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Young newlywed gets second chance with heart transplant

Microwave Surgery
Another first at St. Luke's

Frequent Flyer
California Packer fan finds hope

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ST. LUKE’S EARNS NATIONAL AWARD FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR

“Quality care and service are very important to us.”

A national organization is again honoring St. Luke’s Medical Center as Milwaukee’s choice for health care. The National Research Corporation recently recognized St. Luke’s excellence by awarding it a 2001 Consumer Choice Award.

The award is based on four attributes: doctors, nurses, overall quality and image. The National Research Corporation surveys more than 150,000 households to find the top medical care in the Milwaukee area.

“Quality care and service are very important to us,” says St. Luke’s Administrator Mark Wiener. We are grateful to our entire staff and our physicians and we should all take pride in this achievement. The hard work, dedication and professionalism of our physicians and staff make it possible for us to offer the care we do. It’s an honor that patients recognize these traits.”

“We are pleased to recognize hospitals consumers say are the best,” says National Research Corporation President and CEO Michael Hays.

St. Luke’s achieved this distinction last year and in 1999. It also received similar awards from the same company in 1996 and 1997.
GENEROUS IN SPIRIT, EXCELLENT AT HEART

This issue of The Spirit of St. Luke’s comes at a time when our nation has experienced an incredible triumph over tragedy, spurred by our generous American spirit. At St. Luke’s, we’ve been fortunate over the years to have shared your generosity, sometimes in moments of great sorrow and, more often, as a celebration of joy. Always, your gifts have helped us to achieve the medical excellence for which we are known throughout the world.

St. Luke’s reputation for excellence transcends geographic boundaries, much like the spirit of giving itself. In this issue, you’ll meet Gil Valles, who flies 2000 miles from Southern California to the Vince Lombardi Cancer Center for frequent kidney trials and Betty Marketos, who traveled annually from Utica, NY, with her late husband Leon to get the most advanced heart treatment available. You’ll learn how Dr. David Kress is pioneering the use of a microwave radiation device to treat people who suffer from atrial fibrillation. And you’ll hear the moving story of Kristin Neils – new bride, college student and thriving recipient of a new heart. Your philanthropy has made all of this possible.

Today’s donors have become far more thoughtful, intentional and accountable in their philanthropy. Not only do you give because of the place that St. Luke’s holds in your heart, you also want us to help fulfill your own personal charitable goals. For this reason, we have experienced a growth in named funds and gifts designated to specific areas of medical excellence and patient care. You will see this personal involvement throughout this issue of The Spirit, particularly in the stories of founding Hanover Society member Larry Newman and the Lorino Family.

As you will read in the following pages, individuals and families have been touched by our services, and, in the true American spirit, have responded with their contributions to further our mission of finding new and better ways to deliver health care. These partnerships will help us to advance our excellent medical care and research now and for generations to come. We hope you feel inspired with your power to change lives through your gifts.

Brad Holmes
Vice President for Philanthropy
Kristin Johnston was an energetic young woman with a busy life and a bright future—planning a wedding, attending college and teaching at a daycare. When she started feeling fatigued in April 2000, doctors at first suspected asthma or a sinus infection, but not the onset of heart failure.

Kristin was, after all, only 20 years old.

“I don’t think my doctors wanted to believe it. I was so young,” Kristin says.

A chest x-ray showed that Kristin had an enlarged heart. By July, doctors determined that a virus had attacked her heart and left her with cardiomyopathy, a condition that causes the heart chambers to enlarge and the heart muscle to stretch and weaken. Her doctor referred her to St. Luke’s Medical Center because of its renowned reputation in heart care.

Monica L. McDonald, MD, cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon with the Midwest Heart Surgery Institute, Ltd., became Kristin’s cardiac surgeon. Dr. McDonald trained at Yale Medical School and at the Mayo Clinic. She joined St. Luke’s in 1999 after additional training in heart failure at the Cleveland Clinic Hospital. Her specialties include heart transplants, transitioning patients from cardiac pump devices and implanting cardiac assist devices. Dr. McDonald’s respect for her now-mentor, Alfred J. Tector, MD—a nationally known and widely published cardiac expert and medical director of St. Luke’s transplant program—and our hospital’s achievements in cardiac care, drew her to St. Luke’s.

By the time Kristin came to St. Luke’s, her heart was barely working. Kristin’s ejection fraction, which indicates how much blood is being pumped to the heart, was 10 to 15 percent, instead of a healthy 65 percent. Because her heart function was so poor, Dr. McDonald immediately qualified Kristin for a heart transplant.

The first step in Kristin’s transplant process was passing an evaluation for psycho-social suitability. Candidates must demonstrate they have the family support and the emotional abilities necessary to follow through with the post-transplant regimen of medications and doctor appointments. Transplant patients must be prepared to monitor themselves for the signs and symptoms of rejection for the rest of their lives. Ron Niles, Kristin’s fiancé, now took an active role in her transplant process, too.

After successful heart transplant surgery at St. Luke’s, Kristin (Johnston) Neils (pictured left) is grateful to her heart surgeon, Dr. Monica McDonald, for giving her a second chance at life.

By the time Kristin came to St. Luke’s, her heart was barely working.

After passing this evaluation, Kristin was entered into the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and joined 4,000 other patients on a national waiting list for a donor heart.

On the UNOS list, patients like Kristin are sub-ranked by height, weight, blood group, medical urgency and time already spent waiting. When donor hearts become available, they are matched locally, regionally and then nationally. Initially, Kristin was listed as a non-critical status 2 case, because, at the time, she was allowed to

continued on next page
leave the hospital and was not dependent on a device for normal heart function.

While waiting for her donor heart, Kristin received extensive medical care at St. Luke’s which enabled her heart function to gradually improve. Briefly feeling better, Kristin returned home, cautiously taking up the activities of a typical 20-year-old—shopping, in-line skating and getting caught up in the planning of her wedding. But as time progressed, Kristin’s improved heart function was short lived. Fatigue now affected every aspect of her young life.

By early November, Kristin realized that she wouldn’t be able to keep up with her early childhood education classes at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee that semester. Despite seeing Dr. McDonald regularly and taking multiple medications, she continued to weaken until she entered the hospital again, desperately ill. Her condition had deteriorated to the point that her survival depended on either a new heart or an artificial device.

“In spite of aggressive treatment, she wasn’t getting better,” Dr. McDonald says.

Since a donor heart was not immediately available, Dr. McDonald connected Kristin’s heart to a semi-permanent mechanical pump that is typically used as a “bridge” to transplantation. Because Kristin had right- and left-sided heart failure, the pump was needed to do the work of both sides of the heart. The device was large, cumbersome and connected to a console.

Because of the pump, Kristin would be unable to leave the hospital until a donor heart was available. Her status was immediately advanced to 1A, the most critical ranking on the national waiting list. Kristin and Ron worried about their plans for the future with her life now dependent upon a donor heart.

Kristin spent the next 16 days in the intensive care unit and another week in the cardiac intensive care unit. When her condition stabilized, she was moved to the fifth floor with other pre- and post-transplant and bypass patients to wait for a donor heart.

Kristin’s stay on the fifth floor at St. Luke’s lasted three long months. Her weight, which in July had ballooned to 152 (from water retention as a result of the medications), dipped to 92, well below normal for her small frame. In December, Kristin and Ron shared a terrible disappointment when they were alerted a donor heart became available, but which was later determined to be a poor match. Through it all though, the St. Luke’s staff kept Kristin’s and Ron’s spirits high.

“It was hard to be in the hospital for the holidays—Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s—and I was scared. But the nursing staff was so kind,” she says.

Ron visited daily after work and says the St. Luke’s staff treated him like a “second patient.” Offers of food, video movies and comfortable chairs made him feel at ease and he appreciated the straightforward information he received about Kristin’s progress.

“I always felt welcome, no matter what they were doing. I know St. Luke’s is the best place Kristin could have been,” he says.

The nurses developed a special fondness for Kristin because of her young age and positive outlook. They
realized that Kristin should have been enjoying some of the best moments of an active young life that year—planning her wedding and attending college. The nurses worked hard to make her stay as happy as possible, despite the circumstances.

Being separated from friends and family for such an extended period was difficult for Kristin, but the cardiac care nurses supported her and made her feel special. They decorated Kristin’s room, threw her a 21st birthday party, arranged for special menus, stayed after their shifts to chat, and bought her fun pajamas.

In the course of her stay, Kristin developed a special bond with her primary nurse, Michele Schultz. Kristin was a “night owl” and Michele worked the late shift. The two became fast friends.

Michele braided Kristin’s hair, helped her order holiday presents over the Internet and taught her how to protect the heart pump while bathing. The two discussed Kristin’s wedding plans and shared an interest in scrapbooking. Kristin looked forward to frequent trips outside with Michele, even though her stay at St. Luke’s spanned the coldest months of the year.

“Kristin knew that she had a lot to look forward to when she got her new heart. She became more of a friend than a patient to me. I think that’s what she needed at the time,” Michele says.

It’s not uncommon for nurses and patients at St. Luke’s to develop these special bonds. “I feel like I went the extra mile, but we always make a special effort. I try to remember that while people are at St. Luke’s, this place becomes their home,” Michele says.

Verna Seitz, regional manager of St. Luke’s Transplant Program, says each patient has a touching story to tell. “The waiting is difficult for most patients and their families. Our goal is to maximize each patient’s quality of life before and after transplant,” she says.

“IT TRY TO REMEMBER THAT WHILE
PEOPLE ARE AT ST. LUKE’S, THIS
PLACE BECOMES THEIR HOME.”

— MICHELE SCHULTZ, RN

Kristin quickly and memorably endeared herself to nurses and other patients because of her youth and unusual circumstances. “It’s much more emotionally-charged when you have a young patient. Kristin was asking questions we had never heard from a transplant patient before, like whether she could go in a hot tub on her honeymoon and if she would be able to have children. It was hard for the nurses to not let their emotions get the better of them,” Dr. McDonald says.

continued on next page
In the middle of the night on January 11, 2001, the St. Luke’s team received word that a suitable heart was available for Kristin. At last, Kristin had found her match. Since the narrow window of time for an effective transplant is within four hours of the organ retrieval, Dr. McDonald traveled with the transplant procurement team, by Lear jet and ambulance, to retrieve the heart while Dr. Tector and his team prepared Kristin for surgery by placing her on cardiopulmonary bypass and removing her pump.

The experienced and highly-trained transplant staff, always ready at a moment’s notice, was set for action Sunday morning when Dr. McDonald’s team returned. Together with Dr. Tector, Dr. McDonald skillfully transplanted Kristin’s new heart.

The surgery was a success.

“Every transplant at St. Luke’s is a precise and well-orchestrated effort, performed by the best people for the job. A lot of places do heart surgery, but we have the team at St. Luke’s that is ready 24-hours-a-day. Everybody comes in and executes their role with precision. They’re on alert at all times, even on a Sunday morning,” Dr. McDonald says.

Because of strict confidentiality requirements, Kristin knows little about her donor—only that the person was a 20-year-old from Chicago.

Kristin was released from St. Luke’s 10 days after her transplant. During the first three months of recovery she built up her strength slowly, minimizing the risk of infection by avoiding crowds of people. This meant postponing her return to college and working in the daycare center. But she still had one goal that wasn’t going to be put on hold any longer.

On September 15, 2001, Kristin and Ron walked down the aisle as man and wife and celebrated the wedding of their dreams. Well on the road to recovery, today Kristin has resumed her studies and is on track to graduate from UWM in 2004. She will take anti-rejection medication for the rest of her life, but has needed to make few long-term lifestyle changes and is feeling great. She has returned to her part-time job at the daycare and plans to teach kindergarten upon graduation.

Kristin’s nurse, Michele, remains a dear friend, with whom she shares emails and shopping excursions.

Dr. McDonald has also maintained a unique relationship with Kristin, one of her youngest transplant patients. Since a heart transplant is only the first step in the care of a patient, Dr. McDonald will closely follow Kristin’s progress for years to come.

Kristin’s transplant is one of 455 that have been performed at St. Luke’s since the Midwest’s first heart transplant was performed here in 1968. Each patient who undergoes an organ transplant experiences the same compassion and outstanding care that Kristin received.

“It’s unique for a private hospital like St. Luke’s to have such an advanced transplant program. The staff is driven to help these incredibly ill patients and has fine-tuned its care to optimize every possible resource. I am very proud of the program,” Dr. McDonald says.

Kristin’s close relationship with Dr. McDonald and Michele is a result of St. Luke’s commitment to having the same team care for a patient—from referral, through surgery, to follow-up. A highly trained cardiac or intensive care nurse also guides the process from behind the scenes as a transplant coordinator.

*continued on next page*
“It’s the most comprehensive approach and we believe it maximizes the most positive outcome. That’s why we exceed all the national benchmarks in patient survival,” Verna Seitz affirms.

Kristin is extremely grateful for the special care she received at St. Luke’s and says that during her long stay, the transplant team’s extra efforts made a big difference.

“The nurses have such warmth and personality. They treat you with such concern. They talked to me in terms that I understood. They told it to me straight,” she says.

Dr. McDonald credits philanthropy for helping to advance the services that Kristin needed the most.

“Funds raised at St. Luke’s support equipment, specialist training, education and innovative technology. These things kept Kristin alive. She’s a healthy young woman with her whole life ahead of her, and that’s gratifying to the people who worked so hard to keep her alive,” Dr. McDonald says.

“EVERY TRANSPLANT AT
ST. LUKE’S IS A PRECISE AND
WELL-ORCHESTRATED EFFORT,
PERFORMED BY THE BEST PEOPLE
FOR THE JOB.”

— MONICA L. MCDONALD, MD
CARDIOVASCULAR AND
THORACIC SURGEON

Kristin agrees, “You don’t have to be wealthy to make a gift or an organ donation. All of us can save lives through our generosity. I’m living proof!”
ORGAN DONATIONS GIVE LIFE

Thousands of lives like Kristin Johnston’s are saved every year, thanks to the foresight and generosity of organ donors, but too few of us are making the life-giving choice to donate.

Any adult may become an organ donor by signing a donor card, indicating this intention on a driver’s license, or informing family members. Minors with parental consent are also eligible. Donors may even specify which organs they wish to give.

Although an organ donation is a priceless gift, the donor incurs no costs, as the recipient and their insurance program will cover all medical expenses.

Each year, more than 79,000 children and adults—including many patients at St. Luke’s, one of only four total and comprehensive transplant programs in the state—anxiously wait and hope for a chance to live normal, healthy lives. Organ donors give mothers, fathers, sons and daughters a second chance for life.

To register or find out more about becoming an organ, tissue or eye donor, call the Wisconsin Tissue Bank at St. Luke’s Medical Center at 1-800-722-8230.

To Remember Me

Give my sight to the man who has never seen a sunrise, a baby’s face or love in the eyes of a woman.

Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of pain.

Give my blood to the teenager who was pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he might live to see his grandchildren play.

Give my kidneys to one who depends on a machine to exist from week to week.

Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my weaknesses and all prejudice against my fellow man.

Give my sins to the devil.

Give my soul to God.

If, by chance, you wish to remember me, do it with a kind deed or word to someone who needs you.

If you do all I have asked, I will live forever.

—Robert N. Test
SUCCESSFUL MICROWAVE HEART SURGERY IS ANOTHER FIRST FOR ST. LUKE’S MEDICAL CENTER

The effects of the nation’s first successful microwave heart procedure to correct atrial fibrillation are expected to ripple into a revolution, forever changing the way heart arrhythmia is treated.

David C. Kress, MD, chief of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at St. Luke’s, first performed the delicate procedure on 76-year-old Audrey Przbycien in June of this year. He expects to perform around ten by the end of 2001, and an average of 20 or more annually. The technique could eventually be used to treat 80,000 people a year worldwide.

Atrial fibrillation is an uncontrolled beating of the heart’s upper chambers due to a breakdown of the heart’s electrical signals. It prevents upper chambers of the heart from sending blood into lower chambers, causing problems ranging from fatigue and dizziness to chest pain and sleep disorders. It is the most common form of cardiac arrhythmia and can lead to stroke. In the United States, it affects over 2 million people, and 15 percent of all people over age 80. That number will grow as the population ages.

“This procedure gives surgeons a simple, safe and fast treatment with an expected 80 to 90 percent effectiveness rate,” say Dr. Kress.

Inaugural patient Audrey says she is feeling great and back to pruning bushes, gardening and lunching with friends. She had been suffering from arrhythmia since 1962 and says she never worried about being the first patient to have this procedure performed. “I never felt apprehensive. I have great confidence in Dr. Kress and in St. Luke’s,” she says.

“MOST PLACES DO NOT HAVE THE CALIBER OF PEOPLE WE HAVE HERE.”

— DR. DAVID C. KRESS

Previously, Dr. Kress treated atrial fibrillation using an electric current technology called radiofrequency ablation, a procedure that he also pioneered. Although this technique eliminated the need for surgical incisions, instead heating the heart’s atrium, Dr. Kress is already calling it “the old technology.”

“The microwave catheter can be slid under the heart and heated on only one side from the bottom-up. You can’t do that with radiofrequency,” he says.

Microwave technology is faster, safer, more exact and less invasive than other techniques. The fine antenna has shielding which protects other structures in the chest. The ablation lines can be performed in 20 minutes. And it can be done on the outside of the heart, without connecting the patient to a heart-lung machine.

Dr. Kress is already sharing his expertise. He has been asked to set up a registry of microwave procedures performed in the United States and is building a web site that physicians can access. He has conducted training courses and demonstrated ablation techniques to over a dozen visiting surgeons.

There is a reason St. Luke’s is on the cutting edge of advances in cardiac surgery procedures, asserts Dr. Kress. “Most places do not have the caliber of people we have here, even academic centers,” he says. “We have one of the top electrophysiology labs in the country. I don’t think there is another hospital that can provide the level of comprehensive care for atrial fibrillation that we can.”

Long-term patient Audrey agrees. “St. Luke’s is an outstanding hospital. I’m astounded to see what it’s grown into and I’m very happy to hear that people will benefit from what we did,” she says.
FLYER

WEST COAST PACKER FAN TAPS LOMBARDI’S WINNING SPIRIT THROUGH KIDNEY CANCER TRIALS

That fall, Gil's daughter Jody surfed the Internet to search for a treatment that would prolong her father's remission. She found that most trials for renal cell carcinoma involve health risks and severe side effects. Fortunately, an online acquaintance e-mailed her about the Autolymphocyte Therapy Trials at St. Luke’s Medical Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The experimental treatment trials involve removing some of the patient's white blood cells, treating the cells with proteins to activate their cancer-fighting ability, freezing the cells and reinfusing the stronger cells back into the patient. The goal is to stimulate the immune system to prevent the return of kidney cancer.

The trials appealed to the Valles family because the treatment is non-toxic and involves few side effects. Similar treatments have produced positive results in the past for other patients with kidney cancer. “Of all the cancer treatments in all the world, the best one for my dad happens to be 2000 miles from us at St. Luke’s Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic (VLCC) in Milwaukee,” Jody says.

The VLCC offers research, prevention, detection and education programs that make cancer preventable and controllable for patients like Gil. The Clinic was named for the beloved Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi, who died from colon cancer in 1970. In 1971, members of North Hills Country Club and other business leaders and golfers mobilized to raise money for cancer research on behalf of Coach Lombardi. The VLCC thrives today as a result of these efforts by Vince Lombardi Charitable Funds.

Gil is mid-way through his treatment, which requires traveling to St. Luke’s monthly for six months, and then quarterly for 18 months. In between visits, Gil receives CT scans and radiology work at his home hospital in Laguna Hills, California. Results will be tracked for seven years.

continued on next page
Members of the Valles family, which includes Gil’s wife, Sharon; daughters Jody, Nancy and Kelly; sons-in-law Tom and Eric; and grandchildren Kelly, Sarah and Rusty, are hopeful that Gil’s treatment is prolonging his remission. Only patients with no evidence of disease are eligible for the program.

Gil says he feels great and is gratified that his participation in the trials could help others. “If this program is successful, it can be done at other hospitals, maybe even in California,” he says.

Presently, of the estimated 31,000 new cases of renal cell carcinoma diagnosed annually in the United States, approximately one-third are inoperable and approximately 12,000 patients will die. Chemotherapy is generally ineffective.

Although the cross-country trips are difficult and expensive, Sharon always accompanies her husband to Milwaukee to support him through the treatments. She knows the couple is doing the right thing by participating in this study.

“As much as I thought I would dread this, I look forward to the trip each time. I like seeing the people at St. Luke’s. And instead of just sitting back and waiting, we’re doing something,” she says.

Each June, one VLCC patient is honored at the Vince Lombardi Run/Walk to represent the many stories of hope that the Clinic makes possible. This year’s honored survivor was Gil, accompanied by Sharon and Jody. They spent the day with the event’s co-chairs, legendary Packers quarterback and Hall of Famer Bart Starr and his wife, Cherry. “We wound up being celebrity guests. We were picked up in a limo and taken to a country club as part of the festivities,” Gil says. “We were honored to be a part of this important event.”

This year’s Run/Walk attracted 3,000 participants, many walking as families and teams in honor of loved ones. A tribute wall decorated by participants was displayed at St. Luke’s for several months following the event.

The next month, the couple planned another appropriate outing around Gil’s treatment—visiting Lambeau Field and the Green Bay Packer Hall of Fame for the first time. They took the initiative to arrange this trip to learn more about the revered coach and team that have inspired Gil’s recovery.

Gil can’t help but use a sports metaphor when describing his reason for participating in the trials. For him, the Lombardi spirit and legacy have been a life-saving force. “As a cancer patient, you have to take the offense. Most doctors aren’t aware of programs like the one I’m in now. The only doctor I want to see is my oncologist at the Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic, Dr. John Hanson,” Gil says.

Jody Valles believes her dad’s connection to Vince Lombardi is oddly appropriate. The special care he is receiving as a part of the coach’s legacy is giving the family hope, possibly prolonging Gil’s life and that of many others. “Today my dad is getting a promising treatment, created by phenomenal doctors, administered by an incredibly compassionate staff, all on behalf of a man he truly admired,” she says.
Cancer Hotline Connects Callers to Important Information

An Internet search ultimately led Gil Valles to the Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic, but navigating and analyzing the abundance of available cancer research need not be so complicated.

The Vince Lombardi Cancer Hotline connects cancer patients and their loved ones to the latest research, cutting-edge treatments, prevention information, support groups, financial counseling and other resources. The hotline is open to everyone, and all calls are confidential.

Cancer information specialists field each call, taking the time to understand and address each caller's unique needs.

A variety of resources, including a cancer library, a frequently-updated cancer database, the Physician Data Query of the National Cancer Institute, and Internet searches for national trials may be consulted to answer a caller's questions.

Calling the hotline may be the first step on the journey to remission. Research shows that patients who take an active interest in their health care can have a positive effect on their outcome.

Hotline:  (414) 649-7200
1 (800) 252-2990

Save the date!
The 2002 Vince Lombardi Run/Walk is scheduled for Saturday, June 8 at Menomonee Falls High School.

Call (414) 649-7015 for more information.

How many steps do you walk each day?
The latest, greatest way to estimate your total activity is with a Digi-Walker™ step counter. You'll see firsthand the distance you walked and calories burned. Then with the feedback the Digi-Walker™ provides, you'll be able to develop and implement strategies to gradually reach the goal of at least 10,000 steps per day.

The Digi-Walker™ can be yours for just $20.
Call (414) 649-5767 to order.

St. Luke's Medical Center
Aurora Health Care
Larry Newman embodies the philanthropic spirit. His desire to make a meaningful impact with his philanthropy has inspired Larry to join the Hanover Society as a Founding Member.

The Hanover Society, established in 2000, is the newest distinction honoring leadership giving to St. Luke's Medical Center. The name comes from the original Hanover General Hospital on the corner of Madison and Hanover (now South 3rd) Streets in Milwaukee. "I remember when the hospital was there," says Larry, who worked at nearby Allen Bradley for 37 years.

Speaking humbly of his contributions to St. Luke's, Larry explains that he wants his gifts to make a difference during his lifetime. Larry has designated St. Luke's as the sole beneficiary of his estate, knowing that his gift can have a strong impact on medical excellence. His close friend, Dominic Lychwick, has been a contributor to St. Luke's for many years and encouraged him with this decision. Soon afterward, Larry decided he wanted to start making contributions during his lifetime, so he could also enjoy his giving now. He has several charitable gift annuities; through this gift arrangement, Larry receives quarterly interest payments, and St. Luke's will receive the principal from the gift after his death. "I'm still donating, but I'm getting something in return every year," says Larry.

Born in Loyal, Wisconsin, Larry was raised by an aunt after his parents died when he was very young. After serving his country for four years as a U.S. Marine, Larry moved to Milwaukee. He and his wife, Corinne, traveled extensively throughout the U.S. following their retirement. They enjoyed a long marriage of nearly 60 years before she passed away.

Larry likes his connection with St. Luke's fostered through the Lifetime Philanthropists, an organization for donors who have made provisions to support St. Luke's through their estate plans or through life income gifts, and now the Hanover Society. Motivated to tell others about the Hanover Society prompted Larry to share his story now.

Says Kelly Sachse, former director of Planned Giving at St. Luke's, "Larry is a very modest person, and he has a generous spirit. He is such a joy and he wants to make an impact on the lives of others. He often says, 'I really want to make a difference for people.' He genuinely cares about others." Through his philanthropy, the next generations will be touched by Larry's spirit.

ABOUT THE HANOVER SOCIETY

The Hanover Society was established to recognize St. Luke’s tradition of medical excellence. Named after the original Hanover General Hospital, membership begins with an initial gift of $5,000 and is continued with a minimum annual gift of $1,000. Benefits of Hanover Society membership include:

- The Reception of Merit, a special recognition event
- The Wall of Tradition, an exclusive recognition area to be established in St. Luke's Heart Care Center and Patient Tower
- Expanded Naming Opportunities, including patient rooms in the new St. Luke's Heart Care Center and Patient Tower
- Extraordinary recognition, including Lifetime Hanover Society Membership for significant one-time or cumulative gifts
- Continued membership in St. Luke’s Philanthropists Club and all the associated benefits

For more information about joining the Hanover Society, or to learn more about these benefits, contact Laverne Schmidt at (414) 649-7123.
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

BUILDING ON TRADITION –
ST. LUKE’S HEART CARE CENTER AND PATIENT TOWER

Construction of a 12-story Heart Care Center and Patient Tower on the campus of St. Luke’s Medical Center will enhance the facility’s long-standing tradition of leadership in heart care excellence and improve the “patient friendliness” of the entire medical complex.

Preliminary site preparation got underway earlier this year for the 420,000-square-foot addition next to and above the existing parking structure. The addition is a major step toward the fulfillment of St. Luke’s master plan to cluster services and patient care areas in a way that will accommodate rapidly changing and advancing medical technology, along with accessibility, comfort and convenience for patients and visitors.

The unique design brings together St. Luke’s incredible array of cardiac care services. All education, prevention, diagnostic and treatment services—both inpatient and outpatient—will be integrated within the centrally located addition to provide “all under one roof” convenience for anyone needing any level of heart care.

The upper floors of the addition will house 192 private patient rooms, six to eight operating rooms and 78 intensive care unit beds. All cardiovascular and thoracic medical, intensive care and surgical units will move to the new Patient Tower, gaining the distinct advantage of close proximity for patients transported in and out of these related areas. “Few heart centers are able to link the operating rooms and intensive care units like this,” says Mark Wiener, St. Luke’s administrator. “It will allow St. Luke’s to offer the most efficient and effective cardiac surgical and intensive care possible.”

Upon completion—projected for 2004—the new addition is expected to be sophisticated and technologically elite. The way it will “look and feel” for patients, families, physicians, employees and others will also make it a truly significant hallmark in health care.

“This expansion is all about moving medicine into the next millennium,” says John Bowman, MD, St. Luke’s chief of staff. “The design of this addition takes advantage of St. Luke’s years of expertise in cardiovascular care and blends it with all the important elements of comfort and function. Patients in every area of the medical center will benefit.”

St. Luke’s Heart Care Center and Patient Tower
Construction Trivia:

- There are approximately 200 on-site workers daily.
- The weight of the large steel trusses placed over the existing parking structure is equivalent to 125 African bull elephants weighing 16,000 pounds each.
- If the amount of steel on this project was shrunk down into 1/4" diameter pieces, it would stretch from Milwaukee to Moscow and back.
- The amount of concrete being used on the project could fill 2,000 concrete trucks.
- The 420,000-square-feet of building space is equivalent to nine football fields under one roof.
STAFF PROFILE

SHIRLEY SKOWRONSKI: CARING FOR PEOPLE

As a secretary in the Office of Philanthropy for almost three years, Shirley Skowronski’s behind-the-scenes work has helped donors realize their charitable vision for the hospital. But their vision is also her own. Shirley has undergone surgery at St. Luke’s and has experienced firsthand St. Luke’s excellent care. Giving back, as a member of St. Luke’s Employee Philanthropy Club, means something special to her. As she says, “It’s wonderful working in an area of the hospital where you meet people firsthand who want to express their appreciation through a gift to St. Luke’s.”

Shirley works closely with Laverne Schmidt, Regional Manager, Philanthropy. Her responsibilities include assisting with planning for the annual Dessert Gala and the Lifetime Philanthropists luncheon, as well as working with the Stuffer Duffers. “It’s fun to get together with them, they’re a great group of caring people” she says of the Stuffer Duffers, volunteers who help collate, label and stuff mailings for the philanthropy office.

Shirley’s husband Jerry recently retired. They enjoy traveling, with Hawaii as a favorite destination in recent years. During football season, you can find them rooting for the Packers. In the spring and summer, you may find them tending the garden of their dream house that they built four years ago. They have two children, a son, Kevin, and a daughter, Christine. No grandchildren yet, unless you count “the four-legged kind, a cat and a dog,” as Shirley says.

Clearly, Shirley enjoys her work in the Office of Philanthropy. “Shirley’s willingness to take on any assignment, along with her sense of humor, makes her a great asset to the office,” says Laverne Schmidt.

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

In the last issue of The Spirit of St. Luke’s, we told you about Wendy Paustian and her beautiful, hand-made ornaments to benefit breast cancer research at St. Luke’s. We’re pleased to report that Wendy recently moved back to Milwaukee and will be showing her collection at local craft fairs.

You can also order one or more of Wendy’s ornaments in the ribbon colors of your choice by calling (414) 688-1480 or emailing Wendy at 24601@ticon.net. Ornaments are $10 plus shipping costs.

Each ornament comes with its own gift bag and tag noting that the proceeds support St. Luke’s breast cancer research.

Happy Holidays!

Rich fabrics and metallic ribbons make one-of-a-kind ornaments.
Donor Profile

EXCELLENCE AND CARING INSPIRES LIFELONG PARTNERSHIP

When Betty Marketos' husband, Leon, needed a triple bypass in 1977, he chose St. Luke's Medical Center. At that time, triple bypass was relatively new, and Leon wanted to ensure that he received the highest quality of care. In that pre-internet age, choosing a hospital for this procedure seemed like a daunting task. Living in Utica, NY, Leon gathered all the information he could to carefully research outcomes at the leading hospitals around the country. He chose St. Luke's because of its reputation—even back then—as a leader in heart care. Coincidentally, St. Luke's heart specialists Dr. Alfred Tector and the late Dr. Robert Flemma, who died in 1998, also came from Utica. In fact, it was learned that Leon and Dr. Flemma's father both practiced law in the same office building.

Leon's successful bypass began a long relationship of admiration between Leon, his wife Betty and St. Luke's. Every year, they traveled the long distance from Utica to Milwaukee for St. Luke's exceptional heart care. "We were very impressed with the service we received when we first came here. It was one of the first hospitals that had services for everything ... it seemed so progressive, I went home and told everyone all about it," said Betty. When Betty developed heart problems of her own, she had her surgeries at St. Luke's as well. In the interim, Leon had a second heart surgery in 1989. While the prognosis was not good, Leon enjoyed seven irreplaceable years until his death in 1996, and credited his quality of life to the expert care he received at St. Luke's.

"We got to know many of the heart care specialists at St. Luke's. Coming back year after year, we were treated by the same technologists, who would take our electrocardiograms, and the same nurses ... it was like old home week. We got quite friendly with all the nurses," says Betty, "we had our checkups every year at St. Luke's when we came to Wisconsin to visit our daughter."

Leon and Betty went to high school together, reunited after attending separate colleges and soon married. Leon attended Hamilton College and then Harvard Law School, while Betty attended the University of Michigan. "We had a wonderful life together," said Betty. They have three children: two sons, Gerald, a doctor in Utica and James, an attorney in Washington; and a daughter, Barbara, who is the general secretary of Black Wolf Run and lives in Sheboygan. They also have six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

After a successful law practice, Leon was appointed a federal bankruptcy judge. Once the children were grown, Betty returned to work as a high school French teacher. The family enjoyed traveling together every year, with Europe, particularly France and Greece, as a favorite destination.

In appreciation of the special care they received, Leon and Betty wanted to give something back to St. Luke's and so became members of St. Luke's Philanthropists Club. "Leon thought the world of St. Luke's and the doctors and staff. He had great faith in the hospital," said Betty, "and I continue the tradition of giving." Betty, who now lives in Sheboygan to be close to her daughter, still communicates with two of the nurses who cared for her and Leon.

St. Luke's has had a profound effect upon the Marketos family, and, in the true philanthropic spirit, they have advanced St. Luke's mission through their annual support. Their gifts help further the excellence in patient care that Leon discovered here so many years ago.
A named endowment fund provides a special way for you to continue giving for decades to come. When you establish an endowed fund at St. Luke's Medical Center, you are expressing your lasting concern for the health and welfare of your community.

A named endowment fund remains intact forever. As with any endowment, the donated funds remain intact and only the income from the principal balance can be used. This type of fund ensures the future viability and success of the hospital and enables the board and its administrative team to plan for the future.

There are many ways to identify your fund in addition to recognizing it with your name. For example, you may choose to name your fund in memory of loved ones, such as your parents. A permanent plaque recognizing your named fund will be placed in St. Luke's distinguished recognition area.

There are two ways to designate your fund. One method is to designate it for a specific purpose such as education or research. Another method is to establish a board-designated fund which allows the hospital's board of directors to designate the interest from your fund for use by the hospital for its immediate needs.

With a gift of $25,000 or more, a fund can be established in your name or a name of your choice. A named fund also offers the individuals establishing it many benefits in addition to those outlined above:

- A named fund keeps on giving in perpetuity, benefiting St. Luke's Medical Center, our neighboring communities, and our patients who come from all over the world for their care.

Tom and Ann are pleased to express their caring through the Tom A. and Ann E. Lorino Family Heart and Cancer Endowment Fund. They know that their fund will touch the lives of heart and cancer patients at St. Luke's for generations to come.
• You and others may continue to build on your initial charitable investment. Anniversaries, birthdays, and other special occasions are a meaningful way to celebrate by adding to your fund.

• As a charitable contribution, your gift is tax-deductible as provided by law. There may be other additional tax advantages.

• You may establish a named fund during your lifetime with a gift of cash or appreciated property. A named fund can also be designated through a bequest in your will or by establishing a life income gift, where you retain the income during your lifetime.

• Your endowed fund will be professionally managed and St. Luke’s Medical Center will ensure that your funds are used for the purpose you have specified. You will be kept up to date on your fund so you will have the satisfaction of knowing how your gift is helping others.

Endowment funds are tremendously valuable to St. Luke’s Medical Center because they offer permanent financial resources, allowing the hospital to make plans for the future and continue the high quality care patients have come to expect when they come to St. Luke’s for their health care needs.

For more information on how to establish an endowed fund, please call Laverne Schmidt, Office of Philanthropy, at (414) 649-7123.

**Named Endowment Funds**

- John H. and Hope E. Barr Immunotherapy Research Endowment Fund
- Mitzi L. Dilworth Nursing Education Fund
- Fred and Jay Dobner Endowment Fund
- Merle and Eunice Eggen Designated Fund
- Employee Philanthropy Club
- John and Judy Gardetto Heart and Cancer Endowment Fund
- Fred C. and Edna Goad Educational Endowment Fund
- Larry J. Horton Leukemia Endowment Fund
- Jahr Cancer Research Endowment Fund
- Knisely Clinical Pastoral Education
- Tom A. and Ann E. Lorino Family Heart and Cancer Endowment Fund
- Medical Staff Endowment Fund
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- Security Cancer Lectureship
- Sileno Families Endowment Fund
- James T. and Carol G. Williams Gamma Knife Endowment Fund
- William Wozzalla Heart Research Endowment Fund
- Karen Yontz Women’s Cardiac Awareness Endowment Fund
2000 ANNUAL DESSERT GALA

PHILANTHROPISTS CLUB FEASTS ON SWEETS

Many donors look forward to eating their sweet delights at St. Luke’s annual Dessert Gala. This year’s event, held May 2 at the Wisconsin Club, may be remembered as the sweetest celebration yet.

The Dessert Gala recognizes members of St. Luke’s Philanthropists Club who have made an annual gift of $100 or more. It’s a time for club members to catch up with old friends and meet new members who share a common goal of advancing medical excellence at St. Luke’s.

The honorary committee welcomed guests to this memorable evening, including chairpersons Norbert and Betty Pischke, and members Mary Frances Bullamore and Charles and Mary Schick.

Thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon Daniel P. O’Hair, MD, gave the keynote presentation entitled, “Innovations in Cardiac Surgery: The Future is Now.” He explained how the new robotic surgery techniques provide for a safer procedure with less pain and a faster recovery period. A surgeon operates with tiny, highly-detailed surgical instruments controlled at a console. No bones are cut and the incisions are small. Thanks in part to the contributions of many members of St. Luke’s Philanthropists Club, these innovations have made cardiac care one of St. Luke’s most widely recognized specialties.

Guests also saluted Carol and Jim Williams for their 35 years of outstanding support for St. Luke’s. The Williams received the club’s highest honor at the Gala, the 2000 Philanthropist of the Year Award. Their recently established named endowment fund, the James T. and Carol G. Williams Gamma Knife Endowment Fund, supports technology to perform delicate brain surgeries at St. Luke’s without a single scalpel cut. Mr. Williams has served on the board of directors for both St. Luke’s and Aurora Health Care, following in the tradition of Carol’s late father, Arthur Grede.


For information on joining St. Luke’s Philanthropists Club, please call Laverne Schmidt at (414) 649-7123.

Honorary Philanthropy Committee members (pictured left to right): Mary Frances Bullamore, Charles and Mary Schick, and Norbert and Betty Pischke.
How Can I Direct My Gift?

For every life touched at St. Luke’s Medical Center there is a unique and enduring way to give back. Many of our donors have a story to tell, having known the kindness of a special nurse or the miracle of a medical breakthrough. Others are moved by empathy for indigent families or the power of possibility. At St. Luke’s, our donors’ collective vision moves daily victories of life and science. Consider furthering your own vision for the future by directing your next gift to a specific fund. We will continue to feature funds that benefit specific programs and services in upcoming issues of The Spirit.

Cardiac Care Fund
Recognized throughout the world as a leader in treating heart disease, many of the world’s cardiac “firsts” have been pioneered at St. Luke’s. From the first heart transplant in the Midwest 33 years ago to this summer’s major breakthrough in treating arrhythmias, St. Luke’s remains committed to research and development. Research brings hope and is the key to medical progress.

Endocrine-Diabetes Fund
The Endocrine-Diabetes Center treats patients with the full range of endocrine disorders. The physicians using the center have complementary areas of expertise and the supporting staff is experienced in dealing with a variety of conditions, resulting in patients receiving highly skilled, state-of-the-art care. The center includes a productive research laboratory that benefits patients from all over the country, as well as at St. Luke’s. Access to clinical research is an asset to patients.

Immunotherapy Program
Just recently, St. Luke’s Immunotherapy Program announced the activation of a new clinical trial for patients with metastatic (advanced) breast cancer. A bispecific antibody enables the patient’s own immune cells to target and effectively destroy the tumor. This targeting molecule was discovered at St. Luke’s and is the only facility in the United States to offer this.

Madison Street Clinic
Located in the most culturally diverse community in the state, the Madison Street Clinic is a free, walk-in clinic serving the uninsured, the homeless and those who face other barriers to access. Staff estimate that a minimum of 10% of their clients are living on the streets, 60% are in unstable housing and 100% are uninsured. Also, 51% are Spanish-speaking only and more than 70% of the Latino population they serve are undocumented.

Nursing Fund
Nurses continuously improve their skills to respond more effectively to their patients’ needs. To maintain excellence in all aspects of nursing services, support is provided through this fund for nursing research programs, special educational needs and other nursing activities and programs.

Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic
Established at St. Luke’s in 1989, the VLCC has become synonymous with excellence in cancer prevention, early detection, education and comprehensive treatment of cancer patients. Cancer patients from across the state and nation come to St. Luke’s for specialized procedures and services.

For more information on designating a gift to your area of interest, please call Laverne Schmidt at (414) 649-7123.
WELCOME NEW DONORS

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GIFTS RECEIVED AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 2001 WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE SPIRIT.

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We are so thankful for my husband's care at St. Luke's and to the good doctors.

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This past August I was married and we had the traditional “dollar dance.” We collected the money in my brother’s memory on behalf of the Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic. Our family will always remember the kindness of everyone at St. Luke’s Medical Center.

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I want to thank all the wonderful people who cared for my mother during her cancer illness. Everyone was so supportive and compassionate, and mom really appreciated what everyone did to make her feel comfortable. We love all of you; God bless each and every one.

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May all that is
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We are most grateful for the excellent care and concern shown to our father and husband and to our family by the cardiac intensive care unit staff. The nurses, doctors and other support staff offered words of encouragement and provided quality care. Their knowledge is commendable. We are very thankful that they helped us during our father's illness. God bless each and everyone of them.

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WHY I GIVE:
IT'S IN THE FAMILY

The Jones family works together and gives together. Craig Jones, who has worked for St. Luke's for the past 16 years, joined the Employee Philanthropy Club with encouragement from his sister, Michelle.

Craig currently works as an interventional vascular technician in the Intervention and Radiology department, where he assists doctors with procedures such as catheterizations and angioplasties. “I enjoy the hands-on work with doctors and patients, being involved with patient care” says Craig.

According to co-worker Mike Farrell, Craig’s generous spirit shines at St. Luke’s and beyond. “He’s an outstanding, giving person, inside and outside. He’s always willing to go the extra mile to ensure a patient’s overall comfort throughout the hospital stay,” says Mike. This dedication to excellence has won Craig several employee awards recognizing extra effort beyond assigned job responsibilities.

Supporting St. Luke’s is a family affair. Michelle Jones, Craig’s sister, is a manager in the Aurora business office and previously served on St. Luke’s Employee Philanthropy Club committee.

Craig’s mother, Maureen, recently retired from her position as a health unit coordinator. And last, but certainly not least, Craig’s wife Lynne works as a financial counselor, helping uninsured or self-pay patients enroll in public medical care programs.

“St. Luke’s has for such a long time, and continues to be, a leader in heart care. Without programs like the Employee Philanthropy Club, it’s hard to stay on the cutting edge of technology,” says Craig. With the help of dedicated employee donors like the Jones family, St. Luke’s will remain a leader in health care.
COOKING WITH SPIRIT: SALMON BALL

Just in time for holiday entertaining, the salmon ball's flavor, both comforting and enticing, is certain to please guests of all ages. Salmon's nutty and woody taste makes it a perfect complement to other seasonal offerings. To conserve time, make it the day before your big party and chill in the refrigerator overnight. Bon Appetit!

## Cooking with Spirit:

### Salmon Ball

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 ounces fat-free cream cheese – softened</td>
<td>1 cup chopped pecans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 ounces canned salmon – well drained</td>
<td>1/4 cup chopped parsley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 teaspoons grated onion</td>
<td>1 teaspoon horseradish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tablespoon lemon juice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mix together cream cheese, salmon, grated onion, lemon juice and horseradish. Chill. Shape into a ball, then roll ball into chopped pecans and parsley. Serve with assorted low fat crackers.

Note: The fat in this recipe is from the salmon, which is a great source of omega 3 fatty acids, and the nuts, which are high in monounsaturated fat.

Makes 10 servings.

Nutrient information per serving: 159 calories, 10 grams fat (only 1.5 grams saturated), 377 mg sodium

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- Contributed by Robin Peterson, Dietician, St. Luke’s Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Department
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Gifts received after September 30, 2001 will be recognized in the next issue of The Spirit.

Designating St. Luke’s as the recipient of memorial gifts is a very special way to remember a loved one or to express your appreciation for a loved one’s care. To let friends and relatives know of your wishes, may we suggest the following wording:

"The family would appreciate memorials to St. Luke’s Medical Center, c/o The Tribute Fund, P.O. Box 14123, Milwaukee, WI 53214."

If you would like to receive a St. Luke’s Tribute Fund booklet, a convenient and meaningful way to honor or remember family members and friends, please call The Tribute Fund office at (414) 328-6424.

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This donation was made possible by the efforts of four gentlemen who hosted a golf outing to honor my late husband’s memory. Please acknowledge these four friends, who graciously donated their time and energy to help raise these proceeds.

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A few times a year, volunteers are needed to help with mailings from the philanthropy office. If you have a few hours to spare and would like to join a congenial group of hospital friends known as the “Stuffer Duffers,” please call Shirley in the Office of Philanthropy at (414) 649-7194.
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I am pleased to contribute to St. Luke's because without my heart transplant by Dr. Schmah and his team, and without all the great support staff and nurses, I would not be around to be able to contribute. I have also been pleased to participate in two research projects and a blood study. I benefited from these contributions and research studies, and I hope I can be a part of helping others.

GRATEFUL HEART TRANSPLANT PATIENT
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We are donating the contributions we received in my mother's memory to St. Luke's Heart Fund. We are thankful for the "bonus years" we had with her. We hope more research and study will lengthen survival rates for future generations.

GRATEFUL FAMILY
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN
I'm Free

Don't grieve for me,
for now I'm free
I'm following the path
God laid for me.
I took His hand
when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone
must stay that way,
I found that place
at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things,
I too, will miss.
Be not burdened
with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine
of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times,
a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed
all too brief;
Don't lengthen it now
with undue grief.
Lift up your heart
and share with me
God wanted me now,
He set me free.

Author Unknown
**LIFETIME PHILANTHROPSISTS**

St. Luke’s Medical Center Lifetime Philanthropists is an organization of benefactors and friends of St. Luke’s who have made provision to support the hospital in their estate plans or through life income gifts.

Because of their generous commitment, the excellence of health care available at St. Luke’s Medical Center will be continued and enhanced for present and future generations.

If you have provided for St. Luke’s Medical Center in your estate plans, but are not among those listed, please let us know. We would be pleased to welcome you as a member of the Lifetime Philanthropists.

For more information on becoming a member of the Lifetime Philanthropists, please call or write St. Luke’s Medical Center, Office of Philanthropy, P.O. Box 2901, Milwaukee, WI 53201-2901. Phone: (414) 649-7194.

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+ Deceased
At this time of the year, I reflect upon the good things in my life and one of the best things is my father. I'm glad that his hospital is St. Luke's. I appreciate the dedication of your staff doctors, nurses and others who took care of him. Enclosed is a contribution in honor of my father and all those who have worked so hard to make him better.

GRATEFUL DAUGHTER
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REMEMBERING BRENDA AND FIGHTING CANCER

Spending a Packer Sunday with friends was a favorite pastime of Brenda Borowski. Regrettably, it was one such game day in 1995 that changed the lives of Brenda and her husband, Rick, forever. She discovered a lump in her breast. “I urged her to get it checked out right away,” Rick remembers. Brenda was only 29. Young, in love, and married for only three years, the couple wasn’t prepared for the devastating diagnosis to come.

Brenda immediately went to see her doctor, who referred her to St. Luke’s oncologist Ronald D. Hart, MD. When the biopsy tested positive for cancer, she began chemotherapy treatments, followed by a modified radical mastectomy on her left side and reconstructive surgery performed by St. Luke’s plastic surgeon Philip Sonderman, MD.

Soon after, St. Luke’s oncologist Robert Taylor, MD, performed an autologous bone marrow transplant (ABMT), which “reinfused” Brenda’s own marrow. Stem cells are the key components in an ABMT. Because they are easily damaged with very high doses of chemotherapy, they are removed from the bone marrow or blood stream and preserved before the patient receives chemotherapy. When the treatment is completed, the stem cells are “transplanted” back into the patient.

Brenda’s stem cells were harvested at St. Luke’s Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic (VLCC). For the first three months after the transplant, Brenda made daily visits to the VLCC for lab work and met with Dr. Taylor weekly, to ensure that her recovery was progressing. The chemotherapy, mastectomy and bone marrow transplant occurred within the space of one year, and the cancer went into remission for nearly two years.

During this time of remission, Brenda and Rick returned to many of the activities they had enjoyed together since meeting on a Green Lake beach in 1989. Riding horses, gardening in the backyard, playing volleyball, vacationing with friends and cheering on the Packers were at the top of this list. For Brenda and Rick, being together was the most important thing.

In 1997, during a follow-up exam, Brenda’s doctor discovered calcifications on her right side. Calcifications are detected through mammograms and can be an indicator of cancer. Although initial results did not indicate cancer, the doctors conferred with Brenda and Rick about the best course of treatment. Given Brenda’s history, they decided to do another modified radical mastectomy on her right side, again followed by reconstructive surgery.

Brenda lived cancer-free for another year and a half, until a brain tumor was diagnosed in May 1999. Aided by the advanced technology available at St. Luke’s, neurosurgeon Arvind Ahuja, MD, removed an encapsulated tumor from Brenda’s occipital lobe, the part of the brain that controls vision. Following surgery, she underwent numerous radiation oncology treatments with Dr. Ellen L. Ziaja. Brenda made a full recovery.

Judy Pinchar, a soon-to-be close friend and confidante, met Brenda for the first time after this latest surgery. “Both Brenda and I were helping mutual friends get ready to open a restaurant. As we began talking, Brenda said she was looking for a job, as she had lost her previous one. When I asked her why, she pulled off her hat, revealing a bald head, saying ‘Maybe having brain surgery had something to do with it,’” says Judy. By mere coincidence, Judy, a local attorney, was looking

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to hire a new bookkeeper. As Brenda had plenty of experience and the right attitude for the position, she was hired that day.

“She really threw herself into the work with gusto. The clients were all taken with her,” Judy remembers. “Although she was desperately ill, you would never have known it. Brenda never wasted a minute; she had a natural gentleness and compassion. When I think about Brenda, I think about her smile and her sense of humor.”

Brenda’s zeal for life carried her through almost the entire year. As she and Rick prepared to ring in the new millennium, they received another devastating diagnosis – Brenda had developed carcinoma meningitis, a cancer of the brain. While doctors treated this cancer with chemotherapy administered through a shunt in her brain, Dr. Hart told Rick that this time, the prognosis for Brenda was not good.

The brain tumor left Brenda unable to drive, so Rick took her to and from work every day. It was important to Brenda to maintain her daily routine for as long as possible. She worked throughout the summer, but her condition began to decline in the fall.

In late October 2000, Brenda entered hospice care. She passed away on November 21, 2000.

“Brenda had immense respect for the cancer team at St. Luke’s. She talked about contributing to the Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic because of the special care she had received there and her love of the Green Bay Packers,” Rick explains. To honor this wish, Brenda’s family and friends advance cancer research at St. Luke’s through gifts in Brenda’s name.

A gift to The Tribute Fund is a thoughtful way to express your feelings and benefit St. Luke’s Medical Center at the same time. Your gift can help heal a heart or bring a smile on a special occasion. Through your giving, holidays, recovering from an illness and other significant events in your life or the life of someone special can become a symbol of your concern.

When you give a gift to The Tribute Fund, you will receive an acknowledgement. Notification will also be promptly sent to the person or family you designate. No mention of the amount of the gift will be made. All Tribute gifts are recognized with your name and that of the person being honored or memorialized in The Spirit of St. Luke’s. Additional distinctive opportunities for recognition are provided at higher levels of giving.

To request a Tribute Fund booklet, please call the Office of Philanthropy at (414) 328-6424.
The Little Luke Fund was established to educate children about charitable giving, in order to promote those values that are important to you. As adults, we can help children understand all aspects of finances—spending, saving and sharing.

An initial gift of $1,000 in honor of a child—birth through age 16—establishes a Little Luke Fund. Gifts may be added to the fund throughout its lifetime, and all interest income is 100% reinvested. The fund matures when its value reaches $25,000.

Upon maturity, the fund is split, with half of that value allocated for purposes designated by St. Luke’s Medical Center. The honoree may allocate the remainder of the fund to St. Luke’s Medical Center and/or the Aurora Health Care service or program of their choice. As an adult, the honoree will be able to make a significant gift to research or a patient care program of their choice.

Anyone can start a Little Luke Fund—grandparents, parents, godparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, sisters, brothers or friends. Honor the special children in your life and share the joy of giving with them through a Little Luke Fund.

Benefits
- Teaches children about the joy of giving
- Recognizes child and donor in a distinctive way
- Provides educational and age-appropriate newsletters for honoree
- Sparks interest in philanthropy and health care through an annual event
- Encourages family-wide philanthropy
- Updates honoree on growth of fund annually
- Enhances bond between donor and honoree with a unique gift

Information
For more information, contact Laverne Schmidt, Office of Philanthropy, St. Luke’s Medical Center, (414) 649-7123.