Your Generosity Heals

2018 DONOR IMPACT REPORT

St. Vincent’s FOUNDATION
CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF FAITHFUL GIVING
IT’S BEEN MORE THAN A DECADE SINCE SUZANNE THORN’S LIFE WAS TURND UPSIDE DOWN. Months after becoming a first-time mother, Suzanne received a devastating diagnosis that would forever change her life.

Today she is a beating-the-odds cancer survivor, a self-described “walking miracle” who generously shares her time-talents-treasure with St. Vincent’s Foundation. Suzanne says her passionate support of the St. Vincent’s ministry reflects her own profound experience as a patient.

“St. Vincent’s played a huge part in saving my life,” this director of Human Resources for Children’s of Alabama says. “When my daughter Sydney was eight months old, I was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. The fact that I now have no evidence of disease is a huge credit to Dr. Cara Bondly’s aggressive treatment plan for me. Any time I have an opportunity to talk about her continued care for me and the amazing care of the nurses and everyone else at Bruno Cancer Center, I do so. I am truly a walking miracle.”

Every three weeks Suzanne continues to receive infusions at the Center staffed by professionals she has come to regard as part of her family. Each visit reminds her why she chooses to be a St. Vincent’s Foundation donor and volunteer.

“When I was diagnosed 11 years ago I investigated my options, including treatment at other facilities. But the Bruno Cancer Center felt like home, a place where I wouldn’t feel like I was getting lost in the big numbers. For ten months I came to Bruno weekly, spending long days there for chemo. Even when I visit now, I see my physician and the same group of amazing nurses and other staff. That just gives me the sense that I’m not getting lost in the shuffle. I cannot say enough about the St. Vincent’s staff that take care of patients on a daily basis.”

“The spiritual component also means a lot to me,” says Suzanne. “I can absolutely feel St. Vincent’s mind-body-spirit emphasis. My faith is very important to me, so being able to be treated in a Center founded on faith principles has been a comfort to me.”

She hopes her Foundation support helps others. “Just to be able to give back gives me a sense of pride, because it’s such a nice reminder that I’m still here and healthy. And I can give other people hope. It helps other patients to see that there are people like me, outliers who can beat the odds.”

Suzanne also hopes donors will be encouraged by her experience. “I was actually a patient during the transition to the new Bruno Cancer Center. I saw donations come to fruition. I truly saw, from a patient’s perspective, that the money raised made a difference, in everything from blanket warmers to the phenomenal new building. The technology and level of service were already fantastic, but now they have this great space, along with new technology.”

“Donors should know that what they’re doing is making a difference,” Suzanne says. “They’re making a difference for me, and for thousands of other patients.”

Your Generosity Heals: What one beating-the-odds cancer survivor wants other donors to know
St. Vincent’s Foundation is called to do more, give more, and serve more while inspiring the generous spirit of our community that brings gifts of healing and comfort to everyone cared for at St. Vincent’s.

In 2018, gifts of more than $2.9 million made this possible:

- Emergency financial assistance to our Associates through St. Louise $105,797
- Mission Trips for Family Practice Residents $5,416
- St. Vincent’s Blount Chapel $3,715
- Ultrasound machines for various departments $123,509
- Surgical Sterilizer $110,000
- Giraffe Bed (NICU) $42,968
- Sleep Center $35,758
- Orthopedic Drill Set $34,070
- Dinamaps $18,139
- ICU Defibrillator $15,000
- Care Transfer Simulator $8,495
- Blood Analyzer $2,376
- St. Vincent’s Chilton Equipment $936,538
- Community Health Initiatives $418,396
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Renovations $329,941
- St. Vincent’s Sports Performance Program $41,114
- Program Support $28,661
- Patient Assistance $2,105
- Patient transportation/support groups/medication assistance $41,444
- Camp Bluebird $35,801
- Dietician for cancer patients $21,576
- Cancer Center Furniture $10,614
- Jeremiah’s Hope Academy Expansion Site $206,000
- Family Practice Residency training program call room expansion $70,169
- Medical Education Scholarships $38,000
- Jeremiah’s Hope Academy Scholarships $37,434
- Community Education $20,250
- Nursing Continuing Education $6,282
- Volunteer Council Scholarships $9,500
- Floor Replacement $107,215
- GI Lab Lighting $8,750
- Cath Lab $5,000

*Funded by the St. Vincent’s Volunteers
St. Vincent’s was founded in 1898, and generosity has been part of our legacy ever since. A ministry of Ascension Health, St. Vincent’s is one of the region’s leading health care providers with five hospitals and multiple sites of care serving communities throughout Alabama. Today, we have grown to include thousands of skilled and compassionate Associates who are dedicated to caring for the very community that put its trust in our mission more than a century ago.

St. Vincent’s continually assesses the needs of the communities we serve while seeking new partnerships and points of access to provide care.
Our Mission: Rooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, we commit ourselves to serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable.