

Spirit of GIVING

A NEWSLETTER FOR DONORS AND FRIENDS OF ASCENSION SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN FOUNDATIONS

Spring 2024

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Mohammad Qazi made a generous gift to renovate the Intensive Care Unit at Ascension Providence Hospital; the area is now named the Mohammad and Farhat Qazi ICU Suites. See story inside.



Grateful patient gives generously to help enhance patient care and safety

As an experienced skier, **Steve Freitas** of Grosse Pointe Farms knew to proceed cautiously when a sudden snowstorm hit while he was on the slopes of a Wyoming ski resort in February 2023. Although visibility was poor, he knew the trail very well, having skied it previously many times.

"I was going at about a third of my normal pace," Steve said. "Due to the bad weather conditions, I didn't see an unmarked cliff. I fell 8 to 12 feet and landed on my head. Thank God I was wearing a helmet."

After Steve was transported to a hospital over 90 miles from the resort, he lay mostly unconscious for three days in the Intensive Care Unit.

"Steve had a bleed within the membrane surrounding his brain," his wife **Sharon** said. "The doctors didn't recommend surgery. Steve rested for two more days until he was able to return home."

Within three weeks, Steve had returned to managing his multi-state home services business. But by June, some health issues emerged.

"I couldn't type and had a little trouble walking," he said. "I couldn't button my shirt. We decided to go to the ER at St. John. When I got in the car, I couldn't buckle my seat belt."

Doctors diagnosed Steve with a second brain bleed, which can sometimes occur following a severe head injury.

"The doctors explained the problem to us very clearly," Sharon said. "I felt very relieved knowing Steve was in their expert care."

Steve underwent two surgeries: the first to stop the bleeding and the second a few hours later to drain about 6 to 8 ounces of excess blood and relieve the pressure on his brain.

"They completed the surgeries within 24 hours of my admittance, and I was extremely impressed with the care provided by the Surgical Intensive Care Unit nursing staff,"

Steve said. "A few hours later, all my symptoms had disappeared. I went home after two days. Within 10 days, my life was back to normal."

This experience, along with Steve's family connection to Ascension St. John Hospital, led to two major gifts from him and Sharon to support programs that will help hospital staff monitor patients and ensure their safety. Steve's father, Eugene Freitas, MD, was Chief of Radiology at Ascension St. John Hospital. Mary Elaine Freitas, Steve's mother, was a member of the Fontbonne Auxiliary during the 1960s and 70s. The Fontbonne is a volunteer group that raises funds for programs and services at Ascension St. John Hospital.



Sharon and Steve Freitas

The Freitas' generous gifts to the Area of Greatest Need Fund enabled the purchase of new End-Tidal CO2 monitors and three Avasys cameras. The monitors allow medical staff to assess adequate airflow to the lungs of patients during cases of cardiac arrest. The cameras allow medical staff to monitor patients at risk for falls or suicide, and for their overall safety.

"St. John has been part of my family for a very long time," Steve said. "We feel life has been good to us, so we wanted to share our good fortune. We hope sharing our story will also inspire others to give."

To learn how you can help Ascension St. John Hospital enhance its overall quality of care by supporting the Area of Greatest Fund, please contact Sherry Augustine, Senior Development Officer, Ascension St. John Foundation, at 313-343-7481.

Anonymous no more: Mohammad Qazi comes forth to inspire philanthropy in others

Anonymous is often synonymous when it comes to charitable donations. Monetary gifts – big, small or in-between – can be shrouded in secrecy for any number of reasons.

Typically, a donor remains unnamed because they don't want to draw attention to themselves, preferring to let their contribution speak for itself.

Now, however, one generous but previously unnamed donor is stepping out of the shadows for a very good reason.

Mohammad Qazi, whose \$2.5 million donation to Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield, in 2019 aided renovations to the Intensive Care Unit's suites, is coming forward to encourage additional charitable giving.

"It is my hope that choosing not to remain anonymous will inspire others to donate," Mohammad said. "I believe the three pillars of any community, and of philanthropy, are health, education and industry. I view philanthropy as an investment, and I love to see the difference my investments make."

The \$24 million ICU renovation project was completed in August 2021. A total of 63 beds across four units were involved. The ICU area is now named the **Mohammad and Farhat Qazi ICU Suites**.

Although Mohammad's ICU gift was originally anonymous, the Qazi family has been recognized for other donations to Ascension and elsewhere. One example is the 174-seat Farhat N. & Mohammad A. Qazi Family Auditorium at Beaumont Hospital in Troy.

And a decade ago, Mohammad was a major supporter of Ascension Providence Hospital's Surgical and Procedural Skills Training Center, which helps physicians, nurses and medical students improve patient safety, quality of care and clinical outcomes.

There also is the Mohammad and Farhat Qazi Patient and Family Resource Center within Ascension Providence Hospital's Helen L. DeRoy Medical Library. The Resource Center enables patients and families to access professional librarians and medical resources.

Mohammad is founder and president of Ciena Healthcare, which owns and operates more than 80 skilled-nursing and rehabilitation centers in Michigan and four other states. Ciena's newest facility, Regency at Troy, is a 154-bed healthcare resort that offers personalized care for individuals in need of short-term rehabilitation services and long-term care. The \$32 million project opened in December 2023.



Mohammad Qazi visits the ICU area named for him and his wife.

By dropping the anonymity behind his giving, Mohammad is hoping that his example will lead to more people becoming donors and thus more needs met and the accomplishment of other worthwhile projects.

Indeed, research into philanthropy shows that role-modeling is an effective way of generating new generosity. *More Than Money Journal* featured a pros and cons list of anonymous vs. public giving. Among the pros pointed out was, "By publicly acknowledging that you engage in charitable giving, you inspire others to engage in giving. They might not give to your charities, but you are setting a good example in your community or business network."

Mohammad Qazi is setting that good example.

Joint venture plans awaiting regulatory approval

Since we first announced Ascension Michigan's proposed joint venture with Henry Ford Health, we have been inspired by the enthusiasm we've seen – both inside and outside our organizations. Together, we are confident that we can continue to enhance our Mission to improve lives and advance the future of good health in Michigan.

As partnerships like this require regulatory review by governmental agencies, we are in the process of that review.

While this process runs its course, we want to provide an update on how we're approaching post-closing integration planning and getting to know our potential partners.

- **Workstream development:** We are establishing workstream teams across key areas including clinical and operational integration, information technology, shared services and human resources. These workstreams are tasked with identifying potential post-closing integration opportunities and implementation planning issues across these areas.

"We continue to believe that Ascension Michigan's commitment to serving the poor and vulnerable aligns with Henry Ford's longstanding commitment to the communities they serve," said Patrick Kelly, Ascension Michigan Foundation, Market Leader.

The joint venture will expand healthcare services and deliver innovations in care – from prevention and early detection, through treatment of complex conditions – to more people and communities to provide the best end-to-end experiences.

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.

"As we move through the joint venture process, we can't emphasize enough that you, our dedicated supporters, are essential to our success," Pat said. "Funds raised by the individual foundations will remain directed to your intent."

We continue to focus on our Mission to serve all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable, staying engaged with our team members and each other. Transformation is fueled through partnership and collaboration, and powered by the belief that we are stronger and most impactful when we embrace those in the community who share our values, commitment to clinical excellence and dedication to providing an exceptional experience for all we serve.

Hospital gift shops support patient programs and offer unique gifts

Have you ever shopped in a hospital gift shop? If not, you may be pleasantly surprised to find many unique items ranging from home decor to clothing to jewelry. The majority of shoppers are hospital associates who appreciate the quality products, high-end service and fun promotions all conveniently offered where they work. In addition, there are many loyal community members who make the hospital their destination simply for shopping at the gift shop. As expected, the gift shops also cater to guests of patients seeking flowers, balloons and other inspirational gifts to take to patients.

Did you realize that the proceeds from the Ascension Providence Hospital gift shops are donated back through the volunteer Auxiliaries – **Our Lady of Providence League** in Southfield and **Providence Park League** in Novi – via the Ascension Providence Foundation to support hospital programs and services? Since opening, the gift shops at the Novi and Southfield campuses have contributed a combined total of more than \$7 million to help provide a safe, positive patient experience! Over the years, these funds have purchased hospital equipment, renovated clinical areas, enhanced patient safety and even bought the lighted cross on the side of the Ascension Providence Hospital building in Novi. Gift shop proceeds are currently pledged as part of the NICU capital campaign.



Lisa Dunbar (left) helps a customer select a gift in the Providence Hospital, Novi, gift shop.

Ascension River District Hospital associate gifts support patients undergoing chemotherapy



Nursing staff are happy to have new infusion chairs like this one for patients receiving treatment in the River District Infusion Center.

Knowing that comfort and safety are key to providing optimal patient outcomes, associates at Ascension River District Hospital in East China Township have given generously to help cancer patients receiving care at the hospital's Infusion Center.

Thanks in part to **associate gifts** to the St. John River District Hospital Oncology Fund through the Spirit of Giving Associate & Physician Campaign, the hospital has purchased four new infusion chairs for the center.

The chairs meet the specific needs of cancer patients who undergo chemotherapy. Since infusion treatments can be lengthy, an ergonomic, adjustable chair design is important for maintaining proper posture. The chairs allow patients to recline during treatment, adding to their overall physical comfort and emotional well-being.

Gifts received for the chairs totaled \$18,746. This includes gifts from the **St. John River District Oncology Fund**; the **Taking a Shot at Breast Cancer fund**, established by donors **Emily and Steve Goudy** through the Community Foundation of St. Clair

County; and the **St. John River District Hospital Fund**, also created through the Community Foundation.

Ascension River District Hospital associates, leaders, executives, physicians and residents take pride in supporting the hospital's healing mission and fulfilling the needs of the patients and communities they serve by giving to the Spirit of Giving Associate & Physician Campaign.

Donors can choose from a variety of programs and initiatives, such as helping cancer patients cope with their illness through art therapy, or purchasing items like books and tablets to ease the fears of children undergoing a medical procedure. Many other opportunities for giving are available for those who wish to contribute toward a specific need.

"I supported the River District Oncology Fund because my sister is a breast cancer survivor," said Jackie, an Ascension River District Hospital associate. "I want to make sure other patients like her have access to high-quality cancer care close to home."

The Infusion Center now has six chairs to enhance comfort for more patients. The center is open two days a week to serve those in the River District community close to where they live; approximately 80 patients are treated in the Infusion Center each month.

To make a gift to the River District Oncology Fund to support other patient care needs within the Infusion Center, please contact Sherry Augustine, Senior Development Officer, Ascension St. John Foundation, at 313-343-7481.

Your community is healthier because of your support!

Community wellness programs at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital were enhanced through donations. Your gifts purchased automatic blood pressure cuffs, scales and otoscopes. In addition, newly diagnosed diabetic patients received Diabetes Prevention Program tool kit bags (which include educational information and diabetes self-care items).

Digestive Health Program expands to Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital



Dr. Ernie Drelichman speaks about the Digestive Health Program at an event for donors.

When Phil Bertolini and his wife noticed their 13-year-old son Brad was barely eating, chronically fatigued and not growing at the same rate as his peers, they were understandably very concerned. They took Brad to see multiple doctors, thinking he might have had an eating disorder or another health issue.

After many appointments with different doctors, the family finally got the answer after seeing a digestive health specialist. Brad has Crohn's disease – an inflammatory bowel condition that affects the lining of the digestive tract.

"Brad was just beginning high school and trying to fight off many physical issues while becoming acclimated to a new social environment," said Phil, a Senior Vice President for a data, media and events company. He's also a member of the Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation Board. "It was heart wrenching to see him struggle with his illness, not knowing what was going on. Getting a firm diagnosis took a long time, partly because Crohn's presents symptoms that are similar to many other conditions."

The incidence of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in industrialized nations has risen dramatically in recent years. An estimated 1.5 million people in the United States are living

with IBD, which has the highest rate of incidence in late adolescence and early adulthood, affecting people during their peak productive years and women during their reproductive years. That's why Ascension expanded its Digestive Health Program in 2022 by opening a clinic at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital.

The Digestive Health Program started at Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield, in 2012. Program expansion will result in a system-wide multi-service gastrointestinal and endoscopic specialty clinic/center. In addition, the center's Colorectal Fellowship Program is training the next generation of digestive health specialists.

Building upon the strong reputation of colon and rectal surgical specialist Ernesto Drelichman, MD, and incorporating gastroenterologists,

surgeons, internists, nutritionists and others, the program will streamline coordination of care and simplify access for patients across the region and beyond to a full spectrum of digestive health treatment options.

"Our Rochester location offers ideal access to patients across the region," Dr. Drelichman said. "It's oftentimes difficult for people to find a specialist in Crohn's and other digestive health diseases. We're a resource where patients can see multiple specialists and have all their medical testing done in one facility. This enables patients to receive a diagnosis and begin treatment quickly and with fewer clinic visits."

To help support the program's expansion, Dr. Drelichman's parents, **Drs. Vilma and Anibal Drelichman** (an infectious disease specialist and medical oncologist, respectively) made a generous gift to create the Digestive Health Fund at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital.

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Linda and Larry Masserant have also given generously to support the program at Ascension Providence Hospital. Linda is a grateful patient who travels a great distance from Newport, Michigan, to receive care from Dr. Drelichman. He added that the program needs additional support to help bring in more experts.

“We need another rheumatologist and a medical inflammatory disease specialist,” Dr. Drelichman said. “Conditions like Crohn’s often come with other inflammatory diseases. We want to offer state-of-the-art care for medical management of these symptoms. We rely on donors to get seed money to support program growth.”

In addition, the program is seeking gifts to support fellowship training, a research coordinator, a wound ostomy care nurse, a nutritionist, endoscopy equipment and other specialized medical testing machines.

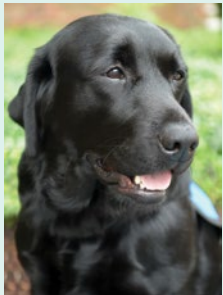
“Having a highly respected and trusted digestive health center like this in our community is invaluable,” said Phil, whose

second son Steve was also diagnosed with Crohn’s while in high school. “Both of our sons, who are young adults now, are managing the disease very well. It hasn’t stopped them from being happy and well-positioned with successful careers.

“Crohn’s is in many ways a hidden disease, but thousands of people have it. The Digestive Health Program is a vital piece toward having a healthy and happy community.”

To make a gift to the Digestive Health Fund to support the expansion of the Digestive Health Program at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital, please contact Beth Collins-Mapleh, Senior Gift Officer, Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation, at 248-652-5362 or at elizabeth.collinsmapleh@ascension.org.

Volunteer handler shares personal experience about the joy a therapy dog brings



The therapy dogs at our Ascension hospitals in southeast Michigan bring happiness and comfort to our patients, staff and visitors. Maggie is our therapy dog at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital. The update here was provided by her host family/volunteer handler to give you a firsthand perspective of the way therapy dogs help bring a calming

effect and smiles to those they meet. Funded entirely by donations (see back page), the Therapy Dog Program benefits thousands of hospital guests each year.

Maggie not only brings joy to patients, but to the staff. In my experience bringing Maggie to visit patients, while walking her down the hallways, the faces of doctors, nurses, residents, environmental services staff, dietary associates and patient care techs just light up. She brings smiles and a sense of relief to everyone she interacts with. Associates often just pet Maggie for a few minutes and they tell me she made their day. It is a very rewarding experience, and it is amazing how this little dog brings so much joy to peoples' day, if only for a few minutes.

From a patient perspective, I've had several patients so excited to see Maggie, they've asked if she can jump into bed with them. (Note: Due to their specialized training, the dogs cannot lift their

paws to greet people; they must keep "four on the floor.") The patients pet and hug Maggie and tell stories of their dogs at home. I've also had patients, true dog lovers, who have sat on the floor to pet and hug Maggie, and she provided them relief.

Several times, I've been walking out the door at the end of the day with Maggie and patient's family members have asked if I would bring Maggie up for a visit. Each time, it is a meaningful moment. One time a hospice patient was just petting Maggie's ears and going on about how soft her ears were. I truly believe Maggie provided her with comfort just by the patient touching her ears.

Another patient's son asked if I would bring Maggie up to see his 101-year-old mother. We visited her in her room, and her son took countless pictures of Maggie and his mother. Maggie brought smiles to the patient's face, and her son was able to capture the moment and said he wanted to remember his mother smiling. Maggie was able to provide comfort to the patient and memories for her son.

I am truly blessed to be the host family for Maggie, and the Therapy Dog Program has been a very rewarding experience for me. At home, Maggie loves to play in the snow in the winter, go for long walks and play catch with her little squeaky balls.

*With heartfelt gratitude,
Beth (and Maggie)*

Legacy giving: Investing in a lifetime of care

A legacy gift (also called a planned gift) is a donation you make through your will or other formal estate planning designation. A legacy gift specifically made to Ascension Providence Foundation, Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation or Ascension St. John Foundation is a way for you to make a positive impact on the healthcare of your community. Your gift will be invested in the program of your choice and will help Ascension Providence Hospital, Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital or Ascension St. John Hospital continue offering the community expert, compassionate care to patients spanning all stages of life.

Ways to give

Through thoughtful planning, you can invest your legacy gift in the care your family, friends and neighbors receive at our hospitals for years to come. The most common ways to make a planned gift are:

Appreciated securities

Stocks, mutual funds, bonds, CDs and other investments that have appreciated can be given tax-free and may offer a charitable deduction.

Bequests in a will or revocable living trust

You can give a specific dollar amount or percentage in your estate, a particular property, or the remainder of your estate after all taxes and debt have been paid.

Cash gifts

You may receive a tax deduction for cash gifts made to one of our foundations throughout your lifetime.

Life insurance

You can name Ascension St. John Foundation, Ascension Providence Foundation or Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation as a beneficiary of your life insurance that you may no longer need to protect you or your family.

Real estate

You may be able to give your home, land or commercial property to one of our foundations.

Retirement plan assets

Investment vehicles held in retirement plans such as 401(k), 403(b), IRA, SEP-IRA, Roth IRA and others can be gifted tax-free to one of the foundations.

For more information

To learn more, visit: <https://mich.legacy.ascension.org/> or contact Stan Simek, Director, Foundation Development, at 313-343-7702 or stanley.simek@ascension.org.



Cancer care companion binders provided to 1,000 cancer patients!



Your support through the Community Cancer Fund made it possible for cancer care companion binders to be created at Ascension Providence Hospital. Each binder contains important information about cancer care, a treatment guide and space for patients to write down information specific to their personal treatment plan.

Patients and their family members have expressed appreciation for the binder and the benefits of having their information organized in one, easy-to-manage binder that they bring with them to their doctor appointments and treatment sessions.

Donor's estate gift will extend legacy of first-rate pediatric care

For decades, **Jean Azar** and her late husband **Ahmad Azar**, MD, devoted their careers to caring for babies and young children at Ascension St. John Children's Hospital. Likewise, they dedicated countless hours to charitable causes to help enhance care at the hospital.

So when Jean decided to create an estate plan, it made perfect sense to allocate a portion of it to Ascension St. John Children's Hospital so its patients will continue receiving the best care possible well into the future.

"I began working as a pediatric nurse in 1963," said Jean, who retired in 2000 and lives in Grosse Pointe Shores. "I spent 16 years working in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) at St. John. My husband was a pediatric physician for more than 50 years and was passionate about the health of children. For us, you could say caring for children is a calling."

Dr. Azar, who passed away in 2014, was a native of Iran who came to the Detroit area for his pediatric residency at Children's Hospital of Michigan (where he met Jean) before beginning his long career at Ascension St. John Hospital.

Fluent in four languages (Farsi, Turkish, Russian and English), Dr. Azar always took time to speak with the kids he and Jean met during their travels across the globe, and he made fast friends with them.

As for Jean, she said she discovered a fondness for children while babysitting as a teenager.

"My parents also acted as guardians for young children who were appointed 'wards of the court,'" she said. "I had always

been around kids and loved interacting with them."

Jean and Dr. Azar also made generous gifts to Ascension St. John Hospital over the years, several which benefitted pediatric services. Their gifts included supporting the expansion and renovation of the NICU, Birthing Center and most recently the *Your Child, We Care* campaign to enhance

the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Pediatric Inpatient Unit and the addition of a Pediatric Emergency Department.

Jean is also a longtime member of the Fontbonne Auxiliary, a volunteer group that raises funds for programs and services at Ascension St. John Hospital. She's an active Fontbonne board member and has chaired countless fundraising events.

"Being involved in charity work is part of my upbringing," Jean said. "It's important to support St. John because it provides accessible, high-quality care right in our backyard. The hospital is part of the fabric of our community.

"That's why I included Ascension St. John Children's Hospital in my estate plan. I want to ensure that the five-star quality care they've provided for years will continue long after I'm gone."

If you're considering making an Ascension hospital in southeast Michigan part of your estate plan and would like to learn more about how your legacy gift can impact the care of future patients, please contact Stan Simek, Director, Foundation Development, at stanley.simek@ascension.org or 313-343-7702.



Jean Azar

Planned gift carries on donors' history of giving, enhances emergency care



Robert and Jane Nugent

As generous donors and volunteers who devoted themselves for many years to supporting major expansion and renovation campaigns, among several other initiatives, at Ascension St. John Hospital, **Jane and Robert Nugent** helped enhance medical care for countless patients in the region.

Now, after their passing, the Nugents' legacy of giving continues. Their substantial planned gift will help the hospital's Emergency Center remain at the forefront of emergency medicine while improving overall patient care.

Jane, a lifelong Grosse Pointe resident who retired from Detroit Edison as Vice President of Administration, held Ascension St. John Hospital in high regard for its faith-based, outstanding healthcare benefitting all in the community. She served on the Board of Trustees for both the Ascension St. John Hospital Foundation and the Ascension St. John Hospital Board. Robert was Chair of the Board of the St. John Senior Community. Jane and Robert were also members of THE GUILD and Fontbonne Auxiliary, which raise funds for hospital programs.

Before Robert passed away in 2008, he established an estate gift of \$100,000 to benefit Ascension St. John Hospital upon

Jane's death. Jane established her own estate gift of \$200,000 for the hospital.

The Nugents' combined estate gift of \$300,000 will support the following equipment and technology within the Emergency Center to help care for the approximately 230 patients seen each day:

- Five EKG machines with wireless upload capabilities to help expedite data to patients' electronic medical records.
- Two ultrasound machines, which are an integral part of bedside patient evaluation and care.
- Seven stretchers for patient examination and transport while minimizing patient injury risk and discomfort.

- Implementation of electronic medical records within the Emergency Department's resuscitation bay.

"The outstanding care my husband received during the last months of his life greatly influenced our decision for our gifts," Jane said after making her estate plans.

The Nugents' estate gift builds upon another major investment Jane made in 2014 to support the purchase of ultrasound technology for the Emergency Center.

For their generosity to Ascension St. John Hospital, the triage and trauma/resuscitation areas in the Emergency Center are named in their honor. The Nugents' total giving over the years is nearly \$2 million.

An estate gift in any amount is an option for anyone who'd like to benefit others after their passing. If you're considering making an Ascension hospital in southeast Michigan part of your estate plan and would like to learn more about how your legacy gift can impact the care of future patients, please contact Stan Simek, Director, Foundation Development, at stanley.simek@ascension.org or 313-343-7702.

Thank you for helping a patient in need and honoring an Ascension doctor for Doctors' Day 2024!



Many patients and family members recently recognized doctors with heartfelt tributes in celebration of National Doctors' Day (celebrated annually on March 30) while making gifts to support patients in need.

Your gifts helped patients with essential needs that occur after discharge from the hospital, such as prescription medications, medical equipment, gas for follow-up appointments, food, electricity and more as identified by the patient's social worker.

If you wrote a note of gratitude to honor a special doctor, it was shared with that physician. Your heartfelt messages uplift and encourage doctors in their dedicated healing work as they strive to make a difference in your life or in the lives of your loved ones. Thank you!

Here is a sampling of the tributes sent to Ascension doctors in southeast Michigan this year:

To: **Anthony Cacco, MD** – Great guy! Great doctor! He has helped me through some very difficult times with caring, compassion and a sense of humor.

To: **Nishit Choksi, MD** – Dr. Choksi, you are a wonderful and amazing doctor, and I will always appreciate what you did for me. Thank you!

To: **Manisha Garg, MD** – Dr. Garg is dedicated, compassionate and knowledgeable. She treats me like family, and I appreciate her care and concern.

To: **Jeffrey Greski, DO** – Thank you, Dr. Greski, for your knowledge and expertise regarding my kidney cancer treatment.

To: **Mark Kaminski, MD** – Thank you for your availability, knowledge, encouragement and reassurance! God bless.

To: **Eleanor King, MD** – Thanks so much for being an amazing listener, a caring doctor and a friend! You and the team of doctors and staff are truly a gift!

To: **Thomas Kizy, MD** – Dr. Kizy is a wonderful doctor and a great person. He listens to his patients and is eager to take the interest and personal attention in problem solving. He is a great problem solver for his patients. Thank you for going the extra mile.

To: **Jeffrey Lukas, MD** – We have a lot of confidence in Dr. Lukas. He always keeps up to date on the changing field of medicine. Additionally, he is a patient person and a great listener!

To: **Farzin Namei, MD** – I have had you as my primary care doctor for 26 years. You have always been available to see me – even on short notice. It is important that you take the time to listen and reassure me. I always trust you will give me the best possible care. Over the years, you have asked about my family, and that means a lot to me.

To: **Mark O'Brien, DO** – Thank you for being a good doctor who uses common sense, talks to me, explains concepts that I might not understand, listens to me and alerts me to important tests that I must have to help keep me healthy. May God bless you always.

To: **Leigh Solomon, MD** – Thank you for being such a caring physician, Dr. Solomon! I am lucky to have you and your team taking care of me!

To: **Julia Tesch, DO** – Dr. Tesch is awesome! She's been my primary physician for about a decade now. Great listener, knowledgeable, compassionate, caring and proactive with maintaining my health and wellness.



Founding member Dr. Jeffrey Zaks (pictured 4th from the left) is honored for over 30 years of service as Chair of The Caduceus Society. Other members of The Caduceus Society Board of Directors pictured are (l to r): Dr. Howard Terebelo, Dr. Shukri David (new Chair), Dr. Edsa Negussie and Dr. Carol Swayze. Board members not pictured are: Dr. Dennis Bojrab, Dr. Isaac Grinberg, Dr. Michael Jacobs, Dr. Steve Rivera and Dr. Glenn Taylor.

Doctors generously support hospital's mission through The Caduceus Society

Besides sharing their professional medical skills, more than 200 physicians on staff at Ascension Providence Hospital are devoted to supporting the hospital philanthropically. They are members of **The Caduceus Society**, a group of dedicated and concerned doctors committed to advancing the mission of Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi and Southfield, through personal charitable gifts to the hospital and its healthcare and community programs.

The Caduceus Society takes its name from the caduceus emblem, synonymous with the medical profession, and embraces its principles, which are to honor the physician and maintain the highest standards of medical practice and patient care.

Over three decades ago, The Caduceus Society was established by Dr. Jeffrey Zaks, Dr. Phillip Perkins and one of the Daughters of Charity, Sister Juliana Beuerlein. Dr. Zaks passionately served as Chair of The Caduceus Society since its inception in 1992 until the leadership role was recently passed on to Dr. Shukri David. Dr. Zaks was the driving force in building a culture of philanthropy among the physicians and the many supporters of Ascension Providence Hospital through the Ascension Providence Foundation.

The Caduceus Society's purpose is to encourage doctors who practice at Ascension Providence Hospital to assume

a more visible, active role in furthering the mission of the hospital, especially its Service of the Poor, through personal philanthropic support. Its purpose also includes providing financial support by awarding grants to worthwhile programs and causes within the hospital and the community it serves.

Physicians are eligible for membership in The Caduceus Society when they make a minimum gift of \$15,000 to the hospital. Members may choose to designate their gifts to:

- The Caduceus Society Endowment Fund to support general purpose needs, which may include medical education, research, patient care, emergent projects and Care of the Poor programs.
- A specific project or program restricted by the member.

Once they are members, the doctors are eligible to vote in The Caduceus Society's Board of Directors election every two years. They can also vote for each hospital-related grant request presented to the board to give them a voice in how funds are used, helping them to feel they are making a true difference in the hospital and care of patients.

Over the past 30 years, The Caduceus Society has funded many projects with more than \$1.2 million received from its member physicians. Some of the projects include:

- Medical education supplies for the DeRoy Medical Library.

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- Support for Nurses Week activities.
- Family Medicine Endowment Campaign.
- Visual CACTUS (Computer Assisted Credentials Tracking and Update System), state-of-the-art software used by over 500 healthcare organizations worldwide.
- Infant Car Bed Program to offer rentals to families of infants with discharge weight of <5 lbs. so they can ride safely home from the hospital.
- Infant Mortality Program which provides comprehensive services that help reduce the high infant mortality rate among babies born to women at risk, residing in Detroit and Wayne County.
- Arterial ultrasound machine for Cardiology to reduce vascular access complications by enabling direct visualization of the artery.
- Internal Medicine Residency workspace.

- AV upgrade for Heart Institute auditorium to improve video conferencing between Ascension Southeast Michigan and referral facilities for improved patient outcomes while evaluating and creating best practices.
- Coroflow for Cardiac Cath Lab to incorporate state-of-the-art technology in women’s cardiac diagnostics to identify microvascular dysfunction in the female population.
- VirtaMed ArthroS Simulator for the Simulation Lab in Southfield that depicts diagnostic and therapeutic cases that prepare residents for their surgical careers and ultimately improve the safety of patients.

To learn more about The Caduceus Society, please visit ascnmifnd.org/apf-caduceus, scan the QR code or call 248-465-5000.



GUILD update

The St. John GUILD held a kickoff reception on March 7 at the Country Club of Detroit as a prelude to the annual GUILD Dinner on May 15 at The War Memorial in Grosse Pointe Farms. The kickoff drew honorees, GUILD members and guests. Since 1948, the nonprofit organization has raised more than \$15 million to support medical equipment, technology and patient services at Ascension St. John Hospital.



Phil Myers and Jack Roma, GUILD Dinner Chairs

New member event

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Country Club of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms

Ascension St. John Medical Staff/GUILD Golf Outing

Monday, Sept. 16, 2024

Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe Woods

Proceeds to benefit Ascension St. John Hospital

For more information, contact Stephanie Beaupre at 313-343-6314 or stephanie.beaupre@ascension-external.org.

Fontbonne update

The Fontbonne Auxiliary held its 70th White Christmas Ball, A Season of Hope, on Dec. 1, 2023, at The Henry in Dearborn. Stephanie Berri chaired the event, where more than 300 guests danced the night away to the sounds of Skyline and the Backstreet Horns. The proceeds, which totaled just over \$65,000, will benefit a new Multidisciplinary Cancer Clinic at Ascension St. John Hospital. The clinic will bring together cancer specialists’ expertise to collaborate and develop a plan of care tailored to the needs of each individual patient. This will allow the community to receive the highest quality of care while being seen by all specialists on the same day in one convenient location.



Stephanie Berri, 2023 White Christmas Ball Chair, and Lorna Zalenski, Fontbonne President

Fontbonne 71st White Christmas Ball

Friday, Dec. 6, 2024

The Henry, Dearborn

For more information, contact Lorna Zalenski at 313-590-5607 or llz523@aol.com.

Pediatric Emergency Department opens at Ascension St. John Children's Hospital thanks to donors



Philanthropic donors Jon, Shery and Lauren Cotton

The new **Shery L. Cotton Pediatric Emergency Department** opened at Ascension St. John Children's Hospital on Jan. 22 to provide the best possible experience for children and their families, with compassionate, personalized care in a separate specially designed environment.

To celebrate this new addition at Ascension St. John Children's Hospital, one of only three designated Children's Hospitals in southeast Michigan, a ribbon-cutting event was held on Nov. 21.

The level II Pediatric Emergency Department is separate and distinct from the level I adult/trauma Emergency Department at Ascension St. John Hospital. It has its own entrance, waiting room, triage and treatment areas to enhance privacy, comfort and wait times for young patients and their families.

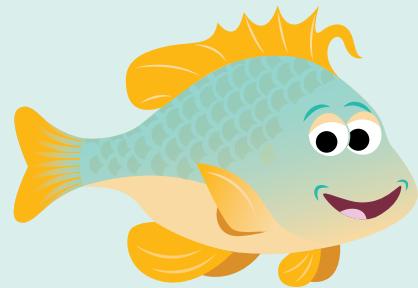
"We have all the necessary equipment and staff specially trained in pediatric medicine to best care for the unique needs of our young patients," said David Ahee, MD, FACEP, Medical Director and Chief, Department of Emergency Medicine, Ascension St. John Hospital.

The creation of the Pediatric Emergency Department was made possible with generous philanthropic support, including significant gifts from **Shery L. Cotton** and her son, **Jon B. Cotton**, and many others.

"We are truly grateful for the generosity of our donors and

their passion to invest in the future of our children's health," said Kevin Grady, MD, Regional President and CEO, Metro East Region, Ascension Michigan.

The launch of the Pediatric Emergency Department completes the first phase of a multi-million dollar project to enhance Ascension St. John Children's Hospital. Phase 2 construction will renovate the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.



Donors, Ascension St. John Foundation board members, physicians and hospital administrators participated in the ribbon cutting.



The Great Lakes-themed decor is designed to comfort young patients and families visiting the Pediatric Emergency Department.

Grateful parents share their story about pediatric experience

As parents of two young children, Alicia and Dan Kramer* were excited when they learned the Ascension St. John Children's Hospital Shery L. Cotton Pediatric Emergency Department (ED) was open, as it is close to their home in Grosse Pointe Farms. But they did not anticipate being among the first families to need its services.

In February, their 5-year-old daughter Emilia* had a playground accident resulting in a serious injury with significant bleeding. Their pediatrician told them to go to the ED.

From the moment they pulled into the hospital driveway, they felt at ease with the pediatric entrance clearly marked and dedicated parking in the garage directly across from the entrance. They were greeted by a friendly security guard who tried to make their daughter feel at ease - a theme the family said repeated itself over and over during their stay.

"After an incredibly fast check-in and short stay in the waiting room, we were escorted to a room, and I was blown away by the well-thought-out design of the space," Alicia said. "There was lots to distract our daughter as the doctors and nurses quickly assessed her injury and got a surgical consult lined up."

Emilia was fascinated by having a TV in her own room and being able to play the "I Spy" game on the pink fish mural. For her parents, the little touches made a difference: closing glass doors to block out the sounds of other patients, privacy curtains, and kind, attentive nurses who knew how to distract a little girl while putting in an IV.

After spending time in the ED, Emilia was taken to the surgical floor for a more thorough exam. The family was just as impressed with the care team there. Due to the extent of the needed procedure, Emilia was admitted to the inpatient Pediatric Unit overnight, where Alicia said everyone did everything they could to make the experience less scary for Emilia.

"So many people went out of their way to make our entire stay as comfortable as possible, while providing top-notch care," Alicia added. "On the way home, Emilia said, 'Mommy, it was fun to see how doctors help people - I want to practice so I can be a doctor when I grow up.'"

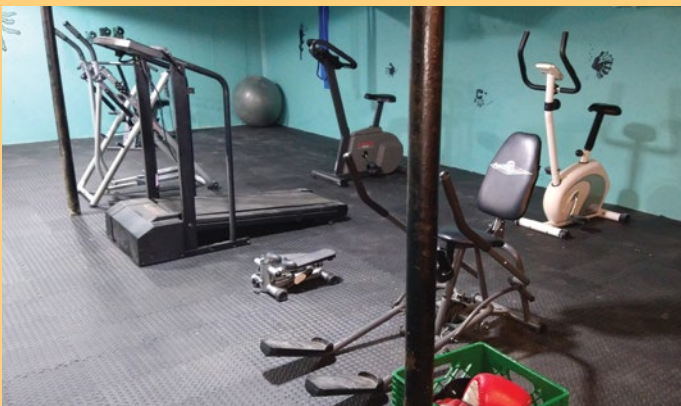
Thank you to the donors who made the Pediatric Emergency Department possible so families like Emilia's can get the care they deserve.

**names changed for confidentiality*



This colorful pediatric exam room with a fish mural helped keep Emilia distracted.

Patients in recovery are feeling better because of your support!



Your gifts made it possible to purchase new gym equipment for patients at the Ascension Eastwood Recovery Center. The center helps adult men with behavioral and mental health disorders. The new gym equipment has made a significant impact on patients, helping to build their confidence, how

they feel about themselves and has also improved their relationships with others.

Here are a few notes of appreciation received from patients:

"I love it! It's a great physical outlet for emotions."

"It's a great addition to Eastwood, allowing the guys another outlet from long days of group and therapy."

"It makes me want to work out and set goals."

"It's important to have a physical way to feel good about yourself."

To support the Eastwood Recovery Center, please visit ascnmifnd.org/APF donate (URL is case sensitive) and select Eastwood Recovery Center - Providence from the drop-down menu, or scan the QR code.





Novu police present the Pink Car donation check for the Believe in Miracles Fund to Providence Hospital leaders.

Pink patrol: Novu Police Department raises funds for cancer patients in financial need

If you happened to spot a bright pink **Novu Police Department** vehicle last fall, we can assure you that it was not an illusion.

Since 2018, the department has “wrapped” one of its vehicles in pink to benefit the Believe in Miracles Fund at Ascension Providence Hospital. The funds help ease the financial worries of cancer patients undergoing treatment, covering expenses such as utilities, rent, transportation, food and medical supplies.

The Novu Police Department exhibits its “Pink Car” at different community events during October to coincide with Breast Cancer Awareness Month. For a nominal donation, people can sign the wrap to support a loved one or write words of encouragement for cancer patients.

In 2023, the Pink Car Initiative raised more than \$13,000, plus an in-kind donation of \$5,300 was received for the exhibition at the Women’s Expo at the Suburban Collection Showplace. Since 2018, the initiative has raised more than \$43,000 for the Believe in Miracles Fund.

Kimberly Kleimola, Records Clerk for the Novu Police Department, leads the Pink Car Initiative. She’s also a breast cancer survivor, who was treated at Ascension Providence Hospital, and she understands the financial difficulties some cancer patients experience.

“Although we struggled at times, my husband and I were able to pay the medical bills for my treatments,” she said. “I was surprised by how much insurance didn’t cover. I wondered how families on fixed incomes pay their medical bills. And if you’re stressed because you can’t pay your electric bill or put food on the table, how can you be mentally strong enough to fight cancer?”

“The Pink Car Initiative has become a community favorite. We love giving people an opportunity to interact with our officers while supporting such an important cause.”

Visit the City of Novu website at cityofnovu.org in September to view a calendar showing dates and events for Pink Car appearances.

To support the Believe in Miracles Fund at Ascension Providence Hospital, please contact Christa Williams at christa.williams@ascension.org or 248-465-5001.

To make a gift online, scan the QR code or visit ascnmifnd.org/APFdonate (URL is case sensitive), and select the Believe in Miracles Fund on the drop-down menu.



Announcements

New board chairs and member announced



Tim Crawford has been named Chair of the Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation. He has been on the board since it was implemented in May 2023. Prior to that, Tim was a longstanding member of the hospital board. Tim is founder and president of

The Crawford Insurance Group. With over 40 years in the insurance business, he has built a foundation on providing comprehensive insurance solutions by taking a proactive approach to customer service earning long-term commitment and referrals based on professional service and high integrity. Tim is dedicated to community service and is involved with several charitable organizations.



Lisa Vallee-Smith, APR, was named the Chair of the Ascension St. John Foundation Board of Trustees. She has been on the board most recently since 2020, having served the board previously. Lisa and her family have been generous supporters of

Ascension St. John Hospital for many years. She was a part of the team that raised funds for the NICU renovation and the campaign that helped to build the Van Elslander Pavilion. Lisa is a marketing and public relations consultant with more than 30 years of experience. In 2000, she founded Airfoil Group, an independent integrated marketing communications firm. Now retired from Airfoil Group, Lisa's pursuits revolve around leadership and philanthropy for metro Detroit community, religious and civic organizations, including The Helm and Forgotten Harvest.

New hospital administrator announced



Michael Badali has been named Hospital Administrator for Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital. He has been serving as Regional Chief Operating Officer for the Ascension Metro West Region since April 2022 and was Interim Hospital

Administrator for Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital since October 2023. Mike joined Ascension Michigan in 1998. His years of service span many support departments and leadership roles including Vice President of Operations for Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital and Vice President of Market Growth & Business Development for Ascension Michigan. He was instrumental in developing key service lines and growing programs across the state, in addition to fiscal and operational management.

In memory of therapy dog John



It is with great sadness that we share the loss of John St. John, our Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital therapy dog. John passed away unexpectedly in April at home where he lived with his host family.

John brought great joy to all he met, and no one ever forgot this most charming fellow. Patients, visitors, volunteers, associates and physicians

loved him and would ask for him by name. He always presented with a big golden attitude and happy-tail smiles.

John was laid to rest at Michigan War Dog Memorial cemetery in South Lyon. This special place of rest is one of just a few in the country reserved for police K-9, war dogs and therapy dogs. With a memorial ceremony held in his honor, John was buried there, where he joined three of his Ascension therapy dog friends who went before him.

Your event support enhances patient care

Jazzin' Up the Holidays:

A special holiday jazz event was held on Dec. 9, 2023, to raise awareness about the campaign for the renovation of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield. Held at Studio Center in Farmington Hills, the jazz concert featured the musical talent of Daryl Beebe and the KAMP. Event Chairs



Daryl Beebe and the Kamp

were John Henderson and Daryl Beebe. Nearly 200 guests enjoyed the festive evening. Event proceeds will support the creation of a state-of-the-art, family-centered healing space to provide life-changing care for newborns facing serious health challenges.



Pastor John Henderson, Ascension Providence Foundation Board Member; his wife Dale Henderson; Kim Tyle, Chief Development Officer, Ascension Providence Foundation and Ascension Rochester Foundation; and Shaun Greene-Beebe.

Friends' Ball

Ascension Providence Foundation held its annual Friends' Ball on April 20 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. With **HOOR Detroit** as the presenting sponsor, the event raised a record-breaking gross revenue of \$404,000 to support women's heart health services at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi and Southfield. The proceeds will help ensure advanced diagnostics and treatment therapies are available to help women achieve and maintain cardiovascular health, regardless of ability to pay. Carolyn Clifford, WXYZ-TV7 news anchor, was emcee for the elegant evening, where nearly 500 guests enjoyed a live auction, silent auction and music by FiftyAmpFuse.

Michael Jacobs, MD, and retired physicians Lakshmi Gavini, MD, and Vinaya Gavini, MD, were honored as The Caduceus Society Physicians of the Year. The Order of Charity award honorees were the Daughters of Charity - a founding member of Ascension - and Michigan Spine and Brain Surgeons, PLLC, which includes Teck M. Soo, MD; Doris Tong, MD; Peter Bono, DO; Daniel Carr, DO; Clifford Houseman, DO; Prashant Kelkar, DO; and Boyd Richards, DO.



Dr. Michael Jacobs (right) was presented with the Physician of the Year award by Dr. Michael Wiemann (left), and Dr. Shukri David (right).



Dr. Clifford Houseman, Dr. Daniel Carr, Dr. Doris Tong and Dr. Teck M. Soo of Michigan Spine and Brain Surgeons, PLLC, with their Order of Charity awards.



The Daughters of Charity with Carolyn Clifford (left) and hospital and foundation leaders; Sister Mary Louise Stubbs (third from left), Ascension Providence liaison, is holding the Order of Charity award trophy.

To see event photos, visit:
ascnmifnd.org/SEMIEventPhotos or
scan the QR code on your mobile device.



Event sponsors

The sponsors listed here supported the Jazzin' up the Holidays and Friends' Ball events with \$5,000 or more. Thank you!

Consultants in Cardiology

CORE Institute

Heart Cardiology Consultants

John Henderson

HOUR Detroit

Independent Emergency Physicians

ITC Holdings

J&B Medical

Michigan Kidney Consultants

Michigan Spine & Brain Surgeons

Motor City Orthopedics and Sports Medicine

Newland Medical Associates, PC

Northland Anesthesia Associates

PSJ Anesthesia

Rehabilitation Physicians, PC

Rose Senior Living Providence Park

Southfield Radiology

Suburban Collection Showplace

Save the date

For event details, visit:

- ascnmifnd.org/ASJFEvents
(Ascension St. John Foundation)
- ascnmifnd.org/APFEvents
(Ascension Providence Foundation)
- ascnmifnd.org/APRFEvents
(Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation)

Or email specialevents@ascension.org, unless other contact details are indicated.

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

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

Ascension Providence Rochester Golf Classic

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

The Wyndgate Country Club, Rochester Hills

Proceeds to support the purchase of 3D imaging equipment for orthopedic, spine and vascular surgeries

Jerry Williams Shootout for the Cure

Friday, Aug. 9, 2024

St. Clair Golf Club, St. Clair

Proceeds to benefit the Jerome F. Williams GI Cancer Patient Support Fund to help those in financial need during treatment
For details, email anthony.pappas@ascension.org

Macomb-Oakland Golf Outing

Friday, Sept. 13, 2024

Greystone Golf Club & Banquet Center, Washington, MI

Proceeds to support a new ultrasound machine for IV team to use when putting in PICC lines and midlines

Flew Shot Sporting Clay Invitational

Oct. 14, 2024

Fox Hollow Farms, Metamora

Proceeds to benefit Ascension St. John Hospital

Mangia é Bocce

Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024

Palazzo di Bocce, Lake Orion

Proceeds will support critical equipment and monitoring needs for mothers and babies in The Birthplace at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital

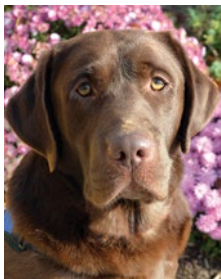
Spirit of Giving is a publication of Ascension Southeast Michigan Foundations for donors and friends in the community.

Editor: Kathy Torick
Contributing Writer: Jeff Samoray
Designer: Sabreta Johnson

If you prefer to be removed from the mailing list, write to:

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28000 Dequindre Road
Warren, MI 48236
or call 586-753-1131.

Will you help a therapy dog like me?



Your donation to the Therapy Dog Program helps with essential needs such as our food and treats, medication and veterinary care to keep us happy and

healthy. Your gift also helps bring new therapy dog team members on board when it is time to retire.

Your gift makes it possible for me to comfort patients while they are in the hospital, easing their fear and anxiety while helping to reduce their stress and lower their blood pressure.

Will you make a gift to support a therapy dog like me? You can make your gift online by visiting one of our secure web pages or by mailing your donation using the envelope inside of this newsletter.

Please indicate "Therapy Dog Program" under the foundation of your choice.

Ascension St. John Foundation - Metro East Therapy Dog Program:

Supports therapy dogs at Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital, Warren and Madison Heights; Ascension River District Hospital; and Ascension St. John Hospital

▪ **Giving webpage:**
ascnmifnd.org/sjfdogday



Ascension Providence Foundation - Metro West Therapy Dog Program:

Supports therapy dogs at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi and Southfield, and Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery

▪ **Giving webpage:**
ascnmifnd.org/pfdogday



Ascension Providence Rochester Foundation - Therapy Dog Program:

Supports therapy dogs at Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital

▪ **Giving webpage:**
ascnmifnd.org/rocdogday



Thank you,



Clyde
Lead Therapy Dog
Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield