

# Spirit of GIVING

A NEWSLETTER FOR DONORS AND FRIENDS OF ASCENSION SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN FOUNDATIONS

Fall 2023



## Inside:

- Generous giving at event raises major funds for NICU renovation
- Patients inspired along walking trail
- 'Healthy Housing' initiative aims to reduce chronic homelessness
- Therapy dogs bring smiles and comfort
- Treatment environment enhanced for behavioral health patients

Gwen Haggerty-Bearden and Steven Bearden's gifts through the Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander Foundation support Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery and the walking trail.

## Ascension Michigan and Henry Ford Health announce agreement to dramatically expand and enhance integrated healthcare services across southeast and central Michigan

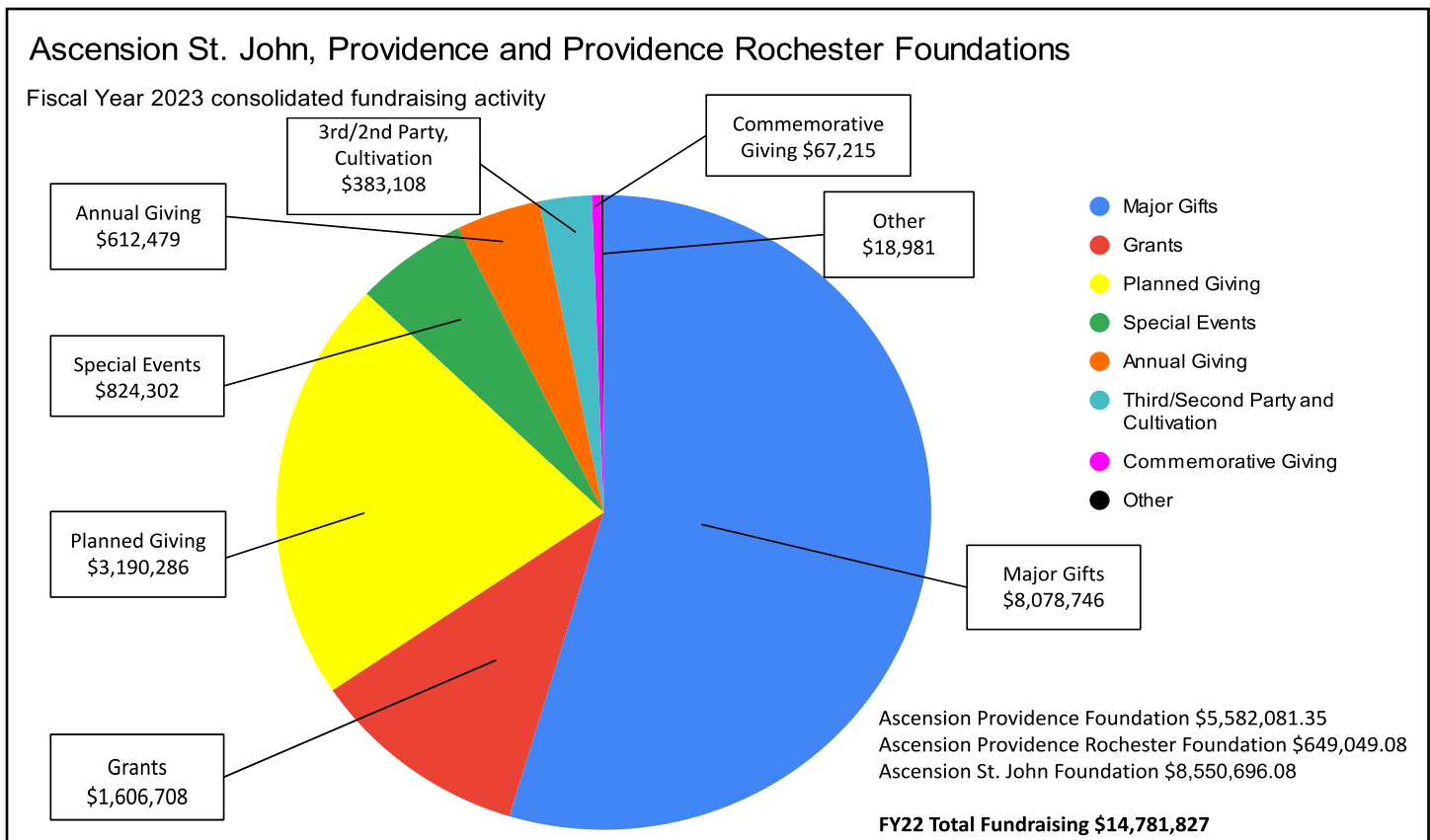
An agreement has been made between Ascension Michigan and Henry Ford Health to enter a joint venture that will bring together Ascension’s southeast Michigan and Genesys healthcare facilities and assets with Henry Ford’s. The joint venture will expand healthcare services and deliver innovations in care – from prevention and early detection, through the treatment of complex conditions – to more people and communities in Michigan, including those who are most vulnerable.

This planned joint venture is expected to be completed by summer 2024, subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory review and canonical approvals. Ascension Michigan ministries included in the joint venture are Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery; Ascension Genesys Hospital; Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital, Warren and Madison Heights Campuses; Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi and Southfield Campuses; Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital; Ascension River District Hospital; and Ascension St. John Hospital.

Both organizations are committed to working to maintain the Catholic identity of the Ascension Michigan facilities included in the partnership. Conversations on the future state of the Catholic identity of these facilities are ongoing.

The existing Ascension Southeast Michigan Foundations, Ascension Providence Foundation, Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation and Ascension St. John Foundation, as well as Ascension Genesys Foundation in Grand Blanc, will not be merged into any other legal entity and will continue to support their respective hospitals and continue to maintain separate Boards of Directors.

“As we come together to accelerate the delivery of innovative, inclusive, high-quality healthcare in communities across the region, please know that you, our generous donors, continue to be vital to our success,” said Pat Kelly, VP Market Leader, Ascension Michigan Foundation. “Funds raised by the individual foundations will remain directed to the intent of our dedicated philanthropic supporters.”



Thank you to our generous donors for helping us raise more than \$14.7 million last year to enhance patient and community programs and services, acquire new technology, and expand and renovate our healthcare facilities.

## Friends' Ball event raises funds for NICU renovations at Ascension Providence Hospital

The April 2023 Friends' Ball was a big success, raising more than \$140,000 to support the renovation and expansion of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield.

The existing NICU is a level III facility with stellar services and a nationally recognized medical staff. The team treats premature infants and newborns with serious illnesses and challenges such as pulmonary, metabolic, cardiac, hematological and neurological conditions. To meet the growing need for this high level of infant care and meet the expectations of families, the NICU will be revitalized and expanded.

One highlight of the Friends' Ball was the dedicated giving program, led by **Daryl Beebe**, Ascension Providence Foundation Board of Trustees member, and his wife **Shawn**. Their two children both received healing care in the NICU. Their giving spirit raised 47 very generous gifts from the event's attendees which included major gifts from:

- **Dr. Shukri David**
- **Dr. Gary and Mrs. Nancy Druskovich**
- **Mr. Terence and Jessica Durkin**
- **Dr. Sherry Graf**
- **Dr. Isaac Grinberg**
- **Ms. Charlene E. Shaya, Esq.**
- **Dr. Manhal W. Tobia**

These gifts will be used to reach the goal of \$7.17 million for the NICU Renovation Campaign. The NICU renovation is vital in the hospital's effort to help people across the community. The primary goal is to improve community resources and barriers to care in metro Detroit. Many women and babies face innumerable challenges that increase the risk of preterm birth or critical illness, necessitating neonatal intensive care services.

The NICU renovation will also be transformational by creating the most welcoming environment for our tiniest patients and their families. The new space will provide seamless continuation for critical newborn care and privacy for each family. Infants will thrive in an environment tailored to their specific journey of growth and wellness and enhanced by the

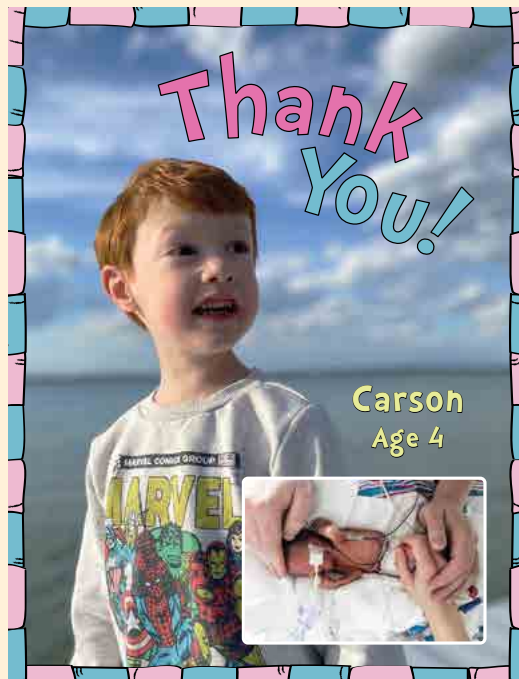
latest technology and equipment to ensure unparalleled care for patients locally and across the region.

The following generous donors have also made meaningful naming gifts to the NICU since the 2023 Friends' Ball:

- The **DeRoy Testamentary Foundation** named the Family Waiting Room.
- The **Shamrock 555 Foundation** named a private patient room in memory of Stephen Luigi Piazza.
- **Stephanie and Brian Slocum**. Brian is an Ascension Providence Foundation Board of Trustee; the Slocums

made their investment after Brian heard a presentation to the board about long-standing inequities in maternal and infant health in the hospital's service area.

- **Geri and Mel Kaftan** named a private patient room.
- The **Sloane Elisabeth Foundation** named the Bereavement Room in memory of Sloane Elisabeth Pomerville, granddaughter of Miriam Dudas, a former Ascension Providence Hospital nurse, whose family experience at another NICU led them to support this cause.
- **Anthony Boutt, MD**, and his wife **Rosemary** made a generous gift to name one of the two semi-private suites meant for multiple births.



Your NICU gift can help young patients like Carson.

"I was on staff as an obstetrician and gynecologist at Ascension Providence,

Southfield, for 50 years, and my wife was a pharmacist there, so we have strong ties to the hospital," Dr. Boutt said. "Over the years, the NICU has taken great care of many babies needing intensive treatments, and we're truly grateful for that. These babies have serious health conditions, and that's very hard on their families. Anything we can do to make things easier for them is a very worthy endeavor."

To learn how you can support the campaign to help transform care for vulnerable infants, or to schedule a walk-through at the site, please contact Patricia Warner, Major Gift Officer, Ascension Providence Foundation, at 248-465-5007 or [patricia.warner@ascension.org](mailto:patricia.warner@ascension.org).

## Patients are inspired with every step along Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander Walking Trail

Inner peace and serenity...these are among the key elements needed to help people recover from substance use disorder.

Staff at the Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery help patients take steps toward regaining the ability to regulate their behavior and maintain sobriety. Inspiring signage placed along the recently completed walking trail on the campus helps reinforce those medical treatments.

The Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander Walking Trail, which was completed in August, consists of two sections that wind through a tranquil natural setting filled with mature trees. Portions of the path also run alongside Lake Serenity.

The new signage - which was requested by the staff - is placed at intervals along the trail. The signs display the 12 steps of recovery as well as meditative verbiage asking walkers to reflect on their experiences; contemplate the importance of a

higher power; think about issues to address during their journey to recovery; seek gratitude, hope and forgiveness; and more.

"The path is an ideal setting for introspection," said Barbara Shoup, RN-BC, BAS-N, MBA, CARN, Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery Hospital Administrator. "Being alone with yourself and nature can be very therapeutic and healing. We often see geese, swans and cranes on the lake. And the signage equips patients with tools to help them manage anxiety and experience other ways in life to find pleasure."

The walking trail was made possible by a generous gift from the **Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander Foundation**.

Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery is the first addiction treatment center in Michigan and second-oldest in the country. It serves about 2,700 patients annually.



Signage featuring the 12 steps of recovery and meditation suggestions is exhibited along the walking trail. The step 1 sign is featured here.



The former St. Matthew School and Activities Building will be developed into affordable residences.

## Ascension partners with Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan on a ‘Healthy Housing’ initiative

On any given day, more than 5,500 people find themselves homeless across Detroit, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Of that number, more than 1,100 experience chronic homelessness – a homeless period lasting for at least one year, or four episodes of homelessness in the last three years.

These men and women sleep on the streets, in shelters or in other places not meant for habitation. In addition, people experiencing homelessness often have a combination of mental health, substance abuse disorders and other health conditions that worsen over time. Without access to the right type of housing options and services, people experiencing homelessness cycle in and out of emergency rooms and inpatient beds, detox programs, jails, prisons and psychiatric institutions – all at high public expense.

To help alleviate the suffering endured by people experiencing chronic homelessness in the Detroit community, Ascension, Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM) are collaborating to create the Residences at St. Matthew, a housing development that will help transform the identity of these people from homeless to valued.

This \$20 million community investment will repurpose the former St. Matthew School on Audubon Road and the school’s Activities Building on Whittier Road in Detroit into quality affordable apartments for low-income families and individuals and permanent supportive housing. It will not be a homeless shelter.

The Residences at St. Matthew will include 36 one-bedroom units, four two-bedroom units, and six studio units. Of the 46 total units, 25 will be designated permanent support housing for people experiencing chronic homelessness. The other 21 will be affordable housing units open to individuals and families who meet income requirements set by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

Ascension St. John Hospital will coordinate health and wellness care for residents, and the former school gymnasium will become a multi-purpose community service space offering CCSEM and Ascension programs and services.

“Catholic Charities USA selected Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan as one of only five pilot Healthy Housing initiatives in the country,” said Paul Propson, CEO of CCSEM. “The vision is to target areas of chronic homelessness. St. Matthew School is an available property that can be repurposed, and we’re partnering with an excellent Catholic healthcare provider in Ascension. Through this three-way collaboration, we seek to reduce chronic homelessness and restore the health of individuals and families so they can become physically and mentally stronger and realize their God-given potential.”

Selena Schmidt, Vice President Behavioral Health & Community Health, Ascension Michigan, says the medical services to be offered are still in the early planning stages.

“Our goal is to assess the needs of the residents as they move into their new homes to ensure that we provide the services they need most,” Selena said. “We will provide connections to medical and specialty services, mental health and substance use disorders, and social services connections in the community. We are delighted to partner with Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan in this project, and look forward to serving the community to help restore the health and dignity of this vulnerable population.”

The St. Matthew School building has been closed as an educational facility for about 15 years, but the structure remains very sound thanks to the care of St. Matthew Parish and its longtime pastor, Fr. Duane Novelly.

Renovations began late this fall; the target date for welcoming the first residents is December 2024.

While major funding has been provided through public support, including the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit, along with generous private philanthropy, additional funding is needed to help bring this vision to reality. To learn more about the project and how it will address the housing and health needs of people in our community, visit [csem.org/residences](http://csem.org/residences). To learn how you can support this development, please contact Rebecca Sellers, Chief Development Officer, Ascension St. John Foundation, at 313-343-4353 or [rebecca.sellers@ascension.org](mailto:rebecca.sellers@ascension.org).

## Therapy Dogs bring smiles and comfort to patients, visitors and staff with support from the community



Volunteer handler Vicki O'Connell (left), Therapy Dog Carson and April Moore from Pet Supplies Plus headquarters visit with a patient at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi.

Dogs are often called man's best friend. At the Ascension hospitals in southeast Michigan, special dogs have been good friends to patients, visitors and staff, providing comfort and fetching smiles through the Therapy Dog Program since 2009. Therapy dogs help bring a calming effect, ease a patient's fear and anxiety, and help lower blood pressure.

With their volunteer handlers, the dogs visit patients, family members and visitors, and cheer up associates, doctors and volunteers at Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery; Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi and Southfield; Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital; Ascension River District Hospital; Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital, Madison Heights and Warren; and Ascension St. John Hospital. Collectively, the nine dogs - Carson, Chilly, Clyde, Doc, Grace, John, Josie, Maggie and Paxton - encounter over 450,000 guests a year!

The Therapy Dog Program at Ascension Southeast Michigan is unique - all the dogs are owned by the respective hospitals, which allows for consistency with training, commands and schedules for the dogs, as well as safety. The dogs live with

associate host families, who provide daily care, transport the dogs to work, act as program ambassadors and make sure the dogs have an active life outside of work.

The Therapy Dog Program is funded entirely by donations, including gifts from associates, community members, organizations and companies. Since the program's inception, **Pet Supplies Plus**, headquartered in Livonia, has been one of the most generous supporters and partners with the program.

April Moore, Certified Franchise Executive for Pet Supplies Plus, said her colleague Jeff Suttle's wife Alicia worked at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi, when the Therapy Dog Program was implemented and brought it to the company's attention.

"We looked at the program and the benefits it brings to the community. Pet Supplies Plus is all about supporting locally and helping to spread awareness about important initiatives, so partnering with this great program was a 'no brainer,'" April said. "This program brings light to everything we believe in...pets, people and their unique bond! We looked forward to the partnership!"

Passionate about the Therapy Dog Program, April jumped at a chance to spearhead the partnership because of her personal experiences. "When I had health issues and was in the hospital, I was lucky to see a therapy dog and it brightened up my days and let me take a breather to not think about stressful stuff but to focus on petting an amazing, cute pup. And my little brother had a service dog after his tours with the military - that dog made such a difference in his life."

Pet Supplies Plus has generously donated more than \$120,000 in gift cards to Ascension Southeast Michigan hospitals over the years to use for the dogs. "Every dog is different, so we want the host families to be able to decide the best needs for each dog," April said. "Besides gift cards, whenever we get a chance to see the dogs, we bring goodie bags stuffed with all kinds of items. It's our chance to spoil them for the hard work they do."

When Pet Supplies Plus first partnered with the Therapy Dog Program, April shadowed a dog and handler at Ascension Providence Hospital. "I got to see the joy they brought each person they interacted with," she said. "Seeing children petting the dog was heartwarming, and watching the dogs interact with adults in waiting areas was great! I saw smiles and joy spark across people's faces seeing the dog walk toward them."

*Continued from previous page*

When the dogs are at the hospitals, they are escorted on their shifts by one of 34 volunteer dog handlers. These specially dedicated volunteers participate in 20+ hours of training and must make at least a one-year commitment to the program.

“The handlers must be good listeners, have the ability to engage people in conversation and be able to ‘read’ when a person would like the dog to approach or may not welcome a visit,” said Cheryl Thrushman, Manager, Business Operations, who oversees the Therapy Dog Program.

Cheryl emphasized the dogs are equally important for associates and doctors as they are for patients and visitors. “The better our associates are cared for (emotionally), the better they can care for our patients,” she said.

At Ascension Providence Hospital, the volunteer leagues are also big supporters of the Therapy Dog Program. Besides having 10 volunteer handlers at the Novi campus and five at the Southfield campus, the **Providence Park League** and **Our Lady of Providence League** have provided generous financial support to the program.

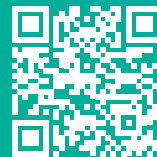
Nancy Gormley, Therapy Dog handler at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi, a Providence Park League member and retired nurse, said, “Carson (Therapy Dog, Novi Campus) makes people smile. I just met a man who said he hadn’t smiled in a week until I brought the dog in. He had a smile from ear to ear. That’s the magic of the program!”

## Visit our web pages to support Therapy Dog Program



**Ascension Providence Foundation** – supports therapy dogs at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi and Southfield, and Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery

<https://ascnmifnd.org/pfdogday>



**Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation** – supports therapy dogs at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital

<https://ascnmifnd.org/rocdogday>



**Ascension St. John Foundation** – supports therapy dogs at Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital, Warren and Madison Heights; Ascension River District Hospital; and Ascension St. John Hospital

<https://ascnmifnd.org/sjfdogday>



## New Therapy Dog joins Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital

Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital has a new team member, and she is one who draws attention and lots of love wherever she goes! Maggie, a black Labrador Retriever, is the newest member to join the Ascension Michigan Therapy Dog Team, thanks to a very generous donation last year.

Maggie lives with her host family, a hospital associate, who brings her to work every day. Specially trained volunteer handlers greet Maggie and take her out to spread joy each day visiting patients, families, guests and associates.

Therapy Dogs provide comfort for patients while they are in the hospital, helping to ease fear and anxiety, reduce stress and lower blood pressure. They also help boost morale and lift spirits of associates.

Maggie is already well loved, and the staff and patients are excited to see her when she shows up on their floor several times throughout the week. The new furry, four-legged friend turned 2 years old in October.

## New Pediatric Emergency Department opening soon; ribbon-cutting event held to celebrate new addition

The Shery L. Cotton Pediatric Emergency Department will open to patients in January 2024! A ribbon-cutting event was held on Nov. 21 with top donors, Ascension St. John Foundation board members, hospital executives and community leaders in attendance to celebrate this new addition for young patients and their families.

The Pediatric Emergency Department, phase 1 of a four-phase expansion and renovation project, was made possible with generous philanthropic support from **Shery L. Cotton** and her son **Jon B. Cotton**. Their gift and many others brought the *Your Child, We Care* campaign to its minimum goal of \$18 million to enhance Ascension St. John Children's Hospital.

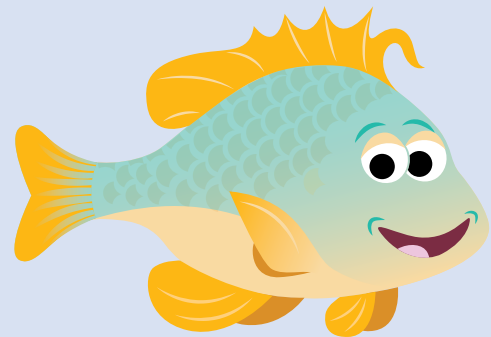
Features of the new Pediatric Emergency Department include:

- 13 private exam rooms, three of which will serve patients with behavioral health conditions
- A sensory room equipped with soft lighting and toys to

distract/calm children with special needs

- Two resuscitation rooms to treat critically ill or injured children and adolescents
- A spacious waiting area, two triage rooms and a centralized clinical team workstation
- Great Lakes-themed decor with playful images of freighters, lighthouses, turtles and other wildlife designed to relax and comfort young patients and their families

Phase 2 construction for the Women's and Children's Entrance is scheduled to start in January.



The waiting room has Great Lakes-themed decor designed to comfort and relax young patients and their families during their visit to the Pediatric Emergency Department.

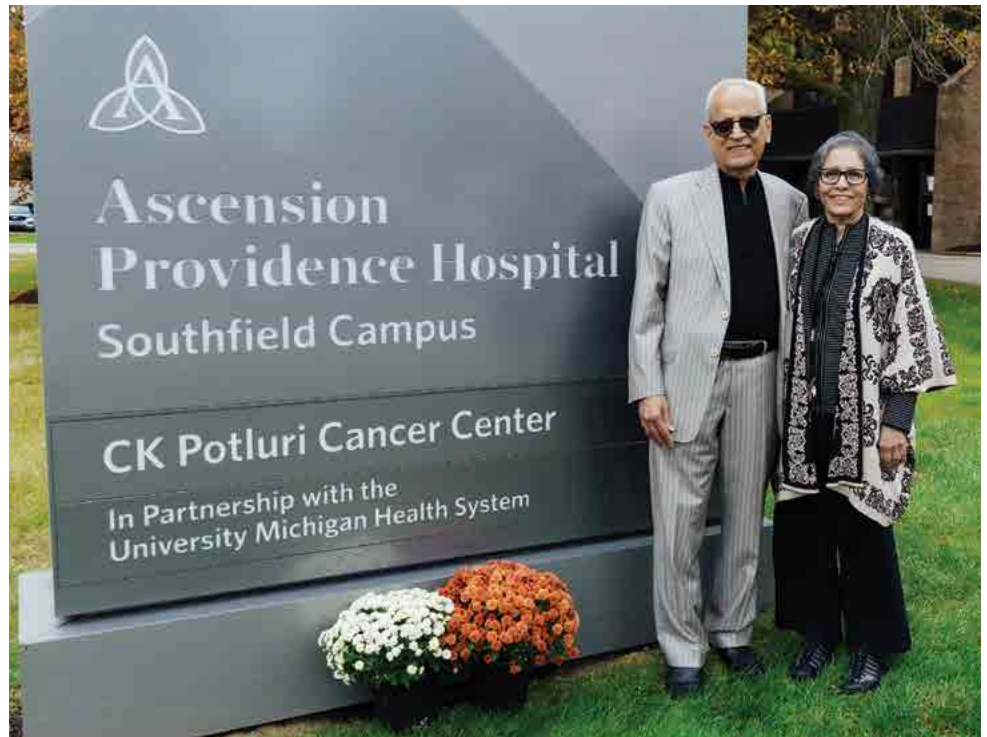


## Event celebrates physicians' generosity and renaming of cancer center at Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield

**Lakshmi Gavini, MD, and Vinaya Gavini, MD,** were honored for their exceptional generosity to Ascension Providence Hospital at a blessing and ribbon-cutting celebration on Sept. 29 for the newly renamed Ascension Providence Hospital CK Potluri Cancer Center in Southfield.

A transformational gift from the Gavinis made it possible for Ascension Providence Hospital to partner with Wayne State University to share clinical and outcome data to support advanced cancer research. The research program will also support training programs in translational cancer research to develop future clinical investigators and clinical research fellows.

The Gavinis made their seven-figure gift to enhance the course of cancer care, research and medical training in southeast Michigan, where they practiced medicine for more than 40 years before retiring. A few years ago, the couple also made a major gift to establish the SM Gavini Center for Cancer Prevention at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi.



Dr. Vinaya Gavini and Dr. Lakshmi Gavini stand proudly with the signage displaying the new name of the cancer center.

In recognition of the Gavinis' cumulative giving to the hospital, the cancer center was renamed the Ascension Providence Hospital CK Potluri Cancer Center for Lakshmi's parents, Chalapathi and Krupa Potluri.



Friends and colleagues gather with Drs. Vinaya and Lakshmi Gavini (center with scissors) for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

At the ribbon-cutting event, Dr. Lakshmi Gavini shared a touching story about her parents' support for her to become a physician. Lakshmi also spoke about her interest in wanting to make a difference in the lives of others and leaving a legacy.

Michael Wiemann, MD, FACP, Regional President and CEO, Ascension Metro West Region, shared memories and milestones at Ascension over the years as he has a long tenure with the Gavinis.

Many physician and nursing colleagues and friends of 40-plus years attended the celebratory event to show their support to the Gavinis.

## Cracchiolo gift enhances mental health care at Ascension St. John Hospital

An enhanced treatment environment for adults suffering from acute mental health conditions is now available at Ascension St. John Hospital in the newly refurbished **Raymond and Jane Cracchiolo Wellness Recovery Unit**, which opened in mid-November.

Nearly 500 patients are admitted to the unit annually, with most staying for an extended period of time.

The gift helped revitalize 16 patient rooms accommodating 27 patients, a dayroom, a meditation room, two group rooms, and an activity therapy room. In addition, the clinical team work station was completely remodeled.

Design and décor enhancements make the unit more aesthetically pleasing, while upgrades to doors, fixtures, furnishings and a new panic alarm system provide the highest level of safety and comfort for patients and staff.

Ascension St. John Hospital is also planning the second phase of construction to create the **Raymond and Jane Cracchiolo Emergency Wellness Recovery Center**, to be located in the existing Emergency Center Annex. The center will accommodate the specialized needs of children and teens who come to the Emergency Center with behavioral health issues.

Five new patient rooms and an activity area will offer children and teens a comfortable, therapeutic and healing environment. Some features will include dimmable LED

lighting, a calm color palette, and child-friendly artwork and age-appropriate activities. In addition, a state-of-the-art monitoring system will promote patient and staff safety.

The Cracchiolos made their generous \$4.5 million gift supporting the renovations and new construction in part to break down stigmas surrounding mental illness – something the mental health care physicians and staff at Ascension St. John Hospital fully appreciate.

“Our behavioral health patients are among our most vulnerable,” said Gayle Novack, BSN, MA, RN, Regional Chief Nursing Officer. “To begin their wellness journey, those patients need a calming, healing and person-centered environment that meets their individual needs. The Cracchiolos’ very kind gift goes beyond helping us better serve patients who suffer with mental health issues – it also highlights the great need for robust behavioral health care in our community.”

The Ascension St. John Foundation is grateful for the Cracchiolos’ generous lead gift, which will help so many people suffering with mental illness. Fundraising continues for an additional \$600,000 for the Child and Adolescent Emergency Wellness Recovery Center and other program needs.

To learn how you can help increase access and improve care for behavioral health patients, contact Sherry Augustine, Senior Development Officer, at 313-343-7481.



Jennifer Hudson, Administrative Assistant, Behavioral Health, and Ann Martin, RN, Clinical Nurse Manager, Behavioral Health, look over some unit information at the new nursing desk.



This is one of the newly renovated patient rooms on the Behavioral Health Unit.

## Behavioral health patients benefit from virtual care

Your donations to the Telemedicine Fund at Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery have made a significant difference for behavioral health patients – thank you!

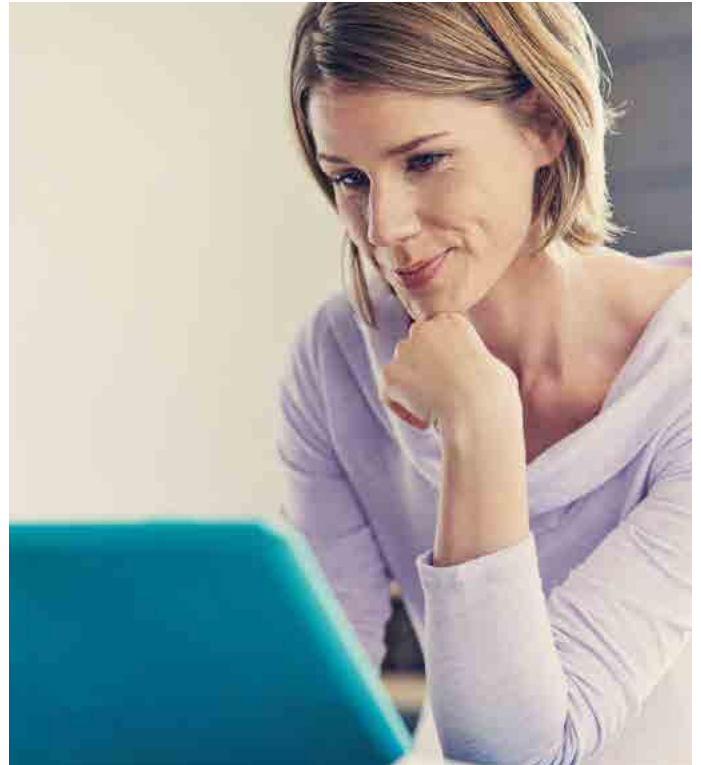
Gifts received were used to purchase advanced technology for virtual care (telehealth). The new technology was installed in a room converted to a private, safe space. This updated room is now used by patients and therapists for virtual appointments and music therapy.

Providing music therapy virtually can assist patients in identifying emotions through nonverbal expression in a safe setting, which can lead to improved communication with others. Music therapy has several benefits for behavioral health patients, including:

- Helping individuals develop useful coping strategies
- Encouraging positive emotional behavior
- Helping patients to better tolerate frustration
- Improving interpersonal relationships
- Increasing self-awareness, self-esteem and self-image

Patients have expressed that they love the therapy and wish they had more of it. They appreciate the new room with advanced technology and are thankful to those who helped make it happen!

If you would like to support the Telemedicine Fund at Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery, please contact Christa Williams at [christa.williams@ascension.org](mailto:christa.williams@ascension.org) or 248-465-5006.



## Thank you for helping children and their families have a happy holiday!



Gifts made in support of the Christmas Store at Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital made it possible for Meijer gift cards to be given to families in need last December. You helped children in your community to receive a gift and a warm meal for Christmas. The families you helped are extremely grateful for the gift cards and the smiles on their children's faces when they received the gifts!

Your Christmas Store donations also made it possible for gift cards to be given to families in need through a partnership with the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team. Because of you, 51 children received an outfit, a toy and a stocking full of goodies. Thank you!



Members of the Unlimited Potential committee include (l- r): Marie Dubay, Andrew Costeiu, Nicholas Conte, Brian Kirk (with Therapy Dog Maggie), Erin Hart, LeOsha Evans and Donna Cheshire, Co-Chair. Committee members not pictured are: Elizabeth Collins-Mapleh, Co-Chair; Lindsay Schwalbach and Angela Delpup.

## Dedicated giving to Employee Unlimited Potential supports many efforts

Associates at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital have a long history of generously supporting the hospital, associates and the community through gifts made to the Employee Unlimited Potential (UP) fund. Created as an employee committee in 1988 to encourage support of the hospital and programs, UP has raised thousands of dollars over the past 35 years.

Associates are invited and encouraged to give to the annual associate giving campaign, now called Spirit of Giving. During this campaign, employees have the opportunity to donate to one or more Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation funds. A majority of the associates who participate in the campaign give to the Employee Unlimited Potential Fund, showing the importance of this fund to them.

Unlimited Potential operates as a group of the Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation, with a committee comprised of associates from all over the hospital that oversees the fund and votes on what to support with the donations.

Annually, UP has provided a pancake breakfast for associates during Hospital Week, educational grants for associates and dependents, holiday decor for the hospital and a backpack drive for the Rochester Area Neighborhood House, a human services agency which supports families in need of assistance.

In 2022-2023, Unlimited Potential funded projects included the annual associate picnic, food trucks, popcorn/ice cream social event, installation of a player piano system for the hospital lobby, lactation consultation room furniture, medical training manikins, light therapy equipment to treat newborn jaundice, gifts for a family whose child was in the Emergency department over the holidays, and bike helmets for children at community events.

In addition, UP support in past years has funded a patio and benches for associates, renewal room/break room projects, educational supplies for Behavioral Health, patient lift equipment and garden boxes for the hospital entrance.

Thank you to all the associates supporting Unlimited Potential and to the committee for its efforts over the years.

## Local painter gifts her art to adorn renovated space at Elliott Breast Care Center

The recent completion of an extensive renovation and expansion to the Elliott Breast Care Center at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi, enhances and enlarges an already exceptional breast care service program.

Along with additions such as mammography machines, an ultrasound suite, and space for private patient consultations, new décor creates a more soothing and comfortable setting for patients and their loved ones.

Artist **Fran Wolok** of Bloomfield Hills generously donated 17 of her paintings to the center. Her colorful, expressionist works reflect her love of nature. The paintings are on display in the reception area, patient waiting rooms, the consultation rooms and along the hallways.

“Fran’s artwork provides the calming aesthetic we felt was missing,” said Jennifer Valenti, Director of Breast Imaging Services at the Elliott Breast Care Center. “Her art captures the changing seasons. Studies have shown that being in nature relaxes the mind and reduces our stress, cortisol levels, muscle tension and heart rates. The center has many windows that allow natural light to enter. Patients can appreciate the beauty of the seasons while waiting for their exams. Fran’s art allows us to further bring the outside into our renovated space and provide a sense of calm to our patients.”

“Painting is a composite of decisions,” said Fran, when asked to comment on the inspiration for the donated works.

“Within the canvas, the consistency of the subject matter, the composition and its point of view, the time of day to determine a light source – all are important factors.

“Nothing stays the same, change is constant and the interpretation of these paintings captures the fleeting moment. For those who walk these halls [of the center], I would like to encourage strength, dignity and hopefulness as reflected in these paintings.”

While the Ascension Providence Foundation is extremely grateful for the donors who supported the Elliott Breast Care Center renovation and expansion, some critical needs remain.

The original project called for adding two 3D tomosynthesis mammography machines. The center still needs funding to support the purchase of one of these machines at a cost of \$400,000. In addition, the center would like to upgrade its



Pictured (l-r) are: Jennifer Valenti, Director, Breast Imaging Services; Meghan Hill, Lead Technologist, Mammography; Fran Wolok, artist and donor; and Christa Williams, Major Gift Officer, Ascension Providence Foundation, in front of some of the donated artwork.

existing exterior patio space as an area of respite for patients and their families. The renovation cost for the patio is \$90,000.

To make a gift supporting these projects or to learn more about how you can help support services at the Elliott Breast Care Center, please contact Christa Williams, Major Gift Officer, Ascension Providence Foundation, at 248-465-5006 or [christa.williams@ascension.org](mailto:christa.williams@ascension.org).

## Estate gift to bring advanced robotic-assisted diagnostic equipment to Van Elslander Cancer Center

Lung cancer remains by far the leading cause of cancer death in the United States, accounting for nearly one in five of all cancer deaths, according to the American Cancer Society. Each year, more people die from lung cancer than from colon, breast and prostate cancers combined.

Early detection and treatment of lung cancer are vital to positive patient outcomes. That's why, thanks to funds available from a generous estate gift from the **John O. Lutz Family Trust**, the lung cancer experts at Ascension St. John Hospital are purchasing the Ion endoluminal system, a state-of-the-art robotic-assisted diagnostic tool.

Using the Ion, doctors can detect lung disease earlier and in a less-invasive manner than when using other existing technologies. The Ion will also lower the risk of complications and allow even more patients like Paul Williams to survive lung cancer.

Paul, a 63-year-old resident of Shelby Township, enjoys boating, fishing and spending time with his wife, adult children and six grandchildren at his summer cottage in Gaylord. Two summers ago, Paul was planning for a day of tubing and swimming with his family. As he was lifting a cooler into his boat, he felt a "popping" sensation in his right shoulder, followed by soreness.

After returning home, Paul saw his family doctor. Scans showed a suspicious "spot" on Paul's right lung. Subsequent testing confirmed lung cancer.

"I was shocked because I didn't have chest pain, nor was I coughing," Paul said. "I had quit smoking 35 years beforehand. I never before felt so vulnerable and scared."

Paul promptly started his care with Octavijan Minanov, MD, Section Chief for Thoracic Surgery at Ascension St. John Hospital. Dr. Minanov specializes in robotic surgical removal of lung and chest tumors.

Dr. Minanov successfully performed a lobectomy on Paul using the da Vinci robotic surgical system. The da Vinci uses a minimally invasive approach with surgical precision and smaller incisions. This results in less pain, shorter hospital stays and better outcomes.

About 12 weeks following the surgery, Paul had fully healed and was ready to play again with his grandchildren.

"I consider myself very fortunate," Paul said. "Dr. Minanov and his team were remarkable, every step of the way."

While the Ion is used primarily for diagnostic purposes, doctors can also potentially use it to remove tumors without the need for more invasive procedures, such as needle biopsy, bronchoscopy and thoracic surgery.

"One of the Ion's main features is its ultra-thin catheter, which allows the surgeon to maneuver into areas of the lung that were previously unreachable," Dr. Minanov said. "There is a lower risk of lung collapse when using the Ion, as there is no need for needle biopsy. With the Ion, we will be able to treat lung cancers completely robotically, from diagnosis to resection. In some cases, we can potentially biopsy a tumor and remove it during the same procedure, without subsequent surgery."

The estate gift from the John O. Lutz Family Trust, made in gratitude to the Van Elslander Cancer Center (VECC) at Ascension St. John Hospital, will not only help with the purchase of the Ion but also help grow the hospital's thoracic lung program. A new Multidisciplinary Cancer Clinic will be created within the VECC, combining the expertise of the cancer specialists and allowing them to collaborate in tailoring a care plan for each patient. This will enable the community to receive the highest quality of care while seeing all specialists on the same day at the same location. Thoracic lung cancer will be the first cancer type launched in the clinic, and that program will be overseen by Dr. Minanov.

Additional gifts are needed to help give patients like Paul and their families hope in the face of a cancer diagnosis. To learn how you can help, contact Sherry Augustine, Senior Development Officer, Ascension St. John Foundation, at 313-343-7481.



## Van Elslander Cancer Center Patient Support Fund eases financial burdens



Michael, Finn and Laura Heenan

A cancer diagnosis is never easy on patients and their families. But when compounded by loss of income and growing expenses, making ends meet while fighting the disease can seem impossible.

That's what Laura Heenan and her family faced after doctors diagnosed her with a fatal form of breast cancer. But thanks to assistance from the Van Elslander Cancer Center Patient Support Fund at Ascension St. John Hospital, Laura can now focus on living life to the fullest and spending her remaining time with her family.

Laura, a 54-year-old Grosse Pointe Park resident, received her cancer diagnosis in 2021. She underwent extensive treatment, including several surgeries. The disease went into remission but returned in 2022, having metastasized to her bones. Doctors gave her a year to live, although a new medication she's taking for metastatic disease may help prolong her life.

This period of time has been very hard on Laura's family. Her husband, Michael, is an elementary school art teacher and the primary wage earner. Laura spent much of her time caring for their 17-year-old son Finn, who received an autism diagnosis at 18 months.

"After the cancer returned, my son developed an addiction while trying to cope with my health issues," Laura said. "We needed to send him to a treatment facility, which drained our savings. My husband went to teaching part time and became very depressed."

Finn dropped out of high school and the family's expenses began piling up.

"Besides Finn's therapy, we also have family therapy and a grief counselor," Laura said. "We're now on Medicaid since we can't

afford medical insurance. One of our cars broke down. We had to tap into my husband's pension. It seemed like everything was going wrong all at once. We thought about cutting back on therapy, but which one?"

When social workers at the Van Elslander Cancer Center (VECC) learned about Laura's financial challenges, they made efforts to find help. Support from the VECC Patient Support Fund helped Laura and her family pay for car repairs, mortgage bills, utilities and Finn's ongoing therapy.

"We're blessed and extremely grateful for the patient support fund," Laura said. "We got this financial life saver when we least expected it. Since then, we've been able to build up our savings a tiny bit."

Laura said she now has more energy to focus on her son's return to school.

"My husband and I believe that when you work hard and act kindly toward others, things will come through when you need them," she said. "I have the love and support of so many people in our community. That's helped carry us through some dark and emotional times. The support fund has been a light of hope for us."

To contribute to the VECC Patient Support Fund, please contact Sherry Augustine at 313-343-7481 or sherry.augustine@ascension.org.

### Lochmoor golfers provide critical support for cancer patients

Since 2017, an annual ladies' golf event at Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods has supported cancer patients at Ascension St. John Hospital who are in financial need. By donating proceeds from the Lochmoor Fights Cancer Golf Outing to the Van Elslander Cancer Center Patient Support Fund, the participants hope to ease the financial burdens patients often face while in treatment.

Through the great generosity of these donors, cancer patients have been able to pay for medications, pay their mortgages, feed their families, fuel their cars so they can get to their medical appointments, and more. This year, the event raised approximately \$70,000 for the VECC Patient Support Fund. Total support from Lochmoor Fights Cancer over the years is over \$300,000! Thank you!

## Announcements

### Distinguished Volunteers recognized

Congratulations to the following individuals honored as Distinguished Volunteers by the Greater Detroit Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals on National Philanthropy Day.

#### *Nominated by Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation*



**Tim Crawford** is president of The Crawford Insurance Group, established in 2001. He has over 10 years of giving to the Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation and joined the Board of Directors in 2023. Tim has dedicated his time, finances and resources to further the Ascension Mission

within the Rochester community, including chairing numerous events.



**Maria and Mario Mocerri** operate Blossom Properties for seniors as well as Mocerri Custom Homes. Along with his brothers, Mario upholds their parents' tradition of giving back to the community and fostering a legacy of philanthropy. The Moceris have supported numerous Ascension

Providence Rochester Foundation initiatives and are incredible advocates for the community served by Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital.

#### *Nominated by Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation*



**David and Ann Conrad** have dedicated their time and financial resources to support the mission of Ascension Providence Foundation. They have both served on the Foundation's Board of Trustees, with Ann's tenure lasting over 20 years. In 2022, the Conrads led an initiative to

enhance the culture of philanthropy and strengthen associate and board member engagement in fundraising for Ascension Providence Hospital.



**Jeffrey Zaks, MD**, has a personal history of philanthropy at Ascension dating back to 1982. Since then, he has championed physician giving at Ascension Providence Hospital by founding the Caduceus Society, a philanthropic organization of physicians.

Above his commitment to creating a culture of philanthropy with his physician colleagues, he has been a devoted board member of the Ascension Providence Foundation since 1990.

### New board members announced



**Ryan Saab, MD, FACEP**, is a new member of the Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation Board of Trustees. He is certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine. As Chair of Emergency Medicine for Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital, he leads a team of physicians

and oversees operations, clinical care and patient experience in the Emergency department. Dr. Saab is passionate about delivering compassionate care and treating every patient as if they were a member of his family. He is a partner and board member of Independent Emergency Physicians.



**John De Wald, CPA**, has joined the Ascension St. John Foundation Board of Trustees. He is a principal at P.A. Commercial, a full-service corporate and investment real estate firm. With over 35 years of experience in the commercial real estate industry,

John specializes in the sale and leasing of office, industrial and investment real estate. He represents investors, landlords and tenants in lease negotiations, site selection, property acquisition, development and disposition. Prior to joining P.A. Commercial, he founded J.E. De Wald & Associates, a boutique commercial real estate brokerage, management and development company, which he operated for 25 years.



## New Regional President and CEO announced



**Michael Wiemann, MD, FACP**, has been named Regional President and CEO of the Ascension Michigan Metro West Region, which includes Ascension Providence Hospital, Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital and Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery. He has served in numerous clinical

and executive leadership positions during his more than 30-year tenure with Ascension including President of Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi and Southfield; President, Clinical, for Ascension Medical Group, Southeast Michigan; and President, Clinical, for Ascension Medical Group Michigan since 2020.

## New Foundation staff named



**Linda Dabaja** is the new Donor Relations Officer for Ascension St. John Foundation, managing the McQuade Society as well as broader donor stewardship efforts. She is a registered nurse who has been with Ascension St. John Hospital since 2013. Linda has worked in Cardiology, the NICU, Patient

Experience and most recently as a patient navigator in the Emergency Department. Linda is passionate about elevating the patient and visitor experience and is an enthusiastic ambassador for Ascension throughout the community.



## Ascension St. John Foundation has moved!

The Ascension St. John Foundation staff has moved to a new location on the campus of Ascension St. John Hospital, **22101 Moross Road, Detroit, MI 48236**. The new foundation office is located in Professional Building Two, Suite 455, near the executive suite on the 4th floor. The office phone number remains 313-343-7480.

## New technology helps reduce anxiety for breast cancer patients

Your gifts made it possible to purchase a new Mammotome Devicor device at Ascension St. John Hospital! This new technology is used for specimen examination from patient biopsies. It verifies that nodular asymmetry tissue or breast calcifications have been removed from the breast.

Donations to the Joan Gehrke Endowment for Medical Oncology were used to acquire this state-of-the-art device. It helps to reduce anxiety for breast cancer patients because the time needed for the procedure is significantly reduced. The Mammotome Devicor device produces high-quality results in a shorter time frame than previous technology. Staff commented that this new equipment creates an efficient workflow for both the patients and staff members.



## Scholarships assist associates with nursing degrees



Helen and Frank Gofrank, for whom the foundation is named

Thanks to the generosity of the **Frank L. and Helen Gofrank Foundation**, six Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital associates pursuing nursing degrees were each awarded \$5,000 scholarships in September to help with their educational pursuits. This total of \$30,000 in scholarships

continues a tradition of giving to the hospital from this dedicated supporter; since 2017, the family foundation has awarded scholarships totaling \$84,000 for more than 17 associates.

The foundation was founded by the children of Frank and Helen Gofrank to honor them and give back to the community in their names. Helen was a World War II nurse with a great dedication to the nursing profession – and this is what inspired the foundation to support nursing scholarships as one of its causes.

To be eligible for consideration of a scholarship, associates must be employed at the hospital for a minimum of one year, be in good standing and pursuing a nursing degree or be enrolled in a BSN completion, MSN, DNP or nursing PhD degree program. Among other requirements, it is preferred if applicants are veterans or an immediate family member of a veteran.

The Frank L. and Helen Gofrank Foundation's gifts are making a lasting impact at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital, helping to advance nursing education, improve patient care and strengthen the community.

In late spring or early summer of 2024, the Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation will host a reception with representatives of the Frank L. and Helen Gofrank Foundation and invite current and past scholarship recipients.

## New Legacy Giving Website available to assist donors

The Ascension Michigan Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of its Legacy Giving Website. Visit here to learn more: <https://mich.legacy.ascension.org/>

This website is a one-stop site for educating and encouraging donors to donate non-cash gifts and learn how to include Ascension in their estate plan. Legacy giving, also known as planned giving, provides significant gifts for nonprofit organizations.

The Ascension Michigan Legacy Giving Website will help donors learn about the tools, options and benefits available for including the Ascension Foundations in their estate plan. From bequests through wills and trusts, to IRAs, stocks, life insurance, donor advised funds and more, there are many ways to make a planned gift while meeting your family's needs. Your charitable legacy gift can make a significant impact on the future of healthcare at Ascension hospitals.

For more information, please contact Stan Simek, Director, Foundation Development, at [stanley.simek@ascension.org](mailto:stanley.simek@ascension.org) or 313-343-7702.



## GUILD update

The 61st annual GUILD Dinner raised nearly \$100,000 to support the purchase of an echocardiogram machine for pediatrics at Ascension St. John Children's Hospital. Held on May 17 at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, the event was chaired by Joe Fikany Jr. and Phil Myers; 375 guests attended.



GUILD Dinner honorees were: Raymond and Jane Cracchiolo (Jane not pictured) - Philanthropic Services Award; Lorna Zalenski - Sister Verenice McQuade Distinguished Service Award; Dan Roma - Lifetime Achievement Award; and Raymond Bauer, MD - Physician of the Year Award.

The annual Ascension St. John Medical Staff/GUILD Golf Outing raised funds to support a new safe desk area for staff in the Emergency department to be named for THE GUILD. The event, held on Sept. 11 at the Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods, was chaired by Kevin Grady, MD, Regional President and Chief Executive Officer, Ascension Metro East Region, and Anthony Kallabat.



Golfers enjoyed a laugh and camaraderie on the green.

THE GUILD is excited to announce Stephanie Beaupre as its new administrator to manage GUILD operations. Stephanie has a bachelor's degree in health science and has impressed GUILD leaders with her drive to support the Ascension St. John Hospital. Stephanie can be reached at stephanie.beaupre@ascension-external.org.

## Fontbonne update

The Fontbonne Auxiliary's spring fashion show "Fashion, Fun & Friends" was held at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club on April 26. Chaired by Camille Cracchiolo, the event raised over \$35,000 with proceeds supporting the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Ascension St. John Hospital. Fashions from the Somerset Collection and local Grosse Pointe stores were featured.

At the Fontbonne's General Membership Meeting, chaired by Kim Plesco, nursing scholarships were awarded to four outstanding Ascension St. John Hospital associates: Jessica Willmer, Birthing Center; Cynthia Murray, float; Lyndsey Fritz, 4 North; and Heather Swaenepoel, Nursing Administration (pictured below with Fontbonne representatives).



The Fontbonne elected a new board at the meeting and presented Ascension St. John Hospital with a check for \$240,000 (pictured) and the Sisters of St. Joseph with \$10,000. Included in the donation to the hospital was \$100,000 from the White Christmas Ball for the Simulation Center, \$35,000 from the Fashion Show for the NICU, \$100,000 toward the Auxiliary's pledge for the *Your Child, We Care* campaign and \$5,000 for the hospital's End of Life program.



The Fontbonne Auxiliary has had a very successful year and is grateful for the outstanding generosity of donors and supporters. Looking forward, the Fontbonne will hold a Fashion Show in March or April of 2024.



Ascension leaders and donors mingled and enjoyed the unique atmosphere of the venue.

## Event provides opportunity to learn about new healthcare site

The Ascension St. John Foundation hosted an event “Excellence in Healthcare Close to Home” at the Stahls Museum in New Baltimore on Sept. 20 for friends and philanthropic supporters of Ascension River District Hospital.

The event allowed guests to enjoy the extraordinary Stahls Museum and learn more about Ascension healthcare in the community. Information was provided about the new Ascension St. John Hospital Health Center at 26 Mile Road and I-94 and how the services complement those offered at Ascension River District Hospital and the Ascension St. John Health Center on 23 Mile Road and Romeo Plank Road.

The facility at 36750 26 Mile Road, Chesterfield Township, was envisioned to bring the excellence of Ascension St. John Hospital closer to home for families in the growing communities of southern St. Clair and northern Macomb counties. It adds another option for care to the services offered at Ascension River District Hospital, which include emergency care, inpatient care, outpatient and inpatient surgery, diagnostic imaging and cancer services. The new health center on 26 Mile provides emergency services

and a variety of outpatient services including primary care, pediatrics, orthopedics, physical therapy, endoscopy, neurology, outpatient surgery, diagnostic imaging and a walk-in clinical lab; cardiology will also be added.

To help support access to healthcare in the community, event guests were invited to make a gift for cancer services at Ascension River District Hospital to provide items such as new infusion chairs that add comfort for patients as they receive treatment.



## Your event support enhances patient care

**Friends' Ball:** The event on April 22 raised over \$140,000 for the renovation of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield. Huntington was the presenting sponsor, and 450 guests attended the special evening that featured a Dr. Seuss-like theme at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. Drs. Lakshmi and Vinaya Gavini were recognized with the 2023 Order of Charity Award, and the 2023 Caduceus Society Physicians of the Year were Dr. Issac Grinberg, Dr. Edsa Negussie, Dr. Carol Swayze and Dr. Howard Terebelo. Because Friends' Ball was not held in 2020 and 2021, honorees for those years were recognized in 2023. Order of Charity honorees included: 2020 - Dr. Fawzi Shaya (posthumously) and Mrs. Mary Shaya and family, and Dr. Michael Wiemann; 2021 - Our Lady of Providence League and Providence Park League. The Caduceus Society Physicians of the Year were: 2020 - Dr. Manhal Tobia and 2021 - Dr. Glenn Taylor.



Dr. Shukri David presented Dr. Jeffrey Zaks with an award to honor his 32 years of service as the Caduceus Society Chairman.

**Lochmoor Fights Cancer:** The golf outing on Aug. 9 raised \$69,841 for the Van Elslander Cancer Center Needy Patient Fund at Ascension St. John Hospital. Anne Knopke and Kelley Saros chaired the event, held at Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods, where 124 golfers participated.

**Jerry Williams Shootout for the Cure:** The annual golf outing on Aug. 13 raised over \$25,000 for the Jerome F. Williams GI Cancer Patient Support Fund at Ascension St. John Hospital. Anne Marie Williams chaired the event held at the St. Clair Golf Club in St. Clair, where 132 golfers enjoyed the day.

**Providence Golf Classic:** The annual golf outing on June 5 raised more than \$100,000 for the Care of the Poor Fund and the Believe in Miracles Fund at Ascension Providence Hospital. Dave Imesch chaired the event, held at Indianwood Golf and Country Club, Lake Orion, where 256 golfers participated. The Old Course first place winners were: Dr. Keith Bellovich, Mac Bellovich and Michael Madden.



The New Course winning team included (l-r): Jason Meldrum, Dino Marra, Jeff Abro and Colin Boury.

**Ascension Providence Rochester Golf Classic:** Proceeds of \$60,000 from the event on June 28 will benefit patients in need of additional support for four weeks after being discharged from the hospital. This concierge-type program provides senior patients with regular check-in calls and helps remove barriers to progressing in their recovery (e.g., transportation, medication, food, etc.). The event was chaired by Tim Crawford and held at The Wyndgate Country Club in Rochester Hills.



The winning team included (l-r): Dr. Marcus DeGraw, Brad Taube, Clint Rosenberg and Aaron Hager.

*Continued on next page*

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**Macomb-Oakland Golf Outing:** The event on Sept. 8 raised \$38,734 which went toward the purchase of an ERBE VIO 3 unit for the operating rooms at Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital, Warren. This new technology works to make 25 million calculations per second, adjusting to each patient to ensure optimum outcomes while increasing safety by monitoring the patient at all times to identify and stop bleeding. John Siedlak chaired the outing, which had 92 golfers play at Greystone Golf Club & Banquet Center in Washington. The first place team was Detroit Spectrum Painters.



The Caduceus Cup winners were (l-r): Dr. Ben Mayo, Chelsea Schoenmaker, PA-C, Dr. Kyle Bohm and Courtney Watson, PA-C.

**Flew Shot:** This invitational event on Oct. 2 raised funds to support the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Ascension St. John Hospital. Held at Fox Hollow Farms in Metamora, the event was co-chaired by Andrew Cracchiolo and Michael LoVasco and had 60 shooters. The winning team included Al McGee, Lou Perchetti, Michael Pittiglio and Michael Pittiglio Jr.



The top Individual shooter was Darryl Hayes (left), pictured with Event Co-chair Andrew Cracchiolo. Darryl had a score of 62 out of 66.

**Mangia é Bocce:** This event on Oct. 7 raised \$43,000 to support Mental Health First Aid instructor training and community programs which teach people to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges and crises, and provide the resources for these individuals to get help. Maria and Mario Mocerì chaired the event, held at Palazzo di Bocce in Lake Orion, where 128 players (32 teams) played.



The winning team from Independent Emergency Physicians included (l-r): Dr. Ryan Saab, Julie Susin, Jeff Susin and Dr. Danielle Saab.

To see photos from past events, visit:

[ascnmifnd.org/SEMIEventPhotos](https://ascnmifnd.org/SEMIEventPhotos)

or scan the QR code on your mobile device.



## Thank you to our generous event sponsors

The sponsors listed here supported one or more of the recent events with \$5,000 or more. Thank you!

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## Save the date

For event details, visit:

- [ascnfnfnd.org/ASJFEvents](https://ascnfnfnd.org/ASJFEvents)  
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 (Ascension Providence Foundation)
- [ascnfnfnd.org/APRFEvents](https://ascnfnfnd.org/APRFEvents)  
 (Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation)

Or email [specialevents@ascension.org](mailto:specialevents@ascension.org), unless other contact details are indicated.

*Please note: Event dates are accurate as of print date.*

### Friends' Ball

**Saturday, April 20, 2024**

Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi  
 Proceeds to benefit Cardiology Programs at Ascension Providence Hospital

### Ascension Providence Golf Classic

**Monday, June 3, 2024**

Indianwood Golf and Country Club, Lake Orion  
 Proceeds to benefit the Care of the Poor Fund and the Believe in Miracles Fund at Ascension Providence Hospital

## Our Foundations are on Facebook!

Ascension Providence Foundation, Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation and Ascension St. John Foundation are on Facebook. The Facebook page provides updates about fundraising campaigns and events, connects with the community and shares the amazing progress taking place at Ascension in southeast Michigan because of you – our valued donors.

To access the page, scan the QR code with your smartphone, or go to <https://www.facebook.com/AscensionSoutheastMichiganFoundations>.

If you have Facebook open, you can search for the page called Southeast Michigan Foundations. Please like, follow and share the Facebook page with your friends and family.



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Warren, MI 48236  
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## Your gift by Dec. 31 will help a patient who is struggling financially!



A patient can struggle with healthcare needs after a hospital stay, especially a patient who is uninsured or underinsured. As a result of the current economic times, your help is needed now more than ever!

When a patient is forced to decide on paying a utility bill, putting food on their table or filling a prescription, their healthcare needs will often fall to the bottom of the list. This is serious as it may delay their recovery, cause their overall health to suffer, and could result in a readmission to the hospital.

**The good news is...you can help!** Your gift helps a patient who is struggling with expenses after discharge from the hospital. Your gift of \$25 will help one patient, and a gift of \$75 can help three patients with needs such as lifesaving prescription medications, medical equipment, diabetes education classes, food, electricity and more through the HOPE (Helping Our Patients in Emergencies) Fund.

Please visit one of our secure giving web pages to help a patient in need.

To support patients from:  
*Ascension St. John Hospital,*  
*Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital*  
*or Ascension River District Hospital:*  
<https://ascnmifnd.org/asjfhel>



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*Novi or Southfield:*  
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