



**St. John's  
Healthcare Foundation™**  
A Dignity Health Member



# Your kindness in action.

2023-2024 Annual Impact Report

Hello humankindness®

CommonSpirit's mission, vision and values inform every aspect of our work each day, and remind us that we serve our patients, their families, our communities – and also each other.

## Our mission

As a part of CommonSpirit Health, we make the healing presence of God known in our world by improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who are vulnerable, while we advance social justice for all.

## Our vision

A healthier future for all, inspired by faith, driven by innovation and powered by our humanity.

## Our values

### Compassion

Care with listening, empathy and love.  
Accompany and comfort those in need of healing.

### Inclusion

Celebrate each person's gifts and voice.  
Respect the dignity of all.

### Integrity

Inspire trust through honesty.  
Demonstrate courage in the face of inequity.

### Excellence

Serve with the fullest passion, creativity and stewardship.  
Exceed expectations of others and ourselves.

### Collaboration

Commit to the power of working together.  
Build and nurture meaningful relationships.



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I am incredibly honored to be a part of the board at St. John's Hospitals, leading a group of distinguished volunteers who are passionate and dedicated to strengthening Ventura County. Through our philanthropic work, we, along with you, make it possible to fulfill the Foundation's vision and make the community and hospital a better place.

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-- **Katherine E. Wells**  
Foundation Board Chair

# FOUNDATION BOARD

## Officers



**Katherine E. Wells**  
**Chair, SJHF**  
Attorney at Law  
Edsall Law, Camarillo



**Nancy Borchard**  
**Vice Chair, SJHF**  
Community Advocate  
Rancher

## Board Members



**Sandra Alvarez**  
Vice President  
Business Relationships  
Chase Bank



**Nancy Baker**  
Auxiliary President  
Volunteer



**Raj Bhatia, MD**  
Pulmonologist  
West Coast Critical Care



**Lindsey Carnett**  
President & CEO  
Marketing Maven



**Patrick Caster**  
President & CEO  
St. John's Regional Medical Center  
St. John's Hospital Camarillo



**Jonathan Davis**  
President & CEO  
J. Davis Construction  
Management, Inc.



**Matt Ellenberg**  
Oxnard Business Operator  
Chick-fil-A



**Richard M. Favor**  
Senior Vice President & Regional  
Manager, Central Coast  
Citizens Business Bank



**Emma Grossman**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Dignity Health  
St. John's Hospitals



**Thomas Lloyd-Butler**  
Portfolio Manager  
Grand-Jean Capital  
Management



**Anthony Murguia**  
Community Advocate  
Retired, Social Services



**Capt. Anthony Wu, U.S. Navy  
(Ret.)**  
Captain, Major U.S. Airline  
Managing Director, Red Birch Co.



# A message from leadership

## Dedicated to the Vital Role of Philanthropy



Patrick Caster  
President & CEO  
St. John's Regional Medical  
Center, Oxnard  
St. John's Hospital Camarillo

We are proud to share the 2024 Impact Report for St. John's Healthcare Foundation with you, highlighting inspiring patient stories and showcasing incredible progress in patient care and community outreach at St. John's Hospitals. Your unwavering dedication and charitable support have made a profound impact on the health and well-being of Ventura County's residents, particularly those in Oxnard and Camarillo. Our leadership team's vision, combined with the health initiatives we champion, presents a unique opportunity to deepen our service to the local community. Together with you, our valued donors, we strive to create lasting connections with our caregivers and patients, united by the shared goal of providing exceptional care for all who seek healing within our walls.

This year, we welcomed Patrick Caster as the new President and CEO of St. John's Hospitals. After nine fulfilling years within the Dignity Health system—serving at French Hospital on the Central Coast and California Hospital in Los Angeles—Patrick brings a steadfast commitment to collaboration with Foundation Board Chair Katherine Edsall Wells. Together, they are dedicated to strengthening the role of philanthropy in shaping the future of our hospitals. We are thrilled by the momentum within our philanthropy office, highlighted by the return of Heather Huffman as Chief Philanthropy Officer and the addition of new board members who will guide our fundraising efforts. Our achievements this year have been remarkable.



Katherine E. Wells  
Foundation Board Chair

Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to make critical investments in advanced medical technology and lifesaving programs. These include the expansion of our Neuroscience Program through cutting-edge robotics, which supports patients with conditions such as stroke, brain injuries, spinal disorders, epilepsy, and movement disorders. Charitable contributions have also funded essential care for patients of all ages, from neonatal monitors in our NICU to comprehensive services provided at the St. John's Cancer Center. In addition to medical advancements, we are deeply grateful for your support of our Health Ministry's Community Health Outreach Programs, particularly our Food Pantry. This vital service has seen a significant rise in demand, now helping 500 additional families each week, bringing our number to 9,000 served, as many face the difficult choice between paying rent or buying food. With your help, we continue to bridge the gap by providing a consistent variety of nutritious groceries to those in need, ensuring that no family goes without a healthy meal.

St. John's Healthcare Foundation believes every act of humankindness is worthy of celebration and every expression of gratitude deserves recognition. With Gratitude to each of you.

# Giving by the numbers



\$825,000

## Total dollars raised in 2024

This year, our donors came together to realize the power of generosity and gratitude in our community. The results are inspiring.

\$ 1,171,000 | 2023

\$ 746,000 | 2022

\$ 1,377,000 | 2021

\$ 2,967,000 | 2020



\$2,400,000

## Transfers to hospital in 2024

Transfers made by the St. John's Healthcare Foundation to St. John's Hospitals show collaboration, as monies are transferred only after the obligations of donor intent have been met.

\$ 1,171,000 | 2023

\$ 2,784,000 | 2022

\$ 6,985,000 | 2021

\$ 2,784,000 | 2020



350

## Total donors in 2024

Donors bolster innovation, bring together our community and serve the vulnerable. Together we accomplish what none of us could do alone.

298 | 2023

708 | 2021

383 | 2022

732 | 2020

**Together  
we heal.**



Hello humankindness®



As you read the powerful stories of gratitude in this report, know that your kindness and generosity are the essence of our mission. We invite you to reflect on the blessings you've helped create and consider St. John's Hospitals in your future charitable giving. No matter the size, your gift plays a crucial role in a ministry that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit.

# A Second Chance at Life

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## Kim's Journey to Healing

On a cold January morning, Kim Gibas of Oxnard found herself lying on the cement floor of her garage, unable to move after a sudden fall from a ladder. Panic set in as pain surged through her body. Her son rushed her to the Emergency Room at St. John's Hospital, where, despite the chaos of a busy day, doctors and nurses immediately surrounded her with compassionate care. Even amidst the flurry of activity, they took the time to ensure she was comfortable, performing multiple tests to manage her pain and address her injuries.

When it became clear that she couldn't walk, Kim was admitted to the hospital's Rehabilitation Unit, where her healing truly began. For two and a half weeks, she was cared for by an incredible team of nurses, doctors, and occupational therapists. With their unwavering support, she slowly regained strength and learned to move again with the help of a walker. Their expertise and kindness made a world of difference during one of the most difficult times in her life.

This experience, along with the excellent care she received from Dr. Rocco Calderone, gave Kim the courage to finally face a decision she had long put off—hip replacement surgery. For years, she had lived in constant pain, unable to walk without discomfort. But after her time at St. John's, she knew she was in the best hands.

When Kim returned to St. John's Camarillo for her surgery, she was treated with such dignity and respect from the moment she checked in that her anxiety quickly melted away. The doctors and nurses worked in perfect harmony, and by that same afternoon, they had her on her feet—walking pain-free for the first time in years. The occupational therapists guided her through the process, teaching her how to walk with her new hip. Kim slept through the night for the first time in so long, without pain patches or discomfort.

The success of the surgery was nothing short of miraculous, and she didn't hesitate to schedule her second hip replacement. Many nurses and therapists remembered her and welcomed her back like family when she returned for the procedure. The staff's dedication, warmth, and professionalism never wavered.

As a veteran patient of both St. John's Hospitals, Kim admires the exceptional treatment she received. Everyone played a part in her recovery, from the doctors and nurses to the therapists,

dietitians, and even the team who kept her room spotless. Today, she is pain-free and able to enjoy the simple joys of life—like running and playing with her granddaughter, Olivia. Thanks to the care she received, Kim can now fully embrace her retirement and live without limitations.



**Kim Gibas and granddaughter, Olivia**

**"I am forever grateful to St. John's incredible staff and those in our community who support the Hospitals through charitable contributions, making life-changing care possible, ensuring others like me can return to good health and happiness."**

**– Kim Gibas**



# Music Comforts the Soul

## ST. JOHN'S MUSIC THERAPY PROGRAM

We find that music has healing power. It has the ability to calm the mind and comfort one's soul. Within a hospital setting, the power of music can enhance a patient's stay and provide the potential to improve their recovery. Here at St. John's, we have a Music Therapy Program with Board Certified Music Therapists who are part of our Spiritual Care / Mission Integration Department. The program's goal is to increase the overall quality of care and satisfaction throughout each hospital setting to support the mental, emotional and physical health needs of patients, their families, friends and overall staff, along with their spiritual well-being.



**Kathleen in NICU  
Music Therapist**

Music Therapists are part of a supportive interdisciplinary team effort. Each collaborates with hospital chaplains and the interdisciplinary health care team to identify the best intervention in supporting the overall care of the patient. Cultural considerations are made for comfort levels, and overall quality of life care when discerning the usage of music therapy.

**St. John's Music Therapists play a variety of instruments; —the harp, classic guitar, healing sound, and vocalists. Onsite at both St. John's Dignity Health Hospitals in Oxnard and Camarillo, sessions are adapted according to the patient's needs or condition.**

**Music Therapists –  
Shelby and Lori  
perform in the lobby at  
St. John's Camarillo**



**Doris Mleczo**

*Generous donor of Music Therapy*

Beginning in the spring of 2023, the Music Therapy Program was underwritten by the generosity of long-time donor Doris Mleczo, of Camarillo. She was drawn to this special program that impacts patients, their families and staff, saying "I believe in the Music Therapy Program. I was initially puzzled by the Music Therapy proposal, thinking piped-in elevator music would be sufficient, but after a hospital tour with a music therapist, I experienced firsthand the joy live music provides to hospital staff and patients. A nurse on duty told me the atmosphere on the floor was uplifted from morning gloom when the live music started." Doris has graciously doubled her annual gift in an effort to expand funding of the program from a single Music Therapist to three.

*St. John's extends our heartfelt gratitude to Doris, for supporting Music Therapy at both of our hospital's in Oxnard and Camarillo.*



# And the Beat Goes On: A Veteran's Journey to Heart Health - LTC Tony Murguia, USA (Ret.)



Tony Murguia enjoying his life on the golf course, after a few successful Heart Procedures and Rehabilitation at St. John's Regional Medical Center.

## A Veteran's Journey

In July 1966, Tony Murguia was among 31,000 young men called to serve in the U.S. military. After completing basic training at Fort Ord, California, he advanced to Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. His journey continued with the grueling Jungle Warfare and Survival Training at the School of the Americas, preparing him for the challenges ahead. Soon, Tony was leading an infantry platoon through the dense jungles of Vietnam, navigating rubber plantations and rice paddies—unknowingly coming into contact with Agent Orange.

Years later, in 1977, while attending an annual training at Fort Irwin in the heart of the Mojave Desert, Tony experienced his first cardiac event, and was referred to Cabrillo Cardiology. In 2023, during a routine physical, his family doctor, Dr. John Ford,

detected an irregular heartbeat and referred him back to Cabrillo Cardiology. Diagnosed with bradycardia, a dangerously slow heartbeat, by Dr. Khamaj Dave, his heart health became a concern. A series of life-saving interventions followed at St. John's Hospitals in Oxnard and Camarillo. Tony underwent three critical procedures:

- A **Transesophageal Echocardiogram** to restore his heart's rhythm
- An **Ablation** to cauterize problematic blood vessels and prevent further complications and
- An **Angiogram** to insert stents, improving blood flow and reducing his risk of a heart attack.

Throughout his treatment, the cardiac teams at St. John's Hospitals displayed unmatched expertise, professionalism, and compassion that left a lasting impression. Their dedication and personal care gave Tony confidence during a frightening time. As part of his recovery,

Tony participated in 36 sessions of Cardiac Rehabilitation. These sessions were vital to strengthening his heart and restoring his overall health. With a heart monitor in place, Tony spent 20 minutes on the treadmill and covered four miles on a stationary bike, all under the careful supervision of the rehabilitation staff. Each session concluded with a cool-down, during which his pulse and heart rate were closely monitored. The staff didn't just guide him through the exercises—they engaged with him personally, offering encouragement and motivation at every step. Tony felt their commitment to his recovery went beyond routine care—it was deeply personal and made all the difference. For Tony, St. John's Hospital is more than just a place of healing; it's family. His daughter-in-law works as an ER nurse at St. John's Hospital Camarillo. Tony's connection to the hospital grew even stronger 20 years ago when he met Sister Suzanne Soppe from the hospital's Mission Department. Inspired by her work, Tony became passionate about supporting the hospital's food pantry, dedicating his philanthropic efforts to fighting food insecurity—a cause close to his heart. This year, Tony was honored with a nomination to serve on the board of the Foundation, furthering his commitment to the community he holds dear.

Donations to St. John's Hospitals are critical in making comprehensive cardiac care possible. From prevention and early detection to cutting-edge surgeries and rehabilitation, every aspect of care is supported by generous contributions from the community.

## Cancer Care Patient Sharon Mitchell Shares Her Journey: Finding Strength in Community and Care

The three words no one ever wants to hear are, **“You have cancer.”** For me, those words came out of the blue. My health journey started last September when I was told I needed a pacemaker. Unfortunately, complications from the initial pacemaker surgery led to a second operation. During that process, my surgeon recommended a CT scan, and that’s when they discovered a mass in my right lung. After more scans and a biopsy, my life was forever changed.

I was in complete shock. I had no symptoms, no warning signs, and I had never smoked a day in my life. As an active senior, I spent my days walking five miles or playing pickleball nearly every day. Cancer was the last thing I expected.

When I was told I needed surgery to remove the cancer from the top lobe of my right lung, my mind was filled with fear—fear of a tough recovery and the brutal side effects of chemotherapy. But thankfully, that’s when I learned about the St. John’s Hospitals Cancer Center.

When I connected with the Cancer Center, I found a support system I never knew I needed. They offered me free emotional counseling, which was a lifeline as I navigated the mental toll of my diagnosis and treatment. However, I found the most help through the Nutrition Counselor. After each chemo session, we’d sit down and discuss how to manage my nausea, which helped me maintain my strength and well-being throughout treatment.

While I was fortunate not to lose all my hair, the thinning was still difficult to cope with. The Cancer Center stepped in again, offering free wigs that gave me the confidence to face each day with my head held high. These small acts of kindness meant the world to me during a challenging time.

I owe so much to the incredible staff at St. John’s Cancer Center, especially Ray, who runs the front office, and the nutritionist, Susan Speer and Diane Martell, LMFT. They were there for me every step of the way, offering guidance, support, and hope.

My cancer journey continues with a targeted medication that I’ll be taking for the next three years to manage my mutation. While it has its side effects, I’m grateful to say I am back to walking and playing pickleball again—a true victory.

This year, my pickleball community at The Grove is organizing a tournament, and we’re raising donations for the St. John’s Healthcare Foundation, with all proceeds going directly to the Cancer Center. I am thrilled to give back to the place that gave me so much.

I’m pleased to share that after several scans, I am officially cancer-free. I know there will be regular scans, blood work, and oncology visits in the future, but knowing that the Cancer Center is here in our community, providing free services and compassionate care, is a true blessing.

**With deep gratitude,  
Sharon Mitchell**



### St. John’s Cancer Services

When dealing with a cancer diagnosis, we know how hard it can be to coordinate the various aspects of your care. At St. John’s Regional Medical Center, we provide you with access to everything you will need during your treatment. We are here to help when you need us most. Our mission is to provide the highest quality cancer care for every patient who walks through our doors. Our whole body and mind approach integrates wellness practices alongside the latest therapeutics and procedures in a unique multidisciplinary approach. So much more than just medicine goes into treating our cancer patients.

St. John’s Hospitals Cancer Services have expanded throughout Ventura County:

- Hematology-Oncology, General Surgery
- Cancer Resource Center and Integrated Breast Center
- Infusion Centers – Camarillo, Oxnard, Ventura
- Radiation Oncology

St. John’s Cancer Center - Discover the latest in breast health, ie; screening, prevention, nutrition, and personalized treatment options that blend advanced technology with heartfelt human care. All services provided by our Cancer Center are free.

### Cancer Center locations:

St. John’s Regional Medical Center in Oxnard  
St. John’s Hospital Camarillo  
[www.stjohnshealth.org](http://www.stjohnshealth.org)





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Thank you!



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