Micki’s Story
Cancer Survivor

In May 1999, at the age of 14, Micki received a diagnosis no one saw coming: CANCER.

...Micki’s brother had passed away unexpectedly from a seizure just one month prior.

...Micki herself was experiencing shortness of breath in gym class and difficulty sleeping at night when her mom suggested she see their family doctor. An X-ray showed a mass crushing Micki’s windpipe. Tests revealed T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

...Had she not come in sooner, she too, may have passed away in her sleep.

Doctors gave Micki a 20 percent chance of survival!

Rigorous treatment

Micki’s parents refused to accept her chances for survival. She would spend the next two years in and out of the hospital on an experimental treatment option for patients with ALL.

The protocol for this treatment was a 24-hour infusion of an experimental drug designed to specifically target leukemia cells. Her recovery time was also estimated to be 24 hours — but it instead would take an additional 10 days in the hospital for the drug to release from her body. Micki would be home for a week — and then, back in the hospital for her next round of treatment.

Thankfully, after a few months, tests revealed that the tumor was shrinking.

Local care with support from family, doctors and nurses

Her family no longer needed to trek from their home in Clintonville to Milwaukee. Micki’s care was transferred to Green Bay where she saw Prevea Pediatric Oncologist, Dr. Jon Brandt at what is now HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital.

“HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital kept us going,” says Micki.

Micki reflected on it being a very dark time in her life, “I had just lost my brother and I was lonely.”

She struggled through the effects of chemotherapy and radiation: significant weight loss, bloody noses, hair loss and blood clots.

Continued on next page
In the midst of fear and uncertainty, her family helped her cope. Her mom would help her practice relaxation techniques for pain management and when referencing Micki’s feeding tube, her dad would lift her spirits by asking, “What’s in your lunchbox?”

“The staff members were so accommodating,” Micki says. “They helped me make friends my own age. And their jokes would make me think, ‘If they’re not worried, I don’t need to be either.’”

**Beating the odds**

A year after treatment, she met her future husband, Jesse. They dated through high school and college, and in 2006, as she celebrated being five years cancer free, the two married. Micki was told it would be near impossible for her to have children. A year after being wed, Micki came back to HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital for her annual checkup and shared with excitement that she was pregnant, expecting the couple’s first child.

May marked the 20th anniversary of her diagnosis. Micki celebrated this milestone with a visit to HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital.

The spaces where she had once received care have changed immensely, but many faces were still familiar. Micki received big hugs from Dr. Brandt and her then nurse, Lori Vertz.

As Micki shared her life and cherished photos with her St. Vincent family, she said, “All of this was possible because of this place.”

**Supporting cancer research**

Micki is just one life that has been saved because of the advancements made by clinical trials. Trials that continue today – right here in Green Bay. These trials are available because of the generous support we receive from our community and donors like you.

“It’s scary to think where I would be today if it weren’t for HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital,” says Micki.
3D Mobile Mammography Unit Celebrates First Year
Your Gift Has the Power to Change Lives

In May, the 3D Mobile Mammography unit celebrated its first year of service. The unit is equipped with the latest, most advanced 3D technology in breast cancer screening. It also features two changing rooms and a waiting room, and is staffed by a registered mammography technologist.

“As a nonprofit health care system, we rely on donations to help us enhance the care we provide — whether it’s through the addition of new services or the purchase of new technology and equipment, such as the Mobile Mammography unit,” said Therese Pandl, President and CEO, HSHS-Eastern Wisconsin Division.

Between May 2018 and May 2019, a total of 948 mammograms were performed in rural communities like Shawano, Mountain, Luxemburg and Manitowoc.

Of the 948 mammograms performed, more than 11 percent — or 112 — were abnormal and required additional imaging, including 29 biopsies. Nine patients were diagnosed with breast cancer.

We celebrate the success of early detection with you — because of you, services offered locally eliminate the cost and burden of travel and saves lives as well!

Your Gift Is Saving Lives

This past month a patient came back into the mobile mammography unit in Oconto County to share her story. Earlier this year she had been diagnosed with a very early stage of cancer. She stopped by to thank the technician who had provided care, “She gave me a great BIG hug and thanked me for ‘saving her life.’” I found this to be incredibly heart-warming and it reminds me why I love what I do.

~ Mobile Mammography Technologist

Building Your Legacy
A Meaningful Way to Support the Hospitals’ Mission

As nonprofit hospitals, we rely on contributions to safeguard the mission of our hospitals and carry forward the values of our Hospital Sisters — Respect, Care, Competence and Joy.

Planned giving is a special way to support the future of HSHS St. Vincent and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospitals.

Each year, the HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary’s Foundation is blessed to receive gifts that have been preplanned by thoughtful, forward-thinking donors.

Common types of planned gifts include:
1. Will or Trust
2. Donor Designated Fund
3. Stocks/securities
4. Named Endowment Fund
5. Life Insurance
6. Gifts of Assets (i.e. farm land, artwork)

Establishing a planned gift for the benefit of HSHS St. Vincent Hospital or HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center allows your support to continue in perpetuity and as a result, provides you membership in our 1888 Legacy Society.

Through serving on hospital committees for many years, we have an awareness of how the mission of HSHS St. Vincent Hospital enhances the quality of life for those in need.

~ Darryl and Judy Johnson

Like the Johnsons, you too may consider including HSHS St. Vincent or HSHS St. Mary’s in your long-term estate plans. For more information, please contact Christine Vanden Hoogen at (920) 884-5930 or christine.vandenhoogen@hshs.org.
Yes, I want to help provide compassionate, comprehensive care to my neighbors, friends, and loved ones!

- Here is my gift of $_______________________

To be directed to: (Please select one)
- HSHS St. Vincent Hospital
- HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center
- HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital

To be used for: (Please select one)
- Where most needed
- Other ___________________________

- I am interested in an estate gift and learning more about your 1888 Legacy Society

Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City _______________________ State _______ Zip ___________

- I wish to remain anonymous

- My check is enclosed
- Please charge  Master Card  Visa  Discover

Card Number _________________ Expiration Date _________________
Signature __________________  3 Digit Code _________________

You can also make a gift safely and securely online at giving.hshs.org/svsm/donate

Please make your check payable to the “HSHS St. Vincent/HSHS St. Mary’s Foundation” and enclose it in the envelope provided. Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Thank you!

Behind the Name – 1888 Legacy Society

In 1888, the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis came to Green Bay, at the request of Bishop Frederick Katzer, to start a hospital in our community.

The Sisters began their ministry equipped with just one chair, four beds and an old cook stove. Yet an abundance of faith and a dedication to serve others helped them thrive and grow. This spirit is still alive today and carried forth by dedicated medical staff, colleagues, volunteers and generous benefactors who live by the creed of “caring for the patient first.” Thank you for being part of our hospital family and our Sisters’ legacy.

Do you remember why you made your first gift to HSHS St. Vincent Hospital or HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center?

Was your first gift made in honor of a loved one who received care in our hospital? Was your first gift made because you care deeply about our mission and our healing ministry? Maybe it was made because you served on a hospital board, were a former colleague or an active volunteer. These are a few reasons why you may consider a legacy gift.

How You Benefit

If you have a specific health care interest, your legacy gift can be designated to benefit a specific service area or program of your choosing.

Cruise for Cancer

The 15th annual Jerry Parins Cruise for Cancer event continues to support local cancer patients

Thank you to the sponsors, donors, planning committee and event guests who help to make the Jerry Parins Cruise for Cancer a success – year after year!

Money raised from last year’s event was distributed in May to ten local cancer organizations, including Child Life at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital, and the Compassionate Care Fund and the Brighter Side Boutique at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Centers.

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