

McQuade Times

A publication for McQuade Society

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Member spotlight: Janet Pepler and Jerry Gadette support the community through their generosity

One could say that Janet Pepler of Grosse Pointe was born to give back to Ascension St. John Hospital.

That's because she was one of the first babies delivered there when it originally opened, before construction had even been completed. Janet has photos of her mother carrying her down the steps of the hospital's original entrance.

Through the years, Janet and her husband Jerry Gadette have seen Ascension St. John develop into a place their family, friends and neighbors rely on for outstanding medical care.

"We've always been impressed with the care Ascension St. John provides and the continuous updates to ensure it remains a progressive, state-of-the-art hospital," said Janet, owner of the Pepler Agency, a third-generation business specializing in personal lines insurance. "As life evolves and you do well, the time comes when you want to pay it forward and support the things that mean something to you. Ascension St. John feels personal to us."

Several years ago, Janet and Jerry made a planned gift commitment naming Ascension St. John as a beneficiary of a 401(k) retirement account. They also joined the McQuade Society.

"It's very reassuring as McQuade members to know we'll be personally greeted at the hospital in the event of a stressful emergency situation," Janet said. "The extra care members receive gives us peace of mind."

"McQuade Society benefits are unparalleled," Jerry said. "The ability to call 24/7 and have someone respond who is professional, supportive and takes care of your healthcare needs promptly is unheard of in business today. I recently needed an MRI. When I tried making the appointment myself, I was told it would be weeks before I could get in. One call to Beth Carter and I had my appointment the next day."

Jerry said he often encourages friends to consider joining the McQuade Society so they, too, can have access to the services available to members.

A former three-sport professional athlete (baseball, softball and golf), Jerry had a 32-year career in the motion picture industry as a scenic artist. He worked on 97 feature films before retiring in 2002 and moving back to Michigan. Among his film credits are *Back to the Future II and III*, *Star Trek IV*, and *Vegas Vacation*.

Jerry didn't just meet actors professionally; he formed friendships



Janet Pepler and Jerry Gadette

with Jack Nicholson, Burt Reynolds, Billy Crystal and others. Jerry often provided golf lessons to the stars, and he continued playing after returning to Michigan. He temporarily shelved his clubs a few years ago after having rotator cuff surgery — one on each shoulder in consecutive years — at Ascension St. John. The surgeries went well, and Jerry has resumed hitting the links. In fact, he was the nonmedical staff winner of the Ascension St. John Medical Staff/GUILD Golf Outing the past two years.

Besides supporting Ascension St. John, Janet and Jerry also contribute generously to Detroit Dog Rescue.

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A gift that spans generations

With children ages 10, 8, 7 and 2, a McQuade Society membership made a perfect Christmas gift for Alicia and Marty Krall of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Longtime Ascension St. John Hospital supporters and McQuade members Walter and Sally Cytacki gifted their grown children Alicia and Michael with memberships in 2014.

"Going to the emergency room with a sick child at 2 a.m. is a lot easier with a McQuade membership," said Alicia, who is vice president of her father's company, Michigan Marine Terminal. "One call to Beth Carter paves the way for prompt medical care."

Alicia said her family's close relationship with Ascension St. John began with her brother's premature birth and care in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

"I've developed a soft spot for the hospital where my family has received excellent care through the years," Alicia said. "All of my children were born at Ascension St. John."

Following in her parents' footsteps, Alicia became a board member of the Fontbonne Auxiliary and The Holley Institute, which screens all newborns at Ascension St. John for hearing loss. The Institute also offers programs for children and adults with hearing or vision impairments.

"My family truly believes in all Ascension St. John has to offer," Alicia said. "I encourage people to gift a McQuade membership to their children, grandchildren or someone who would benefit from its outstanding services. The membership benefits outweigh the contribution."



The Krall family (left to right): Marty, William, Alicia, with Martin in front of her and Henry on her lap, and Caroline

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Janet is president of this nonprofit organization, which helps abused, abandoned and orphaned dogs. Her passion for making a difference in the lives of these dogs reflects in the Detroit Dog Rescue's operations.

"Like Ascension St. John, Detroit Dog Rescue is dear to our hearts," Janet said. "We are saving lives on a different level but still providing rescue to the furry ones who can't speak for themselves. We're Detroit's only no-kill shelter. We foster, train and adopt out these dogs. And believe me, they know when they've been given a second chance."

Janet and Jerry encourage their relatives, friends and neighbors to contribute to the organizations that stir their passions.

"It's important that people think about their legacy and about what they've worked so hard to achieve," Janet said. "People who have the means to give back to the community are enhancing it for everyone."

"For us, Ascension St. John represents the community that's been so meaningful to us. The hospital is a tremendous medical resource right in our own backyard."

You can make a difference in the health of those in your community, leave a legacy and even achieve tax savings by making a planned gift. If you have included, or would like to include, Ascension Southeast Michigan in your estate plans or wish to learn more, please call 313-343-7480 or 248-465-5000.

New cards coming your way

The McQuade Society membership cards and brochures have been updated to reflect the new Ascension names. When you receive your new items in the mail, please discard old cards and use your new ones when accessing our services. Keep the brochure for reference or share it with a friend who may be interested in joining our exclusive group of dedicated supporters. For more brochures, please call 313-343-7480.

