



# Impact

- 2** CEO message  
Newsworthy
- 3** Fighting the Flu  
During a Pandemic
- 5** Technology Drives  
Innovative Care
- 6** **Why I Give**  
Looking Ahead  
to the Future of  
Medical Education
- 7** **Why I Give**  
Investing in Education  
With a Planned Gift
- 8** **Gifts of Note**  
Health System Receives  
Broad Support

Saint Luke's Foundation cultivates and secures philanthropic support for the health care, medical education, and research programs of Saint Luke's Health System.

◆ **Learn more**  
[saintlukeskc.org/giving](http://saintlukeskc.org/giving)



*Peaches Cunningham, Lucille Tutera, and Connie Mendolia*

## Helping Our Community

In 1996, Mary Margaret Tutera Cunningham (Peaches), and her husband, David, welcomed their son John David into the world. Two years later, John David was diagnosed with autism. Following the diagnosis, the Cunninghams learned about Saint Luke's Hospital The Children's SPOT.

The Children's SPOT provides a safe place for children to overcome developmental challenges so they can function at their highest potential. John David received therapy from The SPOT every day until he was in the first grade.

"If it weren't for The Children's SPOT, John David wouldn't love life, love people, and more importantly—he wouldn't be able to talk," Peaches said. The team of compassionate therapists at The SPOT embraced the entire Cunningham family, including Peaches' mother, Lucille Tutera, and sister, Connie Mendolia.

For years, Connie was the driving force behind Once Upon a Time, a fundraising event benefiting The SPOT. With Connie leading the way, the Cunningham family helped raise thousands of dollars to support scholarships so no child would be turned away because of an inability to pay.

"The Once Upon a Time event made magical memories that children and families across the metro will always remember," Connie said.

With the Cunninghams' devoted support, The SPOT has grown from serving 10 children in 1980 to more than 250 children every week. Today, John David is a happy artist who lives life to the fullest thanks to his family and The Children's SPOT.

**To learn more about The Children's SPOT visit: [saintlukeskc.org/SPOT](http://saintlukeskc.org/SPOT).**

## Newsworthy



### Puppets & Patrons Virtual Fundraiser

**Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021  
4:30 p.m.**

Join us from the comfort of your home for Saint Luke's Hospital The Children's SPOT's virtual, family-friendly fundraiser featuring a puppet show, puppet-making, silent auction, and other fun activities for the young and young at heart. Funds raised will support the Guardian Angel Fund, providing opportunities for children with developmental delays and disabilities to continue receiving high-quality care.

[saintlukeskc.org/puppets](http://saintlukeskc.org/puppets)

### Plaza 10K

The 10th Annual Plaza 10K Run/Walk welcomed more than 800 participants on Sept. 13. The event benefited Saint Luke's Home Care and Hospice. Thank you to everyone who made a donation this year.

### Books & Boutiques

Books & Boutiques went virtual on Sept. 14. We raised more than \$90,000 to support Saint Luke's South Hospital Birth and Women's Center. The event featured Rebecca Alexander, best-selling author of *Not Fade Away: A Memoir of Senses Lost and Found*.

Dear Friends,

For more than half a century, Saint Luke's Foundation has received generous support from loyal friends that has allowed us to focus on keeping our community healthy. Even during a pandemic, donors like you have demonstrated steadfast generosity that helps Saint Luke's rise to meet the immediate challenges, while continuing your support for groundbreaking research, medical education, and innovative patient care.

In 2020, thousands of you generously donated funds to help Saint Luke's provide lifesaving care for our patients. Using these funds, Saint Luke's expert supply chain management team has been able to put our caregivers in the best position to care for our patients in the face of the pandemic.

Saint Luke's continues to play an essential role in our community's fight against COVID-19. Thanks in part to our generous donors, we've enhanced telehealth capabilities; expanded dedicated ICU space for those in need of critical care; established COVID-19 testing sites; launched anticoagulation testing locations; and ensured that families can stay in touch virtually with loved ones in our hospitals.

Additionally, to keep you and our community updated with the latest health news, we built a dedicated multimedia studio at Saint Luke's Hospital. Made possible through philanthropic support, the studio is equipped with technology that allows us to deliver timely news that will help keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

Some of you have donated food over the past nine months to support our frontline caregivers— thank you. Others have written notes of gratitude and encouragement that we have shared with our care teams. Your thoughtfulness inspires and sustains our staff as they work tirelessly to meet the critical health care needs of our patients. We understand many of you still want to help. You can do so by emailing us at [slhf@saintlukeskc.org](mailto:slhf@saintlukeskc.org) or calling 816-932-2252 to let us know you are interested in making a difference.

We are incredibly grateful for your friendship and support, particularly at this critical and challenging time. Thank you for all you have done on our community's behalf. We wish you and your loved ones health and happiness in the new year.



Sincerely,

**Michael K. VanDerhoef**

Senior Vice President for Development,  
Saint Luke's Health System  
CEO, Saint Luke's Foundation



## Technology Drives Innovative Care

Providing expert surgeons with innovative technology that can help save lives is one of the most powerful roles philanthropy plays at Saint Luke's.

Surgeon Robert Amajoyi, MD, is treating colorectal cancer in unique state-of-the-art ways. Dr. Amajoyi performed Saint Luke's first robotic transanal minimally invasive surgery at Saint Luke's Hospital with the Da Vinci Surgical System. This state-of-the-art technology helps remove a patient's tumor through small incisions, while saving the organ. The result—faster recovery and less risk.

Neurosurgeon Bartosz Grobelny, MD, uses advanced technology, such as a robotic surgical assistant named ROSA®. ROSA's computer system helps Dr. Grobelny make 3D maps of patients' brains that can be analyzed from any angle, at any depth. Using electrodes within the brain to detect where seizures occur, the system operates similarly to GPS by marking the exact areas of the brain that need to be repaired.

Dr. Grobelny's expertise, combined with ROSA's precision mapping capabilities and robotic arm, makes surgery much faster and more successful for patients.

With technology like ROSA, Dr. Grobelny and his team are working to eliminate the devastating effects of epilepsy. Saint Luke's Marion Bloch Neuroscience Institute is one of only a handful of hospitals in the region with this technology.

Thanks to donors like you, Saint Luke's can continue to be pioneers, providing leading-edge care for our patients.

## Newsworthy

### Clinical Excellence Awards

Saint Luke's Hospital's Clinical Excellence Award ceremony was held virtually on August 13.

Thanks to the generosity of our faithful donors, Saint Luke's Foundation provided \$39,500 in nursing awards to 43 dedicated nurses. These awards provide caregivers with the resources needed to expand their professional knowledge. Nurses are nominated by their peers for their passion and leadership.

To learn more, call 816-932-2252.

### A Culture of Philanthropy

Over the last year, 100% of the physicians at Saint Luke's Cardiovascular Consultants have philanthropically supported our mission to drive innovation and hope. These physicians understand the role philanthropy plays in shaping the future of healthcare.



## Fighting the Flu During a Pandemic

Influenza and COVID-19 have many traits in common, making it particularly challenging for patients and physicians.

Shared symptoms:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headaches
- Vomiting and diarrhea  
(more common in children than adults)

Currently, there is only one known symptom that separates influenza and COVID-19. “The loss of sense of smell or taste is often associated with COVID-19, but not the flu,” said Sarah Boyd, MD, infectious disease physician at Saint Luke’s Health System. “Until we see what kind of flu we are working with this year, symptoms could overlap a bit.”

That is why it’s important to stay vigilant. If you have COVID-19, it is best to seek treatment as soon as possible, especially for people with underlying conditions who might be at higher risk for adverse outcomes.

“The course of the two illnesses often differ in their onset,” said Marc Larsen, MD, emergency physician and director of operations for Saint Luke’s Health System’s COVID-19 response team. “Headaches, fever, body aches, and coughs are hallmark signs of an abrupt onset of influenza. With COVID-19, the illness is more gradual. It’s more of a drawn-out process.”

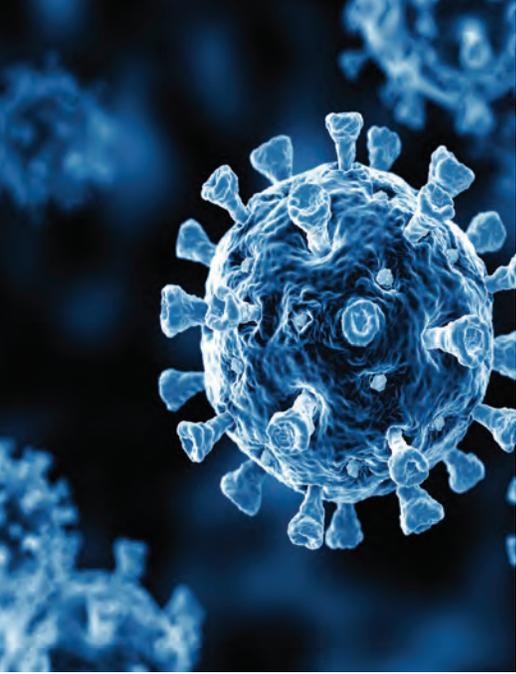
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), if a person is infected with COVID-19, symptoms usually develop about five days after infection, but symptoms can appear anywhere from 2 to 14 days after infection. Signs of the flu usually appear 1 to 4 days after infection.

.....

*“The course of the two illnesses often differ in their onset.”*

- Marc Larsen, MD

.....



### How COVID-19 spreads

“COVID-19 and influenza are spread the same way,” Dr. Boyd, said. “It happens mainly from droplets made by people infected. If people are in close contact with others, and they sneeze, cough, or release droplets when they talk, they can infect others. It is when these droplets travel in the air and land on others’ noses or mouths, the virus spreads.”

### High-risk populations

The impact of flu or COVID-19 is often greater on those with known risk factors:

- Older adults
- Those with underlying health conditions
- Pregnant women
- People who are immunocompromised

### What should I do if I think I have influenza or COVID-19?

“It is going to be difficult to simply look at a person’s symptoms and know what they should be tested for,” Dr. Boyd says. “We will likely test for both COVID-19 and the flu when someone presents with symptoms that could be either illness. Testing is important for both contact tracing and treatment.”

### What can I do to protect myself?

The most important thing you can do is get your flu shot and continue with recommended public health measures including wearing masks, social distancing, hand washing, and staying home if you think you may be sick. Everyone older than six months should get this year’s flu vaccine.

Saint Luke’s has many flu shot options available. To learn more about getting a flu shot and Saint Luke’s COVID-19 ongoing testing, visit [saintlukeskc.org](http://saintlukeskc.org).

---

*“It is when these droplets travel in the air and land on others’ noses or mouths, the virus spreads.” – Sarah Boyd, MD*

---

## Why I Give

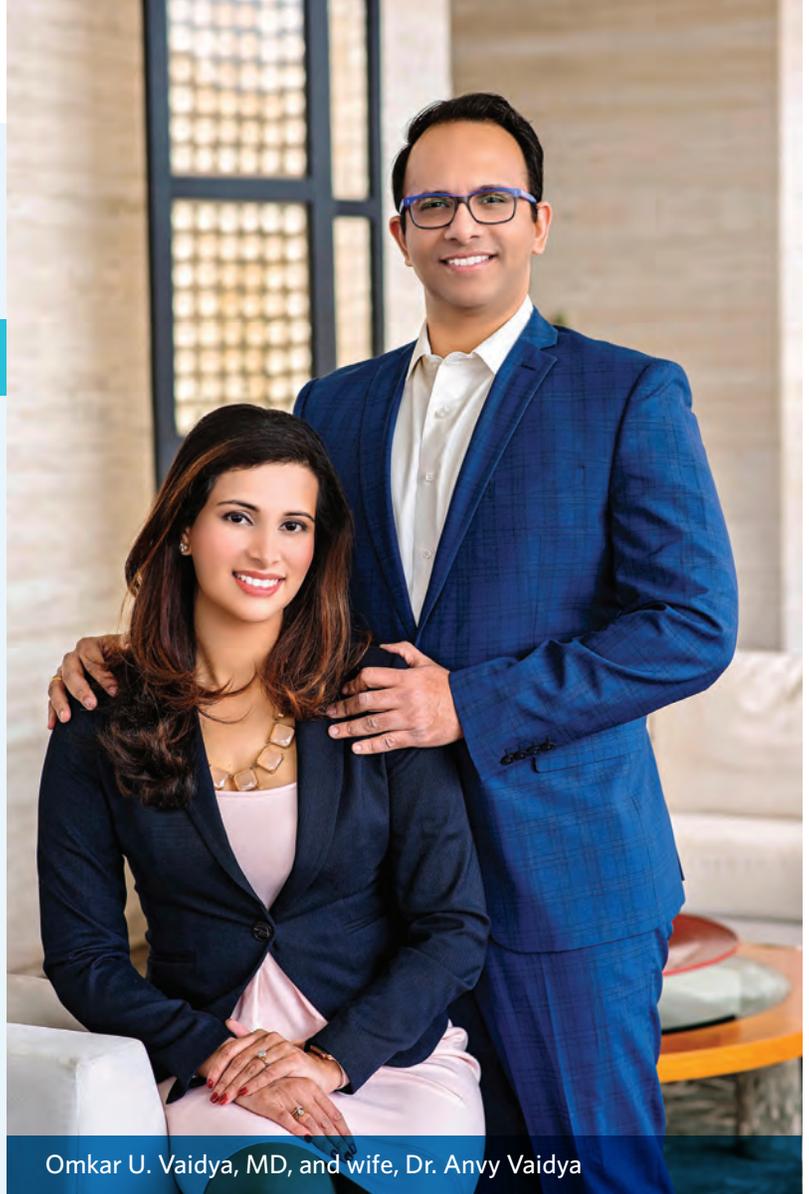
### Looking Ahead to the Future of Medical Education

Growing up in a family of physician entrepreneurs, Omkar Vaidya, MD, AKA “Dr. V”, was on the path to join the family business until a visit to the United States changed his life. After witnessing the innovative health care opportunities available, Dr. V immigrated to the United States.

Dr. V was accepted into a medical school program at the University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Medicine (UMKC). UMKC partners with Saint Luke’s to provide students and residents with quality medical education. Dr. V’s early training in internal medicine and advanced fellowship training in critical care occurred at Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City.

“Saint Luke’s is a great place to learn how to provide outstanding, compassionate care,” Dr. V said. With gratitude for the training he received, Dr. V and his wife, Dr. Anvy Vaidya, who is a dentist, chose to invest in more technical training for medical school graduates. Thanks to their generosity, residents are now able to use point-of-care ultrasounds (POCUS). The POCUS connects to a smartphone or tablet, allowing a physician to quickly and safely examine various areas of a patient’s body.

By investing in this technology, Saint Luke’s can develop a robust POCUS program, attracting and training top applicants for UMKC’s internal medicine residency program.



Omkar U. Vaidya, MD, and wife, Dr. Anvy Vaidya

Dr. V and his wife believe that by providing medical students with access to leading-edge, quality medical training, they will be influencing the field of medicine for years to come.

.....  
*“Saint Luke’s is a great place to learn how to provide outstanding, compassionate care.”*

- Omkar U. Vaidya, MD  
.....



Brian Lee, Andy Lee (second year medical student at MU), Tracy Stevens, MD, Alex Lee (senior at MU; pre-med)

## Why I Give

### Investing in Education with a Planned Gift

Cardiologist, Tracy Stevens, MD has been a valued figure at Saint Luke’s for nearly 40 years.

Starting as a physical therapist caring for cardiovascular rehabilitation patients, Dr. Stevens was motivated by her supportive family to attend medical school and inspired by Saint Luke’s Ben McCallister, MD, to become a cardiologist.

Dr. Stevens completed four years of medical school and a three-year residency at the University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Medicine (UMKC). During this time, she learned from extraordinary physicians such as Robert Conn, MD, and Geoffrey Hartzler, MD, at Saint Luke’s Hospital, as well as James Stanford, MD, at UMKC.

After completing her four year cardiology fellowship at Mayo Clinic, Dr. Stevens returned home to Kansas City and has been practicing at Saint Luke’s ever since. Recently, Dr. Stevens and her husband, Brian, decided it was time to give back to Saint Luke’s through a meaningful planned gift. Their designated support will fund a cardiology fellowship at Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute.

Fellowships provide physicians with financial support as they complete their specialty medical training.

“We want to make a difference by reducing the financial burden of medical education for those who want to pursue advanced learning,” Dr. Stevens said.

Choosing to make a planned gift was a decision that came easily to Dr. Stevens and Brian. Both come from families who instilled within them a profound sense of gratitude. Judy, Dr. Stevens’ mother, also taught her that “the best insurance policy is a good education”. By investing in the education and training of cardiology fellows, Dr. Stevens and Brian are helping future generations of health care heroes.

.....

*“We want to make a difference by reducing the financial burden of medical education for those who want to pursue advanced learning..”*

- Tracy Stevens, MD

.....

## Gifts of Note

### *Health System receives broad support*

We are grateful for donors. The following are recent donations that support Saint Luke's life-changing work.

**Merle Jam** The 7th Annual Merle Jam raised \$5,000 to benefit Saint Luke's heart transplant patients and their families. This two-day benefit concert at Knuckleheads Saloon was started by Merle Zuel who received a heart transplant at Saint Luke's 13 years ago.



*Event promoter, Merle Zuel, is dedicated to giving back following the heart transplant he received at Saint Luke's more than a decade ago.*

**The Julia Bargman Hope Foundation** Since 2011, Saint Luke's North Breast and Imaging Center has been the grateful recipient of \$80,000 in proceeds from the Julia's Warriors Run for Hope 5K. The collaboration provides

uninsured women in the Northland access to clinical breast exams, mammograms, and breast education.

**Dick & Jane Bruening** In 2015, Kansas City native Dick Bruening had a kidney transplant at Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City. Grateful for the care he received, Dick and his wife, Jane, recently established the Richard & Jane Bruening Kidney Transplant Fund, benefiting the health system's kidney transplant program.

**Dr. Lowell Miller** This year, the Dr. Lowell & Marion Miller Nursing Award recognized two nurses by giving them the resources needed to continue their education. Since its inception, this nursing award fund has awarded 46 nurses thousands of dollars to continue their education.

**Mary Miller Cook** On the 40th anniversary of her cochlear implant, Mary Miller Cook, made a donation in honor of Charles Luetje, MD, who gave her the ultimate life-changing gift of hearing.

◆ **Make a gift**  
816-932-2252  
[saintlukeskc.org/giving](http://saintlukeskc.org/giving)