



*Believe in better*

St. John Providence  
Foundations Annual Report 2014



*Dr. David Hindy, a family medicine physician at St. John River District Hospital, examines a young patient.*

# *Believe in better*

*Thank you for your generous support in 2014. St. John Providence Foundations is dedicated to the healing Mission of St. John Providence. With your gifts, together, we are helping to transform healthcare and make a difference in our community.*

## *Our Mission:*

St. John Providence, as a Catholic health ministry, is committed to providing spiritually centered, holistic care which sustains and improves the health of individuals in the communities we serve, with special attention to the poor and vulnerable.

## *Our Values:*

We are called to:

- **Service of the Poor:** Generosity of spirit, especially for persons most in need
- **Reverence:** Respect and compassion for the dignity and diversity of life
- **Integrity:** Inspiring trust through personal leadership
- **Wisdom:** Integrating excellence and stewardship
- **Creativity:** Courageous innovation
- **Dedication:** Affirming the hope and joy of our ministry

## BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS CLIMB MOUNTAINS TO HELP PATIENTS IN NEED

Conquering breast cancer is a lot like climbing a mountain. It requires teamwork and every ounce of energy to overcome rugged obstacles, navigate hazardous paths and endure occasional setbacks. The exhilaration patients feel after beating the disease is like reaching the summit of a prominent peak, a place to celebrate with loved ones and proclaim, “I’m a survivor!”

Hikers who participate in the annual Climb to Beat Breast Cancer are aware of the tremendous challenges these patients face—including the financial burden this serious illness can cause. Each year, St. John Providence associates, physicians, family members and friends climb to raise funds to help women battling against this disease. In the past few years, more breast cancer survivors have joined the climb.

### *Suzanne shares her story*

Suzanne Schwehofer of East China, Michigan, participated in the 2012 climb of Mt. Katahdin in Maine to honor family members and friends touched by breast cancer. She joined the team again in 2014 to tell her own breast cancer survivor story. She’ll climb once more this summer when the team climbs Harney Peak in South Dakota.

“After completing the 2012 climb, I learned that I had breast cancer,” Suzanne says. “Fortunately, it was found early and I had time to educate myself, weigh my options and become confident that I was making the right treatment decision.

“I climbed in 2014 to share my story and emphasize the importance of early detection through screening, self-exams and knowledge of symptoms. I’m a survivor because fundraisers like the climb further education and research, as well as aid in purchasing state-of-the-art equipment that helps detect, diagnose and treat this disease.”

### *Kate journeys to the top*

Another cancer survivor, Kate Feeney of Martinsville, New Jersey, climbed with the team and her two daughters in 2014.

“My journey to Mt. Mitchell began in January 2013, when my girls and I were told I had invasive ductal carcinoma,” Kate says. “Now, I’m cancer-free and hope to stay that way. I hiked the 3,500 steps to the mountain’s summit to pay it forward and fuel the fire of incredible patient programs like those offered at St. John Providence. With improved patient advocacy, support groups and hand-holding, together, we can beat this disease.”

### *Tracey comes full circle*

In 2012, Tracey Tilmon-Jackson of Westland, Michigan, not only faced a stage II breast cancer diagnosis, she also worried about medical expenses. She wasn’t covered by her husband’s medical plan, but immediate treatment was necessary. That’s when she learned about the funds available through “Because We Care,” a service that helps uninsured or underinsured women get diagnostic tests for breast cancer and helps cover ancillary expenses.

“The funds covered the majority of my expenses,” says Tracey, who had a double mastectomy, aggressive chemotherapy and weeks of radiation therapy. “The climbers helped save my life. Now that I’m cancer-free, I want to give back.”

This year, Tracey will fulfill a personal goal by joining the climb to scale Harney Peak, which rises more than 7,000 feet.

“I wanted to do the 2013 climb, but I was still recovering from surgery,” Tracey says. “I didn’t abandon the idea—I just wanted to get myself in a position where my body could handle the climb. I’ve been working with personal trainers to build up my stamina. I know I’ll be ready to reach the mountain top this year.”

As a direct beneficiary of funds raised by the climbers, Tracey is especially eager to help others who face the same obstacles she overcame. She views the climb as an opportunity to save someone’s life.

Since the first Climb to Beat Breast Cancer in 2007, the event has raised more than \$264,000 to assist patients in need. To learn more, contact Lorraine Owczarek at 313-343-4355 or visit [stjohnprovidence.org/mountainclimb](http://stjohnprovidence.org/mountainclimb).



*Bottom Left: Tracey Tilmon-Jackson is joining the climb to help others fight cancer.*

*Top Right: Suzanne Schweihofer conquers Mt. Katahdin.*

*Bottom Right: Kate Feeney (center) and her daughters Erin and Lucy Revercomb made the climb a family affair.*

## PATIENT SHOWS GRATITUDE FROM HER PAINTER'S PALETTE



*Cancer survivor Andrea Tama is happy that other patients and their families can enjoy her painting when they come to the cancer center.*

Since it's impossible to give an entire hospital a hug, Andrea Tama did the next best thing she could think of—she created a painting especially for the Providence Cancer Center in Southfield.

Andrea, an accomplished designer and artist from Farmington Hills, conceptualized the painting specifically for the center as a way of thanking the doctors, nurses and other cancer team members who've helped her since she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2009. She's a patient of Vinay Malviya, MD, a gynecologic oncology specialist. Andrea and her husband Ely gifted the piece, a lovely 3' x 10' acrylic landscape titled "Autumn Glory," last year.

"The painting is like a giant embrace for the entire Providence cancer program," Andrea says. "Thanks to Dr. Malviya and his team, I'm doing very well. I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for the remarkable care I received, and I'm very grateful."

Andrea's painting was installed in the Providence Cancer Center at the new patient entrance in October. Observers can feel the painting's warm colors radiate from the canvas.

"Art is very healing—it satisfies the soul," Andrea says. "The painting is in a perfect place where people can view it in quiet meditation, feel the love and joy I put into the work, and begin the healing process."

## GIFTS HELP HOLLEY FAMILY VILLAGE EMPOWER PEOPLE WITH HEARING AND VISION LOSS

When Julie Smith had her triplets—Connor, Addison and Harrison—in 2006, she assumed one of the three would have hearing loss. Her husband, Michael, is hard of hearing, and his side of the family has a long history of hearing loss. But Julie was surprised when she learned all three children were hard of hearing.

“I felt a mix of emotions,” Julie says. “I knew through the example of their father and other family members that hearing loss was not related to the success of one’s life.

“Like every mother, I see my children as special gifts. Having three children the same age, all with hearing loss and different personalities, is at times a challenge but always entertaining. My goal is to immerse them in both hearing and deaf culture so they can have the freedom to decide where they feel best.”

Because hearing loss is invisible, it presents social and educational challenges—particularly for young children. To further develop her children’s communications skills and empower them to adjust to a hearing world, Julie registered them and herself for “Family Week” at the Holley Family Village in 2010.

Run by The Holley Institute—a subsidiary of St. John Providence—the Family Village is similar to a summer camp but provides educational, recreational and mental health programs for the deaf, deaf/blind and hard of hearing and their families. Located on Lake Vineyard in Michigan’s Irish Hills, the Village has a family residence with 12 suites and gathering spaces; a commons with offices, a theater, dining room and educational kitchen; and an art center with space for teaching, producing and exhibiting visual arts. The Family Village also offers literacy education, youth leadership and self-advocacy workshops, and interpreter education and cancer survivor weekends.

“Family Week gives my kids a wonderful opportunity to meet and play with children their age, both hearing and deaf,” Julie says. “They do art and drama projects, go on boat rides and play in the lake with counselors. The Village has a family atmosphere; parents can learn, listen, share, ask questions, laugh, cry and support each other.

“That first week at the Village was great for all of us, and my kids didn’t want to leave. We’ve been back four times and are planning to go again this summer.”

### The Holley Institute provides many services

Besides the Holley Family Village, The Holley Institute offers a wide array of audiology services, including hearing screenings for all newborns at St. John Hospital & Medical Center and American Sign Language classes. In 2014, donors gave more than \$209,000 to support Holley programs including Family Weeks. Thanks to your generous gifts, many children like the triplets are developing skills to succeed in a hearing world.

To learn more about The Holley Institute and its mission of improving the quality of life for people with hearing and vision loss, visit [stjohnprovidence.org/holley](http://stjohnprovidence.org/holley).



*Addison, Harrison, Julie and Connor relax at the Holley Family Village.*

## PHYSICIANS LEAD THE WAY TO PROVIDE ADVANCED MEDICAL TRAINING



*Dr. George Ritter, Dr. Henry Liu and Dr. Steven McGraw, who all supported the state-of-the-art Simulation and Education Center, gather in a current training area.*

## How you can make a planned gift

Planned giving is a convenient, cost-effective way for donors to support SJP while saving on taxes and enhancing their income. Planned giving includes bequests through will and trust documents, beneficiary designations within retirement plan assets and insurance policies, charitable gift annuities and more. Those who establish a planned gift for SJP become members of the Legacy Society, which recognizes donors whose support will provide for the future of SJP, its hospitals and programs. For more information, please call Lawrence Ghannam at 248-465-4502.

Simulation training is a vital component of the medical education program for practicing physicians, residents, medical students and other healthcare professionals at St. John Providence (SJP). Through highly technical, realistic simulation in a multidisciplinary setting, participants hone their skills through hands-on experience, helping to provide safe, patient-centered care.

To help train staff on advanced medical technology and cutting-edge procedures and provide optimal patient safety, St. John Providence is building a new state-of-the-art Simulation and Education Center, a 6,800-square-foot facility at Providence-Providence Park Hospital, Southfield Campus. The center will open in 2016.

### *Retired physician supports new center*

George Ritter, MD, a retired cardiologist and loyal donor, was one of many who gave generously by making a planned gift in 2014 to support the Simulation and Education Center. As a former educator of interns and residents, Dr. Ritter says the center represents the future of healthcare education.

“I’ve always had an interest in the education of medical students,” he says. “The experience they will gain at the Simulation and Education Center will be invaluable. It’s a big improvement over the old model where residents might

view a procedure once or twice and then be expected to perform it on their own patients. Hands-on practice is the best way to ensure that physicians provide patients with optimal care.”

Thanks to the generosity of many physicians, physician practices, medical staff members and community friends, the initial fundraising goal of \$2.5 million for the design and construction of the Simulation and Education Center has been met. Dr. Ritter was instrumental in helping the cause. Besides making his own generous gift, he contacted several Providence-Providence Park Hospital emeritus colleagues to encourage their involvement in the project and was successful in engaging Henry Liu, MD, to make a substantial planned gift.

Gifts are also supporting the relocation of the Helen L. DeRoy Medical Library to a more visible, convenient location on the hospital’s first floor. The library includes the Qazi Patient and Family Resource Center, which provides patients and families with access to professional librarians and medical resources.

Fundraising efforts continue for needed state-of-the-art equipment for the Simulation and Education Center. If you’d like to support this project, please contact Mia Axon at 248-465-5008.

## ANNUAL EVENT MAKES ORTHOPEDIC SPECIALTY PATIENT ROOMS A REALITY

Patients undergoing total knee and hip replacements at St. John River District Hospital (SJRDH) are now able to begin physical therapy in the privacy of their own rooms, thanks to proceeds raised from the hospital's 2014 "An Evening to Share" dinner dance.

The event raised \$68,095 to support the design and construction of two orthopedic specialty patient rooms, which opened earlier this year. Physical therapy staff work one-on-one with patients to assess their mobility and provide exercises that prepare them for outpatient therapy and a safe return home.

"We encourage patients to be up and mobile as much as possible and initiate basic mat table exercises," says Mary Ann Selman, SJRDH Physical Therapist. "These activities start the recovery process and give patients an idea of what to expect when they enter an outpatient therapy environment. We also make sure they can go up and down stairs so they can return home safely.

"Our care also centers on each patient's distinct needs. If a patient needs more time to practice a certain task, we can dedicate time to address that issue. The private environment is pleasant for both staff and patients, because larger physical therapy rooms can sometimes become congested with special machines and equipment. The rooms enhance quality of care, and we really appreciate the donors who helped make them possible."



*Mary Ann Selman (right) helps a patient get up and moving in a new orthopedic room to begin physical therapy.*

## NEW WILSON CAMPUS BRINGS COMPREHENSIVE CARE CLOSE TO HOME



*Brian Molloy is making progress at his physical therapy sessions, conveniently located close to home.*

There are few things Brian Molloy of Grosse Pointe loves more than playing tennis. But in late 2014, a mild ligament and muscle strain in his right knee forced him off the court. In addition to the pain, Brian also experienced leg weakness and stiffness, which kept him from exercising altogether.

Last November, Brian's doctor sent him to the physical therapy specialists at the St. John Medical Center - Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Campus, located in the Village business district of Grosse Pointe. Brian met with Chris Simone, PT, CSCS, CES, Lead Physical Therapist, Outpatient Rehabilitation Services.

"Chris had me do a series of exercises using three different machines to stretch and strengthen my leg," says Brian, 73. "After that, we extended the exercises to cover upper body conditioning. Chris is very knowledgeable and professional. In five visits, he helped me feel better and get back to playing tennis."

A generous \$1 million gift from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, along with a \$5 million investment by St. John Providence (SJP), took the new medical center from good to great upon its opening last October. Besides outpatient physical therapy and rehabilitation and occupational therapy, the Wilson Campus features an internal medicine physician practice, as well as advanced diagnostic and imaging services for blood work, digital mammography, ultrasounds, x-rays, echocardiography, and bone density and stress testing. The Wilson Campus is one of multiple ambulatory care sites SJP offers across metro Detroit.

"St. John Providence is committed to offering medical care and services in the community where people work, live and

play," says Pat Blount, SJP Director of Ambulatory Imaging and Neurological Recovery Systems, and Leader for the Wilson Campus. "Sometimes, people want to receive care quickly in a place close to home. Our one-stop-shop ambulatory care centers are convenient, beneficial and have been very well received. With the Wilson Foundation's gift, this new facility is truly the best; we've exceeded expectations."

The Wilson Campus also offers a Functional Independent Training (FIT) program to its patients who have successfully completed physical therapy. For a nominal fee, patients can use the medical center's exercise equipment and receive a custom workout and fitness program from an on-site athletic trainer. The physical therapists are also available for consultation when needed.

The FIT program is very accessible for Brian, who lives just four blocks from the Wilson Campus. He rides his bike there three times a week to work out.

"If I have a question about the best way to use the equipment, the trainer or physical therapy staff are always available to help," Brian says. "I recently asked Chris for suggestions on how to increase the amount of swing in my tennis serve. For me, the Wilson Campus is convenient, and it has very knowledgeable people willing to help. I'll continue to go there indefinitely."

For more information on the St. John Medical Center - Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Campus or other St. John Providence medical centers, call 866-501-DOCS (3627).

# OVER 600 DONORS HELP PROVIDE HEALING ENVIRONMENT FOR CRITICALLY ILL NEWBORNS

When Collette Mataj of Grosse Pointe Woods was rushed to the hospital last June for an emergency C-section, she didn't anticipate the emotional roller coaster that would follow.

Collette delivered Domenic at 26 weeks. He weighed just 1 pound 8 ounces. Since her local hospital didn't have the facilities or expertise to care for premature babies, mother and newborn were immediately transferred to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Special Care Nursery at St. John Hospital & Medical Center (SJHMC), where the tiny baby was able to receive the specialized care he needed.

"I was afraid Domenic wouldn't survive," Collette says. "It was very hard to see him incubated with all the tubes and equipment. My husband and I were very anxious."

But Domenic was in the right place. The Level III NICU at SJHMC has a long history of caring for fragile infants and is the only one of its kind on Detroit's east side. Because of the outstanding reputation of SJHMC's NICU and the growing rate of babies needing neonatal intensive care, the NICU was undergoing a \$12 million renovation and expansion when Domenic was hospitalized.

Even though the new NICU wasn't yet complete, Domenic received the best possible care. Then, in January 2015, SJHMC opened the new Mary Ann Van Elslander Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Special Care Nursery, named in recognition of the Van Elslander family for their generous leadership philanthropic gift to support the project. Thanks to over \$4 million in gifts from more than 600 associates, physicians, board members and community members, and a \$7 million capital investment from St. John Providence, the

NICU is now even better equipped to provide optimal care for critically ill newborns while supporting families.

Besides features like 32 private nurseries, overnight accommodations for family, and an enhanced environment that promotes healing and growth, the NICU has advanced equipment like Giraffe Omnibeds—combination radiant warmers and incubators. Each unit includes a built-in scale and mattress that rotates and elevates for ease of care.

"Domenic really made strides in the St. John NICU and the Omnibed," Collette says. "The NICU staff relies on special equipment like that to help babies develop and become healthy."

After recovering from a collapsed lung and intestinal surgery, Domenic came home last September.

"The entire NICU staff was so patient and kind," Collette says. "They eased my fears and provided exemplary care. Domenic is progressing really well. He's very vocal and loves to smile and play. The NICU helped him become a healthy little boy."

Parents with babies in the new NICU have remarked on how welcoming and healing the new environment is, with more space, light and privacy, with the same excellent care Domenic received.

Funds are still needed to ensure more babies have access to technology that aids in their development. To learn more or make a gift, contact Sherry Augustine at 313-343-7481.



*Gentian and Collette Mataj with their baby, Domenic, who is now thriving.*

## MOTHERS AND BABIES BOND AND BENEFIT FROM BREASTFEEDING



*Maryam Qarchw and her baby, Chris, share special bonding time together during breastfeeding.*

A whole new world opened up to Maryam Qarchw when her family emigrated from Iraq to the United States in January 2014. Besides cars and abundant shopping opportunities, baby formula is plentiful. In her native country, formula is a luxury, since it is expensive and not widely available.

When Maryam learned she was pregnant with her third child in early 2014, she expected to take advantage of a new opportunity and buy formula—until she learned about the many benefits of breastfeeding through the St. John Mother Nurture Club, a breastfeeding support group offered through the St. John Mother Nurture Project. Maryam began attending group meetings during her second trimester and continued after delivering her baby at St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital (SJMOH), Warren Campus.

“I was always told that formula feeding was more efficient and that breast milk is too light for babies,” says Maryam, 26, of Sterling Heights. “But the Mother Nurture Club completely changed my mind. I learned more than I expected and was very prepared to breastfeed once my son, Chris, was born.”

A generous \$1.2 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation helped St. John Providence (SJP) launch the Mother Nurture Project in 2011. The project strengthens SJP’s comprehensive breastfeeding program and helps establish partnerships with community organizations to increase breastfeeding initiation and continuation, particularly among low-income and minority populations. The Mother Nurture Project expanded services to SJMOH, Warren Campus, to serve the large Chaldean patient population in that area.

In addition, the Michigan Department of Community Health Innovation Fund provided a \$35,000 grant to train Chaldean

women to become certified lactation consultants at the Warren Campus.

Paula Schreck, MD, IBCLC, FABM, SJP Breastfeeding Coordinator and Medical Director of the St. John Mother Nurture Project, says there are many reasons new mothers should opt to breastfeed.

“Some of the benefits for babies are decreased incidence of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, as well as ear and gastrointestinal infections,” she says. “Children who were breastfed experience decreased incidence of asthma, obesity, diabetes and cancers like leukemia. Mothers benefit from decreased incidence of ovarian and breast cancer, heart disease and post-partum depression.”

Maryam learned about the Mother Nurture Club through the Chaldean American Ladies of Charity, an organization that assists Chaldean American families in need. The nonprofit helped the Mother Nurture Project conduct a breastfeeding survey funded by the Michigan Department of Community Health Innovation Fund, and it hosts Mother Nurture Club meetings for Chaldean women.

“During the meetings, a speaker from St. John talks about the advantages of breastfeeding, and women can ask questions,” Maryam says. “I’ve never missed a meeting.

“Breastfeeding helps create a strong connection between mothers and babies,” she says. “I know that as my son grows older, he will always feel a warm, loving bond with me.”

To learn more about SJP breastfeeding support services and the Mother Nurture Project, visit [MotherNurtureProject.com](http://MotherNurtureProject.com) or call 313-343-6838.

## CHILDREN'S ADDICTION PREVENTION PROGRAM HELPS FAMILIES HEAL

During 7th grade, kids typically enter an exciting period of self-discovery as they begin the transition from middle to high school. But for 12-year-old Annie, it was the year her entire world turned upside down.

Annie's father was using drugs and alcohol, creating an unsettling and stressful home environment. Her grades dropped and she began showing signs of depression. When Annie started deliberately harming herself, her mother turned to the Children's Addiction Prevention Program at the Brighton Center for Recovery (BCR) for help. This free three-day program offers educational, therapeutic and addiction prevention information and activities for kids directly affected by a close family member's addiction.

While working with BCR therapists, Annie expressed feelings of sadness, fear, anger and guilt. Then, instead of blaming herself for her family's struggles, she began to connect the issues with her father's alcoholism. By listening to other kids in the program, Annie realized many children face similar challenges. Ultimately, BCR staff helped Annie's mom arrange for follow-up counseling.

"The program helped me let out my feelings," Annie says. "I looked at what I had done in the past when I kept things bottled up. I realized that it really hurt me. The staff helped me become the person I am now. Being me now is an amazing feeling—I don't want to ever lose that."

Since completing the program, Annie's father reached out for help and was admitted to BCR. Today, Annie and her family are in recovery, which would not have been possible without your generous gifts.

To learn more about the Children's Addiction Prevention Program, call 810-220-1807 or visit [brightonrecovery.org/addiction-treatment/outpatient-treatment/childrens-addiction-program](http://brightonrecovery.org/addiction-treatment/outpatient-treatment/childrens-addiction-program).



*Annie created this artwork to express her feelings of a broken family and broken heart.*

### Generous gifts support program for kids

Thanks to two significant donations in 2014, BCR can help more children who are struggling with the challenges accompanying substance abuse in their families. Blair Bowman, owner of the Suburban Collection Showplace, made a generous \$25,000 gift to the Children's Addiction Prevention Program. The DeRoy Testamentary Foundation, another longtime supporter of St. John Providence, donated \$50,000.

Total gifts to Brighton Center for Recovery in 2014 equaled more than \$122,000.



*Group activities help kids realize they aren't alone in their challenges.*

## HYBRID OPERATING ROOM HEALS HEARTS, TRANSFORMS LIVES



*Thanks to his care in the Valade Cardiovascular Hybrid OR, Ibrahim Takla (left) is home and able to enjoy time with his son, Dr. Robert Takla.*

As an 82-year-old diabetic, Ibrahim Takla's odds of surviving traditional open heart surgery for an aortic valve replacement would have been unfavorable. His son, Robert Takla, MD, knew there was just one place to go: the Gretchen C. Valade Cardiovascular Hybrid Operating Room at St. John Hospital & Medical Center (SJHMC).

As Chair and Medical Director of Emergency Medicine at SJHMC, Dr. Takla knows the minimally invasive surgeries available at the state-of-the-art Hybrid OR significantly reduce morbidity, potential complications and recovery times. Last November, Ibrahim had a successful minimally invasive aortic valve replacement performed there. He returned home in just four days and is feeling great today. Since opening in 2011, more than 130 patients have had successful aortic valve replacements in the Hybrid OR, made possible by very generous gifts from longtime supporter Gretchen Valade.

"Mrs. Valade's gifts continually make an impact—her gift for the Hybrid OR certainly did that for my dad," Dr. Takla says. "While St. John has very talented physicians, we wouldn't be able to transform as many lives without her generous contributions. The Hybrid OR is phenomenal and our community is better for having it."

## NEW TRAINING CENTER ATTRACTS SURGEONS FROM ACROSS THE NATION AND WORLD

Thanks to a generous leadership gift from longtime St. John Providence supporter Art Van Elslander, and the collaborative vision of Providence physicians, the new Van Elslander Surgical Innovation Center (VESIC) at Providence-Providence Park Hospital, Novi, hosted its first event in December 2014 and officially opened in February 2015.

The new training facility is unique to other centers in that it originated out of the neurosciences. Two Providence neurotology surgeons—Dennis Bojrab, MD, and Michael LaRouere, MD—were instrumental in developing the vision.

“The VESIC is a flex-designed, multidisciplinary training facility capable of hosting innovative surgical training and other groundbreaking medical courses,” Dr. Bojrab says. “Some of the first training sessions in the center were temporal bone and skull-based courses, which attracted surgeons from throughout the U.S. and globally.”

The \$3.5 million, 9,200-square-foot training facility is designed to host surgical training for multiple surgical specialties and subspecialties to help surgeons perfect new

procedures and techniques. It also serves as a collaborative venue with the medical industry for device, implant and procedural innovations.

Providence has partnered with Platinum Training to manage and market the center to surgeons, fellows and medical device and equipment companies. In addition to VESIC, Platinum operates bio-skills training facilities in Georgia, Nevada, Texas, Arizona and Virginia.

VESIC is the capstone project of Mr. Van Elslander’s significant, multi-year gift to the neuroscience programs at St. John Providence—part of the Van Elslander Neuroscience Center of Excellence. This project and Mr. Van Elslander’s gift inspired Drs. Bojrab and LaRouere, along with their partner Seilesh Babu, MD, to make their own gifts to create a new fund specifically for neurotology education and training at St. John Providence.

To learn more about the Van Elslander Neuroscience Center of Excellence and its world-renowned specialists, visit [stjohnprovidence.org/neuroscience](http://stjohnprovidence.org/neuroscience).



*Dr. Michael LaRouere and Dr. Dennis Bojrab (both standing) encourage Art Van Elslender to take a peek in the surgical scope.*

## PHYSICIAN SPEARHEADS CAMPAIGN TO ENHANCE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF CANCER CARE



*Dr. Robert Leonard was inspired by the support a clinical psychologist provided to his wife, Judy (in framed photo), and their family during Judy's battle with ALS.*

St. John Providence (SJP) has always been committed to treating the entire person—body, mind and spirit. Now, thanks to the vision of Robert Leonard, MD, FACP, the spiritual facet of care for cancer patients and their families is enhanced with the addition of an oncology psychologist.

Dr. Leonard is a medical oncologist on the medical staff of St. John Providence, President of Great Lakes Cancer Management Specialists, and Medical Director for Reverence Home Health & Hospice, a service of SJP. He knows firsthand how a psychologist can benefit patients. When his wife, Judy, was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS, or “Lou Gehrig’s Disease”), a clinical psychologist helped her cope with the devastating illness. Judy passed away in 2012 at age 57.

“The clinical psychologist was part of the ALS care team,” Dr. Leonard says. “She was there for Judy, me and our children when we needed her. She helped us deal with the stress, worry, sadness and depression that accompany a devastating illness. An oncology psychologist will benefit cancer patients and their families in the same way.”

Dr. Leonard made it his personal mission to raise funds to support an on-site oncology psychologist for SJP, with a goal of \$300,000 for salary support and additional program

costs. Working with St. John Providence Foundations, he wrote a fundraising letter, compiled an information sheet and engaged his peers to support the initiative. In 2014, generous donors committed more than \$228,000 to the project, including a lead gift of \$100,000 from Great Lakes Cancer Management Specialists.

Donations continued in early 2015, enabling St. John Hospital & Medical Center (SJHMC) to hire an oncology psychologist in the spring. Services are available primarily to patients and families at the Van Elslander Cancer Center at SJHMC and the Webber Cancer Center at St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital.

“My partners really stepped up by making a significant donation and paving the way,” Dr. Leonard says. “I’m very grateful to them and to the other generous donors who made this service possible. The oncology psychologist is a distinguishing feature for our cancer program, because it’s not something readily available at other metro-area hospitals. I know it will benefit our patients and their families tremendously.”

To learn more about cancer care at St. John Providence, visit [stjohnprovidence.org/cancer](http://stjohnprovidence.org/cancer).



*Dr. William Sharp, an internal medicine physician for Providence-Providence Park Hospital, shares good news with a patient.*