

The *spirit* of Giving

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2026

A BEACON OF HOPE FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN

Hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin adults quietly carry the weight of mental health challenges. Behind every statistic is a person – a mother, a son, a friend, a coworker – doing their best to navigate a season of darkness.

In moments of uncertainty and fear, one promise remains: our care teams will be there with open arms, compassionate support and a commitment to healing.

A new inpatient unit at Ascension St. Francis

Communities in Southeast Wisconsin faced a critical shortage: nearly 150 inpatient beds were needed for those experiencing a mental health crisis.

With a \$10 million commitment, Ascension Wisconsin is working to expand the inpatient behavioral health unit at Ascension St. Francis from 25 beds to more than 60. The new, state-of-the-art unit will occupy the seventh floor of the hospital.

"With the \$10 million expansion that's taking place, this allows us to be a beacon to some of the most challenged patients within our



Jonathon Matuszewski and Angie Wisniewski review plans for the new inpatient behavioral health unit

"The expansion allows us to be a beacon to some of the most challenged patients."

- JONATHON MATUSZEWSKI

communities and hopefully give them a little bit of light at the end of the road," said Jonathon Matuszewski, Hospital President, Ascension St. Francis and Franklin.

The updated facility includes a new adolescent unit, group educational rooms and therapy rooms. The expanded unit is slated to open early this summer, and has already received inquiries from individuals and families desperately in need of care.

When the unit opens this summer, it will stand as a beacon of hope – ensuring more individuals and families in Southeast Wisconsin can find the support they need when it matters most.



NEW INITIATIVES

AT OUR SITES OF CARE IN THE GREATER MILWAUKEE AREA



As healthcare continues to advance, associates across Ascension Wisconsin are helping lead the way – turning ideas into meaningful improvements for the patients they serve.

Mission Possible grants, funded by donor generosity to Ascension Wisconsin Foundation, are making a difference for associates and patients alike in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Angel Bears

Loss during pregnancy, or shortly after childbirth, is a feeling that parents should never endure. When it does happen, staff at **Ascension St. Joseph** is there with open arms, kindness and sweet mementos to cherish their baby forever.

In this moment of profound grief, parents can receive an Angel Bear. The bear includes the baby's name, date of birth, weight and is weighted to the size of the baby.

Mobile Arm Support

When recovering and rehabilitating after a stroke, simple tasks may be much more challenging than before. At the Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Hospital, located inside **Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Ozaukee**, a new Mobile Arm Support (MAS) system is making a difference for adult stroke survivors.

The tabletop MAS provides adjustable zero gravity assistance that counterbalances the weight of the arm. Because of this, the device increases the reachable workspace and allows patients to perform movements that are otherwise not achievable.

Social meals for older adults

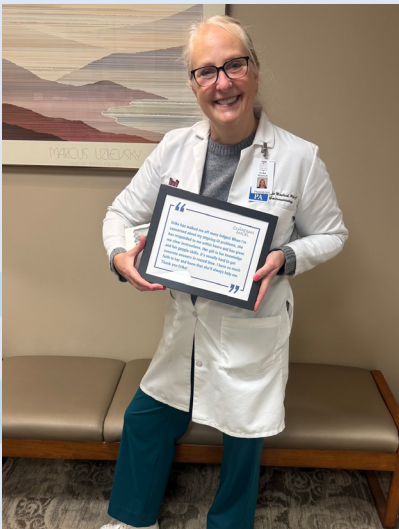
A shared meal can nourish more than the body – it can build knowledge, confidence and connection.

Social Meals for Older Adults at **Ascension Elmbrook** support community members living with chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart failure and heart disease. The program brings participants together to share a meal, learn healthy eating strategies from registered dietitians and build meaningful connections with others.

RECOGNIZING OUR GUARDIAN ANGELS



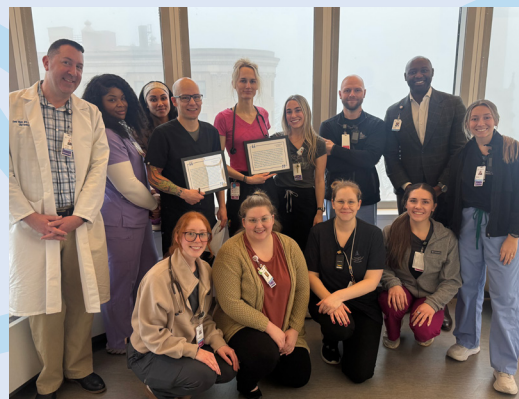
Guardian Angel, a program of Ascension Wisconsin Foundation, extends an invitation for patients to recognize any associate that made a lasting difference in their care. Please join us in recognizing recent Guardian Angels at our hospitals in the Greater Milwaukee area!



Erika Mantsch, physician assistant,
Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Ozaukee



Juliette Borella,
registered nurse,
Ascension Elmbrook



Mark Trapp, (left)
registered nurse,
Ascension Columbia St. Mary's
Milwaukee

Peta Barth, (right)
registered nurse,
Ascension Columbia St. Mary's
Milwaukee



Parker Trometer, MRI technician,
Ascension St. Joseph



Jayden Riley, (left)
registered nurse,
Ascension Columbia St. Mary's
Milwaukee

Denaë Thier, (right)
registered nurse,
Ascension Columbia St. Mary's
Milwaukee

Visit giveAWF.org/guardian-angel to recognize your Guardian Angel(s) today!

LETTER FROM YOUR FOUNDATION PRESIDENT



Racheal Faulks



I hope you've enjoyed reading our latest edition of *The Spirit of Giving*, which highlights the impact you're making right here in the Greater Milwaukee area. Your generous support has made these stories, and so many more, possible at your local hospital. **Thank you.**

Looking ahead, Ascension Wisconsin Foundation has committed to investing \$20 million over the next three fiscal years, including projects right here, close to home in the Greater Milwaukee area. We look forward to sharing more about these important investments in the months ahead.

Every time you make a gift in support of a specific area of care or program at Ascension Wisconsin, you help ensure patients receive the compassionate, high-quality care they deserve. Because of you, all patients — regardless of background or ability to pay — are supported by our care teams in moments of need.

Thank you for making it possible to achieve the Mission of Ascension.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Racheal Faulks". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Racheal Faulks

President, Ascension Wisconsin Foundation

A legacy gift doesn't have to be complicated. For most people, it starts with one sentence, in a will, a trust or beneficiary form, that names Ascension Wisconsin Foundation alongside the people and causes they value most. Some choose to give a percentage of their estate. Others designate a retirement account or life insurance policy. The form matters far less than the intention behind it.

Your gift can support whatever matters most to you, at whichever Ascension Wisconsin hospital that matters most to you. We will always honor your intentions exactly as you express them.

Learn more at giveAWFlegacy.org

