

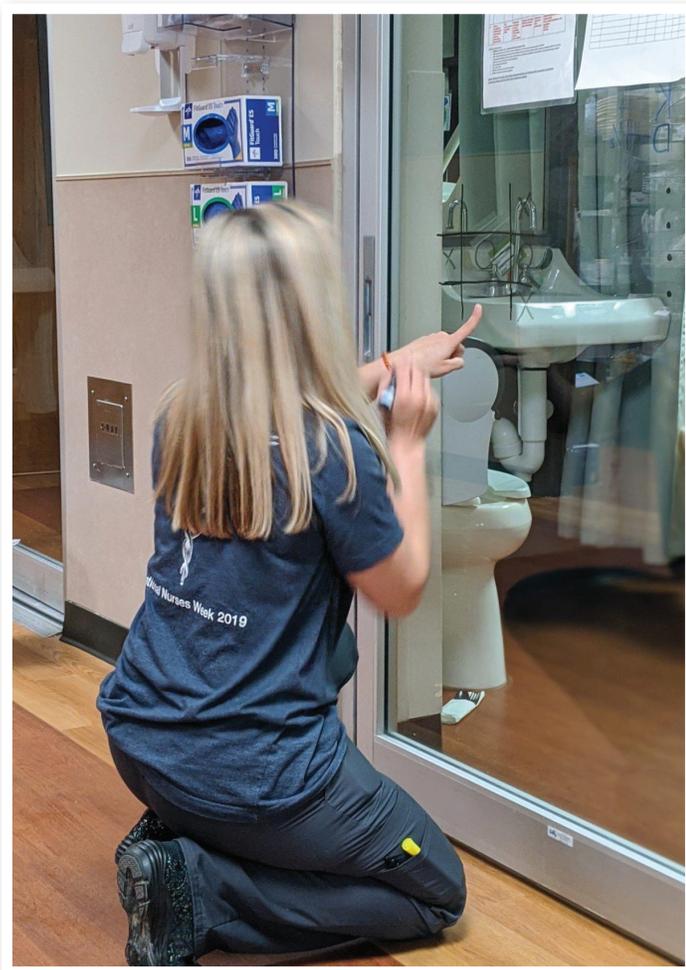
The Vigil



Sisters' Vigil

Spring 2020

Since 1898: *Heroes Serve Here*



Amanda Daoust plays tic-tac-toe with patient.

While today's healthcare heroes face an unprecedented crisis, St. Vincent's Associates draw strength from generations of faith-based ministry. In 1898 St. Vincent's first caregivers arrived to serve a Birmingham suffering from tuberculosis, typhoid, and smallpox. Decades of heroic healthcare followed, as caregivers confronted polio, meningitis, and poverty-induced diseases. Rooted in

the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, every St. Vincent's generation has committed to serving all persons, with special attention to the poor and vulnerable.

Some will say today's generation surpasses them all. The following three heroes represent every Associate, in every specialty, in each of St. Vincent's facilities during the COVID-19 crisis. Some serve desperately ill patients. Others fill support roles. Others have selflessly stepped aside to watch, wait, and pray until their ministries resume.

This is how heroes respond when they have been called to serve a world they never imagined.

St. Vincent's East: Amanda Daoust

Months ago, Patient Care Assistant Amanda Daoust helped St. Vincent's East nurses at ICU patients' bedsides. Now she assembles COVID-19 ICU supplies, donning nurses in personal protective equipment (PPE) and watching them work through glass walls.

"If there's anything they need, they can't come out and get it. So, I have everything ready. Since I'll have nurses in multiple rooms, I'm checking on them all. When they come out, I remove their PPE according to protocols. I can't be bedside anymore, but I have accepted that I'm needed in another way, as a sort of cheerleader."

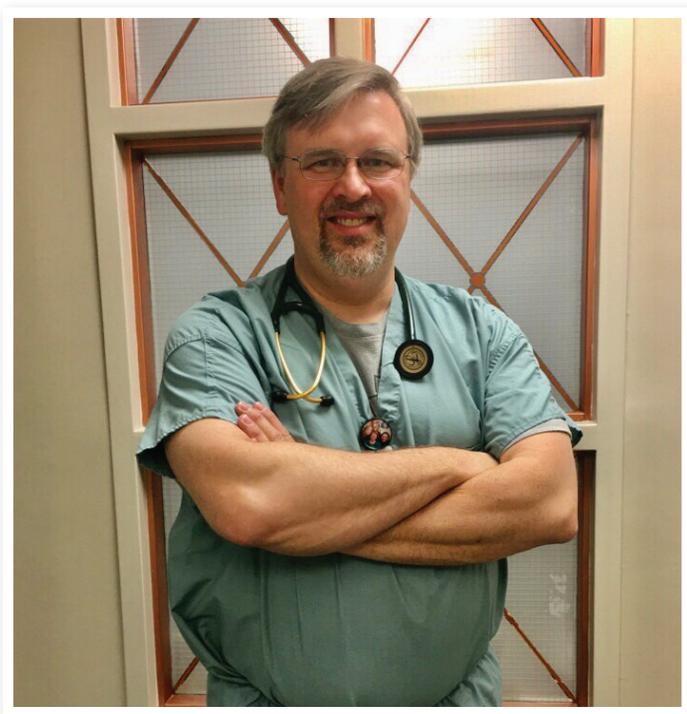
Initially Daoust cheered COVID-19 patients through the glass, playing tic-tac-toe with those who could nod. Now Daoust uses a whiteboard to encourage nurses. "Once they're in PPE, they stay in the patient's room for a long time, which is very stressful. After a while I'll write on my board, 'Keep it up. You're doing a great job,' tap the glass, and hold up the board. When they smile I feel like I'm making a difference." Daoust makes a difference when answering fearful families' calls to the unit. Sometimes this

(continued on page 2)

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25-year-old wife and mother pulls into a gas station on her way home to shed tears. She understands family grief; her son Hudson went to heaven when he was just eight days old. Still, she feels called to healthcare and hopes to attend nursing school this fall.

“I don’t know what type of nurse I want to be. I just want to be a good one. The one thing I do know is that we’re all in this together. We will get through this. Between the community’s outpouring of love toward us and everybody at the hospital working long hours, we’re all doing our best. This is going to be a long fight, but we’re all doing what we can.”



Leland Allen, M.D.

St. Vincent’s Birmingham: Leland Allen, M.D.

Infectious Disease Specialist Leland Allen, M.D. says he has been amazed by St. Vincent’s COVID-19 response. “I am astonished at how seamlessly this has happened,” he says.

“There’s nobody happy about this crisis, but the teamwork and camaraderie and the willingness to step up and do jobs that maybe people didn’t think they would ever do has been inspiring.” While Allen repeatedly cites St. Vincent’s nurses for their selfless patient care, he says he has seen an “almost miraculous” ministry commitment from Associates in every specialty, from housekeeping to administration.

While Allen praises hospital administrators, techs, doctors, and ancillary service providers, others call this infectious disease specialist’s work crucial to St. Vincent’s effective response. “Dr. Allen has taken on the monumental task of reviewing every potential COVID-19 patient in the hospital as well as providing current best practice for the care of these patients,” says Joseph Newcomb, RN. “When so many things have been changing and uncertain, he has remained calm, encouraging, and steadfast.”

“This has been the busiest time of my career,” Allen admits. “But it sure has made it easier to come to work when I know that everybody is working together, and everybody has made sacrifices.”

“The thing that is important for people to know is that St. Vincent’s has been able to stay on the leading edge of technology and the science behind this, and we are not shying away from our responsibilities. It’s been an eye-opening experience for everybody, but I think we’re in good shape. I feel confident that whatever this morphs into, or whatever the next emergency is, St. Vincent’s is well positioned to deal with it and has shown a dedication and ministry commitment to respond to the needs at hand.”

St. Vincent’s Birmingham: Candace Watts, RN

NODA: No One Dies Alone. As a St. Vincent’s Birmingham MICU nurse, Candace Watts, RN has long believed in St. Vincent’s NODA principle. Now, as she cares for COVID-19 patients, she is assuring families of the NODA promise.

Honorariums *The following individuals were recognized through a gift in their honor.*

Jason Alexander
Dr. Leland Allen
Thomas H. Ansley
Dr. Michael S. Bailey
Patty and Allen Baker
Dr. Stephen B. Beck
Catherine R. Bode
Dr. Tim Bode
Kris Boone and Staff
Morgan Brown
Camp Bluebird Volunteers
Maureen C. Campbell
Jennifer Carter
Robert C. Chapman

Danielle Checchi
Kristin Costanzo
Mandy Cox
Dr. E. Merritt Cullum
Olivia Davidson
Dr. Jeffrey C. Davis
Dedicated STV Staff During
Pandemic
Robin DeMonia
Jolee R. Doughty
Kathryn and Doug Eckert
Leslie Edmondson
Elizabeth K. Faucette
Carolyn Featheringill

Erin Fields
Dr. Philip J. Fischer
Stephanie K. Gardiner
Cheryl Gardner
Scott Goggins
Dr. Ira Gore and Oncology
Center Staff
Amanda Goss
Claire Gray
Dr. David B. Hall
Shanon Hamilton
Dr. Adam Harris
Madeline G. Harris
Dr. Jay T. Heidecker

Gina Henley
Rosalia Herdt
William Horton
Dr. Monica G. Hunter
Cari C. Hutton
Xander Imaghodor
Jessica C. Ivey
Marcia K. Johnson
Louis Josof
Mr. and Mrs. Benny M. LaRussa, Sr.
Ruth E. Leaver
Dr. Tammy D. Leong
Dr. Charles P. Lichty
Dr. Michael Manes



“Being a nurse is hard on a good day, but now it’s even harder,” she says. “We have very sick patients who don’t

have loved ones with them, to hold their hands and make sure they’re at peace. So, we make sure we’re there with them. And we want their family members to know we’re with them. Their family can’t see how quickly their loved one is deteriorating, or how rapidly we’re making adjustments in their care. It’s very important for me to let the family know their loved one is not alone.”

While physicians and nurses update families by phone, sometimes words are not enough. That’s why Watts uses an iPad to show a family their loved one in the midst of everything being done to support that one precious life. “They have more peace when they can see their loved one is at peace, and not by themselves.” While Watts is considered a compassionate hero, she says she’s just one member of St. Vincent’s highly-dedicated care team. “I’ve been a nurse for five years. I’m very thankful to have worked all of those years at St. Vincent’s.”

When asked what she wants readers to know, Watts suggests they consider supporting the Foundation’s COVID-19 Response Fund. “We have what we need to care for patients now, but we will still be taking care of patients months from now.” †

CARES ACT:

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 CHARITABLE GIVING

During this unprecedented global health crisis, complex legislation was passed in March of 2020 to help taxpayers, businesses, and non-profits. The following changes in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act are specific to philanthropy and may affect your charitable giving strategy. For the tax year 2020 only:

- **Temporary universal charitable deduction.** A reduction in taxable

income is available in 2020 for donors who do not itemize their deductions. The adjustment is available for cash gifts up to \$300 per taxpayer or \$600 for a married couple.

- **Temporary suspension of AGI limit for 2020.** A 100 percent Adjusted Gross Income limit is available only in 2020 for cash gifts to public charities by those who itemize. This limit does not apply to carry-over deductions from

years prior to 2020. The 100 percent limit is reduced dollar-for-dollar by other itemized charitable deductions and allows donors who make the 100 percent of AGI election to carry over unused deductions up to five additional years.

As always, consult your financial advisor before making major changes to your charitable giving plans. For more information, contact St. Vincent’s Foundation at 205-838-6151.

Honorariums *(continued)*

Taylor M. McClanahan
Victoria McDaniel
Solomon L. McDuffie
Samuel G. Merchant
Dr. Dustin L. Millican
Christopher Lee Moore, RN
Kimberly M. Murphy
Donna M. Muse
Dr. Stephen Nichols and his special team
Knud Nielsen
Dr. Gerald P. Norris
Heather Odom
Dr. J. M. Parks

Heather M. Partridge
Nolan H. Partridge
Janet A. Payton
Toria Pettway
Liz Pharo
Jennifer Philpot
Dr. John A. Piede
Alaina Pineda
Camille H. Potter
Brenna M. Powell
Garry Powell
Susan W. Pridmore
Dr. John B. Richardson
Jacob M. Rogers

Dr. Jon D. Rosser
Dr. Susan Salter and Radiation Staff
Shannon Scaturro
Christina Schmitt
Susan E. Sellers
Dr. Robert A. Shaffer
Amy R. Shelton
Dr. Jeremy D. Smith
Elizabeth Snow
St. Vincent’s Birmingham 3 South and 3 MICU Nurses
Dr. Parvez K. Sultan
Dr. Azita Takeshian

Pamela A. Taylor
Carrie and Chris Thompson
Suzanne Thorn
John D. Vaughn
Deborah Smith and James Douglas Wadsworth
Yvonne Waldron
Dr. Joseph E. Welden
Dr. Michael Wilensky
Brandon M. Williams
Warren Williamson
Yasmin Y. Young

Paramedicine Pilot Program: *How St. Vincent's Foundation helps bridge healthcare gaps*

One Tuesday afternoon: Kyle McDonnell, deputy director of operations for Regional Paramedical Services, is congratulating "John Smith," a middle-aged Chilton County resident, for his new healthy lifestyle. Smith smiles.

He remembers when he regularly visited St. Vincent's emergency department. Now it has been nine months since he had to call 911. For the first time in his adult life he feels optimistic about his future.

One Friday morning:

Larry Holsonback, EMS lieutenant with Birmingham Fire and Rescue, knocks on the door of "Mary Jones," an elderly Birmingham woman with congestive heart failure and early stage dementia. "Is everything okay?" Holsonback asks. "We were just driving by and thought we'd check on you." Jones proudly welcomes Holsonback, showing him how she remembers to take her diuretic.

Holsonback and McDonnell are part of a St. Vincent's Foundation-coordinated paramedicine pilot program that combines St. Vincent's patient texting software and home visits with United Way of Central Alabama and Ascension grants. Now St. Vincent's Nurse Navigator Casey Hamblen, RN is able to not only educate heart patients before discharge and follow up via texts/calls, but also send paramedics to homes when she is worried about a patient or questions arise.

"Patients can agree to be followed through a texting program after discharge," Hamblen says. "If they are having issues, I can ask the paramedics to do a home visit and follow-up education. We have seen this program help

underserved patients establish a primary care physician, get their medicine, and even help with a lack of electricity or transportation."

Serving the Marginalized

St. Vincent's Vice President of Population Health Randy Granata says the program "truly aligns with our mission," since it targets underserved patients with heart disease who do not qualify for home health. "Many of these patients are uninsured and face what we refer to as 'social barriers to care,' such as limited literacy," she says. "But Foundation President Susan Sellers has done a great job of being that voice for the underserved.



Birmingham Fire and Rescue Lieutenant Ben Thompson (right) sits with a former C.A.R.E.S. patient and current friend of the program, Curtis Falconer.

We have patients who once had frequent hospital admissions and are now able to work with their physicians to care for themselves."

Holsonback, who runs Birmingham Fire and Rescue's C.A.R.E. (Community Assistant Referral Educational Services), says this is the first time in his 32-year career that he feels he is making a long-term impact. "From a 911 stance, we just get you from Point A to Point B. But this program gives us a chance to go in, sit down, and spend as much time as necessary with someone, to make sure they understand

how to take care of themselves. We're able to do follow-ups. We get to see a positive difference in people's lives."

Connecting is Community

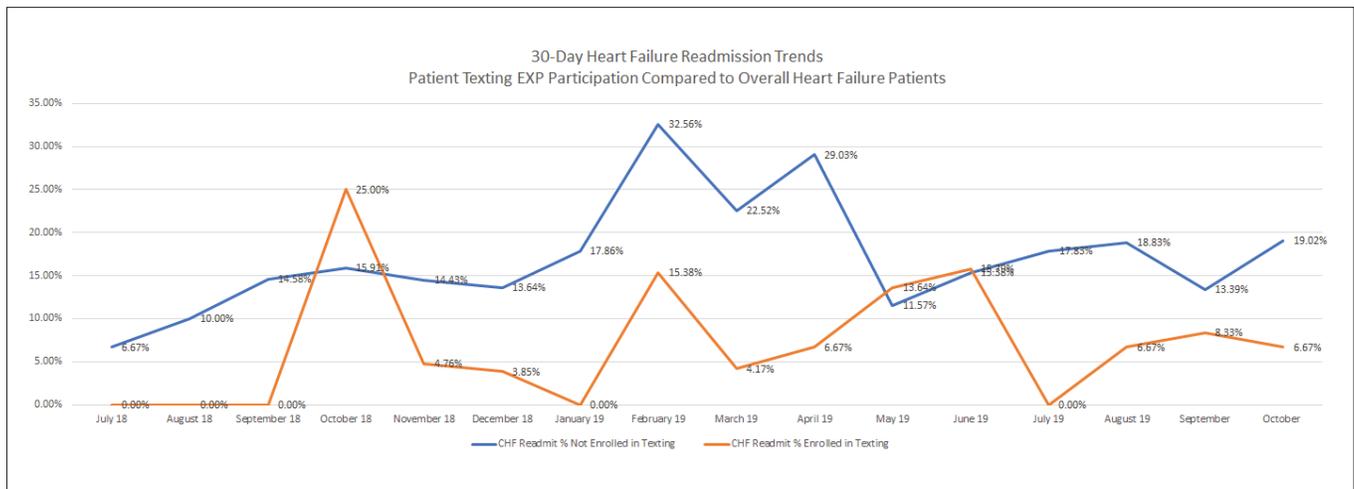
McDonnell, whose firm provides emergency services for St. Vincent's rural hospitals, says the program provides sustaining support. "Casey will call us and explain the problems the patient is having. So, when we visit, we may go through their medications, making sure they've filled all their prescriptions. We help them organize those medicines

in dispensers. We do a physical evaluation. We make sure they know how to do what the doctor has prescribed. We have even changed smoke detector batteries."

Paramedics are also equipped to connect patients to social services that can fill empty pantries or meet other needs. "We're representing Birmingham Fire and St. Vincent's, so it's a trust thing," says Holsonback. McDonnell agrees. "They allow us to visit and to ask these questions because they know their home is our office." †

Bridging the Gap

The pilot will extend to COPD this summer, and hopefully to other chronic conditions as well. Hamblen says one of her "dreams" is to extend the program to diabetic patients. **"The Foundation has helped us bridge the gap that patients face after being discharged from the hospital, particularly within the underserved population. As a result, we have more educated patients more likely to engage in their care, see their doctor, and take their medicines. I think this is just the beginning."**



A 2020 first-quarter fiscal year 2020 analysis examined the program's impact on preventable readmissions. When comparing 30-day readmissions among heart failure patients, program participants showed a 65 percent more favorable 30-day readmission rate than non-participants.

Memorials *Lord, may our prayers come before you in memory of those we entrust to your eternal care.*

Dorothy Adams
Atlena Agee
Lillian D. Andrews
Jannie L. Bates
William R. Baxter
Dr. Richard L. Berryman
Rebecca "Becky" Lindley Bradley
Mike T. Brewer
Eneida S. Brookings
Alan Caldwell
Bernice Callans
Frank and Lena D'Amico
Benjamin P. David
Frances W. David

Irma R. Erdreich
M. K. Erdreich
Dr. John R. Faucette
James A. Foust
Jean and Tom Fowler
Bettie Ruth Glover
Randy J. Harper
Tony Hix
Frances K. Holcomb
Josephine A. Isaacks
Betty Jones
Debra Jordan
Edwin T. Kerr
Helen and Frank Lawlor

Dr. Shirley S. Letchman
Harvey G. Martin
Julie H. Matthews
Dorothy H. McCoy
Betty J. Mitchell
William M. Moran
Lamar A. Newton
Suzanne D. Parsons
Dr. John W. Poynor
Martha Quinn
Paul and Frances Ross
Helen E. Rozendale
Joyce Runyon
Dr. Paul P. Salter

Nancy Slate
Martha A. Slatsky
Rosalee C. Sperando
Gary A. Stonicher
Dr. Albert J. Tully
Sandy J. Turner
Shirley Vines
Reginald J. Wesson
Ada Belle White
D. Dianne William
John C. Wilson

Why I Give: “...so other people could be helped, too.”

When IT Systems Analyst Jim Hollon went to work on March 14, 2016, he never imagined he would end the day paralyzed. But that night, after he developed disturbing symptoms, his wife Julie, a registered nurse, took him to the St. Vincent's Birmingham emergency department. There he was diagnosed with Guillain-Barre, a rare autoimmune disorder.

Today Hollon testifies of God's ongoing provision, even amid catastrophic circumstances.

“When I was lying there and I couldn't move or speak, I still had the Lord helping me. St. Vincent's saved my life. The neurology department did a great job diagnosing me and the nurses did a great job looking after me, even though I couldn't communicate beyond blinking my eyes. Doctors who weren't my doctors came by to check on me. People just lavished love on us.”

After months of multi-hospital treatments, Hollon progressed from months of home health to years of outpatient therapy. He eventually became a fitness member at St. Vincent's One Nineteen because its therapy pool and large pool were open after his work hours. He found the large pool, accessible via a lift chair, ideal for water-buoyed walking. He was therefore disappointed when the chair became inoperable. However, Hollon didn't demand a replacement. He simply offered funds toward another one.

“My dad taught me that before I ask for a financial commitment from someone else, I should have some financial commitment myself. I just felt like they must have

other things competing for St. Vincent's money, and that it would help them if I gave.”

One Nineteen Executive Director Stephanie Holderby calls the Hollons' donation “a gift of dignity. While we seek to join others in meeting every need, before the Hollons made this donation some patients/members could only access the One Nineteen pools through significant assistance from our associates,” she says. “The Hollons' gift is a remarkable example of whole-community service.”

Jim doesn't consider his gift remarkable. “When you're paralyzed and you know recovery is going to be a multi-year mental, physical, spiritual, and financial battle, you realize you've been ‘coached up’ for this by being a Christian and being under the Word all these years. When I couldn't open my Bible or talk with anyone, I had Scripture I had memorized, I had the Lord helping me, I had my family helping

me. Since then I have been the recipient of peoples' love and caring, over and over and over.”

Hollon says the Bible teaches suffering as “a team sport,” leading Christians to love and encourage others. “Although I wanted the chair for myself, I also knew that there must be—or would be—someone else who could use that big pool too, if they had a little bit of help getting in or out. I needed to help give toward it, so other people could be helped, too.” †



Julie and Jim Hollon

Why I Volunteer: “..for the greater good.”



Three of four sisters (L-R) Theresa Rhodes, Olivia Davidson, and Catherine Preuit (not pictured: Rosemary Thompson) celebrate Camp Bluebird 2019.

Summer camp memories—of crafts, campfire s’mores, and forever friends—often extend a lifetime. Those memories may be even more precious when made as an adult. That’s why Olivia Davidson is one of the volunteer camp counselors each spring and fall at Camp Bluebird, the St. Vincent’s Foundation-sponsored camp for adult cancer survivors.

“Although I’m a cancer survivor, I didn’t attend as a camper. Instead, I became a Camp Bluebird counselor through volunteering at Bruno Cancer Center,” says Davidson. “Director Katherine Puckett has a heart for anything to do with the Cancer Center, and she inspired me several years ago by saying Camp Bluebird was in dire need of help. So, I volunteered, thinking I would send out a mailing list or something.”

That “or something” turned into something more. “Now Camp Bluebird is where my heart is,” Davidson says. “There is such a feeling of love and support at camp. Everybody there has their own story, but they all have the same goal—to not only survive, but to give back.”

After her first Camp Bluebird experience, Davidson enlisted her sisters—Rosemary Thompson, Catherine Preuit, and Theresa Rhodes—in the next year’s camp

preparations. “My sisters live in Georgia. We’re all originally from Muscle Shoals, so before our mom passed away we tried to get home one weekend at the same time to visit her. About two years ago, I went home for that visit and I took the bluebird door tags I needed to make for 150 campers. I had Mama’s kitchen table covered with bluebirds, and they helped me sort them out.”

Each of the sisters has since contributed to Camp Bluebird. One year, in observance of a “Christmas in August” theme, Thompson made a reindeer-decorated cookie and felt bluebird ornament for each camper. Rhodes has made a Camp Bluebird donation to honor Davidson on her birthday. Some years all four sisters have volunteered together, mirroring the camp camaraderie that creates forever friendships.

“Foundation donors can’t imagine the impact Camp Bluebird has on everyone,” Davidson says. “Sometimes campers come and have a wonderful time, but by the next year they’re not here anymore. Even then we know that, though they were going through something terrible, they had these three days of fun, joy, and support from people who know what they’re going through. I volunteer with Camp Bluebird because it shows how people can pull together and work for the greater good.” †

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Oneonta High raises funds for St. Vincent's Blount

The Oneonta High School (OHS) football team, led by Head Coach Phil Phillips, recently presented St. Vincent's Blount with \$4,000 from t-shirt sales. Blount Administrator Greg Brown says the funds will help provide mammograms and transportation assistance for qualifying area residents seeking cancer treatment at St. Vincent's Birmingham or St. Vincent's East.

Blount nurse and cancer survivor Lori Elrod, wife of OHS Coach David Elrod, says the effort warms her heart. "With the funds so generously donated, our facility has the opportunity to directly help the uninsured or underinsured patients in our area who may be facing difficult times. What a blessing to be able to help serve in that capacity." †

Charitable Gift Annuities: *Make a Gift, Receive a Gift*

While Anne Maura has missed her mother, Dorothy H. McCoy, every day since her death last summer, she takes comfort in the philanthropic legacy her mother and stepfather, former St. Vincent's Medical Staff President Dr. Walter McCoy, left behind.

"In addition to other gifts, Mother set up multiple St. Vincent's Foundation Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs), enabling her to reduce capital gains, receive lifetime benefits, pass some benefits to her children, and support St. Vincent's, an organization she and Walter both loved," Maura says.

Brad Osborne with Merrill Lynch is the investment consultant for the Foundation's CGA portfolio. Here's what he says donors need to know:

WHAT IS A CGA?

A Charitable Gift Annuity is an arrangement between a donor and non-profit in which the donor transfers cash or another asset to an organization and then receives a regular payment for life. After the donor's death, or death of specified beneficiaries, the organization retains the asset.

HOW DO FOUNDATION CGAS DIFFER FROM COMMERCIAL ANNUITIES?

CGA donors can receive significant tax advantages while

also receiving payments as long as they or their specified beneficiaries live.

WHAT ARE THE TAX ADVANTAGES?

Donors receive a deduction at the time of the gift. Donors who fund CGAs with appreciated assets may not be subject to capital gains taxes.

ARE THERE OTHER ADVANTAGES?

There are many—guaranteed rates of return, lower minimum contribution/set-up expenses compared to other planned gifts, and the ability to establish multiple CGAs by transferring assets as available. However, the biggest advantage is that donors can see their philanthropic intentions fulfilled during their lifetimes.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD DONORS KNOW?

Each donor should consult their financial advisor about their situation. Donors can explore all planned giving options at stvfsfoundation.org or call 205-838-6151.

Anne Maura gladly follows her mother's charitable example. "There are just so many advantages to planned gifts that people don't know about," she says. "A St. Vincent's Foundation Charitable Gift Annuity is a win-win for everyone." †