

# SPIRIT

O F G I V I N G

A publication of the St. John Hospital Foundation

June 2008

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**ST. JOHN  
HOSPITAL  
FOUNDATION**

## Additional private patient floors open in Van Elslander Pavilion

### *Gretchen Valade honored for 5th floor*

Donors and friends of St. John Hospital and Medical Center (SJH&MC) gathered on March 3 to celebrate the dedication of the Van Elslander Pavilion's second private floor, 5 North, which cares for cardiac patients. The floor was made possible through the generosity of Gretchen Valade who made her gift in honor of Mickey and Sharon Burke.

The Burkes have supported SJH&MC since the 1960s with financial gifts, time and leadership. They founded the Cornerstone Society, the first coordinated initiative to attract major gifts to SJH&MC, and have loyally supported the Fontbonne Auxiliary and Guild.

Gretchen has been friends with Sharon and Mickey for over 30 years and has celebrated that relationship and recognized her friends' support of SJH&MC by making the naming gift in their honor.

Over the last 14 years, Gretchen has supported Hospice, SJH&MC's Emergency Center, the White Christmas Ball and Oktoberfest and was one of the leadership donors to the Van Elslander Cancer Center where her gift is recognized as the Valade Healing Arts Center.

"Gretchen's most recent donation for this patient floor is a testament to her



*Gretchen Valade with good friends Sharon and Mickey Burke*

continuing generous spirit, for which we are deeply grateful," said David Stephens, SJH&MC President and CEO.

Additional donors who supported the Valade Floor include:

- LoVasco Family (family waiting area)
- Eastlake Cardiovascular Associates (nursing station)
- G.I. Medicine Associates (nursing station)
- Dr. and Mrs. Paul Cullis (patient suite)
- Dr. and Mrs. Mitchell Dombrowski (patient suite)
- Joan and William Gehrke (patient suite)
- Dr. and Mrs. Kevin Grady (patient suite)
- The physicians of Great Lakes Medicine (patient suite)
- Janet and Hugh Harness (patient suite)
- Dr. and Mrs. Thomas LaLonde – in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Wilson (patient suite)
- Janet and William Ventimiglia (patient suite)
- Dr. Abdelkader and Mrs. Huda Hawasli (patient suite)
- Yvette and Dr. Louis Saravolatz (patient suite)
- Ghada and Dr. Riad Khatib (patient suite)

Continued inside

## Additional floors, continued

### *Soave family honored for 6th floor*

On April 14, a dedication was held for the Van Elslander Pavilion's third private floor, 6 North, which cares for oncology patients. The floor was made possible through the generosity of Anthony L. Soave and family.

Anthony is President and Chief Executive Officer of Soave Enterprises, a privately held, Detroit-based company with holdings in dozens of companies encompassing the industries of metals recycling, real estate, beverage distribution, automotive retailing, transportation, hydroponic greenhouse operations, warehousing and logistics.

"Anthony Soave is a uniquely visionary individual who brings excitement and a 'can do' attitude wherever he goes," said Dave Stephens. "He is a lifelong Detroiters who believes in this area and in our hospital. We are so thankful for his generosity."

Additional donors who supported the Soave Floor include:

- *Family Waiting Area:* Recognizing the contributions of the physicians of Cornerstone Medical Group
- *Nursing Station:* Recognizing the contributions of the physicians of Great Lakes Cancer Management
- *Patient suites recognizing the generosity of:*
  - Lakeshore Ear, Nose and Throat Center (two suites)
  - Alphonse S. Lucarelli
  - Teresa and Alex Lucido
  - Camille and Peter Cracchiolo and family
  - Beth and Mark Taylor
  - Dr. and Mrs. Sanjay Batra
  - Dr. Cheryl Wesen and Dr. Richard K. Baumgarten
  - Law firm of Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti and Sherbrook
  - M.A. and David Stephens
  - Dr. and Mrs. Ahmad Azar and Susan and Michael Azar

### *Private room features*

The Valade Floor, also known as 5 North; the Soave Floor, known as 6 North; and the McQuade Floor, 4 North, which opened in January, each have 36 private rooms. Four bariatric rooms are included on 5 North, while 6 North has two bariatric rooms.

The new, large patient rooms were designed to enhance the healing environment and maximize comfort for patients and their families. Features include beautiful furniture and fixtures, private bathrooms, sofas to allow overnight stays by family, flat-screen TVs and state-of-the-art cardiac monitoring. The privacy of the rooms and sound-absorbing materials on the floors and ceilings help to maintain a quieter, more peaceful environment.

The final floor in the Van Elslander Pavilion opens this month. Fundraising opportunities still exist for the Pavilion and the Guild Emergency Center renovation. Call 313-343-7483 for information.



Anthony Soave, Angelique Soave, and Christopher and Andrea (Soave) Provenzano



Jean and Ahmad Azar, MD, attended the Soave Floor opening. Their gift, along with a donation from their daughter-in-law and son, Susan and Michael Azar, was recognized on a patient suite.

# Message from the President

Dear Friends,

Over the past few months, St. John Health has been engaged in a strategic exercise to streamline processes and eliminate non-essential costs from the budget. This transformation work is designed to create a more efficient organization with a laser-like focus on excellent patient care.



*Dave Stephens*

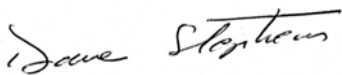
Our target includes a potential for operational and labor savings of \$85 million across the system. Using national benchmarks as a guide, the teams focused on two goals:

- Make our organization less complicated and the patient experience smoother. Move patients from one step to another in their care experience with ease and peace of mind.
- Reduce non-clinical costs and eliminate duplicative work, streamline management, and shift resources to patient care. In other words, engage in streamlining, but do the majority of it behind the scenes and not at the bedside.

All of the changes throughout the organization will be implemented before our new fiscal year begins in July. As our valued supporters, you should know this has not been an easy endeavor. We have had to make many difficult decisions. However, these decisions will help better position St. John Health for future growth and success and ensure our longevity as a resource for our community.

If you have questions about our transformation, please feel free to contact me personally at 313-343-7537. As always, thank you for your unwavering support of St. John Hospital and Medical Center and your commitment to our Mission.

Sincerely,



Dave Stephens  
President and CEO, SJH&MC

# Kudos

For the third consecutive year, **St. John Hospital and Medical Center (SJH&MC)** was recognized as one of the nation's Top 100 Hospitals. The recognition from Thomson (formerly Solucient), one of the nation's leading sources of health care information and research, recognizes hospitals that achieve or exceed national benchmark scores for hospital-wide performance. SJH&MC was one of 15 hospitals to be selected in the Major Teaching Hospital category.

**Tom Davis, MD**, was appointed Medical Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab at SJH&MC. He continues to serve as Director of the Peripheral Vascular program.

**Luis Pires, MD**, was named Director of Cardiology Research at SJH&MC. He continues in his roles as Director of the Heart Rhythm Center and Vice Chief of Cardiology.

**Hank Rosman, MD**, Program Director, Clinical Cardiology Fellowship, SJH&MC, was installed as President of the Michigan Chapter of the American College of Cardiology.

# Make a gift

Your support makes a difference! Making a gift to St. John Hospital and Medical Center is easy. Go to [www.stjohn.org/Foundation](http://www.stjohn.org/Foundation). There you'll find easy links to St. John Hospital fundraising information and an online donation form. If you have questions, call 313-343-7480.

# Guild update

The St. John Medical Staff/Guild Golf Outing will take place on Monday, Sept. 8, at the Country Club of Detroit. Morning and afternoon start times will be offered. Dr. Ed Schervish is the Chair; Ben Capp and Don Mattes are the Vice Chairs. Underwriting and sponsorship opportunities are available. Hole-in-one prizes, door prizes, raffle prize, 50/50 drawings and more. For additional information, contact Kathy Taranto, 313-343-3674.

# Dinner dance benefits HOPE Fund

St. John North Shores Hospital's 20th Annual Spring Dinner Dance, held March 8 at Mac & Ray's in Harrison Township, raised approximately \$31,500 to benefit the HOPE Fund (Helping Our Patients in Emergencies). Patrick M. Verb, MD, and Don Gooley were honored. Thanks very much to the Dinner Dance Committee and the event sponsors.



Maria Silamianos-Sherman, Event Chair; Victor Battani, North Shores Advisory Board Chair; and his wife Linda

## Committee

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# Fontbonne news

The Fontbonne Auxiliary raised \$22,000 at the Girls Night Out II event held April 30 at Andiamo Italia. More than 300 guests enjoyed authentic Italian cuisine, the comedic styles of Phenecia Banks, raffle prizes and a tribute to Honorary Chair Sharon Burke. General Chair Kelly Burke Oliver announced that proceeds will be used to furnish a children's waiting and activity room in the pediatric module of the newly renovated, expanded Emergency Center. Murals will also be painted throughout the pediatric unit transforming the area into a more patient-friendly environment.



Sharon Burke, Honorary Chair, and Kelly Burke Oliver, General Chair

# Champions event and climb support VECC

The St. John Hospital and Medical Center Van Elslander Cancer Center (VECC) Champions for Life committee hosted the “Champions Leap to New Heights” event on March 7. The event celebrated Francesco Lucarelli’s climb of Mt. Aconcagua, the second highest of seven summits, and raised funds to help make MRI-guided breast biopsy available to patients. Funds were also raised from donations and pledges for every foot of Mt. Aconcagua Francesco climbed in memory of his mother, who passed away from breast cancer in 2001. The Champions event included a silent auction, wine tasting and strolling dinner. Proceeds from the event and climb totaled approximately \$47,000. Thank you to the Champions Committee and to the event sponsors.



Al Lucarelli, Robert Riccardi, MD, and Francesco Lucarelli at the Champions event.

## Committee

|                             |                |                     |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Teresa Lucido, <i>Chair</i> | Sarah Clarkson | Francesco Lucarelli |
| Christopher Ahee            | Tiffany Gelle  | Alex Lucido         |
| Connie Ahee                 | Alanna Handley | Gale Merrill        |
| Julie Ahee                  | Donna Handley  | Debbie Nelson       |
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|                             |                | Debra Van Elslander |

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## Underwriters

*Strolling Buffet* — edmund t. AHEE Jewelers

*Valet Parking* — Lucido Real Estate

*Entertainment* — Biber, O’Toole, Fowler & Clarkson, PLLC

*Wine* — Red Hat Micro-Winery

*Favors* — Mary Ann Van Elslander

# First phase of Guild Emergency Center opens

The hospital’s Guild Emergency Center (EC), named for the Guild’s generous donation, opened the first phase of its renovation on Feb. 28.

Phase 1 (Zone A) includes 24 private patient treatment rooms, 12 of which are reserved for pediatric patients with a dedicated pediatric waiting room. The new pediatric rooms emphasize comfort and privacy and have equipment specifically designed for the care and monitoring of children. Play therapists will offer books, video

games and movies to the children to help provide distraction and entertainment.

All of the new treatment rooms are acuity adaptable, capable of handling any type of emergency patient. Phase 1 also provides a new staff lounge, EC resident workspace and a classroom.

Before the first phase began, three dedicated radiology rooms and a 64-slice CT scanner dedicated for emergency patients only were installed to help enhance the

timeliness and quality of care provided.

Phase 2 construction will be completed this summer and feature a new walk-in entrance, triage and family waiting area, and an additional 22 private treatment rooms, which will accommodate visitors and have TVs and phones. When the full EC renovation is complete at the end of 2008, there will be more than 70 private patient rooms.

# Grateful family donates arcade game to brighten treatment for kids

When Vincent Perna, a first grader, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), he was first treated in the PICU and Pediatric Unit at St. John Hospital and Medical Center. B-cell ALL is a very treatable leukemia with outstanding treatment success rates, but the illness requires several months of treatment. So when Vinnie's care moved to the outpatient setting, he came to Meade Pediatric Oncology and Hematology Center.

"They had the confidence that they could make Vinnie better and backed it up with compassion and true kindness toward our son," expressed Steve and Amy Perna, Vinnie's parents.

The Meade Center staff has strived to make the center kid-friendly, with TVs, computers with games that teach patients about their disease, DVDs and other enjoyable activities.

And now, to add to the ambiance, the Meade Center has another play distraction, thanks to the Perna family. Vinnie's parents, during a trip to Costco, saw an Ultimate Arcade 2 machine with over 200 games on it. They decided as a family to do fundraising so they could purchase the game and donate it to the center.

Steve, a Warren firefighter, sent letters to area firefighter unions, asking for donations to purchase the \$2,600 machine; family members also contributed. They soon had the funds needed. Costco rushed the order, delivering it in less than a week.

"It's a really neat machine and a great complement to our office," said Hadi Sawaf, MD, pediatric oncologist. "We are so appreciative of their effort to make it available for our patients."

Vinnie, who is now in a less intensive maintenance phase of treatment to ensure the leukemia stays in remission, enjoyed playing the game during his final treatments. Because of Vinnie's family, other children who face cancer can enjoy their time in the Meade Center a little bit more.



From left: Dr. Hadi Sawaf, Frances Keigley, Clinic Office Assistant, and Steve, Amy and Vinnie Perna

*Spirit* is a quarterly publication of St. John Hospital Foundation.

*If you would like to learn more about giving opportunities at St. John Hospital, please call 313-343-7483.*

[www.stjohn.org/Foundation](http://www.stjohn.org/Foundation)

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