

# Saints **Forward**

SPRING 2025 | VOLUME 63

**Lifesaving technology –**  
*An amazing gift*



Love Family Entrance breaks ground

Saints digestive care team marches *forward*

Honor our Guardian Angels

An update from Joe Hodges



**SSMHealth**  
St. Anthony Foundation





## Saving lives through philanthropy

---

# An amazing gift provides lifesaving technology and treatment.

On February 11, a ribbon-cutting ceremony heralded the completed installation of SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital's new Siemens Biograph Trinion PET/CT scanner. SSM Health St. Anthony is the first hospital in the nation to purchase this equipment, the latest innovation in PET/CT imaging and the most advanced system of its kind currently available. The purchase of this trailblazing technology was made possible through a generous philanthropic gift from Foundation donors Phil and Avis Scaramucci.

"The new PET/CT machine is the very first of its kind in Oklahoma. It provides much more detailed imaging, thus allowing the St. Anthony doctors and staff a faster and more accurate diagnosis of their patients. Phil and I, as well as all our family, were proud to be a part of this great project," says Avis.

PET/CT scans are used for diagnosis, staging, and treatment planning/monitoring. Scans help evaluate organs and tissues for the presence of

disease or other conditions and to evaluate organ function. A PET/CT scan can find abnormal activity, is more sensitive than other imaging tests, and shows changes to the body sooner. St. Anthony Hospital's newly installed system enhances diagnostic precision through advanced images, streamlines workflows with faster screens, and improves patient experiences by lessening time patients are on the table — setting a new standard in molecular imaging to meet the growing health care needs of patients.

A PET/CT scan incorporates low level radioactive isotopes, a special camera, and a computer to evaluate organ and tissue functions and show areas of the body where cells are more active than normal. Although oncology is the most common use of the PET/CT scans, individuals referred for PET/CT scans also include radiation oncology, neurology, urology, endocrinology and medical research patients. By identifying changes at the

cellular level, these scans can detect the early onset of disease before other imaging tests can.

Knowing the stage of cancer helps the patient and physician choose the best treatment and enhance the probability of recovery. Saints' new PET/CT machine is highly sensitive and produces advanced images, enhancing the physician's ability to accurately stage cancers and build the best course of treatment.

**“Our physicians and surgeons are immensely skilled in diagnosing and treating patients with the most complex conditions,”** said Tammy Powell, President, SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital and Bone & Joint Hospital at St. Anthony. **“We are incredibly grateful to our generous donor, who has given these physicians access to the latest technology to ensure even better outcomes for our patients.”**



*Avis Scaramucci and family with the state-of-the-art PET/CT machine they generously funded for St. Anthony Hospital.*



## Board of Directors

Linda Whittington  
Chair

Cindy Batt  
Vice Chair

Julie Naifeh  
Treasurer/Secretary

Chuck Walworth  
Past Chair

## Directors

Salima Ahmad, M.D.  
Jerry Bendorf  
Andre Caldwell  
Phil Clayton  
Lawrence H. Davis  
Paul W. Dudman  
David Egan  
Jamie Farha  
Glenn Floresca  
Whitney Dockrey Ford  
Susie Fuller  
Suzette Hatfield  
Chadwick Holeman  
Wade Huckabay  
Jimmy Irwin  
Eric Joiner  
Michael J. Milligan  
Anthony Nguyen, DDS  
Kim O'Connor  
Corey Phillips  
Trent L. Roberts  
Elizabeth Taylor Semtner  
Randy Stalcup  
Becky Taylor  
Jim Trent  
David Walters  
Avis Scaramucci -  
*Director Emerita*

## Foundation Staff

Lynann Sterk-Brooks  
Regional Vice President,  
Philanthropy

Randy Cassimus, CFRE  
Annual Giving Director

Stephen Howard  
Philanthropy Services Manager

Rose Faherty  
Major Gifts Director

Russell Davis  
Executive Assistant

## A message from SSM Health Oklahoma Regional President

# Joe Hodges



Each year, our leadership team works at the state Capitol to advocate for our top priorities for the legislative session on issues directly impacting our patients and our ability to provide exceptional care for all Oklahomans. As an example, a few years ago, the priority issue was to keep managed Medicaid from coming to fruition; we were successful.

The next year, after working with the Oklahoma Hospital Association and others, our goal was to help usher in managed Medicaid and the average commercial rate payments; once again, we were successful. In yet another year, the focus was to help return some of the additional money taken to cover expanded Medicaid to hospitals, and our goal was achieved.

In 2025, our efforts include passing 340B pricing protection. As background, 340B is a program started in 1992 to allow nonprofit hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers to purchase drugs at a discounted rate and use those savings to provide services to under and uninsured patients. The program means about \$68 million annually to the SSM Health Oklahoma region. HB2048, written to protect 340B entities, passed both the House and Senate overwhelmingly. Unfortunately, the governor vetoed the bill. However, on the last day of the legislative session, the legislature overrode the governor's veto.

**In today's environment, strong advocacy efforts are a strategic priority for SSM Health to secure the funding needed for us to continue our Mission to serve the health care needs of all Oklahomans.**

We also appreciate the advocacy of our Foundation donors who step up time and again to support Saints in our Mission to provide exceptional health care service to the communities we serve. The tremendous impact of that is exemplified by the generous gift of a new, critically needed PET/CT scan machine, the most advanced system of its kind, recently installed and already providing early disease detection and better health outcomes for our patients.

**Thank you for all you do to support SSM Health Oklahoma's Mission.**



**Joe Hodges**

Lead Regional Executive, SSM Health  
Regional President, Oklahoma & Mid-Missouri



## SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital moves *forward* with Love Family Entrance

On Monday, March 3, SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital held a groundbreaking and blessing event to celebrate the beginning of construction on the new west entrance at NW 10th Street and Lee Avenue to be named the Love Family Entrance. The ceremony also honored lead donors for the 22-month project. The entrance will improve accessibility, safety and the overall experience when patients, guests, physicians, and employees enter the hospital.

Those delivering special remarks included hospital president Tammy Powell, OKC Mayor David Holt, Jenny Love Meyer, and Mike Turpen, who particularly lauded the generosity and connection to Saints of his longtime friends Tom and Judy Love. Special guests included Gov. Bill Anoatubby of The Chickasaw Nation, whose generous gift will honor Tom Love and his Chickasaw heritage on the Great Lawn, a significant component of the project. Attendees included numerous SSM Health and Foundation board members and many Saints employees excited to see the shovels turn on the project.

The ceremony was quite inspirational and, though the elements made it a bit chilly for all, it was, as

Mike Turpen proclaimed on behalf of Judy Love, “a thunderful day!”

“We are grateful for the decades of support and visionary leadership of the Love family,” stated Joe Hodges, Regional President, SSM Health Oklahoma. “The Love family has a legacy of supporting our Mission to bring health, hope, and healing to Oklahomans, especially those who are most vulnerable. As such, the Love family pledged the single largest donation to the St. Anthony Foundation in its 62-year history. We appreciate the additional donors who are following the Love family’s lead, including The Chickasaw Nation, among others.”

The groundbreaking ceremony also marked the next phase of the Saints Forward capital campaign. Fundraising efforts are continuing and necessary to bring the Love Family Entrance to the finish line as well as support additional transformational projects to expand SSM Health St. Anthony’s Mission in the thriving Midtown Oklahoma City area.

Learn more about the Saints Forward campaign at [givetossmhealth.org/WestEntrance](https://givetossmhealth.org/WestEntrance).



# Saints digestive care team marches *forward*

Exciting developments are on the horizon for the future of digestive care at SSM Health St. Anthony! Plans for construction of a new Digestive Disease Care Center have previously been announced.

On Saturday, April 12, Dr. Tauseef Ali, Medical Executive Director of SSM Health St. Anthony Digestive Care and Crohn's and Colitis Center, and his team hosted an educational conference focused on learning and connecting with IBD patients, families, caregivers, and health care providers to hear the latest information and resources on Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Guest speakers with expertise in inflammatory bowel diseases presented and discussed topics such as risk factors for IBD, managing Crohn's and colitis and reviewing newer therapies, as well as the role of surgery in the management of these illnesses. Preventive health maintenance and transition of care from pediatric to adult programs were also be a featured topic.

**The Foundation supported the event with fundraising efforts and by assisting with student art competition awards.**

SSM Health St. Anthony Digestive Care provides a comprehensive range of inpatient services led by Dr. Barry Perkins, Dr. Allan Weston, and Dr. Jeff Scott. The general GI program, under the leadership of Dr. Arifa Khan, ensures that patients receive exceptional care tailored to their individual needs. The advanced endoscopy program, directed by Dr. Sam Hong and Dr. Weston offers cutting-edge diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. The Crohn's and colitis program, headed by Dr. Tauseef Ali, Executive Medical Director, specializes in providing care for those living with these chronic conditions.







# We remember: 30th Anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing

This year, Oklahoma, the nation and the world paused to honor and remember those who lost their lives on April 19, 1995, in the tragedy that has become known as the Oklahoma City bombing. As the smoke cleared and the sirens rang that morning, a wave of doctors and nurses in white coats rushed in to assist the first responders at ground zero. At SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital, efforts moved into high gear to care for the wounded, contact relatives, and support grieving families.

In April, St. Anthony organized a number of participatory activities inviting team members to share messages about specific memories or to honor lives lost, those who cared for all impacted, and lives that were changed forever. The messages and memories were affixed to a canvas to be preserved in the St. Anthony Hospital archives.

Physicians, team members and volunteers were invited to attend an educational panel discussion and reflection lead by Saints caregivers. Panelists included Joe Hodges, Regional President, SSM Health Oklahoma, Larry Phillips, Program Manager, SSM Health Behavioral Health and Darla Wilson, Director, Critical Care Services, SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital. Following the



discussion, photos and other items from the St. Anthony Hospital archives from April 1995 were on display for the attendees.

Holy Week services on campus also carried messages of remembrance and hope.

On Sunday, April 27, a number of Saints in Action recognized the 30th anniversary by serving as volunteers at a hydration station for the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon, assisting runners nearing completion of the course.



For more information about our Saints in Action response to the events of April 19, 1995, you may view the mini-documentary produced for the 25th anniversary by scanning the QR code.





# Our Guardian Angels

The Guardian Angel program honors physicians, nurses, techs, housekeepers, volunteers, or other caregivers for compassionate care and exceptional service. All SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital staff have high regard for such recognition since it comes from patients and family members of those served.

Nominated caregivers are presented a Guardian Angel lapel pin along with the special words of those who recognized them. Among the Saints staff, there are many who have received multiple Guardian Angel recognitions, with some physicians having been awarded a Gold pin representative of ten Guardian Angel nominations.

Say thank you to any member of your health care team — from your doctor or nurse to the housekeeper who kept your room comfortable or made you smile. Simply go to [givetossmhealth.org/OKCGuardianAngel](http://givetossmhealth.org/OKCGuardianAngel) and complete the form.

The person you recognize will receive special recognition and will be presented a Guardian Angel lapel pin to wear with pride as a reminder of the difference they made to you.



**“One of the greatest honors that I achieved while practicing is the recognition and appreciation by many of my patients and families. To be honored each year with a donation in my name to the St. Anthony Foundation provides a unique distinction that I share with many of my colleagues. I proudly wear my Golden Angel pin in my lapel each day.**

**– Dr. Jeffrey Hirsch, multiple Guardian Angel pin awardee**





# Leadership spotlight: Kerri Bayer

Regional VP – Patient Care Services /  
Chief Nursing Officer



## What drew you to health care?

I am sure it sounds cliché, but I don't remember a time in my life where I didn't want to work in health care in one aspect or another. My Dad was a small-town veterinarian, and I remember "helping" him as a little girl. I was always curious and wanted to know what he was doing to help animals get better. As I got older, I recall my Dad serving on the volunteer ambulance service. He would leave his medical books laying around, and I would sneak off and try to learn what my Dad was learning. To this day, although he is retired, we enjoy talking about medicine and discussing the latest and greatest advancements in medicine. I love being a nurse, and if I had the chance to start over, I wouldn't choose any other profession.

## What does the patient experience mean to you?

As clinicians, we have an obligation to our patients to provide safe, high-quality, patient-centered care. While these words seem simple to achieve, we know that health care delivery is complex. This is why we will always have a relentless focus on achieving an exceptional patient experience by ensuring clinicians have access to the latest evidence-based standards along with work environments that support safe patient care delivery. Last, when we stay true to our Mission of revealing the healing presence of God through our exceptional health care services we can't help but deliver an exceptional patient experience.

## How does your leadership style align with SSM Health's Mission and Values?

I believe in people, and I love the community that walks through our doors. To me, that's what Saints

is about. As to leadership, I'm going to reinforce our love for people and service to them every chance I get. Putting our patients and employees first, treating them as Christ would want us to treat them, that's what matters. When you do this, outcomes and performance will follow.

## What is the best thing about working at Saints?

Hands down, it's the people and the culture they represent. I joined SSM Health in August of 2024, and there is not a day that goes by that I don't intentionally acknowledge how special it is here. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve at SSM Health and to be a part of such a rich history and culture. It is something I'll always honor and commit to preserve.

## What would you like others to know about the SSM Health St. Anthony Foundation?

The contribution of the SSM Health St. Anthony Foundation has such a long-lasting impact on the care that we are able to provide each day. In the time I have been here, I have witnessed the Foundation provide impactful nursing scholarships through the Reach for the Stars program, provide equipment for patient care, improve the spaces where we work, and countless other investments. I am grateful to the Foundation and the Foundation Board for your support of nursing and all of our employees here at SSM Health!



# Thank you for your generosity!

Philanthropy plays a vital role in continuing our Mission of providing exceptional, compassionate health care in our communities. You are a part of our lifesaving work, and we are grateful for you. We are honored to recognize your generosity here. The list below reflects donors who made a tribute gift between July 1 and December 31, 2024.

For the full list of donors, visit  
[givetossmhealth.org/SaintsDonors](https://givetossmhealth.org/SaintsDonors)  
or scan the QR code.



## Gifts made in honor of our Saints in Action:

**In honor of Emily Archbald, MD**  
Bob & Lynne Rowley

**In honor of Jackie & Jerry Bendorf**  
Sherry & Tim Rhodes

**In honor of Saadia N. Chohan, MD**  
Ray L. Jordan

**In honor of Mrs. Priscilla M. Clark**  
James Clark

**In honor of William A. Collazo, MD**  
Bob & Lynne Rowley

**In honor of Tabitha Danley, DO**  
Rosa Gibson

**In honor of Mr. J. Dustin Davis**  
Michael & Alison Acker  
Bob & Diana Acker  
Raven Baker  
Capt. Bettye Behrens  
Genavieve Belobraydic  
Jimmy Belobraydic  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Cornell  
Amy Crump  
Kasha Edwards  
Carly & Brian Freeman  
Paul Hiel  
Brent Mills  
Donna & David Parks  
Jeff Platt  
Michael & Lauren Schraad

**In honor of Frank C. Love Cancer Institute**  
**Outpatient Nurses**  
Dr. Ralph & Lois Ganick

**In honor of Adam D. Gardner, MD**  
Bob & Lynne Rowley

**In honor of Farhan Khan, MD**  
Bob & Lynne Rowley

**In honor of Jeremy Killman, RN**  
Raina & Dr. Stan Pelofsky

**In honor of Scott K. Lucas, MD**  
Mary Ann M. Higgins, BSN, RN

**In honor of Thelma M. Mitchell, FSM**  
Dennis & Jackie Trepagnier

**In honor of Richard R. Morgan, MD**  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy A. Reeves

**In honor of Thy K. Nguyen, MD**  
David Egan  
Gayla Machell  
Bob & Lynne Rowley

**In honor of Elaine K. Nordhues, MD**  
Bob & Lynne Rowley

**In honor of Barry G. Perkins, MD**  
Mr. & Mrs. George Leal

**In honor of Asma Saleem, MD**  
James K. Ward

**In honor of Sandy J. Schwartz, FSM**  
Dennis & Jackie Trepagnier

**In honor of Larry B. Scott, DO**  
Bob & Lynne Rowley

**In honor of St. Anthony Hospital**  
**7E Nurses**  
Dr. Ralph & Lois Ganick

**In honor of Stephanie L. Taylor, MD**  
Drs. Son & Thy Nguyen

**In honor of Gigi J. Toma, MD**  
Jerry & Jackie Bendorf  
Drs. Son & Thy Nguyen

**In honor of Mr. Mark Tompkins**  
Dr. Ralph & Lois Ganick

**In honor of Avinash C. Vyas, MD**  
David Egan  
C.M. & Margareta Wilson

**In honor of Ms. Linda K. Whittington**  
Express Employment Professionals

**In honor of Salman Zubair, MD**  
Bob & Lynne Rowley



# Estate planning awareness

We encourage you to take the first step in creating your estate or another step in updating your will and trust. These are the most important legal documents you can own. Estate planning legislation changes the impact of the inheritance value to your heirs. With the help of a good estate planning attorney, this may be easier than you think. A simple provision in your will or trust can make a big difference and show your family how important supporting our Mission is to you. By giving to SSM Health St. Anthony Foundation, you give the gift of HOPE to families when they need it most regardless of their financial ability to pay, and this HOPE is present with them in times of need.

*Please consult with your tax advisor on these changes to learn more about these tax benefits.*

**DON'T FORGET**—many individuals choose to give from their assets, stocks, gifts from their IRA funds, and grants from their donor-advised funds to see even larger tax savings.

- In 2025, the qualified charitable distribution (QCD) gift limit will increase to \$105,000 for individuals. You can use a QCD to establish a CGA up to \$53,000.
- An IRA balance payable to your estate is subject to the entire IRA income tax rate in the year of death. An inherited retirement plan is fully taxable to heirs as ordinary income when withdrawn. Accordingly, a testamentary gift from retirement plans is a tax efficient way to give to charity.
- The federal standard deduction for non-itemizers will increase to \$14,600 for single filers and \$29,200 for joint.

## Gifts made in memory of individuals:

**In memory of Mrs. Linda R. Brewer**  
Jerry L. Brewer

**In memory of Bruce S. Carlton, PA**  
Donna & David Parks

**In memory of Augusto G. de Quevedo, MD**  
Mrs. Nancy L. de Quevedo

**In memory of Raymond J. Dougherty, MD**  
Dale Wood

**In memory of Ms. Marie Farnik**  
Mary Ann Farnik

**In memory of San & Khanh Hoang**  
Mrs. Mai Muse

**In memory of Ms. Christina Hoff**  
Dr. Ralph & Lois Ganick

**In memory of Willis and Ruth January**  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Cilberg

**In memory of Mrs. Sandra S. La PLant**  
Tom La Plant

**In memory of Mrs. Judy M. Love**  
Sherry & Tim Rhodes

**In memory of Mrs. Patricia F. Milligan**  
Sherry & Tim Rhodes

**In memory of Sylvia Mir, MD**  
Aggie Daniel  
SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital  
Medical Staff

**In memory of Mrs. Jeaneen Naifeh**  
Ms. Linda Whittington

**In memory of Casei L. Ogle**  
Guerry L. & Mary M. Moore

**In memory of Mr. Phil Scaramucci**  
Sherry & Tim Rhodes

**In memory of Mr. David Sims**  
Carol Sims

**In memory of Mrs. Marilyn R. Tautfest**  
Mollie Cross Leone  
Drs. David & Nancy Dietrich  
Mundy Berrong Green  
Dr. Lilly Jacobson  
Caren Landau  
Richard & Judy Kay Spies  
Rajan & Susan Telang

**In memory of Gary J. Tyrrell, MD, and Jan E. Tyrrell**  
Community Foundation of the Ozarks  
Jessica E. Tyrrell

**In memory of Rod, Tom, and Dan Valley**  
Ms. Jeanne P. Valley

**In memory of Mrs. Lisa Vaughn**  
Jerry & Jackie Bendorf  
Link Evans  
Theresa M & Donald C Gorin  
Anne & Barry Gray  
Sherry Holladay  
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Hollek  
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Horsman  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth S. Howell  
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Ketter  
Joan S. Maguire  
Dean Reynolds  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Rubenstein  
Mr. & Mrs. Darryl Smette  
Georgiann & Coy White  
Vince & Marti White  
Ms. Linda Whittington

**In memory of Mr. Ron Wallace**  
Maria Wallace

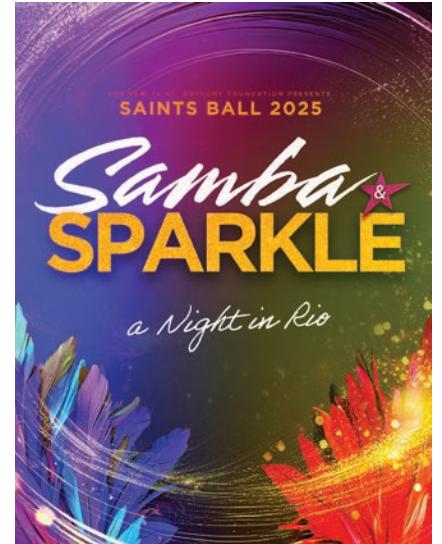


## Get Ready to Samba at **Saints Ball 2025!**

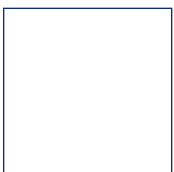
Saints Ball, the SSM Health St. Anthony Foundation's annual fundraiser, returns to the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum on **Friday, October 24**. This year's celebratory carnival theme is **"Samba & Sparkle: A Night in Rio!"** The "sparkle-black-tie" event features dinner, live and silent auctions, live entertainment, and dancing. The co-chairs of Saints Ball 2025 are Dr. Senthil and Thatcha Raju and Gov. David and Rhonda Walters.

Proceeds from this year's event will go to support the Saints Forward campaign which includes completion of the Love Family Entrance and patient tower floor renovation at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital. The goal for this year's event is to raise \$700,000. The Foundation has been raising funds for patient care for more than 60 years, and the annual fall event has been integral to raising funds for St. Anthony Hospital for more than 30 years.

**Sponsorships for the 2025 Saints Ball are currently available at all levels. Purchase at [givetossmhealth.org/saintsball](https://givetossmhealth.org/saintsball) or call 405-272-7070.**



©2025 SSM Health. All rights reserved.  
FOUN-OK-24-2019462-R04 6/25



601 NW 11th St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103