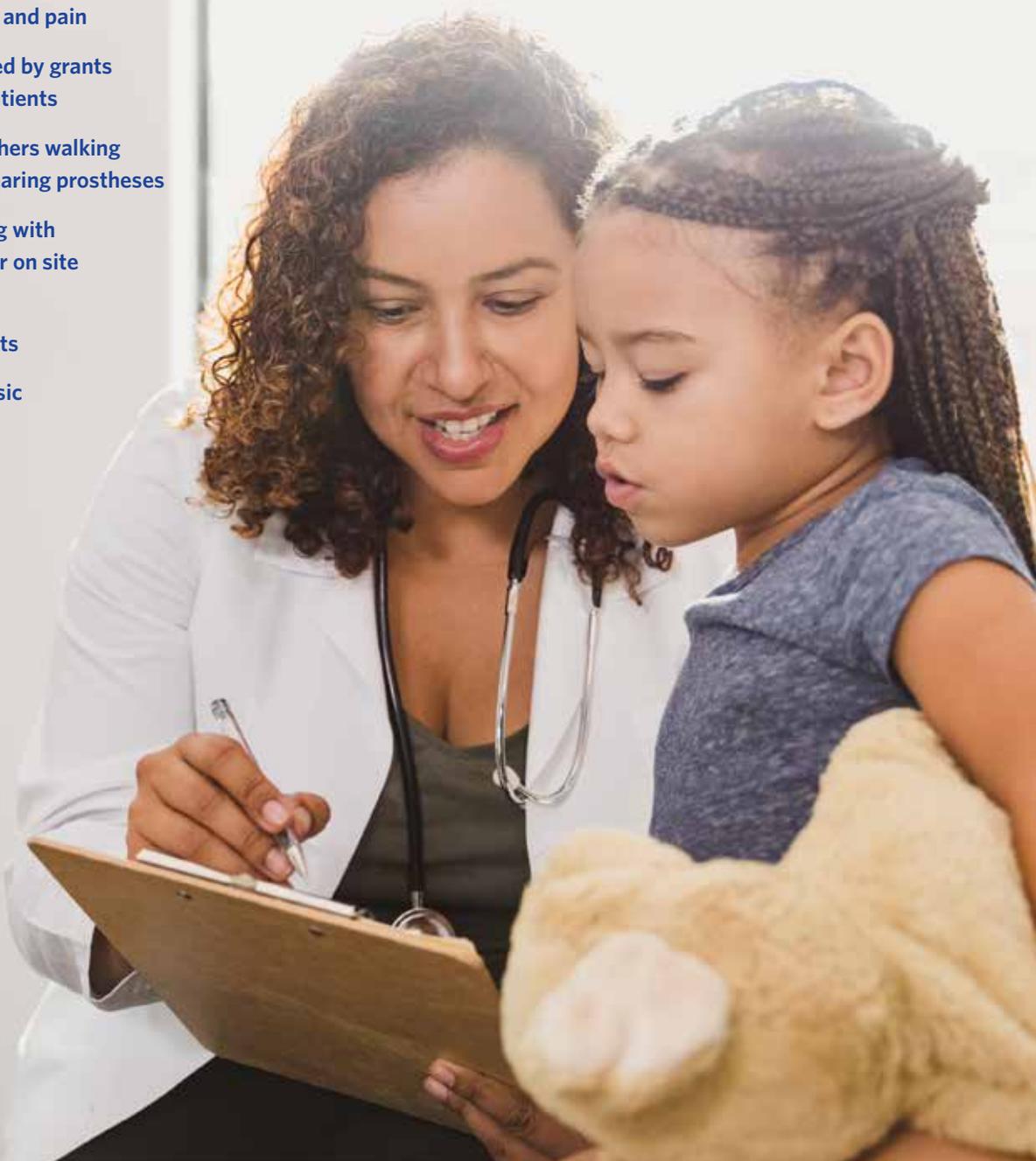


# Spirit of Giving

A NEWSLETTER FOR DONORS AND FRIENDS OF ASCENSION ST. JOHN AND PROVIDENCE FOUNDATIONS

## Inside:

- Hospitalized kids get special help to cope with treatment, fears and pain
- Respiratory technology funded by grants provides essential care for patients
- Grateful patient's gift gets others walking sooner with ischial weight-bearing prostheses
- Doctors get hands-on training with new robotic surgery simulator on site
- New technology, equipment enhance care for more patients
- Bluetooth speakers bring music and conversation to patients





Shay Rocco uses medical play to familiarize Mary Ottenbacher with medical equipment and offer her a sense of control during treatment.

## Child Life Services helps pediatric patients cope with fears, pain and more

When children are in the hospital, it can be scary and stressful for them and their families.

At Ascension St. John Children's Hospital, within Ascension St. John Hospital, Child Life Services provides psychological and emotional support for pediatric patients and their families to reduce stress and anxiety associated with hospitalization, diagnosis and treatment. Child Life Specialist Shay Rocco is specially trained to assess the patient's psychosocial needs, development level and coping style.

"Shay uses various techniques, methodologies and devices, such as virtual reality headsets, to educate and comfort patients and reduce pain, anxiety or fear they may experience in anticipation of a procedure, such as an IV placement," said Krista Mesi, DO, Pediatric Hospitalist and Director of Pediatric Hospitalist Medicine. "This is just an example of the countless things Shay does for patients and their families, and how vital her services are to the pediatric care team."

Child Life Services oversees the Pediatric Playroom, which offers therapeutic play opportunities to help children cope with their hospitalization. Craft supplies, developmental toys and games are used to help normalize the hospital environment and provide a sense of control.

Additionally, Child Life Services provides bereavement education, resources and support. Shay is specially trained to talk with patients and families about their illness or injury, death and dying. She can also create tangible items such as handprint molds, heartbeats in a bottle (EKG strips) and memory boxes.

"I've seen firsthand the impact that Child Life Services can have on a family," said Natalie Kontos, DO, Pediatric Palliative Care doctor. "Shay is a wonderful resource for our patients and their families. She helps them make the most of the time they have left with their child."

### Out of tragedy comes help for other families

Child Life Services played a major role supporting families when a weekend celebrating the end of a Little League baseball season turned to tragedy in 2018. Four children were injured in an all-terrain vehicle accident on Harsens Island where one of the families has property. The children were hospitalized at Ascension St. John Children's Hospital. While three of the children were released within four days, 13-year-old Christian Pluszczynski was in critical condition and suffered brain death.

At this unimaginable time, Child Life Services helped Christian’s family and friends understand his condition and cope with his death when Christian’s parents, Brad and Melissa, selflessly decided to donate his organs to the Gift of Life. The baseball players and families were able to come to the Pediatric Playroom where Shay and staff from Social Work and Pastoral Care initiated discussion and therapeutic play to help with the grieving process.

“The Child Life Program provided invaluable support to our families affected by this accident,” said Molly Collins, a parent of one of the players. “Shay spoke to the children in a way they could understand through words and with activities, and spoke to the adults in a way we could understand. She is a gift to those experiencing uncertainty, worry or heartbreak with children in the hospital.”

Brian and Jennifer Loridon, whose son Connor was injured in the accident, said, “The Child Life program was something we had never heard of before. When a tragedy happens and you have no idea what is going on around you, they are there for you every step of the way.”

When Christian was taken to surgery to procure his organs, the first honor walk was held at Ascension St. John Hospital, where Christian’s father is a respiratory therapist. Staff lined the halls to pay their respects and support Christian’s family.



Christian Pluszczynski, at age 13



Memory items include handprint molds and heartbeats in a bottle.

Christian gave new life to five people with the donation of his kidneys, heart, liver and lungs.

After Christian’s death, Molly spearheaded an effort to collect donations in his honor to support Child Life Services. Before Christian’s birthday each year, she requests support from the Lac St. Clair Little League, each Bulldogs team in the league, and individual families. So far, \$2,600 has been donated to Child Life Services.

Christian, who would’ve turned 16 on Jan. 29, loved being around younger children and they adored him. Molly believes Christian would be happy his baseball family is helping other children through their donations. “We hope to continue to support this program through the Bulldogs Baseball Organization and Lac St. Clair Little League to honor Christian’s memory and encourage others to donate,” she said.

The donations have helped expand the bereavement portion of Child Life Services. “We’ve been able to purchase better quality supplies for the handprint molds and obtain more grief support books,” Shay said.

To support Child Life Services at Ascension St. John, scan the QR code with your cell phone or tablet.



## Respiratory technology provides essential care for patients

New respiratory equipment is helping enhance care for patients in respiratory distress at the Ascension hospitals in southeast Michigan. Generous grants awarded by the **Respiratory Foundation of Southeast Michigan** have allowed the hospitals to purchase this important technology.

At Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi Campus, a portable bronchoscopy tower, two V60 non-invasive ventilators and a vest therapy system were purchased with grant funds. The Ascension Providence, Southfield Campus, obtained an MRI ventilator and five V60 non-invasive BiPAP ventilators.

The portable bronchoscopy tower helps expedite emergent patient diagnosis and treatment at the bedside when a patient may be too unstable to transport to the procedure room. A bronchoscopy allows doctors to look at the airways using a thin lighted tube inserted through the nose or mouth, and down the throat and windpipe into the lungs.

The V60 non-invasive ventilators are used in the Emergency Department and throughout the hospital to assist patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The



A respiratory therapist connects a patient to a V60 non-invasive ventilator to help her breathe.

ventilatory support is provided through the patient's upper airway using a mask. During the peak of COVID, the V60s helped staff avoid intubating patients and putting them on an invasive ventilator.

"This non-invasive therapy has proven very successful and is now the standard practice for COPD patients," said Michelle England, Manager, Respiratory Services, Novi Campus. "The equipment helps prevent patients from invasive mechanical ventilation, allowing for shorter hospital stays."

The vest therapy system assists with airway clearance for patients who lack the ability or strength to cough. Rapidly recurring pulses of air gently squeeze and release the patient's upper body to loosen and thin mucus from the lungs. Patients prefer the gentler vest therapy as opposed to manual chest physiotherapy performed by a caregiver.

At Ascension St. John Hospital, two PB980 ventilators were acquired with funds from the Respiratory Foundation of Southeast Michigan. The equipment is used for patients in the Intensive Care Units and the Cardiac Catheterization Lab. During the height of the pandemic, these ventilators greatly assisted Respiratory Therapy in providing mechanical ventilation with advanced technology to the most critical patients.

At Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital, grants supported the purchase of three V60 ventilators. Cindy Zeppa, Manager, Respiratory Services, said the equipment has multiple functions to assist patients requiring more oxygenation or pressure in the lungs. Recently, a patient with congestive heart failure came to the Emergency Department in severe distress. Within an hour of being placed on the non-invasive ventilator, the patient was able to come off the machine and go on nasal cannula oxygen, avoiding intubation and placement on an invasive ventilator.

Since 1983, the Respiratory Foundation of Southeast Michigan has granted nearly \$8 million to Ascension hospitals in southeast Michigan to support a variety of respiratory and pulmonary programs and equipment. Thank you for your outstanding support!



Sister Carmella Chetcuti

## Patient thankful for care and new ventilator

Grant funds from the **Respiratory Foundation of Southeast Michigan** allowed Ascension River District Hospital to obtain a new PB980 ventilator last year. This equipment is used to provide ventilatory support for patients in the Emergency Department and the Intensive Care Unit. It enables patients to breathe more naturally through innovative breath delivery technology, resulting in less sedation to maintain patient comfort.

The PB980 ventilator helped save the life of Sister Carmella Chetcuti from Marine City when she had COVID-19 last spring. She shared her thanks in a Facebook post:

*"I want to express my deepest gratitude to all the doctors, nurses and healthcare workers at the Intensive Care Unit at Ascension River District Hospital. I was close to death due to COVID-19. They had to put me on the ventilator for eight days. These wonderful people never gave up on me and gave me a fighting chance to live (with the help of the ventilator). They also became my only family to visit. They all took time to listen and treated me like I was their only patient, even though they were overwhelmed with COVID patients. I was in the ICU from April 8-21. They played the song "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" when I left, which brought tears to my eyes. I know God spared me to continue to serve Him and His people."*

Over the years, grants from the Respiratory Foundation have allowed Ascension River District to purchase BiPAP and Vapotherm ventilation systems, which have been used for COVID patients. A BiPAP machine is a non-invasive ventilation system with a mask that is used for patients with pulmonary conditions such as sleep apnea, respiratory distress, asthma and COPD. Vapotherm high-velocity therapy uses a soft cannula interface that is easy to tolerate and allows patients to speak, eat, drink, cough and take oral medications.

## Vaccine helps Sisters continue ministry

Sisters from the Daughters of Charity recently got their COVID-19 vaccines to help keep them safe from the virus. The Daughters of Charity have a long, rich history of serving the poor and sick. Their tireless efforts led to the development of what is now Ascension Providence Hospital. The Daughters' founding charter stated they would "assist all persons ... suffering from any disease or infirmity ..."

Their vaccines will help them continue their compassionate presence on the Ascension Providence, Novi and Southfield campuses, to guide our ministry in serving those most in need.



## Grateful patient helped by special prosthesis gives back to assist others

Jane Smith\* had always led an active lifestyle playing tennis, golfing and walking. But in her later years, she developed serious circulation problems in her legs. Although she worked with doctors trying various procedures and treatments to improve circulation, she inevitably had to undergo a lower limb amputation.

This was devastating for Jane, as her mobility and independence became restricted. She could only get around using crutches, a wheelchair or hopping on her other leg. Jane became very discouraged and unmotivated, and was often too tired for physical therapy.

Then one day, the physical therapy team at the Cracchiolo Inpatient Rehabilitation Center at Ascension St. John Hospital had her try an ischial weight-bearing prosthesis. Jane said this was a pivotal moment to her recovery. It gave her the independence and improved outlook she needed until she could be fitted for a permanent prosthesis. She was also discharged from the hospital sooner than expected.

Patients who have undergone a lower limb amputation typically must wait six months after surgery to receive a prosthetic limb. This is because a significant amount of healing and reshaping of the residual limb and surgical site has to take place before the patient can be fitted into a prosthesis or bear weight on the area.

However, the ischial weight-bearing (IWBP) prosthesis bears the weight of the body on the upper thigh instead of the amputation site. The IWBP allows patients to walk much sooner than possible with a traditional prosthetic leg, and often gives patients an opportunity to be discharged home instead of to an extended care facility.

Jane felt blessed to be able to benefit from the IWBP prosthesis and her care at the Cracchiolo Inpatient Rehabilitation Center. Because the temporary prosthetic is typically not covered by medical insurance, she wanted to help others who don't have the means to pay for it. In 2017, Jane donated \$10,000 to the Cracchiolo Inpatient Rehabilitation Center. The gift was used to purchase ischial weight-bearing prosthetics for patients in need. Jane, now an active 90-year-old who walks with the support of a walker and enjoys chair yoga, recently donated an additional \$10,000 for more IWBP. Her initial gift helped 14 patients regain mobility, self-confidence and independence.

### Patient benefits from gift to Rehab Center

One such patient helped by Jane's gift is Dana Dicenso, age 46, who was working and taking care of her family prior to complications from a chronic foot wound. Dana has diabetes and developed ulcers on both feet. When her right foot became severely infected, she had to undergo a below-the-knee amputation.

Dana was determined to get better quickly so she could ride her bike again and resume other activities with her 7-year-old daughter and 16-year-old son. Fortunately, she met the criteria to be fitted for an ischial weight-bearing prosthesis, which soon improved her independence and mobility. The IWBP enabled her to shift all her weight onto her right side, allowing time for her left foot to heal. With the use of the IWBP, Dana recovered quicker, and she once again enjoys biking and taking care of her family. Thank you, Jane, for helping Dana and others like her!

*\*Name changed for confidentiality*



Dana Dicenso gets ready to walk, wearing the ischial weight-bearing prosthesis.

## Patients relearn car transfer skills safely using new simulator

Getting into and out of a car is something most people take for granted. But after a person loses functional mobility due to a stroke, brain or spinal cord injury, amputation or other conditions, it is an activity that needs to be relearned and practiced.

At Ascension St. John Hospital, a car transfer simulator allows patients to learn and practice getting into and out of a car during physical therapy sessions at the Cracchiolo Inpatient Rehabilitation Center. This skill is assessed upon admission and discharge to the Rehab unit.

The simulator equipment was acquired through donations to the Cracchiolo Inpatient Rehabilitation Fund. Thanks to donors who supported this fund, patients like Domenico Deluca, age 82, can practice entering and exiting the simulator as a driver or passenger in the comfort and safety of an indoor setting year round. Domenico recently had a transcatheter aortic valve replacement and has other medical conditions, which made Inpatient Rehabilitation a necessary part of his recovery following the procedure.

The real-to-life simulator has doors on both sides, adjustable seats and seat belts, locks and a steering wheel. The equipment can be adjusted for height to simulate a car, sport utility vehicle, truck or other mode of transportation, providing an accurate representation of the patient's own vehicle. The simulator is also helpful for patients to practice putting groceries into and out of a car.



Domenico Deluca sits in the car transfer simulator after successfully getting in.

Domenico made significant progress during his rehab stay. Upon admission, he required maximum assistance from one person for transfers and walking. He progressed to only standby assistance for most walking and transfers. He was discharged home after achieving his rehab goals with the help of the car transfer simulator.

## Crosses donated for caregivers



A caregiver holds one of the donated crosses.

A community member donated 290 small handmade comfort crosses to Ascension St. John Hospital for frontline caregivers who dedicate their time caring for patients, especially during these challenging times.

The hand-carved wooden crosses are small enough to fit into a pocket. The donor hopes that when caregivers find they need strength, they can reach into their pocket, and the presence of the cross will remind them they are not alone and are the true missionaries of God's work.

Each cross comes with a small card with the Lord's Prayer on it; the back side of the card states, "Your cross is an authentic handicraft made in Bethlehem from Holy Land olive wood."

The donor, who was born at Ascension St. John, donated the crosses because the hospital is a Catholic health ministry dedicated to serving those most vulnerable.



The Ascension Macomb-Oakland Endoscopy staff with the new ultrasound machine

## New Lung Nodule Management Program to enhance care for patients

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States. It kills more Americans than colon, breast and prostate cancers combined. This high mortality is in large part related to the fact that patients often don't have symptoms until the cancer is in advanced stages.

Prompt diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer, which can initially present as a lung nodule, may be the best chance for achieving a cure for the disease. A lung nodule is a small irregularity within the lung tissue. It is one of the most common abnormalities seen on radiographic imaging. People with nodules usually do not experience symptoms. Nodules are usually seen by chance on a chest X-ray or CT scan taken for another reason, and are often referred to as an incidental finding. While most nodules are benign, they may represent an early stage of lung cancer or indicate that cancer has metastasized from another part of the body to the lungs.

At Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital, Warren, a Lung Nodule Management Program is under development to help diagnose, monitor and treat patients with previously identified lung nodules.

A new state-of-the-art Olympus ultrasound machine was recently purchased for the program with donations made to the hospital's Greatest Capital Need Fund. Thank you to the donors whose generous gifts supported the equipment, which allows for enhanced diagnostic imaging and staging of lung nodules.

A special software program called Eon Direct is also being set up, which will help identify and manage patients at risk for lung cancer. The clinic offers enhanced coordinated services and care among a multidisciplinary team of experts including a nurse navigator, coordinator, thoracic surgeon, pulmonary specialists and oncologists.

Michael Bousamra, MD, Head of Thoracic Surgery for Ascension ministries in southeast Michigan, said early detection and management of pulmonary nodules is an effective way to improve the prognosis of lung cancer. He added, "By combining a robust CT screening program for lung cancer with this pulmonary nodule management system, we can make great strides in beating lung cancer!"

## Webber Cancer Center reopens after major renovation

The Webber Cancer Center at Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital, Warren, has reopened after a \$3.52 million renovation of the facility. The updated center provides new and expanded state-of-the-art space for outpatient medical oncology, gynecologic oncology, infusion and laboratory services all under one roof, located right inside a dedicated entrance on the south side of the hospital.

Key features of the updated 9,883-square-foot cancer center include:

- A new infusion center that is modern, comfortable and spacious
- Individual patient bays with their own TVs
- The creation of two private patient treatment rooms
- Two nursing stations to provide maximum patient observation
- An expanded pharmacy with updates to better meet current safety standards
- Five new exam rooms, bringing the total to eight; rooms are larger to accommodate patients and family
- New blood draw and lab area
- Modernized waiting area

The Webber Cancer Center is one of several dedicated Ascension cancer centers in Michigan providing advanced technologies; innovative treatment options in radiation therapy, chemotherapy and surgery; as well as many specialty areas and procedures. Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital has also been granted initial accreditation for its oncology fellowship program, which launches this summer. The program will eventually have six fellows at a time, two per year of the three-year fellowship.

The Webber Cancer Center initially opened in 2003 with a major gift from **Wayne and Joan Webber**, and donations from the **hospital's volunteer auxiliary, associates and doctors**.



The Webber Cancer Center was renovated to better meet patient needs.

## Your gift helps those in substance use disorder recovery

When you support the Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery Halfway House campaign, you can help provide a safe and sober haven for patients on the journey of recovery from substance use disorder.

The Ascension Providence Foundation is grateful to donors like the **DeRoy Testamentary Foundation** and **Ascension leadership**, who have already made generous gifts toward the campaign. Their gifts have helped push the campaign near completion.

To support the construction of the new halfway house, Ascension leadership designated the Ascension Brighton campaign as a beneficiary of the 2021 Friends' Ball proceeds.

The halfway house program helps patients live a sober life. Residents participate in daily group therapy; attend meditation educational sessions; daily community 12-step meetings; and participate in other programs that help solidify gains made in treatment while decreasing the risk of relapse.

Please enjoy a video tour of the Ascension Brighton 92-acre campus by scanning the QR code on your cell phone or tablet. To learn about giving opportunities, please contact Christa Williams at 248-465-5006 or [christa.williams@ascension.org](mailto:christa.williams@ascension.org).



## Robotic surgery equipment provides hands-on training for doctors

Generous gifts from donors like you helped make the purchase of a robotic surgical simulator possible for the Simulation and Education Center at Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield.

The RobotiX Mentor™ Simulator from 3D Systems (formerly Symbionix) is helping train medical residents and attending



General Surgery resident Abdullahi Abdullahi, MD, practices robotic surgery skills on the new RobotiX simulator.

doctors from general surgery and obstetrics/gynecology in both basic and advanced robotic surgical techniques. With the addition of the new simulator, medical staff have 24/7 access to learn new skills and practice previously learned skills and will not have to travel to Ascension Providence, Novi, for training.

The simulator provides realistic representation of hand movements with accurate robotic motion, and true-to-life graphics of human anatomy and tissue behavior.

“Robotic surgery is the future of general surgery,” said William Oppat, MD, Program Director of General Surgery. “It will only gain in use. It is vital that residents receive training to become competent surgeons upon graduation.”

The proficiency of the residents is tracked as they utilize the machine, including completion of the Fundamentals of Robotic Surgery (ACGME) requirement and testing for basic competency prior to performing procedures on patients. The equipment should also lead to improved operating room efficiency.

## Bluetooth speakers bring music and conversation to patients

**Harman International** has donated 160 JBL Bluetooth speakers to Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi and Southfield, for use in Intensive Care Units and COVID care patient rooms.

When paired with a Bluetooth-enabled device such as a cell phone or tablet, the speakers can amplify the sound. This allows patients to listen to music aloud or hear their loved ones’ voices over the speaker when talking on phone calls. The use of the Bluetooth speakers can help pass the time and make a hospital stay feel less isolating for patients.

“The COVID pandemic has affected us all in every aspect of our day-to-day lives,” said Tom Rivers, Vice President, Automotive Marketing, Harman International. “While the impact has been minimal to some individuals, for others it has hit extremely close to home — especially when you’re unable to communicate with your loved ones when in hospitals and assisted living facilities. We hope that these speakers will make these challenging times a bit easier for everyone — whether that means listening to your favorite music or talking to loved ones. We’re grateful we can provide assistance to the patients at Ascension Providence Hospital.”

Harman International is a global leader in connected car technology, lifestyle audio innovations, design and analytics, cloud services and IoT solutions. The company has a location in Novi.



(l-r) Harman representatives Allyson Krick and Tom Rivers delivered the Bluetooth speakers to Ascension Providence, Novi, where Christa Williams, Ascension Providence Foundation, and Slawomir Lomnicki, Pastoral Spiritual Care, accepted the generous gift.

## Mammography interpretation workstations enhance accuracy and speed

Your donations helped upgrade four mammography interpretation workstations at Ascension Providence Hospital, Southfield and Novi campuses, and at the Livonia Imaging Center.

The new workstations have upgraded hardware and software, and feature enhanced monitors for increased visualization of mammograms. The new monitors have double the amount of megapixels as the older monitors; this increases image clarity and helps aid in the diagnosis of benign and malignant breast disease.

Radiologists have demonstrated increased efficiency and improved accuracy in their interpretations while using the new workstations. The workstations are faster than the old ones and image transmission is seamless, without a lag time for review. This allows mammogram results to be provided to patients and doctors quicker.



A mammography technologist gets ready to review images at one of the new mammography workstations.

## New infusion chairs provide access for more patients



Amy L., RN, preps Allan Provo for his infusion treatment in one of the new chairs.

Ascension's oncology services continue to grow as community members seek premier, personalized care when diagnosed with cancer. To respond to the increased demand at the Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi Campus, a renovation was recently completed to add 420 square feet of patient care area to the Infusion Center at the Assarian Cancer Center. As part of the expansion, three new specialty chairs were purchased through a generous donation of \$9,100 from the **Providence Park League** volunteer organization. The chairs help provide optimum care and comfort to patients as they receive infusion treatments.

"The additional space and chairs have allowed more patients to obtain care close to home in a convenient and comfortable setting. They truly make a difference!" said Dr. Anibal Drelichman, Section Chief of Hematology/Oncology, Ascension Providence, Novi and Southfield.

### Leave a legacy

You can leave a legacy, make a difference in the health of those in your community, and perhaps achieve tax savings by making a planned gift. If you have included, or would like to include, one of the Ascension Michigan hospitals in your estate plan or wish to learn more, please call 313-343-7480 or 248-465-5000 and ask to speak with Stan Simek, Planned Giving Director.

Scan the QR code with your cell phone or tablet to view a recording about Estate Planning, presented by Julius Giarmarco.



## Patients honor doctors with tributes for National Doctor's Day

Doctors dedicate themselves to your health every day. With the challenges of COVID-19, they have been working harder than ever to care for patients. Thank you! In celebration of National Doctor's Day (March 30), nearly 200 patients and family members recognized doctors with heartfelt tributes and gifts totaling \$11,070 (amount at press time). The gifts help patients who are struggling to pay for expenses such as lifesaving medications, medical equipment, diabetes education classes, food, electricity and more through the Helping Our Patients in Emergencies (HOPE) Fund.



Here is a sampling of the tributes received:

To **Barbara Tess, MD**: Thanks for being the best doctor — efficient, kind, attentive, accessible, wise, compassionate and on top of all that, a great sense of humor! Hope you know how much you're appreciated! Please don't retire until after I die!

To **Anita Bodiya, MD**: I appreciate her honesty and really feel like she cares about her patients. It's comforting to know I can be sure she is willing to help me. I'm also thankful for her office staff.

To **Konstantinos Kapordelis, MD**: We so appreciate his kind demeanor, compassionate care, and above all his excellent diagnostic and treatment skills.

To **Zyad Kafri, MD**: Dr. Kafri is a fantastic physician! He puts in so much time and energy in his clinics and endless phone calls. He will always stop to answer a question. I can say this firsthand, as I not only work with him, he is also my physician. Dr. Kafri has a heart of gold! He is kind, patient and an educator of the highest standard.

To **Barry Feldman, MD**: The finest doctor in the world. He is the best!

To **Lingareddy Devireddy, MD**: A trillion "thank yous" for keeping Stan alive for over 30 years and for saving my life. Your time and compassion are always there. God bless you always.

To **Greg Barry, MD**: Thank you for the excellent care you have provided. Your sincere concern, kindness, thoroughness and professionalism are commendable. I feel fortunate to have you directing my healthcare.

To **Usha Singhi, MD**: You are a talented and knowledgeable physician who listens well to your patients! Your comprehensive approach to care makes me feel comfortable with my medical issues. I know I am in great hands!

To **Parveen Siddiqui, MD**: Dr. Siddiqui's professionalism and thoroughness have been reassuring and given us confidence. She is always receptive to discussing our health concerns, no matter how minor or anecdotal. Thank you!

To **Kenneth D'Andrea, DO**, and **Andrey Volkov, DO**: I am so thankful for your skill and compassion. I have my life back to nearly normal. May God bless you both and continue your healing talents.



To honor your doctor, please contact Heidi Crisman at 248-465-4511/[heidi.crisman@ascension.org](mailto:heidi.crisman@ascension.org) or Michael Palmer at 313-343-7579/[michael.palmer1@ascension.org](mailto:michael.palmer1@ascension.org).

### Update your mail preferences

To receive the *Spirit of Giving* newsletter via email, or to opt out of receiving future editions, please scan the QR code on your cell phone or tablet and complete the form. Thank you for helping us update your mail preferences.



## Novi Chamber and local auto dealer provide meals to caregivers

Thank you to the **Novi Chamber of Commerce** and to **LaFontaine Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram (CJDR) of Walled Lake** for donating and delivering meals to associates working in the COVID units at Ascension Providence Hospital, Novi, on National Random Acts of Kindness Day on Feb. 17. The food was prepared by Fireside Grill, a member of the Epoch Hospitality Group, located at the Suburban Collection Showplace of Novi.

Some may think a lunch or dinner here and there may not mean much, but to the Novi Chamber of Commerce and its Board of Directors, it means hospitality and support for its local hospital and the chamber's member restaurants. Many restaurants have had to limit their menus; incur additional expenses due to personal protection equipment; lay off many staff and more. The Novi Chamber and its board allocated funds to support local businesses, and the LaFontaine car dealer volunteered to do its part to help.

"Purchasing meals from our member restaurants and delivering them to the frontline heroes is a win-win," said Farah Shammami, Executive Director, Novi Chamber. "It not only helps us monetarily support our local restaurants but also honors healthcare heroes with a great meal and a sincere thank you. No one could imagine that a pandemic would occur and last as long as it has, nor the challenges we would all face. We are grateful to have an outstanding hospital in our backyard that we can count on."

"We are grateful for the opportunity to show our appreciation to the frontline heroes," said Kelley LaFontaine, Vice President, LaFontaine Automotive Group. "We take great pride in giving back to our local communities."



Pictured (l-r) with donated meals are: Christa Williams and Maureen Kelly-Nichols from Ascension Providence; Audrey Ryskamp, John Rossi and Max Muncey from LaFontaine; and Farah Shammami, Samira Boueri and Mary Ledermann from the Novi Chamber of Commerce.

## Save the date

For details, visit [stjohnprovfoundations.org/events](http://stjohnprovfoundations.org/events) or email [specialevents@ascension.org](mailto:specialevents@ascension.org), unless other contact details are indicated.

Important note: Event dates are accurate as of print date. Ascension St. John and Providence Foundations reserve the right to postpone or cancel events based on the COVID-19 situation. We will follow the guidance of Ascension leadership and state and national recommendations.



### Providence Golf Classic

**June 7, 2021**

Indianwood Golf and Country Club, Lake Orion



### Swing into Summer Golf Outing and Patio Party

**June 11, 2021**

St. Clair Golf Club, St. Clair

**THE GUILD**

### The GUILD Summer Soiree

**June 16, 2021**

Grosse Pointe Yacht Club

Watch for more information.



### Jerry Williams Shootout for the Cure

**Aug. 13, 2021**

St. Clair Golf Club, St. Clair



### Ascension St. John Medical Staff/GUILD Golf Outing

**Sept. 13, 2021**

Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe Woods

Contact Anthony Kallabat at 586-489-5616 or [anthony.kallabat@gmail.com](mailto:anthony.kallabat@gmail.com)



### Macomb-Oakland Golf Outing

**Sept. 27, 2021**

Cherry Creek Golf Club, Shelby Township



### Friends' Ball

**Oct. 30, 2021**

Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi



### Fontbonne Auxiliary White Christmas Ball

**Dec. 3, 2021**

The Henry, Dearborn

Contact Lorna Zalenski at 313-343-3675 or [llz523@aol.com](mailto:llz523@aol.com)



## Fontbonne and GUILD are devoted to Ascension St. John Hospital

The Fontbonne Auxiliary and GUILD volunteer fundraising organizations continue to generously support Ascension St. John Hospital with their fundraising efforts despite the ongoing challenges of COVID-19.

### Fontbonne

In lieu of the White Christmas Ball in 2020, the Fontbonne held a “Miracles Can Happen!” donation event via mail. Chaired by Phyllis DeMars, the mailing raised more than \$50,000 to support the GetWellNetwork for Ascension St. John Children’s Hospital. This interactive patient care system works through an iPad or television to provide patient and family participation and decision-making with interactive, individualized education. It can also be used for entertainment with on-demand videos and games.

The 2021 “Spring into Action!” spring fundraiser is also a mail donation appeal. Chaired by Camille Cracchiolo, it is raising funds for the DigniCap® Scalp Cooling System, which helps minimize hair loss for patients receiving chemotherapy treatments. For more information, contact Lorna Zalenski, Fontbonne President, at 313-590-5607 or [lorna-zalenski@ascension-external.org](mailto:lorna-zalenski@ascension-external.org).

The Fontbonne also purchased meals valued at \$500 from Mack Avenue Grill and \$1,500 in gift cards from National Coney Island for frontline associates at Ascension St. John Hospital to support them during the pandemic.

### THE GUILD

Approximately \$6,000 was raised from a GUILD apparel campaign, in which donors giving at least \$200 could select a golf shirt or vest with the GUILD logo on it, a value of \$50. Apparel is still available. Contact Greg DeMars, GUILD President, at 313-550-6647 or [gdemars921@gmail.com](mailto:gdemars921@gmail.com).

THE GUILD purchased 200 gift cards valued at \$10 each and donated them to hospital frontline caregivers. In addition, during the height of COVID-19, THE GUILD Coffee Shop supported associates by giving out free coffee, valued at a total of \$18,000.

THE GUILD Board approved the coffee shop annex to be constructed by the hospital, and will contribute half of the \$44,000 cost.

To support Fontbonne efforts, THE GUILD also donated \$1,000 to its White Christmas Ball mailing fundraiser.

In lieu of the annual GUILD Dinner, THE GUILD will hold a Summer Soiree on June 16 at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. This fundraising event, chaired by Andrew Cracchiolo and Brett Bean, will feature entertainment, the annual awards presentation, open bar and heavy hors d’oeuvres for a cost of \$300. It will be held outside, weather permitting (or inside if inclement weather). The event is subject to COVID restrictions. Watch for more information.

## Announcements

### New members join Ascension Providence Foundation Board of Trustees



**Daryl Beebe** is the Director of Student Support Network & Stakeholder Engagement for the Southfield Public Schools, which supports the non-academic needs of students related to the social, emotional, health and nutritional needs of students. He is also the school district's Section 504 Coordinator for Personal Curriculum, Homebound Instruction, Mental Health Care Partnerships and Tele-Psych/Counseling Services. Before joining Southfield Public Schools, Daryl worked as a counselor for Berkley School District. Daryl is also a minister/elder at Seth Temple Church of God in Christ.



**John Henderson** is President of AEL-Span. The company, launched in 2007, focuses on providing supply chain solutions for the logistics requirements of a diverse base of global and regional companies. John was Vice President, Global Sales and Marketing, for Span International before his current role. He has over 40 years of business management and leadership experience, and has held senior management and board level positions in banking, venture capital management, manufacturing and logistics.



**Sister Mary Louise Stubbs, DC**, has been a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul since 1967. She currently serves as the Daughters of Charity International Project Services Executive Director. Sr. Mary Louise works with Sisters in developing countries to help them find resources to serve the poor impoverished nations. She has worked in ministry roles in hospitals and community development in several states including Arkansas, Texas, Missouri and Louisiana. The Daughters of Charity are an original sponsoring organization of the healthcare ministries that formed Ascension.

Welcome back! **Ann Conrad, Dave Imesch** and **Jeffrey Zaks, MD**, who served as longtime members of the Ascension Providence Foundation Board of Trustees, have rejoined the Board after taking a year off from their volunteer roles.

### Foundation expands staff



**Lorraine Owczarek** has been promoted to the position of Director of Operations for the Ascension Michigan Foundation. Lorraine has worked in various roles at Ascension for 30 years; she brings vast institutional knowledge and organizational skills to this new position. Lorraine most recently served as Chief Development Officer for Ascension St. John Foundation and Director of Operations for Ascension St. John and Providence Foundations. Before that, she was Events Lead for the Foundations.



**Laura Regalado** has been named the Director of Foundation Marketing, Ascension Michigan Foundation, to help strengthen the marketing and donor communications capabilities across the state. Laura has deep experience from a marketing and advertising career which includes tenure with The Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, Time Magazine and Insider, Inc. She also launched and co-founded her own company, Serenity At Home.



**Patty Warner** has joined Ascension Providence Foundation as a Major Gift Officer. She has a lengthy background in philanthropy, working at nonprofit organizations such as Beaumont Foundation, Sparrow Foundation in Lansing, and Eastern Michigan University. Most recently, she was Director of Development at North Star Reach. In her role at Ascension Providence Foundation, she is focusing on raising funds for the Women & Children's service line and Surgical Services.

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## You can send words of encouragement to a frontline nurse!

Will you write a note of thanks or words of encouragement to an outstanding nurse or to the staff on a nursing unit? Perhaps there's a special nurse who has made a difference in your life or in the life of someone you love.

The role of nurses has always been vital, but has never been more important than now. Over the past 15 months, nurses have been working tirelessly to care for all of their patients — a life's work made even more challenging due to COVID-19. Nurses are physically and mentally exhausted. Your note of gratitude can help lift their spirits. It will help to remind nurses why they do, what they do — day in and day out.

Along with your note, will you also make a gift to the Nursing Support Fund? Your donation will help nurses stay current with best practices through continuing education; purchase new equipment for the nursing units; and provide special recognition for nurses.

Please make your gift today and send words of encouragement by going to this secure website: <https://stjohnprovfoundations.org/ways-to-give/annual-giving/nursesweek> or by using the giving envelope in this newsletter.



Our facilities are currently taking precautions to help keep patients and visitors safe, which may include conducting screenings, restricting visitors and practicing distancing for compassionate, safe care. We continuously monitor COVID-19 guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and adjust our safety practices and safeguards accordingly.

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**If you would like to learn more about giving opportunities at  
Ascension hospitals and entities in southeast Michigan, please call 313-343-7480.**