



**THE POWER  
OF MANY.  
THE IMPACT  
OF ONE.**



ASCENSION ALL SAINTS HOSPITAL  
FOUNDATION



MERCY HEALTH  
FOUNDATION



ASCENSION ST. ELIZABETH HOSPITAL  
FOUNDATION



ASCENSION WISCONSIN  
FOUNDATION

*The four former foundations are now  
one unified Ascension Wisconsin Foundation  
with the same shared mission and  
vision to help reach those  
most vulnerable in our communities.*

**RACHEAL FAULK**



## THE POWER OF MANY. THE IMPACT OF ONE.

I write to you with great excitement of what we've accomplished and enthusiasm for what's to come. **Thanks to you**, we were able to work together and make a lasting impact in fiscal year 2023. This fiscal year 2024, we are growing even stronger with 'The Power of Many' and the 'Impact of One.'

By now you may have received some of our messaging about the new Ascension Wisconsin Foundation and you may be asking yourself, what does this mean?

We are excited to share this annual report with you and to help clarify what it truly means to be Ascension Wisconsin Foundation. This move, driven by our shared mission and purpose, will best serve Ascension Wisconsin. **You make this possible.**

The four former foundations — Ascension All Saints Hospital Foundation, Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital Foundation, Ascension Wisconsin Foundation and Mercy Health Foundation — are now one unified Ascension Wisconsin Foundation with the same shared mission and vision to help reach those most vulnerable in our communities.



We are proud to come together as Ascension Wisconsin Foundation and work with you to make an even larger, lasting difference in our local communities. Our commitment to advancing Ascension Wisconsin's healthcare programs, services and areas of care remains the same.

As one unified Foundation, you will still be making an impact in your local communities. Your gifts will continue to benefit the Ascension Wisconsin site and area of care that you are most passionate about.

Your continued support and generosity are appreciated, and we value and recognize the impact you have in our local communities. We appreciate you. Thank you for making a difference.

**One vision, one mission, one foundation.  
Serving your community.**

**RACHEAL FAULK**

*Interim President  
Ascension Wisconsin Foundation*



\$10,242,946

Invested to support Ascension Wisconsin healthcare.

*Thanks to you, we were able to invest over \$10 million into Ascension Wisconsin healthcare.*

*This support benefits and serves your community by advancing care, enhancing equipment, implementing new technology and funding community programs and clinics.*

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## MISSION AND VISION



**R**ooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, we commit ourselves to serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Our Catholic health ministry is dedicated to spiritually centered, holistic care which sustains and improves the health of individuals and communities. We are advocates for a compassionate and just society through our actions and our words.

The Foundation’s mission is to support the mission of Ascension by: **Promoting and strengthening the image, role and identity of Ascension to others; generating resources for the Foundation through focused cultivation and philanthropic activities; and fundraising and being responsible stewards of the Foundation assets.**

Inspired by our religious Foundation, a dedicated group of foundation board members, including community leaders, doctors and Ascension Wisconsin associates, support our work. We are pleased to introduce the following members as our Ascension Wisconsin Foundation Board for Fiscal Year 2024:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Patsy Beck</b>                   | <b>Rebecca Mason</b>                       |
| <b>Dr. Terry Cheng</b>              | <b>Maria Myers</b>                         |
| <b>Jon Crowell</b>                  | <b>Gerard Randall</b>                      |
| <b>Cookie Fielkow, <i>Chair</i></b> | <b>Tom Schmid</b>                          |
| <b>Rachel Hansen</b>                | <b>Cory Sebastian, <i>Vice Chair</i></b>   |
| <b>Jori Hartwig</b>                 | <b>Bob VanHimbergen, <i>Vice Chair</i></b> |
| <b>Lisa Kogan-Praska</b>            | <b>Matt Zimmerman</b>                      |
| <b>Dr. Don Lee</b>                  |  |
| <b>Dr. Janice Litza</b>             |  |

### **Ascension Wisconsin Foundation provides philanthropic support for:**

- Ascension All Saints Hospital
- Ascension Calumet Hospital
- Ascension Columbia St. Mary’s Hospital – Milwaukee Campus
- Ascension Columbia St. Mary’s Hospital – Ozaukee Campus
- Ascension Medical Group Wisconsin
- Ascension NE Wisconsin - Mercy Campus
- Ascension NE Wisconsin - St. Elizabeth Campus
- Ascension SE Wisconsin Hospital – Elmbrook Campus
- Ascension SE Wisconsin Hospital – Franklin Campus
- Ascension SE Wisconsin Hospital – St. Joseph Campus
- Ascension St. Francis Hospital
- Ascension Wisconsin Community Clinics and Programs

# OUR BOARD

## KEY FUNDING AREAS

### Behavioral health

By investing in our addiction, behavioral services and mental health units, you directly contribute to the enhancement of resources, advancement of treatments and implementation of evidence-based practices. We address the whole person from physical health and well-being to mental and emotional health with dignity and respect.

### Cancer care

Cancer is personal, so is the way we treat it. With support of individuals like you, we stand beside our patients from the very moment of diagnosis, providing compassionate care and guidance through every phase of their path toward survivorship.

Consistently recognized for high-quality care, Ascension Wisconsin Cancer Care reduces the burden of cancer on our patients, their loved ones and our community through the Cancer Prevention and Wellness program. The Cancer Prevention and Wellness program provides individual risk assessments and care to those who are at high risk for developing cancer.

### Community clinics and programs

Through your generous support, Ascension Wisconsin Foundation has the capacity to fund crucial community programs and clinics that have a direct impact on saving lives. These programs encompass a wide range of essential services, including charity care, outreach initiatives, educational programs and interventions designed to eliminate barriers to accessing healthcare. With your support, we can extend our reach to vulnerable populations, providing them the vital care they need to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives.

### Heart care

Heart health is critical to well-being at every stage of life, yet heart disease remains the leading cause of death. Your support empowers us to make a tangible difference and provide leading heart care, close to home, for individuals affected by cardiovascular conditions.

### Patient assistance

Living true to our Mission, we strive to provide care to and help those who are most vulnerable in our communities. Thanks to you, we are able to help Ascension Wisconsin patients that may be experiencing difficult times. You make it possible for our patients to get to appointments through gas gift cards or rideshare services, receive necessary treatments and medications, have a roof over their head and food on their tables.

### Technology and innovation

Ascension Wisconsin is leading the way in providing state-of-the-art, advanced care. With your support, we are making it possible for patients to receive personalized, compassionate care close to home. We are proud to support Ascension Wisconsin as healthcare technology continues to advance.

### Women and family health

Ensuring the well-being of mothers and their children is a priority. With your invaluable support, we are dedicated to providing care that promotes the health of women, while also equipping their babies with everything they need for a healthy start in life.

*We have formed a single, consolidated foundation called Ascension Wisconsin Foundation – a united force for greater impact across Ascension Wisconsin.*



# PROGRAMS MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

The Foundation directly supports these pillar programs at Ascension All Saints Hospital to serve those most in need within our community, because of you.

## RISE UP Empowering women to Rise Up

Rise Up supports mothers with young children who are interested in pursuing a career in healthcare or adjacent roles at Ascension All Saints Hospital. Rise Up moms are empowered through group learning experiences, job shadowing, one-on-one coaching and financial wellness support.

Before Rise Up, Barbara had not interviewed for about 15 years. Now, she has a job that she loves and feels confident in what she does.

Skills learned in the Rise Up program helped Barbara to land a new job as a patient access representative at Ascension All Saints, something she did not think was possible before the program.

“Rise Up really got me moving to improve my skills so I could make a change,” Barbara said. “If you’re looking to make a change, do it.”

## WOMEN OF WORTH Support when they need it most

Women of Worth (WOW) is a substance use and mental and emotional health disorder treatment program for women and their families.

WOW is the only family-centered substance abuse treatment program in Racine and Kenosha counties specifically for women. WOW boasts a completion rate 13% higher than the national average and all babies born to mothers in the program have been born substance free.

In addition to traditional therapy, the program provides yoga, meditation, art therapy, financial literacy, health education and parenting classes.



Heather, participated in the Women of Worth program and is now 5 years sober, pictured with her daughter.

Nearly five years ago, Heather Braun woke up at Ascension All Saints Hospital after she suffered an overdose. That same day, she found out she was pregnant.

Today, Heather is a champion powerlifter. She’s a mom. And, she’s sober. After overdosing and learning she was pregnant, Heather knew it was time for a change after struggling with addiction for nearly 10 years. Women of Worth helped Heather to sobriety and a healthy pregnancy

“Women of Worth providers met me where I was at, and it wasn’t like other treatment programs. Everybody treated me with respect and I felt like there were finally people that believed in me,” Heather said. “In August I’ll be five years sober. That’s insane, I’ve never been able to say that.”

- 335 Number of women served
- 100% Babies born substance free (18)

## ASCENSION'S SMART SMILES PROGRAM Bright, healthy smiles

Ascension Smart Smiles program is Wisconsin’s largest provider of school-based oral healthcare. Thanks to a partnership with the Racine Unified School District, Smart Smiles services are now available in the district at no charge.

With no access to dental care, children are at high risk for serious dental problems. On average, children in the United States miss about 51 million hours of school each year due to dental pain.

Ascension Wisconsin’s Smart Smiles program provided care to 850 students in its inaugural year at the Racine Unified School District.





# 836

Students seen by Smart Smiles program in Racine

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# 501

Patients served by the Cancer Prevention and Wellness program

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# 100%

Babies born substance free through the Women of Worth program

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# 20

Individual 1:1 sessions for Rise Up program

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# SAINTS

# CARING FOR OUR CRITICAL PATIENTS

**A**s the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Nurse Manager for Ascension Mercy Hospital, Judy Strathmann helps guide her team to provide care to some of our most vulnerable patients.

The ICU at Ascension Mercy has 12 beds and 25 team members. On any given day, providers can be caring for a varying amount of critically ill patients.

**NOW, THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, THE ICU IS GETTING A MUCH NEEDED UPGRADE.**

“On June 1, we implemented new telehealth technology and equipment allows us to connect with intensivist providers at Ascension Illinois in just a few seconds,” Judy said. “We care for very sick patients, some of the sickest of the sick, and they require advanced care to ensure all needs are met. With this new telehealth addition, we’ll be able to provide truly advanced care at all times.”

The model of telehealth care implemented at Ascension Mercy has proven to be very successful at Ascension All Saints Hospital in Racine, and now patients in Oshkosh can benefit from the new technology without needing to be transferred elsewhere.

*We care for very sick patients, some of the sickest of the sick, and they require advanced care to ensure all needs are met.*

**JUDY STRATHMANN**  
ICU Nurse,  
Ascension Mercy Hospital

All patients treated experience critical healthcare challenges such as trauma from a car accident or difficulties from a heart attack. The ability to connect to fellow Ascension providers via telehealth within seconds has allowed for fewer transfers, increased admissions when need be and improved patient outcomes.

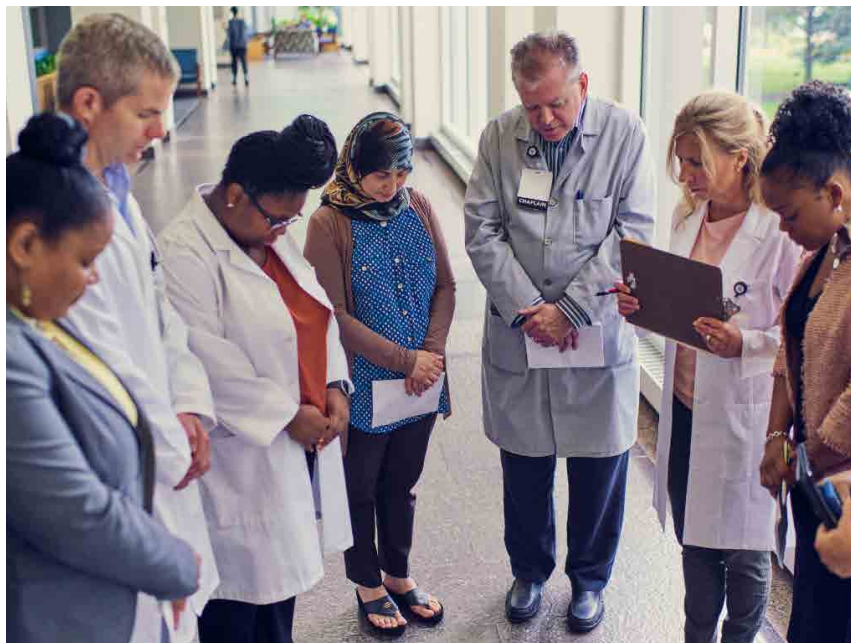
“When a patient needs more advanced care or if providers are working with another patient at the moment, all we need to do is press a button and we will be connected to fellow Ascension Illinois intensivists via video and audio means,” Judy said.

“This support from the Foundation has truly made a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable patients.”

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING CRITICAL CARE POSSIBLE AT ASCENSION MERCY HOSPITAL.**



*Rooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, we commit ourselves to serving all persons with special attention to those who need it most. Our Catholic health ministry is dedicated to spiritually centered, holistic care like that provided in the Ascension Mercy ICU.*





386

Patients treated and discharged from the ICU

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226

Babies delivered at Ascension Mercy

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92

Patients served by the Cancer  
Prevention and Wellness Program

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MERCY

## CARDIAC REHAB SERVICES MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR ALL PATIENTS

**N**o weight loss journey is the same, and everybody's path to wellness is different, filled with challenges and takes a high level of dedication.

Becky Dorn, a patient at Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital, has successfully lost over 125 pounds after undergoing weight loss surgery. She started her weight loss journey with chair exercise therapy only but progressed to resistance training and multiple cardio modalities.

Becky has been hard at work with Karel Ochs, Clinical Exercise Physiologist at Ascension NE Wisconsin - St. Elizabeth Campus in Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Services.

"Becky no longer uses a walker and has improved her balance with well-rounded exercise," Karel said. "Becky has shown great enthusiasm and dedication in her wellness journey."

The road to losing more than 125 pounds has not been easy, but Becky credits the staff at Ascension St. Elizabeth's Cardiac Rehabilitation Department for keeping her focused and on track.

"I have faced a lot of challenges in my journey, but I am most thankful for the support from the team involved in the bariatric program and the care I received from the staff at Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital," Becky said.

Thanks to your support, patients like Becky have been able to start on the path to wellness. Because of you, Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital Foundation was able to purchase more than \$13,000 worth of exercise equipment.

"With the new bariatric exercise equipment, more patients will have the ability to achieve a successful weight loss journey," said Robyn West, Regional Supervisor for the Fox Valley Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Services. "This equipment is needed for those that are just starting their journey in wellness and it will help them live a healthy, sustainable life as they work to lose weight."



Becky pictured working with Karel Ochs, Clinical Exercise Physiologist in the bariatric program at Ascension St. Elizabeth.

The department is currently enrolling new patients in their bariatric surgical and non-surgical weight management programs. The programs help patients to learn healthy lifestyle choices and lifelong exercise routines.

"This new equipment will allow us to safely accommodate the bariatric population," Karel said. "With the proper equipment, our bariatric program can be an even greater success with all our patients feeling comfortable to exercise here."

Robyn added, "With the three new pieces of equipment recently purchased, all patients regardless of size or limitations due to health conditions are able to exercise and receive a personalized exercise prescription."

We can now better serve all patients and can safely accommodate the bariatric population because of your support.

The journey to wellness isn't easy, and helping patients find lifelong weight loss success is critical in their overall wellbeing. Thank you for making this possible.

*I have faced a lot of challenges in my journey, but I am most thankful for the support from the team involved in the bariatric program and the care I received from the staff at Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital. - BECKY DORN*





# 1,165

Babies delivered at Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital

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# 375

Patients seen by the Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation team

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# 128

Patients served by the Cancer Prevention and Wellness Program

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# 58

Behavioral health patients completed Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation therapy

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ST. ELIZABETH

## NEW RESOURCES FOR OUR TINIEST PATIENTS

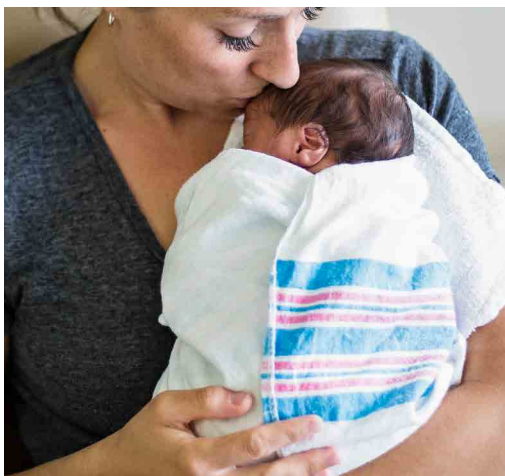
**W**ith two tiny hands, two small feet and a precious beating heart, a baby is a beautiful sign of new life. Sometimes, that new life comes a little too early.

In 2021, 1 in 9 babies in Milwaukee County were born preterm. Those preterm babies stay in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) until they develop enough to survive without medical support. Some preterm babies even stay in the NICU for weeks or months on end.

Thanks to your support, preterm babies in Milwaukee have a safe place to stay at Ascension SE Wisconsin Hospital - St. Joseph Campus.

This past fiscal year, your support allowed us to purchase 15 Stryker Bassinets and implement continuous video EEG monitoring. Your support made it possible for families in the NICU to have additional levels of comfort and hope as their little one worked hard to grow big and strong.

*Providers in the Ascension St. Joseph NICU care for our tiniest patients every day. This compassionate, healing care is made possible through your generous support to Ascension Wisconsin Foundation.*



Michele Stiemke, NICU Nurse Manager at Ascension St. Joseph, has been at the hospital since she graduated nursing school in 1995. During that time, she has been able to see healthcare rapidly advance. The new additions to the NICU, Michele said, are needed as care continues to grow.

“The bassinets benefit NICU staff in that they move up and down, but most importantly they advance the care that we provide to all babies that spend time in the NICU,” she said. “The bassinets are incredibly sanitary and are safer for babies, too. In the first week we already had six or seven babies in the bassinets and it was so incredible to see.”

When babies stay in the NICU, they often need constant monitoring to assess vital signs, brain waves, movement and more to watch for seizures. With the addition of continuous EEG video monitoring, babies in the NICU at both Ascension St. Joseph and Ascension Columbia St. Mary’s Hospital, Milwaukee Campus will have the ability to be monitored at all times for seizures.

*The bassinets benefit NICU staff in that they move up and down, but most importantly they advance the care that we provide to all babies that spend time in the NICU.*

**MICHELE STIEMKE** NICU Nurse Manager



The new technology makes it possible for neurologists at Ascension Texas Dell Children’s Pediatric Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, a highly-regarded level 4 center, to monitor babies in Ascension St. Joseph’s NICU. Neurologists will receive constant, up-to-date information on babies in the NICU at Ascension St. Joseph and Columbia St. Mary’s. With the ability for 24/7 monitoring, it is unlikely that babies will need to be transferred to other locations outside of the health system.

“With how healthcare and technology continues to develop, continuous video EEG monitoring will be a useful tool,” Michele said. “With funding from the Foundation, we’re able to provide a full level of support to our patients and peace of mind for their families.”

Your support made this possible. Thanks to you, our tiniest patients will continue to receive exceptional care at all times. Thank you for making a difference.



# 16,518

Smart Smiles students seen for dental care  
in Milwaukee County

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# 2,179

patient appointments at Ascension  
Angel of Hope

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# 130

Babies cared for by Ascension  
St. Joseph NICU in FY23 *(as of June 1)*

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# AWF

# THE POWER OF MANY

Your support makes a local impact by enhancing the personalized, compassionate care provided for patients of Ascension Wisconsin. Care provided right in your community, close to home and serving those who need it most.

Associate Education

Behavioral Health

Cancer Care

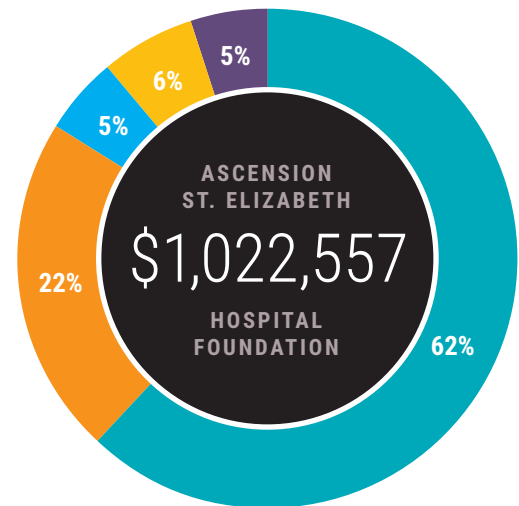
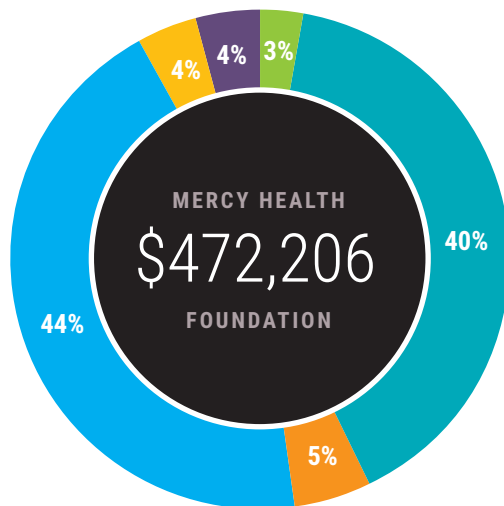
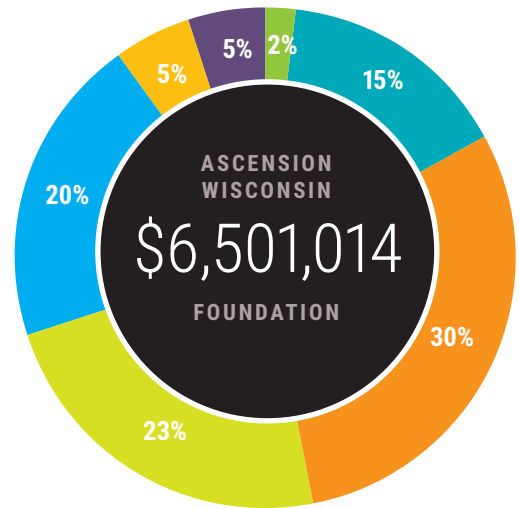
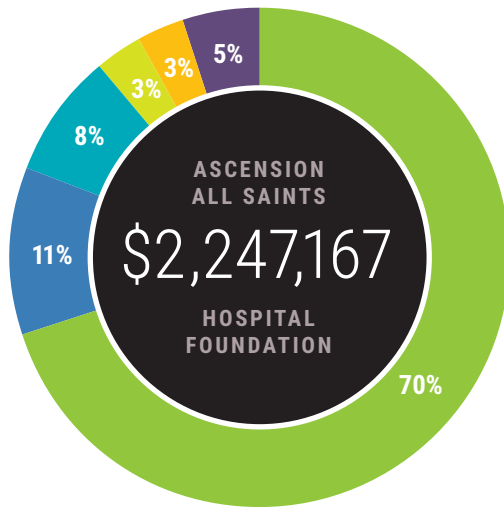
Capital Improvements

Community Clinics and Programs

Technology and Innovation

Women and Family Health

Other\*



\* Other category includes Heart Care, Patient Assistance and Associate Assistance



# THE IMPACT OF ONE

Because of your support, the Foundations have allocated the following funds to invest in the quality of Ascension healthcare services and programs in the Chilton, Fox Valley, Greater Milwaukee area, Oshkosh and Racine communities. Thank you.

Associate Assistance	\$ 37,591
Behavioral Health	\$ 344,876
Cancer Care	\$ 1,965,681
Capital Improvements	\$ 2,211,175
Community Clinics and Programs	\$ 1,530,681
Associate Education	\$ 1,755,490
Heart Care	\$ 45,529
Patient Assistance	\$ 133,046
Technology and Innovation	\$ 1,581,670
Women and Family Health	\$ 450,036
Other	\$ 187,165
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,242,946</b>

*Because of donor support, the Foundation has been like my army behind the scenes, financially supporting the Safe Place for Newborns program for the state of Wisconsin. They focus on funding opportunities so I can focus on helping mothers deliver healthy babies.*

**TRICIA BURKETT**

Safe Place for Newborns State Coordinator



As a donor, you play a key role in raising vital funds to support and enhance healthcare across Ascension Wisconsin. Here are some impact numbers to share with you.

1,995

Cancer Prevention and Wellness Appointments statewide

*This includes high-risk cancer consultations and follow-ups, smoking cessation and survivorship.*

17,354

Students that received care from Ascension Wisconsin's Smart Smiles program in Milwaukee and Racine school districts.

345

Patients seen by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) in the Greater Milwaukee area and Racine

## CREATING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW ACROSS THE STATE

**B**ecause no one journey to mental wellness is the same and medications are not always effective, there is another way. Many are finding a new, happier way to live thanks to Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) therapy.

TMS therapy is a noninvasive procedure that uses repetitive magnetic pulses to stimulate nerve cells in the brain to help with symptoms of depression and other mental health conditions. TMS is used when other methods of treatments and medications have not been successful.

Thanks to your ongoing support, TMS therapy has been implemented at Ascension NE Wisconsin - St. Elizabeth Campus and Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Hospital - Milwaukee Campus and will soon start at Ascension All Saints Hospital.

While TMS is a new addition at Ascension Columbia St. Mary's, six patients are already receiving treatment. Two patients have successfully completed the therapy and the TMS team reported that the program is growing everyday.

"Bruce had been struggling with treatment-resistant depression for years. He had tried various medications and therapies without significant improvement," said Hali, the TMS Coordinator for Outpatient Behavioral Health Milwaukee. "After undergoing a course of TMS therapy, Bruce experienced a noticeable



reduction in depressive symptoms, his mood improved and he reported feeling more motivated, engaged in daily activities, and is able to enjoy life again."

Emilia Beach, TMS Program Coordinator at Ascension St. Elizabeth, shared that their TMS department has completed treatments for 58 patients this fiscal year. Three of those patients are in full remission of their depression and anxiety symptoms and 50 have noticed significant improvements in symptoms.

**\$344,876**

Invested in behavioral health services and advancements

"One of our patients was free of all depression symptoms after treatment. She is able to go out and spend time with friends and family. She started cooking, cleaning and driving by herself for the first time in several years. By the end of treatment she stated **'I have my life back. I am able to enjoy things again.'** She now feels more positive and is able to look towards the future because of TMS therapy," Emilia said.

Behavioral health and wellness is an important area of support and a continued growing need for Ascension Wisconsin. Our Foundations have invested in several mental health initiatives over the past year, including adding another TMS therapy chair at Ascension St. Elizabeth.

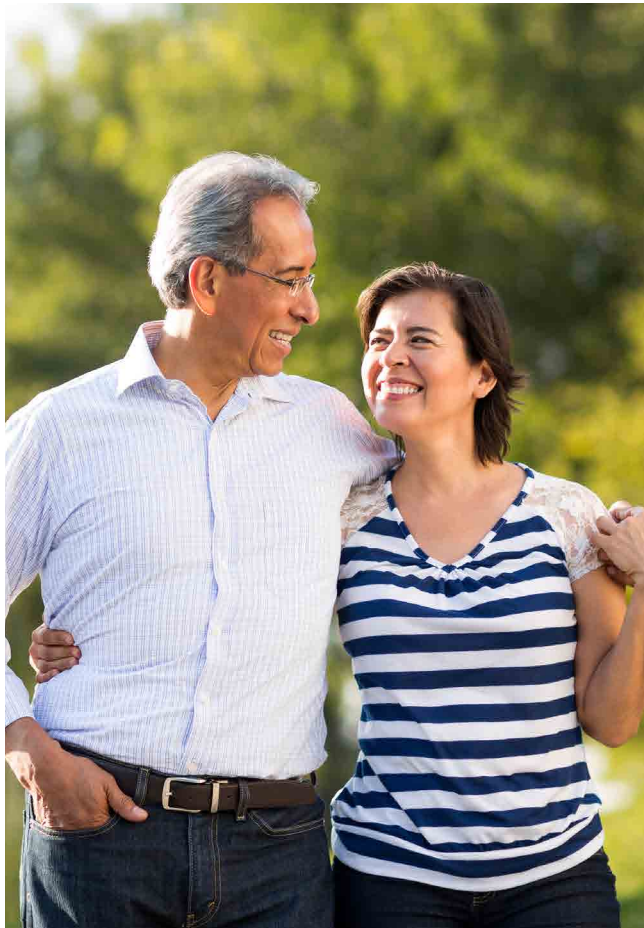
The total investment amount to behavioral health services and enhancements this fiscal year is \$344,876 because of your support. Thank you for making a difference for so many in our communities.

# THANKS TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For many decades, four separate Foundations operated as their own entity before becoming Ascension Wisconsin Foundation. Each of those Foundations were guided by a dedicated group of board members — physicians, community leaders, Ascension associates — with one thing in common:

**They wanted to improve the health of our local communities.**

Thank you, board members, for pushing us to the success we have today.



### Ascension Wisconsin Foundation

Richard Butler  
Marvin Bynum II  
Jon Crowell  
Margadette Demet  
Dr. Patricia Golden  
Val Johnson  
Amy Junker  
Mike Kotecki  
Dr. Don Lee  
Amy Mutziger  
Gerard Randall  
Bill Scanlon  
Jay Schauer  
Tom Schmid  
Bob VanHimbergen  
Tom Zabjek



### Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital Foundation

Michelle Bauer  
Dr. Nicole Brady  
Dr. Sarah Campbell  
Vanessa Cebulski  
Stacie Dobbe  
Robert Ellis  
Cookie Fielkow  
Dr. Natalie Gehringer  
John Heck  
Mike Kessenich  
Lyssa King  
Lisa Kogan-Praska  
Maria Myers  
Peter Pankratz  
Albert Schmidt  
Jim Spierings  
Matt Zimmerman



### Mercy Health Foundation

Patsy Beck  
Dr. Terry Cheng  
Alicia Dambeck  
Dr. Michael Foley  
Dr. Jennifer Gelhar  
Rachel Hansen  
Jori Hartwig  
Julie Maslowski  
Kevin Ralofsky  
David Reuker



### Ascension All Saints Hospital Foundation

Dr. Paul Durbin  
Barry Fries  
Matt Horton  
Jean Kumosz  
Dr. Janice Litza  
Rebecca Mason  
Dimple Navratil  
Chelsea Powell  
Cory Sebastian



**WHAT'S  
YOUR  
WHY?**

**We are inspired by your generosity every day.** Thanks to you, our communities can receive high-quality, compassionate care close to home.

We want to ask...

**What compels you to be part of the greater good?  
What drives you to extend a helping hand?**

What's your why?

Scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/awfsurvey](https://bit.ly/awfsurvey) to share your why.



*"I've been with my doctor for more than 25 years and there is no one else that is more caring, devoted, attentive, kind, gentle, assertive and overall concerned about me in my life. I truly believe I have the best physician ever and I feel blessed that he is the guardian of my healthcare."*

- **PATTI H.** Milwaukee, WI

You help patients like Patti every day. For that, we are grateful.  
Thank you for making a difference.