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## This Issue

STV Fitness Center Update **P.2**

St. Clair Groundbreaking **P.3**

Board Focus: Colette Greene **P.4**

Dispensary of Hope **P.4**

## The Gift of Robotics Doing a World of Good

St. Vincent's Birmingham is now home to three surgical robots. The recent addition of two more daVinci Surgical Systems means the hospital is the only medical facility in the state with that distinction.

Thanks to the generous support of kind donors, these robots mean more surgeries will be minimally invasive, with the most accurate work and a shorter recovery time.

"I feel pretty fortunate," says Dr. Clifton Lewis of St. Vincent's Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons, PC, whose practice houses one of the robots. He says he now has the luxury of using the machine as he needs it. "I am not competing for time and it lets us expand our horizons."

The daVinci Surgical System allows surgeons like Dr. Lewis to perform even the most complex and delicate procedures through very small incisions. The other two robots are being used by surgeons in gynecology and urology.

"This puts us on the cutting edge," says Roby Simmons, Vice President of Surgical Services for St. Vincent's Health System, adding that the benefits for both the patients and surgeons are endless.

Dr. Lewis says that because of the robot, St. Vincent's is the fourth or fifth busiest hospital for mitral valve repair in the world and one of only four facilities in the world that does high risk aortic surgery.

At a price tag of around \$2 million, it's not every day that someone donates a surgical robot, but Dr. Lewis hopes it can become a trend, remarking that adding more robots to the hospital can mean pushing St. Vincent's even further out front among hospitals known around the world for providing the very latest in state-of-the-art medical treatment.

*(Pictured above: Dr. Clifton Lewis with the new daVinci robot.)*



William M. Moran,  
FAHP, ACFRE  
Executive Director

## Embracing Change?

The landscape of health-care in this country is quickly changing. As we prepare to embrace this change, it is critical that the community strengthens its support of St. Vincent's in our effort to make sure our mission continues to remain strong.

Many people are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to benefit from more accessible healthcare, but the truth is it won't be until several years from now. In the meantime, we want to make sure no one is left behind.

Under the new legislation, hospitals' reimbursements may become less, which will make it more difficult to stay current on technology and programs focused on patient care. With your help, however, that's doesn't have to be St. Vincent's fate. We hope you will continue your support. We need you now more than ever.

## The Fitness Center Gets a Makeover

The Fitness Center at the Bruno Rehab Center recently underwent Phase I of planned renovations in March and members have been very pleased with the results.

An extension was created from the women's locker rooms into the fitness floor to make room for two new private changing areas. These were made to meet ADA regulations and accommodate members in wheelchairs, with walkers or those who need additional space. There is room for 4 or 5 members to complete their preparations, with outlets for hairdryers as well as a full mirror.

The new lockers have

larger opening mechanisms and are more suitable to a "wet" environment to reduce rusting and catching.

The number of shower stalls in the women's locker room was increased from 5 to 6, providing a larger space for members to complete their workout routine. In addition, a family shower was established outside the men's locker room and adjacent to the pool. The family shower is for members and caregivers, family members, or center staff to assist in preparing for workouts or for completion of their visit.

The next phase of the Fitness Center renovations include the fitness floor and



the purchase of updated equipment. A fundraising effort is currently underway, with an additional \$250,000 needed to complete the project. The renovation to the Fitness Center has only been possible through donor support and all monies for renovation have been through philanthropy.

## Remembering Miss Nina

Nina Miglionico, "Miss Nina" as she was lovingly known, passed away at age 95 on May 6, 2009. A lifelong Catholic, she loved St. Vincent's and the Daughters of Charity, and generously included St. Vincent's in a bequest in her will.

She was a dynamic civic leader and one of a few

female law graduates from the University of Alabama in 1936. She opened the first female-owned law practice in Birmingham.

She will always be remembered as a woman who fought for justice and equal rights. She was the first woman elected to serve in city government in 1963

and served on the Birmingham City Council for six terms.

Miss Nina made a difference during her lifetime, and she continues to make a difference even today, thanks to her foresight in leaving a bequest to St. Vincent's. She will be greatly missed.



In January, ground was broken for the construction of a new, technologically advanced hospital in St. Clair County. The 40-bed, 76,000-square-foot hospital will be located in Pell City and is scheduled to open Fall 2011.

The new St. Vincent's St. Clair Hospital will sit on a 16-acre site located just west of Jefferson State Community College's Pell City campus. The two-story

facility will serve patients in St. Clair County and surrounding areas with state-of-the-art diagnostics including CAT scan (CT), MRI and Nuclear Medicine. The total cost of the project is \$31.4 million, with a fundraising goal to support equipment and technology needs.

The emergency department, laboratory, cafeteria, chapel, administration, lobby and other depart-

ments will be on the ground floor. The chapel will accommodate approximately 40 people, complete with a courtyard and the symbolic St. Vincent's Sisters Vigil on the grounds nearby.

Surgery, same day surgery preparation and recovery/ observation, waiting, critical care unit, inpatient rooms and the pharmacy will be located on the top floor of the hospital.

## The Saks Fifth Avenue Key to the Cure

# *Saks Fifth Avenue*

Although the Saks Fifth Avenue Key to the Cure event was put on sabbatical last year, the partnership between Saks Fifth Avenue, St. Vincent's Bruno Cancer Center and St. Vincent's Foundation continued for third year.

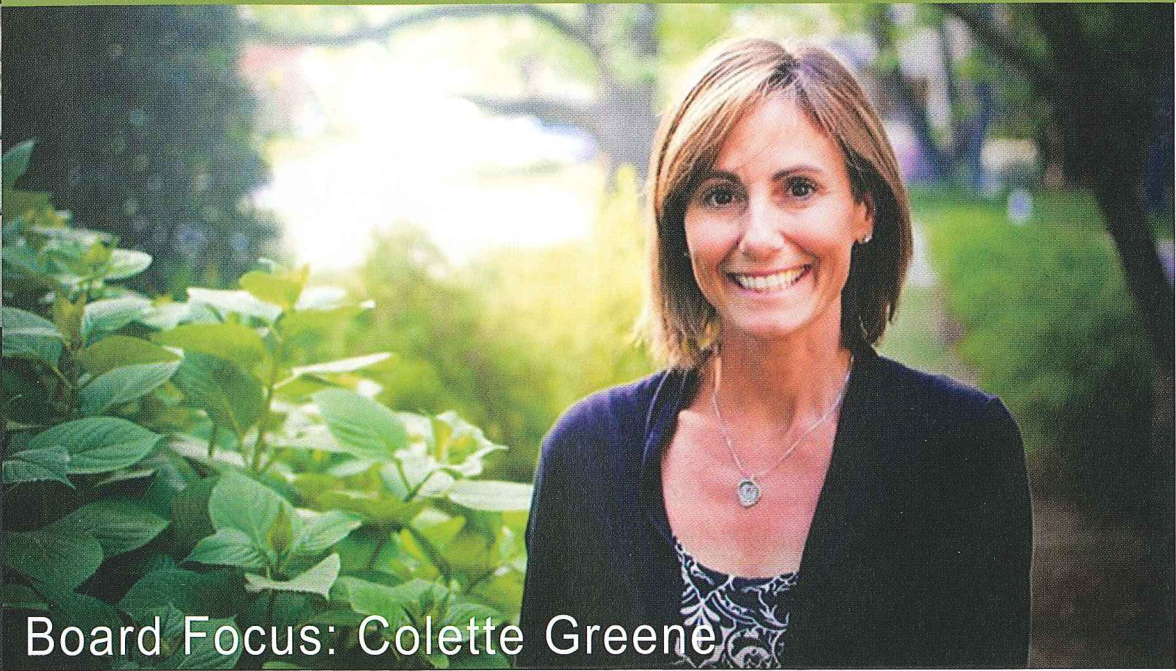
Through a direct mail effort in 2009, more than \$20,000 was raised to benefit the patients and families of the Bruno Cancer Center. Saks continued their 2 percent of sales through the weekend, donating \$10,000 to the cause for 2009.

The 2010 Key to Cure event will be October 21 and is in the early planning stages.

## Allocations Committee Report

The Allocations Committee determines the most effective use of donated funds to further the healing ministry of St. Vincent's. Here is what your gifts have made possible over the past several months:

- \$24,581 to purchase urethrosopes for the use in urology surgical cases
- \$17,062 to purchase a new hearing screener for our NICU
- \$13,815 to purchase three new exam tables for the Bruno Cancer Center
- \$29,504 to purchase new ADAC software for the use in planning and executing cancer treatment plans
- \$1,300 to purchase new spiritual aid pamphlets for use by St. Vincent's Pastoral Care staff
- \$5,000 to purchase portable alarm devices for "high risk for fall" patients
- \$4,160 to fund one year of Caring Bridge and E-cards for St. Vincent's patients



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## Board Focus: Colette Greene

When St. Vincent's Foundation board member Colette Greene thinks about the hospital's mission, it warms her heart. "St. Vincent's carries the same theme I do," says the 40-year-old teacher at Webster Christian School. "Jesus is Lord and He is the caretaker of our spirit, soul and body."

Colette and her family have been faithful supporters of St. Vincent's and "When the opportunity came up (to join the board), I considered it a privilege and an honor," she says.

The Louisiana-native says she is committed to serving her role faithfully because

she sees it as doing what she believes is her purpose here on earth.

"It's a way to take what I have learned all my life and use it in the ministry called St. Vincent's."

Colette and her husband Hamp have three children.

## Dispensary of Hope

When you're sick and poor, things are made worse when you can't afford your medicine. For that reason, St. Vincent's has joined the Dispensary of Hope network to make sure no patient has to go without their medicine. Based in Nashville, this program works with pharmaceutical companies and medical facilities to

distribute prescriptions at no cost to the poor. Hospitals purchase medical samples at ten percent of the wholesale price and give them to the needy.

St. Vincent's joined last year and distributes the medicines through its Adult Medical Clinic. For a hospital cost of \$1,000, 300 patients

can receive \$10,000 worth of needed medication.

"This type of initiative is right in line with who we say we are," says Andy Davis, COO of St. Vincent's Birmingham. Davis also says he has seen this program be a godsend to families who had no idea how they were going to afford their prescription.