Andrew Widman was merely hours old when doctors discovered he had a rare heart defect called transposition of the great arteries. “My heart was backwards. It was hooked up wrong,” Andrew says. “It pumped oxygenated blood through my lungs and circulated the non-oxygenated blood to the rest of my body.”

At 13 months old, Andrew had his first open heart surgery which helped, but did not fully correct the issue.

Andrew was 18 when he began seeing Saint Luke’s cardiologist Anthony Magalski, MD, who told him he’d eventually need a heart transplant. Luckily, with a lot of special attention and excellent cardiac care from Dr. Magalski, Andrew managed to avoid needing a transplant until he was 40.

In 2017, Andrew received a heart transplant from Michael Borkon, MD, and his team at Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute.

“It’s so humbling when I think about the excellent care I received from Dr. Borkon and his staff. I am so grateful for all they did because they saved my life,” Andrew says.

(continued on page 7)
Dear Friends,

As 2020 begins, I’m grateful for those who have dedicated their time and philanthropy to advance our mission of providing quality medical education, conducting innovative clinical research, and offering world-class patient care. When people like you give, you help change the lives of individuals you may never meet, such as Matt McInnes.

At the age of 38, Matt survived a heart attack at Saint Luke’s. Inspired with gratitude, Matt and his wife, Priscilla, established the W. Matthew McInnes Nursing Education and Travel Fund. The fund covers educational expenses for nurses in Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute’s Surgical Intermediate Cardiac Care Department. Thanks to the McInnes family, our nurses can gain critically important knowledge that translates into even higher quality care.

Additionally, through the inspired generosity of the Goppert Foundation, Saint Luke’s South Goppert Breast Center recently obtained The Sparq Ultrasound System. This sophisticated equipment targets early signs of breast cancer and reduces the number of false positives, giving peace of mind to nearly 40 patients who visit the Goppert Center each day.

Our goal at Saint Luke’s Foundation is to connect donors like the McInnes family and the Goppert Foundation with philanthropic opportunities that impact the health and well-being of our patients who face difficult health challenges.

If you would like to develop a lasting legacy through a special philanthropic partnership with Saint Luke’s, please let us know. We will be happy to create a giving opportunity that matches your interests.

Wishing you and yours a joyful new year.

Michael K. VanDerhoef
Senior Vice President for Development,
Saint Luke’s Health System
CEO, Saint Luke’s Foundation

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**School Night Out for SPOT**
To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of The Children’s SPOT at Saint Luke’s Hospital, join us for a party for grown-ups who are really kids at heart. Money raised will be used to help children with developmental delays and disabilities meet critical milestones.

**Saturday, Feb. 29**
6 – 10 p.m.
Westport Plexpod
Kansas City, MO
saintlukeskc.org/schoolnight

**Explore Saint Luke’s**
Saint Luke’s Foundation will host a VIP tour of Saint Luke’s Hospital for donors, advocates, and local officials. This behind-the-scenes look at our nationally ranked medical institutes allows us to thank our major supporters by showing them how their advocacy and support are used to provide excellent care here in Kansas City.

**Friday, April 3**
Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City

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**Up and Coming**
Events kick off exciting new year of giving
Saint Luke’s Leads Groundbreaking Cardiology Trial

A new groundbreaking study co-led by Saint Luke's is helping cardiologists around the globe better understand and provide the most suitable treatments for their heart patients.

Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute is proud to have played a major role in the largest-ever randomized international ischemic heart-disease trial to compare initial invasive surgical treatment vs. managing with medication and lifestyle changes.

The ISCHEMIA (International Study of Comparative Health Effectiveness with Medical and Invasive Approaches) trial involved nearly 5,200 patients in 37 countries. The study found that while there was no real difference in ultimate survival rates with surgical intervention – there was a significant benefit in terms of quality of life and patient experience. This is considered to be “practice changing” by both interventional cardiologists and non-interventionalists.

The results of the study were presented at the annual meeting of the American Heart Association in Philadelphia on Nov. 16 by John Spertus, MD, director of health outcomes research at Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute and co-principal investigator for the ISCHEMIA quality of life study.

Saint Luke’s donors are vital to advancing our understanding and treatment of disease. Without generous donor support, our critical research and discovery breakthroughs would not be possible. Thank you to all who help support our important research.

Golf Tournament Helps Fund Critical Heart and Lung Care

In August, the 10th and final Kevin K. Nunnink Golf Tournament raised funds to benefit the ECMO program at Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute.

ECMO machines treat patients with life-threatening heart or lung conditions. Since 2009, the Kevin K. Nunnink Foundation has given $360,000 to expand the ECMO program by adding additional ECMO machines.

Thanks to the generosity of the Kevin K. Nunnink Foundation, nearly 130 patients have received ECMO treatments that helped save or prolong their lives.

Books & Boutiques

Nearly 800 people are expected to attend this year’s Books & Boutiques event which will benefit women’s health programs at Saint Luke’s South Hospital.

Join us for an afternoon with award-winning author Rebecca Alexander, who will discuss her book, Not Fade Away: A Memoir of Senses Lost and Found, an inspiring story of a young woman who is slowly losing her sight and hearing yet continues to live her life to the fullest. Alexander’s book is currently being made into a major motion picture.

Over the last 12 years, Books & Boutiques has become one of southern Johnson County’s most well-attended fundraisers. It has benefited the Goppert Breast Center, the Level III NICU, the ER, and the Rehabilitation Institute’s outdoor garden.

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Growing up in Lenexa, Sue Ann Hill has seen Saint Luke’s grow into a multi-faceted health care system.


Her husband, Lloyd, who has served on the Saint Luke’s South Hospital board for nearly 10 years, agrees, “We truly consider Saint Luke’s the best place to get care and the best place to give care.”


“Supporting the new Rehabilitation Institute felt right,” Lloyd says. “We wanted to be a part of something that will transform lives, encourage hope, and have a regional impact for decades to come.”

The Lloyd & Sue Ann Hill Family Research and Innovation Center, within the Saint Luke’s Rehabilitation Institute, will support the discovery of new treatment protocols with the potential to revolutionize patient outcomes and set the standards for clinical care in the field.

By serving as a testing ground for new technology from the world’s leading robotic device companies, the center will be the first in the region to combine artificial intelligence with rehabilitative neuro-robotic technology.

Why I Give
At Saint Luke’s, we believe that every donor has the power to make a long-lasting community contribution. Together, we can solve the most complex challenges in medicine now and in the future.

Our vital work is made possible by special friends such as the Hills, Stevenses, and Cahills whose humanitarian drive advances clinical care at Saint Luke’s. We hope you enjoy reading about their dedication to health care.

Rehabilitation Institute: Supporting a New and Valuable Regional Resource
At the age of 26, James Stevens was given devastating news. He was told he only had weeks to live after clinicians discovered a rare tumor. With limited treatment options available, a dedicated Saint Luke’s clinician convinced James to participate in a clinical trial, that after three years of intense treatment, saved his life.

Nearly 50 years later, James found himself at home experiencing complications after having another tumor removed. His cardiologist, Michael Main, MD, told him to get to the emergency room fast. Upon his arrival, James was immediately admitted to the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU) at Saint Luke’s Hospital.

“Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute clinicians diagnosed me quickly and set me up on a treatment plan that saved my life,” James says. “I am especially thankful to Dr. Main for his kindness and commitment to patients like me.”

Grateful for his care, James and his wife, Lisa, have made a legacy gift, in honor of Dr. Main, that will benefit the future patients at Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute.

Today, James is traveling the world with Lisa as well as serving as Chairman Emeritus for Angel Flight Central which serves people in need by arranging charitable flights for health care and other humanitarian purposes.

“Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute clinicians diagnosed me quickly and set me up on a treatment plan that saved my life.”

- James Stevens, donor
Nearly three years ago, Patrick “Pat” Cahill had robotic surgery to remove a lobe from one of his lungs. While the surgery went as expected, Pat developed complications that led him to the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU) at Saint Luke’s Hospital.

Pat finally stabilized after spending 26 days in the CVICU, including 11 days on a ventilator.

Being an advanced practice nurse on staff at Saint Luke’s, Pat’s wife, Molly, spent time assessing the remarkable nursing care Pat received.

“I wanted to figure out how to give back to the nurses who helped save his life,” Molly says. Both Pat and Molly believe in the power of education and decided to create the CVICU Nursing Scholarship Fund through the Saint Luke’s Foundation.

“In its first year, the CVICU Nursing Scholarship Fund has provided seven nurses with opportunities to advance their medical knowledge, improve clinical performance, and positively impact patient outcomes,” Pat says.

Thanks to the lifesaving care received at Saint Luke’s, Pat is enjoying life with Molly as they travel the world. Most recently, they took a trip to Ireland with their grandchildren in-tow. “We feel lucky, blessed, and overwhelmed with gratitude to Saint Luke’s,” Molly says.

To learn how you can create a lasting legacy by supporting Saint Luke’s care programs, please contact 816-932-2252 or visit saintlukeskc.org/giving.
You Made the 10th Annual Boo Ball Totally Rad

This year’s Boo Ball transported us back to the 1980s. Guests were treated to iconic tunes and old-school arcade games, all while raising money to support Saint Luke’s East Hospital.

The event raised more than $175,000 for renovations to the Emergency Department. Proceeds from Boo Ball will enhance the waiting room area, and provide comfortable accommodations for the nearly 50,000 patients and their families who visit this department annually.

On behalf of Saint Luke’s East Hospital, we would like to thank everyone who made Boo Ball a success.

Heart Transplant Patient Gives Back (continued from page 1)

On the day after Andrew returned home from Saint Luke’s Hospital with his new heart, his wife, Vicki, drove him to the DMV. There, he ordered a personalized license plate that read simply, “745” because he was Saint Luke’s 745th heart transplant recipient.

Today, Andrew can ride his bike, hike, and play catch with his young sons, Reece and Will. These were things he couldn’t do before his surgery.

Whether you give to help provide patient assistance, clinical fellowship training, innovative research, or high-quality care, philanthropic generosity saves lives. Thank you for all you do to make a difference in our community for people like Andrew.

Three generations of Andrew’s family enjoy a day out at a Royals game.
Gifts of Note

Health System receives broad support

We are grateful for donors who are dedicated to helping as many people as possible have the chance to experience healthy lives. The following are recent gifts supporting Saint Luke’s life-changing work.

Earl Benner has been a loyal supporter of Saint Luke’s for two decades. Earl recently donated $100,000 in honor of Saint Luke’s physicians Michael Main, MD, Daniel Steinhaus, MD, and Adnan Chhatriwalla, MD. This gift will support Cardiovascular Grand Rounds for the next two years at Saint Luke’s Hospital.

Sarli Foundation has generously supported our children’s programs for the last 13 years. Most recently, the Sarli Foundation awarded $75,000 to Saint Luke’s Hospital The Children’s SPOT Guardian Angel Fund and $75,000 to benefit programs at Saint Luke’s Hospital Crittenton Children’s Center.

Turner Construction Company kindly named Saint Luke’s as a beneficiary for its Clay Shoot Out Tournament in May 2019. Proceeds from this event helped expand the Baby Care Link System at Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City’s NICU. The new Angel Eye system allows families to see their babies remotely, connect with their baby’s care providers, and share their baby’s journey with family and friends.

Saint Luke’s Employees from every area of the organization came together and pledged more than $400,000 in charitable support through our annual Employee Celebration of Giving campaign.

Make a gift
816-932-2252
saintlukeskc.org/giving