



SUMMER 2024

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Saints Alive! is a quarterly publication, edited by Katie Knapp. If you would like to opt out of receiving future fundraising requests, email [WI-Foundation@hshs.org](mailto:WI-Foundation@hshs.org) or [katie.knapp@hshs.org](mailto:katie.knapp@hshs.org)

## Keeping Camille close

**YOU ENSURE TOP PEDIATRIC CANCER CARE IS AVAILABLE IN NORTHEAST WISCONSIN**

Imagine how worried Missy Stuckmann felt when her 2-year-old daughter suddenly stopped walking. “One afternoon, I woke Camille up from a nap and she refused to walk or bear any weight on her legs,” recalls Missy. She thought Camille had just hurt her leg, but after several days of not walking, X-rays and bloodwork showed the heartbreaking truth – Camille had Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL). On October 23, 2023, her world changed completely, and so did her family’s.

At first, Camille and Missy went to Milwaukee for care. “We live

in Mishicot, and I have two other children at home who also need me. When Camille’s first round of treatment lasted for more than a month, I knew that heading down to Milwaukee for all her future appointments and treatments was not going to be feasible for our family long-term.”

Thanks to your support, Missy had an option for expert care closer to the rest of her family. She found comfort in the knowing they could come to HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital in Green Bay for Camille’s cancer treatments.

## Keeping Camille close *Continued from page 1*

At first, Missy was nervous. Camille has many unique needs – she has Down syndrome in addition to her cancer diagnosis. But your support made sure Camille received the



individualized care she needed. “After meeting with the pediatric oncology team at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital, they assured me that her treatment plan would be the exact same as the one she started in Milwaukee,” says Missy.

The Stuckmanns’ experience at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital has been nothing short of wonderful. Your contributions made the holiday season brighter for them, ensuring they had presents to celebrate with. It wasn’t just Camille who benefited – all her siblings were also included. “It’s not just about getting toys,” recalls Missy, “It’s reminding my other two kids that they were not forgotten in the midst of Camille’s battle.” You ensured that every member of their family felt cared for during this tough time.

Missy is thankful for all of Camille’s care. “You never think it will be your family until it actually happens to you,” she reflects. And yet, despite the uncertainty, there are moments of joy and togetherness. The Stuckmann family enjoys playing games and sharing meals together in the special family gathering spaces within the children’s hospital. These areas allow them to come together and bond as a family in a home-like environment while Camille receives treatment. Whether it’s cozy blankets and pillows, well-stocked kitchens, playrooms filled with toys, or the comfortable seating areas, your support gives them these moments of comfort and connection.

When cancer affects families in Northeast Wisconsin, donors like you make their difficult journey easier. Because of you, children like Camille receive the lifesaving care they need close to home. And families like the Stuckmanns can stay together during their time of need, sharing comfort and strength when they all need it most.



**September** is childhood cancer awareness month.



# AR adventures – bringing animal quest to life!

## NEW SCAVENGER HUNT ADDS PLAYFUL EXPLORATION TO OUR HALLS

Thanks to the incredible support of the Beaux Mettler Foundation and Balance Studios, a new level of fun and excitement has been brought to HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital!

Animal Quest is an augmented reality (AR) scavenger hunt game that promotes learning, exercise, and therapeutic play. As kids make their way around the children’s hospital, they can hover over pictures of animals on the walls with iPads to make special pictures come to life. AR technology makes the animals come to life, as if the animals are right there with them!

Playful fox cubs chase butterflies, eagles fly overhead and catch fish, and much more. It’s like stepping into a whole new world, without even leaving the hospital. The iPad also asks fun questions to keep kids interested as they move from picture to picture. The game has different levels of difficulty, so kids of all ages can have fun with it.

One parent shared their experience: “The scavenger hunt is such a great addition to the hospital! My daughter, Aria, loves searching for the animals. It is such a fun and easy way for us to get up and get out of the room while in the hospital. What an awesome resource to have! We love it!”

Whether it’s a quick procedure or a longer stay, time spent in the hospital can get boring. Donors like you can bring joy to the kids, and their families, in our care through this AR game. It helps kids feel curious and adventurous while easing their anxiety and fears. You help bring smiles to the faces of countless children and families.

While we are thankful to the Beaux Mettler Foundation and Balance Studios for their pivotal role in making this possible, we recognize the impact each of our donors has on our mission. Your support isn’t just about dollars and cents; it’s about bringing smiles to the faces of countless children and families during a challenging time. It’s about turning hospital visits into moments of wonder and excitement.



# A weekend to remember

## YOU CREATE UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES FOR CHILDREN BATTLING CANCER

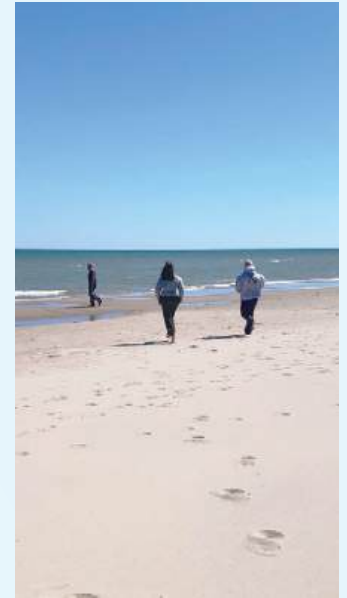
When a child is diagnosed with cancer, they spend hours, days, or sometimes weeks in the hospital getting tests, treatments, and recovering. Their parents juggle appointments and insurance claims in addition to their daily life responsibilities. The whole family is on an emotional rollercoaster fearing the worst, hoping for the best, and everything in between.

Thanks to your generous support, more than 15 families enjoyed a weekend retreat to Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, Wis. These families, who all have children going through cancer treatment, enjoyed a special getaway together.

“This trip gave them a chance to relax and have fun without worrying about their treatments,” says Ashley Thompson, Child Life Supervisor at HSHS St. Vincent Children’s Hospital.

At the resort, the kids and their families had a wonderful time. They went swimming, played mini golf, and enjoyed the beautiful beach. They also received a VIP package for special events and a gift card for meals. One teen was especially excited about her pedicure!

Your generosity made this special trip possible, and we are so grateful. This is just one of the many ways you go above and beyond to support our patients and their families. Thank you for bringing joy and creating happy memories for these brave children and their families!



# Your gifts in action

## CELEBRATING YOUR IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY!

Your generosity recently brought new equipment to HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital, advancing the care our patients receive. Here are some of the remarkable updates your donations funded:



### **A breath of life for our littlest fighters**

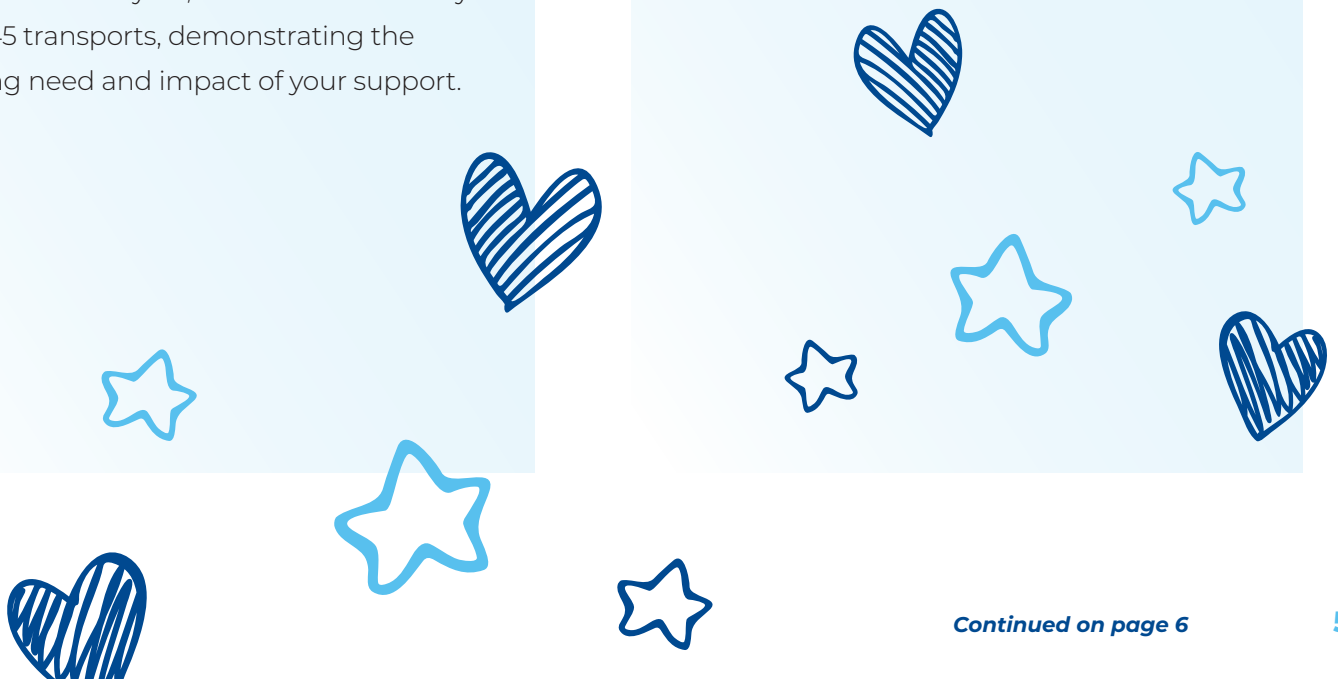
Our neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) was recently equipped with an advanced transportation isolette featuring a new ventilator – all thanks to donor dollars. This life-saving equipment ensures infants in need receive the best possible care during their most vulnerable days.

Last year, the NICU team at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital completed 61 transports from other hospital facilities to bring infants to our NICU. This year, the team has already done 45 transports, demonstrating the ongoing need and impact of your support.



### **Mastering care with Chester Chest**

Because of you, our pediatric nurses now have the Chester Chest, a vital training tool for perfecting chest port access and central line dressing changes. This hands-on device further enhances our ability to provide safe and effective care to our young patients.





### **From conference to compassion**

Thanks to your generous support, one of our therapists from HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital NICU attended the National Neonatal Conference (NANT). This opportunity allowed them to learn the latest evidence-based practices and bring new ideas back to the team. **Your donations help us stay at the forefront of neonatal care!**



### **Cool comfort for a young cancer patient**

This summer, one of our young cancer patients is finding some much-needed relief from the heat thanks to a new window air conditioner unit for their home funded by your donations. By maintaining a cool and stable environment, it helps them manage treatment side effects more effectively, reduces stress, and supports their overall health. **Your support ensures that this kiddo has a more conducive space to rest, recover, and stay resilient!**

Every dollar you contribute to the HSHS St. Vincent/St. Mary's Foundation is carefully stewarded to create meaningful change and impact. We deeply appreciate your partnership and are excited to continue sharing the inspiring stories that you help make possible.

