitude (and an equal amount of sadness). I thank all of you who welcomed and supported me from the early years to today. I am especially grateful to the dedicated team of fundraising professionals I have had the privilege of working with each day, to my fellow hospital colleagues, to the faithful members of our Foundation Leadership Council and of course, to our AMAZING donors. You have all made this my dream job.

I will miss you, Green Bay and all who answered my call with a "yes". Please know I will carry each of you with me as I depart and if you're ever so inclined, I am "just a phone call away".

Edited by Alyssa Clarke.
Saints Alive! is a quarterly publication.

• If you would like to opt out of receiving future fundraising requests, email us at
• EWfriends@hshs.org, call us at (920) 433-8653 or write the HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary's
• Foundation at P.O. Box 11706, Green Bay, WI 54307-1706, Attn: Development Department.
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One Step at a Time

You helped Griffin go the extra mile

For many, the start of a new year conjures feelings of inspiration and excitement for the future. The start of 2019, however, delivered something of the opposite for a Door County family – a cancer diagnosis.

“It was like getting punched in the gut,” said Kevin, recalling the day he and his wife, Tracy, learned their 16-year-old son, Griffin, was battling acute myeloid leukemia (AML). “It was one of the toughest days of our lives.”

Their fear turned to faith and hope as they sought care from the Prevea pediatric oncology experts at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital in Green Bay.

Griffin’s care team and the staff at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital became more like family as his treatment plan required him to stay at the hospital for weeks at a time.

“We loved our nurses, we loved our doctors – and even those who came to clean our room each day, or those we met in the cafeteria,” said Tracy.

“They kept all of us in mind – not just Griffin – but our entire family, who was also affected by this,” said Kevin.

Griffin, a rising student-athlete in his hometown, became sidelined by cancer but committed to staying strong throughout treatment.

“I thought, ‘I’m going to get through this, and this is not what is going to take me down,’” he said.

Determined to make the most of his time during hospital stays, Griffin signed up for the Walking for Health program led by the Child Life department at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital. Patients who are able, are encouraged to walk laps within the pediatric unit hallways, and are rewarded with special beads for each milestone achieved.

“We encourage patients who are able to get up and stay active during their hospital stay as it can really help with their healing and recovery,” said Amy Hagel, Child Life Specialist. “Griffin is a wonderful example of this.”

Griffin made up his mind he would do more than just walk laps. He would jog at times, too, for an average of 3 to 4 miles each day. By the end of his 5-month treatment course, he covered a distance of 9 full marathons!

“I just kept thinking about where I wanted to be when I got done with treatment, and how in shape I wanted to be – and that kept me going,” recalled Griffin, who had the full support of his doctors and family on his efforts to stay in shape.

Griffin is now finished with chemotherapy, but will continue to be monitored by his pediatric hematology-oncology care team at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital – all of whom continue to be in awe of Griffin’s grit and determination throughout his cancer journey.

“Griffin has always been a go-getter, a very goal-oriented person,” said Kevin. “That’s something as a parent you can be very proud of.”

Thanks to your generous support, Child Life at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital continues to expand much-needed services and programming like “Walking for Health” for hospitalized children and their families.

Spotlight: Compassionate Care Fund

Your gifts strengthen the spirits of cancer patients and their families

You've probably heard the phrase, "Sometimes, the smallest things can make the biggest difference." A simple smile, a gift card to the cafeteria, or a new scarf can be the brightest moment in a cancer patient's day. When you support the HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Center, you strengthen the spirits of our cancer patients and their families. We understand that all these small, compassionate moments add up to make a big difference.

For the mother terrified of losing her hair, she can browse the Brighter Side Boutique for a wig, hat or scarf to match her style. This space is specially-designed to boost a patient's confidence.



For the grandfather faced with the burden of finding transportation to and from treatment, he can instead focus on survivorship. Patients who do not have access to transportation or experience fatigue after treatment can obtain a gift card to cover travel expenses.

For the young family traveling from afar for treatment and needs assistance with lodging, overnight hotel accommodations can be arranged. This helps ease some of the financial burdens that cancer patients and their families face.

For the dad who just received the news, "your cancer is in remission," the Anew Cancer Survivorship program is here to give him the helping hand, guidance and the support he needs to heal.

Since July 2019, more than 480 cancer patients received gas cards to help cover travel costs, cafeteria cards to purchase meals while at the hospital, and/or gift cards to assist with everyday living expenses.

As our medical team treats a patient's cancer, support through people like you help treat the patient – the whole person with the resources they need – so he or she can focus on surviving this wicked disease.

Sometimes, the smallest things can make the biggest difference.

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 HSHS St. Mary's Hospitals are now easier than ever. By becoming a monthly donor, you can continually comfort and heal the patients in our care.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact us at 920-433-8620 or koren.petersen@hshs.org.

As a monthly donor, you can:

- 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 acknowledgement letter for tax purposes
- Elect to change or suspend your donation at any time

Beginning is easy!

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"

HSHS Colleagues Overwhelmed with Gratitude

You gave them hope

We recently shared with you, our Colleague Emergency Assistance Fund that was established by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation to support our furloughed colleagues. The fund provides emergency financial assistance for HSHS colleagues who face unusual and severe financial strain during the pandemic.

As one grateful recipient reported, ***“Thank you for reminding us that working at HSHS is more than just a “job” - it’s a family.”***

“My family and I just wanted to say “thank you” from the bottom of our hearts for the gift cards that were received yesterday. It put a smile on all our faces to know that we were able to get groceries and gas for the week and not have the financial burden.”

“While we know this is a difficult time for everyone, and there are families in much more stressful situations than we are, the little extra we were able to get from this wonderful organization was amazing.”

“Thank you again. And, thank you for reminding us that working at HSHS is more than just a “job” it’s a family.”



As of June 1, more than 1,100 grocery cards and 800 gas cards have been distributed to Wisconsin colleagues.

Foundation Debuts New User-friendly Tool

Create your own fundraiser

HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary’s Foundation has the tools you need to create your own personalized fundraising page to raise funds for hospital programs like Cancer Center, Heart Center or greatest need. The platform, called “JustGiving,” 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, host an event, or create a fundraiser “just because,” you can pay it forward and support a cause close to your heart.

Visit <https://justgiving.com/campaign/svsm> and click **“Start Fundraising.”**

JustGiving™

This is an easy and effective way to make a difference in the lives of our patients and their families. Donations are directed straight to HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary’s Foundation. Additionally, there are no minimum fundraising requirements or hidden fees.

