



HSHS  
St. Vincent  
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Foundation

FRIENDS &

Miracles happen because of *you*.

Family



WINTER 2024

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## Heartbeat of Generosity

FROM MICHIGAN'S HUNTING TRAILS TO HSHS ST. VINCENT HOSPITAL – HOW YOU SAVED ONE HUNTER'S LIFE

In October 2023, Scott Ladner traveled from his home in Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania to the Upper Peninsula (U.P.) of Michigan for his annual hunting trip. What unfolded was a life-altering experience that taught him the importance of paying attention to his heart health.

Scott set out from their cabin near Iron Mountain, Michigan. He was ready for a full day of hunting with his son and two friends. The day began like any other – breakfast, camaraderie, and the anticipation of a successful hunt. Accompanied by his loyal black lab, Minnie, Scott headed into the woods. Little did he know that this day would take an unexpected turn.

As he hiked through the hunting trails, Scott was overcome by the urge to rest. Determined to make the most of their hunting trip, he pressed on. He clung to trees for support, struggling for over an hour. "I finally came out into a field where I could see our truck parked. I had to stop every 50 feet to make it back," recalls Scott. It was clear that something was wrong, and he decided to seek medical help.

The hunting party rushed Scott to the hospital 40 miles away and the medical team diagnosed his heart attack. He needed a cardiac catheterization as soon as possible, but they didn't have the ability

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to perform the procedure there. He needed to be transferred to another hospital. Transport via an ambulance would have taken several hours; therefore, a medical transport via air to Green Bay was arranged. Scott arrived safely at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital where donors like you support the advanced heart care he desperately needed.

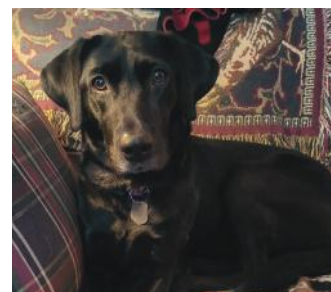
At HSHS St. Vincent Hospital, Scott noticed the genuine care and empathy from his medical team. Despite being in a scary situation, he felt a sense of familiarity and warmth. It was as if everyone knew him personally. “Looking back, I remember feeling calm— calmer than I would have expected. I was very comfortable with the people around me – they were all nice, helpful, empathetic, and concerned about my well-being and safety. Despite being nearly 650 miles from home, I knew that I was in good hands,” recalls Scott.

Now, at 84 years old, Scott has adjusted his lifestyle to prioritize his heart health. He advocates for moderation in all things and maintains an active

lifestyle on his 95-acre property. “I read obituaries and see people younger than me dying. My dad lived to age 97, and my mom to age 94. I just knew that I had more life left to live.”

Scott’s journey is a powerful reminder of your impact. Because of donors like you, Scott received specialized cardiac care he couldn’t get in the U.P. – specialized care that **SAVED HIS LIFE**.

As we celebrate American Heart Month, we want to thank you for your ongoing commitment to our patients. Your support plays a vital role in making stories like Scott’s possible. Wishing you a heart-healthy February - thank you for being a crucial part of our mission.



## 12 Months: 12 Gifts of Healing and Hope

### BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR TODAY

Bringing healing and hope to patients at HSHS St. Vincent and St. Mary’s Hospitals is now easier than ever. Your commitment as a monthly donor ensures ongoing support for our patients’ well-being. By joining, you’ll:

- Set up effortless monthly donations from your credit card.
- Direct your gift to a cause that resonates with you or to the area of greatest need.
- Receive an annual tax acknowledgment letter.
- Have the flexibility to modify or pause your donation at any time.

### Beginning is easy!

1. Visit our secure, online donation form at [giving.hshs.org/svsm/donate](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 **920-884-5928** or [WI-Foundations@hshs.org](mailto:WI-Foundations@hshs.org).

# Future Healthcare Heroes

## YOU'RE SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Over Christmas break, 20 high school students got a glimpse of their future – thanks to you!

The students, from schools across Northeast Wisconsin, gathered at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital for a Healthcare Bootcamp. The goal of the day was to show students what it's really like to work in healthcare and help them make connections with professionals in the field.

“Through job shadowing experiences, students are able to learn the role of a career, type of education that is required, skills that are performed, and network with our health care professionals,” says Ericka Mulroy, RN, BSN, Community Sourcing Strategist at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and organizer of the Healthcare Bootcamp. “These students were able to experience firsthand skill sessions and meet with local universities and colleges that offer healthcare programs.”

The bootcamp was fully funded by generous people like you. “We are so grateful for the support of donors who are investing in the next generation of potential healthcare workers,” shared Johannah Wenig, Interim Director of the HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary's Foundation. “You not only made a difference in the lives of these young adults but have also contributed to shaping the future of healthcare in our community.”



## 2023 Donations: Your Tax Summary Awaits!



Reflecting on the incredible impact of your generosity throughout 2023, we want to ensure you have everything you need for tax season. If you would like a summary of your 2023 giving for your records, simply email us at [WI-Foundations@hshs.org](mailto:WI-Foundations@hshs.org) or contact us by phone at **920-884-5928**.

Your contributions fuel our mission to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high-quality Franciscan health care. Thank you!

# Making Memories That Will Last a Lifetime

## YOU'RE MAKING WISHES COME TRUE!

Anna is a remarkable eight-year-old who has faced a tremendous challenge. When she was only two months old, she was diagnosed with optic pathway glioma, a slow-growing brain tumor. Her life has been a rollercoaster of hospital visits, chemotherapy, and chemo pills to stabilize her condition.

In the Yang household, Anna is one of five siblings. Her father works tirelessly as a full-time driver, and her mother stays at home to care for their children.

Many families with children facing significant illnesses, like the Yangs, endure emotional and financial strains when a serious illness or diagnosis occurs. The costs of treatments and medications are staggering, and parents often miss countless days of work while managing their child's medical needs. This means some families struggle to afford food and other necessities.

Anna's condition and the financial burden of her medical expenses prevented her family from enjoying simple experiences they dream of.

### **That's where your generosity made a world of difference.**

Through the Pediatric Compassionate Care program, you gave Anna and her family a trip to the Milwaukee Zoo – something they couldn't have afforded on their own.

This past summer, the Yangs embarked on their magical day. Anna was thrilled to get up close and personally feed the giraffes. She relished every moment with the animals. Her father, Jeremy, shared, "It was so heartwarming to see Anna walking and running, and marveling at the animals with such excitement. That trip to the zoo was exactly what we needed, a welcomed distraction from our everyday realities."

This special day was possible because of your kindness. The cherished memories Anna and her family created would have remained out of reach without the generosity of donors like you. Thank you for being the source of these moments of joy and respite for families like the Yangs.

