

MAKING WAVES

2022 annual report to the community



OUR MISSION

We are the heartbeat of our community, caring for our patients and their families with excellence, compassion and teamwork.

OUR VISION

We will strengthen the health of our community with compassion, innovation and partnership.

OUR VALUES

Teamwork

We are a team, a community, a **family** devoted to helping and healing every patient every time, together.

Trust

We have faith in our caring work and pledge our **honesty, courage, respect** and **integrity** to each other and every patient in every encounter.

Compassion

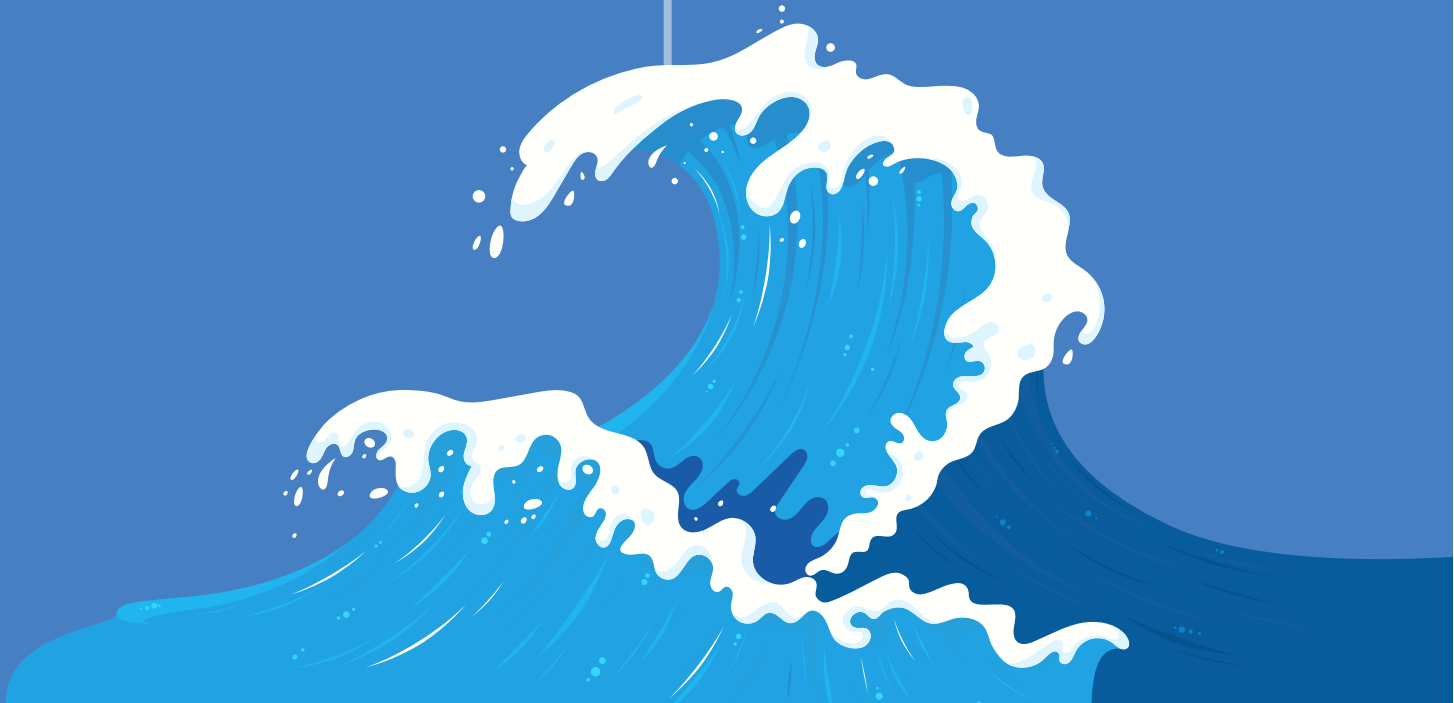
We care deeply about our patients and colleagues, treating each other with **empathy** and **respect**, as if they were our own family.

Quality

We are accountable to our patients and each other to always deliver our very best, **safest** care, to strive for **excellence** and to consistently deliver on these promises.

Innovation

We seek new **knowledge, competencies, techniques, technology** and **best practices** to bring new **hope** and **healing** to our patients close to home.



A whale of a year

Here in South Louisiana, we know a thing or two about fish. We know how to catch them, and we really know how to cook them.

It is kind of our thing. They don't call us the Sportsman's Paradise for nothing.

That being the case, you might be familiar with the concept of shoaling versus schooling. Simply put, shoaling is when a group of fish gather and sort of linger about in a group. Schooling, however, is when they all move together in the same direction.

Here at St. Tammany Health System, we are schoolers.

Shoaling is the easier of the two, of course. You just sit back, go with the flow and simply react when, say, a hungry shark comes along.

Schooling, on the other hand, requires more of a purpose, as a multitude of individuals join together and proactively move toward a common goal.

Not content to let challenges merely come to us, we at STHS search actively for ways to more effectively serve the healthcare needs of our friends, families and neighbors on the Northshore. What's more, we do it as one, moving mindfully as a team united in the interest of your wellness.

That tack proved particularly successful in 2022, which was a banner year for St. Tammany Health System. Coming on the heels of some of the most difficult years in modern medical history, we opened new facilities and broke ground on others. We and our colleagues earned a litany of noteworthy awards. We added a wealth of innovative new technology to our surgical arsenal. And that's just the start.

In short, things went swimmingly for us in 2022.

So, to serve as tour guides for this annual report, we thought it only fitting to enlist the whimsical undersea sculptures installed in 2022 by Covington artist Robert Post for our foundation's Healing Arts Initiative. (Read more about Robert's "Reefies," as he calls them, on page 5.)

In addition to being cute as can be, they are fitting symbols of our past year, in which the entire STHS team swam together and with purpose to achieve our organizational goals.

Thanks to all of our colleagues for their work and dedication – and thanks to you for trusting us with your family's healthcare needs.

Now, join us in diving in and taking a look back.

Gratefully,



Joan M. Coffman, FACHE
St. Tammany Health System president and CEO

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COMMUNITY



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Fun Fact: Dolphins are social mammals, living in a family unit – technically, a “pod” – with as many as 15 other members. Often, a dolphin will remain with the same pod for its entire life.



At St. Tammany Health System, we understand dolphins. They have been proven to be highly intelligent creatures and they're undeniably adorable, but it's their strong sense of community that most speaks to us. That's because we feel that same familial commitment to our friends and neighbors on the Northshore every day. It's also why we're much more than a hospital. From our two dozen clinical spaces to our Be Well Bus and our participation in healthcare initiatives throughout the parish, we've got our community covered. Elsewhere, healthcare may be a business. Here, we see it as both a privilege and a responsibility, and one we take seriously.



'He turned out better than I think I thought he would,' Covington artist Robert Post, pictured above and at right, said of his octopus sculpture. 'He gave me the most headaches; I spent the most time on him. The entire thing was finished probably about seven times – literally completely finished – and started over again.'



Making a splash

It started with a fish.

More accurately, it started with two little girls – the rosy-cheeked daughters of Covington artist Robert Post – and his desire to make them smile.

And so, after years of specializing in hyper-realistic wildlife artwork, he decided to swim in a different direction and sketch out a whimsical and colorful cartoon fish. And then another.

And another and another and another.

Flash-forward a couple of decades, give or take, and nine original undersea sculptures by Post – now employed by a certain animation house in Orlando, Florida (yes, that one) – have found a home at St. Tammany Health System's Covington hospital, where since late August they've been greeting visitors and warming hearts as part of St. Tammany Hospital Foundation's Healing Arts Initiative.

You'll also see them "swimming" through the pages of this annual report. Think of them as our spirit animals for 2022.

"I can't put into words how thankful I am that something that would have for the next 15 or 20 years be laying on the pages of a sketchbook ... can be shared with a lot of people now," Post said in August, standing amid the vibrantly colored, ceiling-mounted aquatic menagerie.

No sooner were the sculptures installed in late August than they began drawing "oohs" and "aahs" from pint-size visitors to the hospital, according to Nicole Suhre of St. Tammany Hospital Foundation.

"We've incorporated a lot of different kinds of art into the hospital over the years, from our first piece – a player piano for our lobby – to paintings and drawings and sculptures of all descriptions," Suhre said. "Robert's incredible, vibrant pieces really add something special. The whole goal of the Healing Arts Initiative is to harness the power of art and give people a respite from real-world issues, even if for a moment. Robert's sculptures certainly do that, and I have a feeling they're going to make a splash with our patients."

Eventually, Suhre said, the plan is to have the fish migrate down Highway 21 to a permanent home in a new facility currently being designed for St. Tammany Pediatrics, the health system's primary care kid clinic that was displaced by 2021's Hurricane Ida.

"All I can hope for," Post said of his work, "is that it brings some smiles to some faces."



Living with COVID-19

After two years of lockdowns, masking and social distancing, 2022 will likely be remembered as the year COVID-19 first transitioned from pandemic to endemic – or a disease we’ve learned how to live with, like the flu.

That doesn’t mean it’s no longer dangerous, particularly for older patients and those with diabetes, high-blood pressure and other such conditions. There were only three days in all of 2022 in which we didn’t have at least one COVID inpatient at our flagship St. Tammany Parish Hospital. On average, we had 17.43 COVID-19 inpatients every day throughout the year.

But between vaccines and the temporary immunity that comes with being infected with COVID, we’re no longer in fear of the virus overwhelming our national healthcare infrastructure. Additionally, our team of doctors and nurses now know so much more about what was initially a fairly mysterious disease.

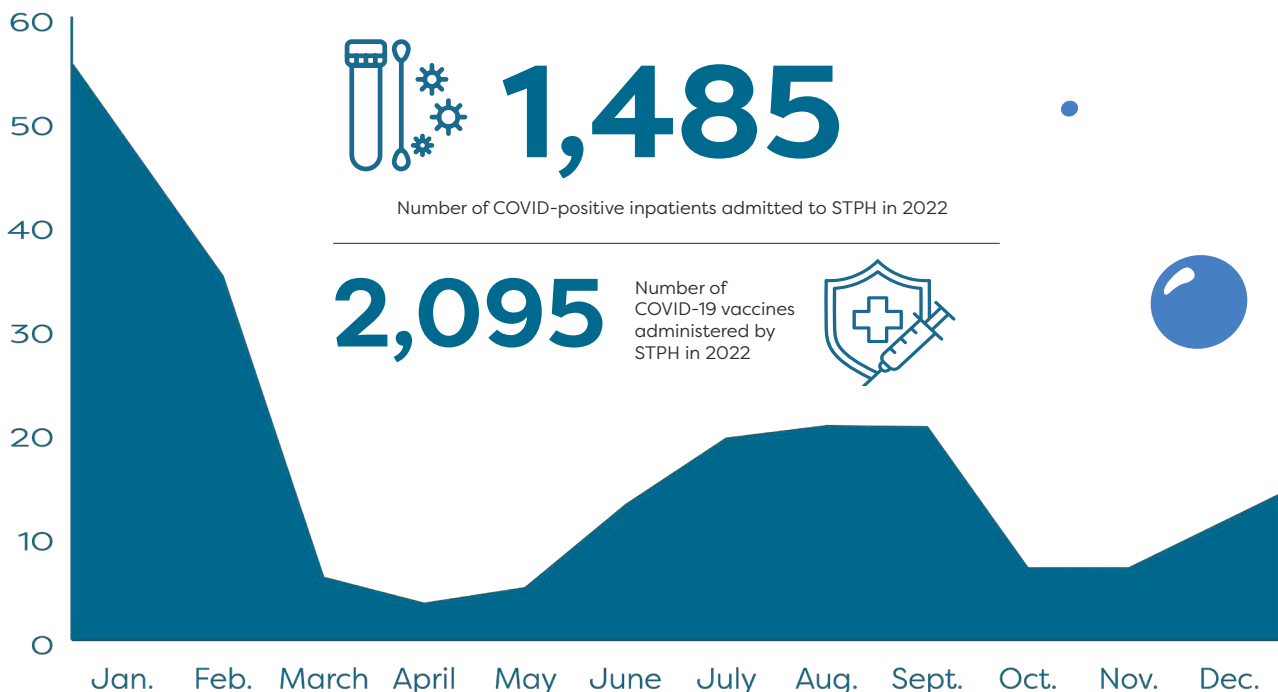
So, while there’s always a chance another variant might crop up and cause trouble, St. Tammany Health System stands ready – as it always has – to protect and care for our community.



In a show of gratitude for their dedication to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, STHS Nursing Supervisor Brent Blazevich was invited to represent the health system’s frontline caregivers as an honorary grand marshal in the annual Carnival in Covington parade. He was joined by representatives from three other local hospitals. ‘We wanted to bring them in this year to have the community see them and thank them,’ Parade Committee Chairman Larry Rolling said.

COVID-19, BY THE NUMBERS

Average monthly COVID-19 inpatient count at St. Tammany Health System throughout 2022.





Members of St. Tammany Health System's New Family Center team – from left, Suzanne Fraiche, Chelsea Houdobre, Heather Flynn, Cindy Ingram and Laurie Juneau – show off the new lab freezer that has enabled it to become a Northshore breast milk donor depot.

Bundles and bundles of joy

Multiple births aren't out of the ordinary at St. Tammany Health System. Since its flagship St. Tammany Parish Hospital first opened its doors in December 1954, more than 60,000 babies have been born there. In the process, its New Family Center has become the destination of choice for parents-to-be on the Northshore.

But on Sept. 12, 2022, there was even more “awwww” than our maternity nurses had seen in a while. Not just one set of twins, and not just two sets of twins but three sets – a half-dozen individual bundles of joy – were all discharged from the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit on the same day.

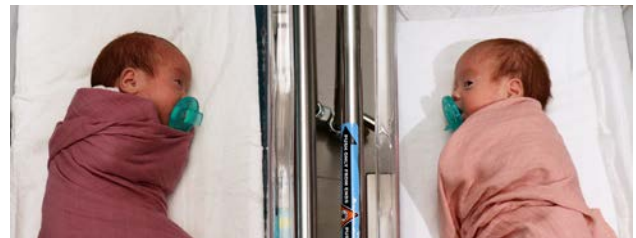
Making it all that much more special was the fact that it landed smack dab in the middle of NICU Awareness Month.

The year brought our NICU team two more good reasons to celebrate. In June, it officially became a breast milk donor depot, accepting milk from approved donors of the Mother's Milk Bank of Louisiana – and saving them a trip across the lake to donate.

Closer to the end of the year, a full renovation of the NICU was finally completed – in plenty of time to welcome the next 60,000 babies.



The Day boys, Miles and Thatcher.



The sisters Salazar, Olivia and Emilia.



The Prasad girls, Anjali and Ava.



The Be Well Bus rolls down Boston Street in Covington as part of the St. Tammany Parish Fair Parade on Sept. 30. The participation of the bus in the parade marked the launch of St. Tammany Hospital Foundation's 2022 United in Pink campaign.

A community united

With its Be Well Bus leading the charge, St. Tammany Health System once more teamed with the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office in 2022 to rally the community around the annual observance of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The bus, a 40-foot mobile health unit equipped with high-tech 3D mammography equipment, rolled with dozens of screening events throughout the month as part of St. Tammany Hospital Foundation's United in Pink initiative. In addition, the Sheriff's Office invited members of the community to pitch in by paying \$5 a pop to sign a pink-wrapped sheriff's vehicle.

By the time the month was out, some 88 women had received mammograms on the bus, and the Sheriff's Office had raised \$17,240 for local cancer care.

And that's just one month. For the rest of the year,

the bus crisscrossed the community, providing a variety of health screenings, vaccines and community education week in and week out.

It's only been in service a relatively short time, but the bus has proved so effective as a community health tool – reaching double the number of people in 2022 that we had hoped to reach – that U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise in March announced he had secured \$1 million in federal funding to support the health system's mobile screening program.

“We're so grateful to Rep. Scalise for his encouragement and guidance in our efforts to create a healthier Northshore,” STHS President and CEO Joan Coffman said. “Our Be Well Bus screening unit literally carries health and wellness into our service district, and we recognize this appropriation will enable its healing work substantially.”



Students from Magnolia Trace Elementary School paid a visit on Oct. 7 to St. Tammany Cancer Center — A campus of Ochsner Medical Center, where they donated more than \$550 to St. Tammany Health System and St. Tammany Hospital Foundation's United in Pink breast cancer awareness campaign.



Representatives of St. Tammany Health System, the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office and St. Tammany Cancer Center — A campus of Ochsner Medical Center, are photographed during the presentation of a check representing the money raised by the Sheriff's Office in Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise boards the Be Well Bus during a visit to St. Tammany Health System's flagship St. Tammany Parish Hospital in mid-2021. Shortly after the visit, Scalise committed to securing \$1 million in federal funding to support the health system's community screening programs. In March 2022, he delivered on that commitment.



As part of United in Pink, an initiative of St. Tammany Hospital Foundation to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office raised money for local cancer care by charging people \$5 to sign a pink-wrapped police cruiser.



As part of its observation of Lung Cancer Awareness Month in November, St. Tammany Health System's Low Dose CT Lung Cancer Screening Program saw a 50% increase in participants over the same month a year earlier. Throughout all of 2022, more than 1,000 patients, a record, took the preventative step of getting a lung scan — which is simple, brief and pain-free — at STHS.



In December, staffers at St. Tammany Cancer Center — A campus of Ochsner Medical Center, distributed holiday food boxes — containing everything necessary for a full, healthy meal — to eligible patients. By the time the three-day drive-through event was done, some 90 happy families had passed through.



Santa paid a visit to the cancer center as part of a holiday celebration supported by the nonprofit Ruby's Kids, for Northshore cancer patients and their families.

Giving back

Families are there for each other. That's just how it works. And that's no different for the St. Tammany Health System family.

As is the case every year, health system colleagues joined with a variety of local groups for a wide range of give-back events to support the community that has supported us for nearly 70 years.

That included the annual holiday food-box distributions for patients at St. Tammany Cancer Center — A campus of Ochsner Medical Center. It also included visits from Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny for those same patients' families. And that's just the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

In April 2022, a group of STHS doctors, nurses and administrators were among the 40 volunteers pitching in to install a community garden on the Safe Haven behavioral health campus in Mandeville. In August, St. Tammany Hospital Foundation's employee pledge drive saw 765 health system employees donate a total of \$104,380 to support STHS's healing mission.

And in December, the health system's Adopt-a-Family Christmas drive raised enough from colleagues to fulfill the holiday wishes of 39 local families this year, including more than 100 children.

That's a whole lot of giving back — and a whole lot of love, from our St. Tammany Health System family to yours.



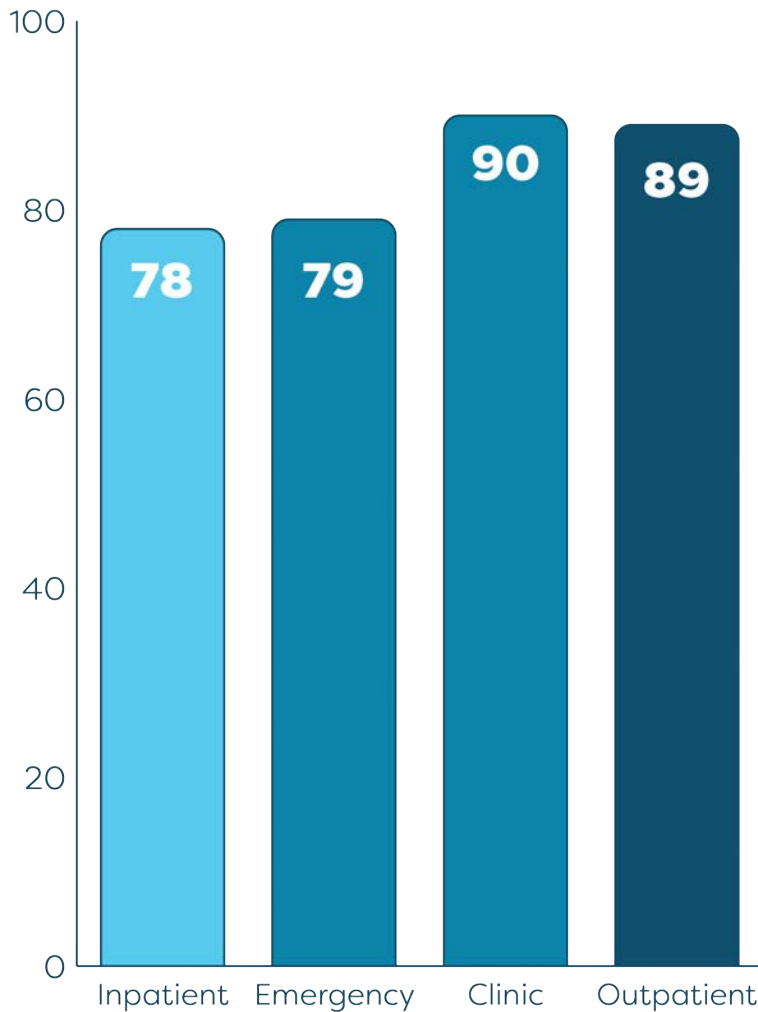
From left, St. Tammany Health System Chief Operating Officer Sharon Toups, Community Outreach Coordinator Anne Pablovich, and President and CEO Joan Coffman are joined by St. Tammany Hospital Foundation Executive Director Nicole Suhre for a Survivors Day celebration at St. Tammany Cancer Center — A campus of Ochsner Medical Center.



St. Tammany Health System's June 2022 nurse residents graduated from our six-month Nurse Residency program only last December, but they're already making a difference. As part of their professional development project, the 16-member class launched a clothing drive to support NAMI's Closet, located on the Safe Haven campus in Mandeville. Through the generosity of their fellow STHS colleagues, they collected and donated dozens of bags of clean, donated goods — 1,400 pounds of clothing in all.

Patient experience 2022

Exceeding Expectations



Today, we all live in a world awash with metrics, and one of the ones that is most meaningful to us at St. Tammany Health System – where compassionate care is paramount – is patient experience.

That’s why it was particularly rewarding in June for us to earn the Outstanding Patient Experience Award from Healthgrades, placing STHS in the top 5% of U.S. hospitals for patient experience. It marked the 14th consecutive year the health system has earned the honor, making it the only Northshore hospital to have maintained the distinction over that period.

Then, in December, we were named one of the Best 100 Hospitals in America for Patient Experience by Women’s Choice.

The message is clear: You appreciate St. Tammany’s brand of compassionate care, and we have no intention of changing that.



Our patients have many good reasons to choose St. Tammany Health System, and that was the continued focus of our award-winning ‘Many Reasons’ ad campaign in 2022. Developed in partnership with the New Orleans-based Brand Society, it saw us last year touting our neurosciences and pediatric service lines in print, on radio and on local TV. Both ended up earning Telly Awards: a gold for our neuro spots and silver for pediatrics.



PARTNERSHIPS

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Fun Fact: Seahorses are serial monogamists, preferring to remain with the same partner for extended periods – and, in some cases, for life.



You know the saying: One is the loneliest number. That's particularly true in today's increasingly crowded, increasingly competitive and increasingly complex healthcare landscape. That's why we prefer to get by with a little help from our friends. By forging partnerships with like-minded organizations – including those in the healthcare sphere, the education sphere and the nonprofit sphere – we have learned that, together, we can more efficiently and effectively do what we're here to do: to serve and care for our community.

Partnership with Ochsner Health



If you were looking for a single representative symbol of the nine-year-strong relationship between St. Tammany Health System and Ochsner Health, you need look no further than St. Tammany Cancer Center – A campus of Ochsner Medical Center.

Opened in mid-2021 at the corner of Interstate 12 and Highway 21, the 75,000-square-foot gamechanger celebrated its first full year of operation in 2022, bringing together doctors, nurses and other medical professionals from both organizations. With this combined expertise all under one roof, the multidisciplinary facility is the area's only true one-stop-shop for cancer care.

But while it's the conspicuous symbol of the St. Tammany/Ochsner relationship, it is by no means the only one.

Since entering a strategic partnership in 2014 for the stated purpose of improving our community's health and quality of life, the two organizations have joined hands to improve the level of and access to care in any number of specialties.

There's the pediatric inpatient unit at St. Tammany Parish Hospital. There's Ochsner Neurosciences Institute at St. Tammany Health System. There's the joint St. Tammany/Ochsner Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement team.

The list goes on – and on and on.

In the process, the bonds between the two organizations have only strengthened – and, as a result, so has the health of the Northshore community they serve.



Members of the St. Tammany Health System team (above) staff the welcome table for Survivor's Day, held in June, at St. Tammany Cancer Center – A campus of Ochsner Health System (below).



Ronnie Eastman, at center, with staff at St. Tammany Cancer Center – A campus of Ochsner Medical Center, got the holidays off to a helpful start in November, thanks to a 2022 Thanksgiving food box distribution event. In all, 90 patients and their families received gift cards for their protein of choice, along with a box of all the fixings to make a full Turkey Day spread, courtesy of Winn-Dixie, the Northshore Food Bank and donors to St. Tammany Hospital Foundation.



In April, volunteers with Healthier Northshore helped plant a community garden on the Safe Haven campus in Mandeville.



Healthier Northshore

Two years ago, local leaders founded the Healthier Northshore coalition to plant the seeds for improved population health metrics across St. Tammany and Washington parishes. In 2022, with key leadership from St. Tammany Health System and its Community Outreach program, those efforts began bearing fruit.

And vegetables.

In April, volunteers with the community-based Healthier Northshore – which was started by more than 50 of the Northshore’s leaders in the healthcare, government and nonprofit sectors – pulled on their garden gloves to plant a community garden at the Safe Haven behavioral health campus in Mandeville.

Then, in October – after giving the garden a little time to grow – the group followed up by teaming with the American Heart Association

to host a free cooking demonstration in which Chef Dave Solazzo of Del Porto Ristorante in Covington showed a standing-room-only crowd exactly what to do with the harvest.

It was the first of what is envisioned as a series of free cooking demonstrations from local chefs designed to promote healthier food choices by incorporating fresh vegetables from local gardens.

It’s also perfectly aligned with the group’s overall mission of addressing behavioral health, smoking/vaping cessation, nutrition and exercise, as well as increasing community screening opportunities.

“Nutrition and access to healthy food choices are the hallmarks of Healthier Northshore,” said Anne Pablovich of St. Tammany Health System. “At the same time, Chef Dave is known for his use of fresh, local vegetables. So, this cooking demo is really a match made in culinary heaven.”

The spirit of 'coopetition'



St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman, a driving force behind the Healthier Northshore coalition, is pictured above at right in April at the community garden installation in Mandeville. 'Healthier Northshore was really envisioned to be that community resource to advance the quality of life for area residents,' she said. 'This is a perfect example of that.'



A nationwide concern since the start of the COVID pandemic, and one that reaches across all industries: too many job openings and not enough qualified candidates to fill them.

In May 2022, St. Tammany Health System decided to do something about it, partnering with other local healthcare, education and economic stakeholders for Northshore Healthscape, a three-year strategy pilot program dreamed up by St. Tammany Corporation – the parish's economic development arm – to promote the Northshore as a healthcare destination and bolster the local healthcare workforce.

"We are grateful to St. Tammany Corporation for gathering the leading health systems on the Northshore into this pilot program," St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman said. "Rather than competition, we lead with 'coopetition,' because we are cooperatively focused on strengthening our labor pool and elevating our region as a destination for world-class healthcare."

In addition to St. Tammany Health System and St. Tammany Corporation, key stakeholders in the program include Ochsner Northshore-Mississippi Gulf Coast Region, Slidell Memorial Hospital, Our Lady of the Lake and North Oaks Health System, as well as representatives of St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington parishes.



Chef Dave Solazzo of Del Porto Ristorante in Covington shared his recipe for Shrimp Ratatouille during a free local cooking demonstration Sept. 19, 2022, in which he demonstrated how to use herbs and vegetables harvested from the Safe Haven garden.



While some home cooks might be intimidated by ratatouille, Chef Dave Solazzo of Del Porto Ristorante in Covington says his fuss-free version is simple. 'Anyone with a stovetop, an oven and basic skills should be able to make it,' he said.

 **Northshore Healthscape**
A Collaborative Enhancing the *Pulse* of Our Regional Healthcare Economy

Siemens Healthineers

Always on the lookout for new partners interested in helping expand the healthcare landscape on the Northshore, STHS in March 2022 announced a 10-year partnership with Siemens Healthineers designed to improve care delivery and ensure highest quality imaging across all STHS diagnostic facilities systemwide.

STHS was the first community-based health system to pioneer this innovative Siemens Healthineers program, which is more typically found in large research, teaching and multi-hospital systems.

Already a recognized leader in advanced technology and cutting-edge medicine, STHS struck this unique strategic agreement with Siemens Healthineers to bring the latest diagnostic technology and treatment options

for every disease type to west St. Tammany. This also gives STHS additional research and technology capabilities, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) software applications to deliver the highest-level of patient care, while driving departmental efficiency and collaboration.

“We always focus on delivering the highest quality, safest and best care for our patients close to home,” said Melonie Lagalante, assistant vice president for Diagnostic and Outpatient Services. “This Siemens Healthineers agreement embodies our vision to improve the lives of patients with compassion, innovation and partnership because it means we can ensure consistent programming on equipment from Mandeville to Folsom and everywhere in between.”

Building for the future

“Opportunity” was the word of the day Nov. 28, 2022, as eight new certified nursing assistants graduated from a unique program combining on-the-job training at St. Tammany Health System with classroom work at Northshore Technical Community College.

The six-month program, which started in June, is the result of a community partnership between the health system and the community college intended to expand educational and professional opportunities for local residents while also bolstering the local healthcare workforce.

“It is such a challenge to be in the healthcare field, but it’s also a privilege,” Bronwyn Doyle, the health system’s assistant vice president of Human Resources and Workforce Development, told the new graduates. “We want you to have an opportunity to grow with us, and this is step one – so, welcome to the St. Tammany Health System family.”

Northshore Technical Community College Chancellor William Wainwright echoed those sentiments, telling the graduates, “You have an incredible opportunity to grow with St. Tammany Health System and build an incredible career, and Northshore Technical Community College and St. Tammany Health System are here to help you in that journey.”



Graduates of the certified nursing assistant program gather for a spirited class photo.



Representatives of St. Tammany Health System and Northshore Technical Community College join recent graduates of a unique certified nursing assistant program for a celebratory photo on Monday, Nov. 28, 2022.

St. Tammany Quality Network

When people come together, they tend to win. That's the concept behind St. Tammany Quality Network, a Northshore medical community made up of more than 290 like-minded physicians aligned with St. Tammany Health System in the interest of delivering quality care at more affordable costs.

Founded in January 2014, the physician-led STQN operates under a clinical integration model emphasizing commitment to quality and outcomes. Through their alignment with St. Tammany Health System — and, by extension, the health system's strategic partners at Ochsner Health — STQN member physicians are afforded convenient access to innovative health products that offer lower premiums than traditional products while keeping the same coverage.

That's good for patients, it's good for physicians and it's good for the health of our community.

STQN MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S AWARDS FOR 2022



Quarter 1

Dr. John D'hemecourt, Chris Connell and Brian Grissom

For initiating the Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) program at St. Tammany Health System.



Quarter 2

Dr. McCall McDaniel

For her guidance in achieving Certified Autism Center certifications for targeted programs at St. Tammany Health System.



Quarter 3

Dr. Chris Foret

For his leadership in advancing population health efforts in the tri-parish area encompassing St. Tammany, Washington and Tangipahoa parishes.



Quarter 4

STHS Gastroenterology Co-Management Team: Drs. Phillips Jenkins, Russ Wardlaw, Nathan Ranney, Hamid Hussain, Steve Guarisco, Felix Rabito, Larry Gensler, Sai Veerisetty, Brandon Brousse, Greg Mula and Malcolm Andry, Along with Lacylynn McGehee, RN BSN.

For outstanding performance in GI quality measures.

INNOVATION



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Octopuses are like chimpanzees, dolphins and crows in that some species have been observed using what appear to be tools. That includes the veined octopus of Indonesia, which is known to clean and carry coconut shells for use as shelter.

There's something to be said about standing the test of time. After all, there's a reason Band-Aids and tongue depressors have changed so little over the years. It's because they do what they were designed to do, and they do it well. But at St. Tammany Health System, we like to keep our eyes focused forward, on the road ahead, watching for innovative tools and methods to help us best serve our community. That includes such attention-getting things like our ever-expanding fleet of robotic surgical assistants, but it also includes exploring new ways to leverage existing technology for our patients' benefit and convenience. That dedication to innovation is a key reason we've been able to deliver on our promise of bringing world-class healthcare close to home for the Northshore – and it's a reason we're poised to continue to deliver it tomorrow and the day after that and the day after that ...

A tradition of innovation

In 2007, St. Tammany Health System established the first robotics institute on the I-12 corridor when it introduced robotic-assisted surgery to the Northshore. Since then, the health system has only continued to grow its robotics arsenal.

That includes the purchase of multiple da Vinci robotic assistants, which specialize in aiding surgeons during pelvic surgeries. It includes Stryker's Mako system, which aids in knee replacements. It includes Synaptive Medical's Modus V microscope with BrightMatter technology for neurosurgery.

And in 2022, two innovative new systems joined the fleet.

In March, the health system announced the purchase of the leading-edge ExcelsiusGPS system, elevating the level of neurosurgery expertise available close to home for Northshore residents.

Then in October, Dr. Mark Hontas — an orthopedic surgeon with St. Tammany Health System's Bone

and Joint Clinic — became the first in South Louisiana to conduct Velys robotic-assisted knee replacement, an innovative, second-generation procedure designed to get patients back on their feet sooner, with less discomfort and more mobility.



Dr. Mark Hontas

It's the latest in what has become a tradition of innovation at St. Tammany Health System, as it works to live up to its promise to deliver world-class healthcare close to home for residents of the Northshore.

“St. Tammany Health System has committed to embracing new technology to help us provide the best healthcare we can, and that's true across the board,” Dr. Hontas said. “It's a very exciting time to be a part of St. Tammany Health System.”





Dr. Seth Hayes, right, a neurosurgeon with the Ochsner Neuroscience Institute at St. Tammany Health System, prepares for a procedure in one of the health system’s operating suites. Among other capabilities, St. Tammany Health System boasts the Synaptive Modus V with BrightMatter technology, a highly specialized, robotically controlled digital microscope that aids in complex neurological surgeries.

Advancing neuro care

In a major advancement of neurological care on the Northshore, Ochsner Neurosciences Institute at St. Tammany Health System in 2022 expanded its footprint and its capabilities at the health system’s hospital campus in Covington.

The groundbreaking expansion allows for many patients with complex brain conditions who would have previously been transferred to a hospital outside the region to remain on the Northshore for the duration of their treatment.

Among other things, the expansion increased the number of dedicated beds in the hospital’s neurology unit from eight to 10, with room to expand to 14, and the number of beds in its Neuro Intensive Care Unit from six to 10.

In addition to a wealth of advanced technology in its operating rooms, the neuro care team also now includes a round-the-clock neuro-specific ICU physician and a dedicated neurosciences physical therapist.

Taken together, the moves allow for 24-hour neuro-focused intensive care at the hospital.

“Previously, we would have had our neurosurgeons perform surgery and then transfer the patient to Ochsner on the south shore,” said Corey Olson, director of the neurosciences program at St. Tammany Health System. “Now, we can perform these complex surgeries, and then the patients are being transferred down the hall



Dr. Benjamin Brown, a neurosurgeon with the Ochsner Neurosciences Institute at St. Tammany Health System.



Dr. Benjamin Brown, right, a neurosurgeon with the Ochsner Neuroscience Institute at St. Tammany Health System, discusses a case with his team.

to the neuro ICU and staying with us, here, close to home, for the extent of their care.

“So, we’re really caring for the patient now from start to finish. They can get top-notch neuro treatment here – and stay on the Northshore.”

“This shows the tremendous difference we make in patient care, always offering the latest technology for best outcomes.”

— Karolina Ruthner, NP



Members of St. Tammany Health System's TAVR team — from left, Jackie Riehle RN, Greg Burton RN, Jared Ramsey RTR, Austin Todd RTR, Dr. George Isa, Karolina Ruthner NP and Cath Lab RN Supervisor Aaron Ducote, MBA — pause on Oct. 5, 2022, to mark the team's first-in-Louisiana use of the new Edwards SAPIEN 3 Ultra RESILIA valve. The team also includes Dr. Gregory Eckholdt and Perfusionist Kip Leblanc, neither of whom are pictured, as well as a small army of nurses, techs and other support staff.

Leading the way

St. Tammany Health System has long been dedicated to bringing the most innovative care possible to Northshore patients, and, true to form, 2022 saw it notch a number of notable “firsts.”

That includes Dr. Mark Hontas' pioneering use of the Velys robotic-assistant for knee replacements. (See p. 19) But also, in February, it was announced that STHS had become the first in Louisiana to offer Body Vision Medical's C-Arm Based Tomography, highly advanced diagnostic technology that produces intraoperative CT imaging for earlier and more accurate lung cancer diagnosis.

“It enables us to visualize and pursue lesions such as ground glass opacities and other challenging lesions that without this technology are some of the hardest cancers to diagnose,” STHS pulmonologist Dr. Ricardo Blanco said.

Then, in October, the health system's heart valve

replacement team — which in 2019 became the first on the Northshore to offer the game-changing, minimally invasive TAVR procedure — became the first in Louisiana to successfully implant in a patient the newest Edwards SAPIEN 3 Ultra RESILIA valve.

This groundbreaking valve, which is the only dry storage transcatheter heart valve currently on the U.S. market, was engineered with anti-calcification technology to address one of the primary causes of reintervention following heart valve replacement, according to Edwards.

It's also another display of the spirit of teamwork and innovation on which the St. Tammany Health System Structural Heart Program prides itself, according to Program Coordinator Karolina Ruthner, NP.

“This shows the tremendous difference we make in patient care, always offering the latest technology for best outcomes,” Ruthner said.



Members of the St. Tammany Health System care team conduct daily SIBR rounds together – or Structured Interdisciplinary Bedside Rounds – to ensure everyone including the patient is on the same page with regard to the patient’s care plan.

The team approach

Not all innovations involve technology. Sometimes, it’s about the personal touch.

In August, after two and a half years of COVID-19, doctors and nurses at St. Tammany Health System’s flagship St. Tammany Parish Hospital returned to Structured Interdisciplinary Bedside Rounding – or SIBR rounding – which is the fancy name for a process in which an inpatient’s entire care team visits them in their room daily to discuss and coordinate their care.

This includes their doctor. It includes their nurse. It includes a case management professional, a representative from the hospital’s pharmacy and a social worker. And it results in greater efficiency and communication among hospital colleagues.

The goal is to get everyone, including the patient, on the same page quickly and easily. The result, said hospitalist Dr. Robert Oubre, is better care for the patient and boosted confidence in their care plan and their care team.

“This new way of structuring bedside rounds ultimately benefits the patient,” Dr. Oubre said. “It benefits the care team as well, but even those benefits ultimately benefit the patient. That’s a win-win, as far as I’m concerned.”



St. Tammany Health System hospitalist Dr. Robert Oubre listens as a nurse discusses a patient’s care plan as they make interdisciplinary bedside rounds recently.



St. Tammany Health System hospitalist Dr. Robert Oubre meets with a patient alongside other members of the patient’s care team on Aug. 9, 2022.



St. Tammany Health System nurse Michelle Richard speaks with a patient at St. Tammany Parish Hospital from a central location in the hospital. Richard is among the health system's first 'virtual nurses,' part of a pilot program to leverage in-room technology to enhance patient care.

Going virtual

Some people call it a “virtual nurse.” Others might describe it as a “remote nurse.”

St. Tammany Health System Director of Telemetry Medicine Mathilde Lyon has a different way of seeing the newest nursing position at the health system's flagship St. Tammany Parish Hospital.

“It's like having a guardian angel,” Lyon said. “That's the best way to look at it. It's like having an extra set of eyes watching over you, caring for you, while you're in the hospital.”

Whatever you call it, the innovative virtual nursing program at STHS grew out of the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, as hospitals around the world tried to figure out new ways to conduct routine caregiving tasks – monitoring vital signs, answering patient questions, conducting pain assessments, discussing medications and the like – without needlessly exposing nursing staff to the virus.

This gave the nursing team an idea: What if they assigned an experienced, veteran nurse to staff an on-site computer station that would allow him or her to drop in virtually on patients – almost like a Zoom call – and conduct those routine tasks?

“It's like having a guardian angel.”
- Mathilde Lyon, director of Telemetry Medicine

“The idea isn't to replace caregivers at the bedside,” Lyon said. “It's to enhance that care, helping with work that needs to be done to free up caregivers to focus on providing the type of quality bedside care St. Tammany is known for. These nurses will be able to keep our patients safer. It's a second check.”

The idea quickly gained steam, and a pilot program was launched in early September on the hospital's 33-bed Telemetry Medicine unit, with plans to scale it up and expand it from there.

It wasn't the only example in 2022 of the health system leveraging existing technology to expand care. In October, STHS expanded its digital health offerings – and expanded access to healthcare for local residents – with the introduction of Virtual Care Now, a healthcare innovation in which patients can schedule same-day virtual visits with a healthcare provider dedicated solely to conducting such electronic visits.

Designed with patient convenience in mind, Virtual Care Now provides patients 5 years and older with access to a healthcare provider from their smartphone, tablet or computer to address most acute conditions, depression/anxiety follow-ups and patients in need of a referral.

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EXPANSION



fin **Fun Fact:**

A single sea turtle can leave a truly expansive footprint. One mama leatherback will lay four to eight times a season, producing as many as 110 eggs at a time. Those turtle tykes that survive to adulthood will end up swimming as many as 10,000 miles a year and can dive 4,000 feet.

In December 1958, just four years after it first opened its doors, St. Tammany Health System's flagship St. Tammany Parish Hospital cut the ribbon on its first expansion, a new \$75,000 wing adding 14 beds that boosted inpatient capacity by nearly 50%. Over the next seven decades, as the population of the Northshore exploded, expansion would become a common theme for the hospital. In fact, neither has yet to abate, with more and more people discovering the allure of the Northshore — and with St. Tammany Health System, as a result, currently in the midst of its longest sustained period of growth in its history. In fact, we've become pretty good at this expansion thing. That's good, because local population growth shows no signs of slowing. And we are ready, willing and able to grow along with it.



An artist's rendering shows the new \$75 million same-day surgery center being built by St. Tammany Health System on Bootlegger Road south of Covington. It is expected to be completed by late summer 2024. (Image courtesy fl+WB)

BREAKING GROUND

On Nov. 2, 2022, St. Tammany Health System leaders broke ground on the Northshore's newest healthcare facility, a \$75 million same-day surgical center adjacent to the existing Paul D. Cordes Outpatient Pavilion on Bootlegger Road south of Covington.

The 126,000-square-foot building, which when complete will boast 12 surgical suites and an array of support services, is expected to be complete and ready for patients by late summer 2024.

"Today, we're simply turning dirt," St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman said. "But when our construction team is finished on this state-of-the-art facility, it will stand as another fulfillment of our promise to deliver world-class healthcare close to home for residents of west St. Tammany Parish. We take that promise seriously."

Announced in October 2021, the new surgery center will mark the fulfillment of a strategic goal of the health system as recent advancements in technology and recruitment of highly skilled specialists have increased the volume of surgeries that can be accomplished in a 23-hour stay.

Clinical capabilities planned for the center



Members of the St. Tammany Health System Board of Commissioners and other dignitaries gathered Nov. 2 to break ground on the health system's new surgery center. The 126,000-square-foot building, which will boast 12 surgical suites, is expected to be ready for patients by late summer 2024.

and scope of the project are being developed according to national best practices for high reliability, efficiency and safety for patients, STHS team members, visitors and vendors.

"In 1954, we were founded as St. Tammany Parish Hospital," STHS Chief Nursing Officer Kerry Milton said. "During the dedication ceremony for that first building, Police Jury President Fred Mizell – speaking to hospital board Chairman Oliver Hebert – said, 'In turning over to you the keys to this institution, Mr. Hebert, I say: May you never lock from your door one who needs your help.' I am pleased to say we've honored those words over the past 68 years."



A horse grazes beneath the oaks at New Heights Therapeutic Riding Center in Folsom. St. Tammany Health System has partnered with New Heights to offer hippotherapy – or horseback riding therapy – to patients at the health system’s new Therapy and Wellness Center in Folsom.



From left, STHS Chief Operating Officer Sharon Toups, Keith Barre of fl+WB Architects and STHS President and CEO Joan Coffman.



St. Tammany Health System’s partnership with New Heights Therapeutic Riding Center saw it open a full-service physical therapy clinic in Folsom.

BLAZING TRAILS

The stable of services offered by St. Tammany Health System gained a notable addition in Folsom in summer 2022, as the health system’s Outpatient Therapy and Wellness Department opened a new rehab clinic on the New Heights Therapeutic Riding Center campus.

With the move, patients throughout the area now have an opportunity to share in the benefits of hippotherapy, a fancy medical term – derived from the Greek “hippos,” meaning horse – for therapeutic horseback riding.

In addition to hippotherapy sessions, conducted by a trained STHS hippotherapist using New Heights’ horses and riding facility, the new Folsom clinic offers a full suite of traditional physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy offerings.

“The horses are, of course, what sets this location apart from our other clinics,” said Mike McNeil, director of outpatient rehab services for St. Tammany Health System. “But I’m just as excited that this new location is going to provide full-service, clinic-based rehab therapies – both for adults and for children – even closer to home for people living north of Covington.”



Dignitaries from St. Tammany Health System and New Heights cut the ribbon on the health system’s new Therapy and Wellness Clinic in Folsom, which will offer physical therapy, occupational therapy and hippotherapy.



In addition to hippotherapy sessions, conducted by a trained STHS hippotherapist using New Heights’ horses and riding facility, the new Folsom clinic offers a full suite of traditional physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy offerings.



Longtime local cardiologist Dr. Paul Stahls discusses a case with Medical Assistant Kimberly Hopkins at St. Tammany Health System's Cardiovascular Clinic in Covington. With the practice expanding, Dr. Stahls has shifted his focus exclusively to electrophysiology.

ALL HEART

St. Tammany Health System's cardiovascular practice — one of the oldest and most respected heart and vascular clinics in western St. Tammany Parish — ended 2022 with a new name, a number of new faces and the addition of a new clinic for the convenience of Mandeville patients.

Formerly known as Covington Cardiovascular Care, the practice has been rebranded STHS Cardiovascular Clinic, a reflection of its expansion beyond Covington and into Mandeville.

In addition to the new clinic, the practice has added two new care providers to its team: cardiologists Dr. Stefan Sicinchi and Dr. Hafiz Ghafoor. They follow the addition in June of Dr. George Isa to the practice, which also includes Dr. Georges Antoun, Dr. Bekir Melek, Dr.

Russell Reed, Dr. Paul Stahls; and nurse practitioners Sarah Bourgeois, Nicole Sesser and Mary Scheyd.

With the changes, Dr. Stahls — a member of the practice since 2013 — has expanded his focus on electrophysiology, a specialty that, among other things, involves the assessment of the rhythm of the heart and, if needed, the correction of any irregularities, or arrhythmia.

“Our promise has for some time been to deliver world-class healthcare close to home for our Northshore neighbors, and for years our world-class cardio team has been delivering on that promise,” health system President and CEO Joan Coffman said. “With these expansions and additions,

they're poised to continue delivering peerless care for our community as it grows, and we couldn't be more excited about it.”

“With these expansions and additions, they're poised to continue delivering peerless care for our community as it grows.”

- Joan Coffman, STHS president and CEO



THE STHS FAMILY

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Fun Fact: Some fish go to great lengths to protect their families. That includes those species known as “mouthbrooders,” which protect their eggs by incubating them in their mouth. During this time, the parent fish abstains from eating so they won’t swallow their little ones.

For endeavors as monumental as caring for an entire community, teamwork is essential. But at St. Tammany Health System, we’re more than just a team. As our mission, vision and values state, we are a community, a family devoted to helping and healing every patient every time, together. So, while we’re caring for our community, we’re also caring for one another. We call it a Culture of Caring. “That, of course, starts with the peerless care we provide to our patients,” STHS President and CEO Joan Coffman said, “but we have also been mindful and deliberate about making sure it extends to our talented colleagues at every level of the health system, who are far and away our most valuable — and most valued — assets.”



In May, in recognition of National Hospital Week, St. Tammany Health System recognized its workforce with its annual colleague appreciation lunch, which carried an 'Under the Big Top' theme. In addition to food and fellowship, all colleagues received an STHS-branded cap, so they could show their colors with pride.

2022 BEST PLACES TO WORK

So, how does a place like St. Tammany Health System attract top-caliber employees at all levels? It's simple, really. It provides them a fulfilling and familial work environment.

That philosophy paid off in 2022, as New Orleans CityBusiness named STHS to its list of Best Places to Work in New Orleans for 2022.

"This recognition is no accident," St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman said. "Rather, it is the result of a concerted effort by health system leadership to build a workplace culture centered on compassion and collegiality."

The timing of the award, which comes after what has been characterized as the most difficult 2½ years in the modern history of the American healthcare industry, makes it particularly meaningful, Coffman said.

"This award is gratifying beyond words," Coffman said. "We're a 'best workplace' because we have the best workforce, period, full-stop. Our colleagues have proven that every day of our COVID-19 journey."

St. Tammany Health System, founded in 1954 as St. Tammany Parish Hospital, employs nearly 2,700 people, making it the second-largest employer in St. Tammany Parish.

To be considered for the Best Workplaces recognition, companies had to have a facility in the New Orleans area, have at least 10 employees working in the eligible areas, and be in business a minimum of one year.

Companies from across New Orleans entered the two-part survey process to determine the Best Places to Work in New Orleans. The first part consisted of evaluating each nominated company's workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems and demographics. This part of the process was worth approximately 25% of the total evaluation.

The second part consisted of an employee survey to measure the employee experience. This part of the process was worth approximately 75% of the total evaluation. The combined scores determined the top companies and the final rankings.



What do you do when U.S. News & World Report names you the second-best hospital in the New Orleans area? At St. Tammany Health System, we celebrate with snowballs! Pictured: STHS Security Officer Andria Barnes.



A group of STHS nurses use the Force during a 'Star Wars'-themed celebration during National Nurses Week 2022.



Surgical Techs Kalin Shonk and Kelsey Gilhaus help their team celebrate National Surgical Technologists Week with a box of specially shaped doughnuts.



In December, STHS was visited by Santa Claus – photographed with health system Director of Community Outreach Anne Pablovich – along with Mrs. Claus and the Grinch. (For the record: It was a boy. A beautiful, healthy boy.)



To help STHS colleagues beat the heat during the summer months, health system leadership arranged for a July visit from Captain's Tasty Treats ice cream truck.

St. Tammany Health System Chief Nursing Officer Kerry Milton was surprised with a Lifetime Achievement Daisy Award in March 2022. Hers marked STHS's first Daisy Award, bestowed as part of an international recognition program celebrating the skill and compassion of nurses.



COMING UP DAISIES

Hardware is cool, and modern, purpose-built facilities are invaluable, but from the very beginning, St. Tammany Health System has trumpeted the quality and compassion of its workforce as the real secret of its success.

In 2022, the health system doubled down on celebrating its team members with its participation in the Daisy Award initiative, an international recognition program to honor and celebrate the skillful, compassionate care provided by nurses.

Fittingly, the very first Daisy Award issued at STHS was a Lifeline Achievement Daisy for Chief Nursing Officer Kerry Milton, a 40-year employee of the health system.

“I can’t say enough about how it feels to be recognized,” Milton said upon being surprised with her award in lobby of the hospital’s new South Tower. “It’s hard to say you love every single minute of your job, but I do – and I thank every one of you for this recognition.”

In all, 18 STHS nurses were honored with Daisies over the course of the year.

The program proved such a big hit that the health system in 2022 began the process of implementing the similar Sunflower Award program to honor non-nursing support staff and caregivers for outstanding contributions to the health system’s healing mission.

Anyone, colleague or patient, can nominate an STHS colleague for a Daisy Award or Sunflower Award by visiting StTammany.health/ThankYou.

STHS Daisy Award recipients for 2022

- Brenda Demuth
- Ashley Dykes
- Jean Goubert
- Winnie Hernandez
- Jason Hollingsworth
- Ashley Kinchen
- Janie Keubel
- Regina Knight
- Ellen Loop
- Madison Malaschak
- Rachel Michel-Donovan
- Kerry Milton (lifetime achievement)
- Pamela Beth Pilet
- Ashley Rivere
- leasha Ross
- Barbara Tarjan
- Eloise Ward-Brumfield
- Robin Wright





In addition to incorporating St. Tammany Health System's signature deep-red color, the quilt includes a variety of healthcare imagery.

'COMFORTING STITCHES'

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the frontline caregivers at St. Tammany Health System and other healthcare organizations had their communities covered. In late 2022, Vizient teamed with QUILTmania magazine and the Georgia-based Chattahoochee Evening Stars Quilt Guild to return the favor in their own special way.

On Nov. 1, Vizient Southern States President and CEO Bill Senneff paid a visit to St. Tammany Health System's flagship St. Tammany Parish Hospital to present the organization with a unique, handmade expression of gratitude: an approximately 5-foot-square quilt handcrafted by an international team of quilters and embedded with healthcare imagery.

"QUILTmania wanted to do something to recognize caregiving during the pandemic," Senneff said. "So they came to us with the idea of quilting."

In all, 80 quilt designers answered the call, with another 1,000 quilters from around the world joining in to help stitch 10-inch blocks that would be assembled to form 18 quilts. In September, the final products were

displayed as part of an exhibition at City Hall in Alpharetta, Georgia, before being distributed to specially chosen healthcare organizations.

The quilt presented to St. Tammany Health System, appropriately, incorporated deep red tones — matching the health system's signature color — and included quilted blocks made by quilters in California, Texas, Illinois and Mexico.

In many cases, the quilters who worked on the individual blocks signed their names, all of which are included in a panel stitched to the quilt's reverse explaining the sentiments behind the project, dubbed "Comforting Stitches: Quilters' Response to the Pandemic."

Their only requests, Senneff said, was that the quilt be displayed in a place where members of the caregiving team

at St. Tammany Health System can see it, as a reminder that their dedication during the pandemic has been recognized, and also that members of the public will be able to view it to remind them of those sacrifices.

The quilt has since been framed and placed on view on the third floor of the hospital, right outside its New Family Center.



The quilt presented to STHS measures approximate 5 feet square and includes 25 individually stitched blocks. It is part of a project called 'Comforting Stitches: Quilters' Response to the Pandemic.'



St. Tammany Health System's Fred Booker isn't your ordinary security officer. He's also a talented musician who often can be found playing the hospital's lobby piano, purchased in 2004 as part of St. Tammany Hospital Foundation's Healing Arts program.

‘THE PIANO MAN’

Fred Booker goes by a lot of titles.

Some call him Dad. Some call him Coach. Some call him Lt. Booker.

But to visitors at St. Tammany Health System, he's "the Piano Man," a sobriquet the security officer earned for his habit of spontaneously stopping to tickle the ivories of the mini-grand piano in the lobby of the health system's Covington hospital.

"It always gets a positive response. It seems to make people happy," Lt. Booker said. "If they don't need me on a post or on a unit, I'll go play for 10 minutes or so. Sometimes, I'll walk past the front desk and they'll say, 'Go play us something,' and so I play them something. It's relaxing. It's a stress reliever."

Visitors to St. Tammany Health System clearly felt that as they arrived at the hospital one afternoon in spring 2022.

As he noodled on the keyboard, Lt. Booker got at least two thumbs-ups from passersby, along with innumerable smiles and a playful exchange with a hospital colleague pretending to look for a tip jar. Another colleague described Lt. Booker as "St. Tammany Health System personified."

In May, Lt. Booker caught the eye of

WDSU-TV's Heath Allen, who put together a feature story on him to share with the entire New Orleans metro area.

Despite his innate musical talent — which he suspects may have come from his grandfather, who played upright bass as part of a church choir — playing professionally was never in the cards. After graduating from high school and two years at Southeastern Louisiana University, he joined the Army, then segued into a 33-year career with the Hammond Fire Department.

When he wasn't working, he coached youth sports for more than 28 years.

In 2011, he retired from the Fire Department but quickly realized retirement wasn't for him. "I was going nuts," he said — which brought him and his musical talents to St. Tammany Health System.

That longtime dedication to serving others earned Lt. Booker the city of Hammond's Wilbert H. Dangerfield Award for his years of service to the community.

"That was huge," he said, pausing from the piano. "When you're doing these things, you're not doing it for recognition. You do it out of love."

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Seventeen St. Tammany Health System employees received a total of \$30,000 in scholarships in 2022 from the St. Tammany Hospital Guild and the health system's Medical Staff Committee.

That included a record seven recipients of the Medical Staff's spring awards – five more than usual – in a nod to the challenges faced by healthcare workers since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each was worth \$2,000.

"We had so many outstanding candidates. Their stories were so compelling," STHS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Patrick Torcson said, explaining the reasoning behind expanding the field of recipients. "We felt rather than narrow it down to two, we'd open it up this semester."

The Med Staff also awarded two additional scholarships, also worth \$2,000, in the fall.

The guild, an all-volunteer organization that raises money for the hospital through various means – including the operation of the hospital's gift shop – awarded eight 2022 scholarships to health system employees pursuing education to further their medical careers. Each of the guild scholarships is worth \$1,500.



The recipients of the 2022 St. Tammany Hospital Guild spring scholarships, pictured holding their scholarship certificates and surrounded by STHS and guild representatives, are, from left, Stephanie Fuller, Danielle Edwards and Lillian Terrell.



Members of the St. Tammany Health System Medical Staff pose with the recipients of the department's spring scholarships on April 20, 2022, in the lobby of the health system's flagship St. Tammany Parish Hospital. This year's recipients are Caroline Brown, Brent Blazeovich, Candice Magee, Ryan Sharpe, Elizabeth Lott and Alexis Blake. Not pictured is Heather Toohey.



Members of the St. Tammany Health System leadership team join the all-volunteer St. Tammany Hospital Guild to celebrate the fall recipients of \$1,500 scholarships awarded by the guild to health system nurses, front row center, from left, Danielle Edwards, Alexis Blake and Emily Uhl. Not pictured are scholarship recipients Ryan Sharpe and Heather Toohey.



St. Tammany Health System nurses Melanie Rudiger, front left, and Monica Briggs, front right, received \$2,000 scholarship awards from members of the health system's Medical Staff for fall 2022.

STHS LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE



STHS Executive Team

The members of the executive leadership team at St. Tammany Health System bring with them a variety of skills, specialties and talents, but all with the same common goal: to position and support the health system's highly trained team of care providers so they can continue delivering world-class healthcare to the people of St. Tammany Parish through teamwork, trust, compassion, quality and innovation.



STHS Board of Commissioners

St. Tammany Parish Hospital Service District No. 1 — better known as St. Tammany Health System — is governed by an eight-member Board of Commissioners, six appointed by the St. Tammany Parish Council to six-year staggered terms, one elected by the medical staff to a one-year term and one nonvoting member, the parish president or designee.

ACHIEVEMENTS



fin **Fun Fact:**

It's not easy living atop the food chain, but sharks have achieved it with a little evolutionary help. Look closely and you'll see small black spots near their nose, eyes and mouth. Those spots are special electroreceptor organs – known as the ampullae of Lorenzini – that allow the shark to sense electromagnetic fields and temperature shifts in the ocean.

We'll be honest: We don't do it for the trophies. We don't do it for the recognition. We don't do any of what we do so well for our own personal glory. We do it for our community, our commitment to which has been the driving force behind St. Tammany Health System since day one. That being said, we do love to see our colleagues being celebrated for their unflagging dedication to our healing mission day in and day out. They're the reason our trophy case is bursting at the seams, and those achievements are emblematic of their talent, their professionalism and their compassion. They're also the reason we're the Northshore's apex caregivers – and that's something worth bragging about.

‘We’re going to need a bigger trophy case ...’

A partial listing of the accolades earned by St. Tammany Health System and its caregiving team in 2022:

U.S. News & World Report’s annual regional rankings named St. Tammany Health System’s flagship St. Tammany Parish Hospital the **No. 2 hospital in the New Orleans metro area** and the fourth-best in the state. The magazine also recognized the health system for excellence in a record seven treatment areas: **COPD, heart attack, heart failure, hip fracture, kidney failure, pneumonia and stroke.** ...

New Orleans CityBusiness named STHS to its 2022 list of **Best Places to Work in New Orleans.** ...

The STHS Emergency Department earned a spot on the American College of Emergency Room Physicians’ 2021 **Emergency Quality Network Honor Roll** for its continued work in reducing opioid use in treating emergency room patients. ...

In March, St. Tammany Health System’s New Family Center received the **2022 Louisiana Birth Ready Designation** from the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative. ...

Readers of Edge of the Lake magazine voted St. Tammany Health System the **best hospital in western St. Tammany Parish** as well as recognizing STHS for **best home health and best hospice care.** ...

Vizient Southern States in April recognized STHS with a **2021 Brilliance Award** in recognition of an innovative patient navigation initiative designed to reduce avoidable hospital readmissions. ...

In May, the American College of Cardiology honored STHS and its chest pain program with its **NCDR Chest Pain - MI Registry Platinum Performance Achievement Award.** ...

In June, St. Tammany Health System earned its 14th consecutive **Outstanding Patient Experience Award** from Healthgrades, placing it in the top 5% of U.S. hospitals for patient experience. ...

Also in June, STHS was again named an **Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence** by the Infectious Disease Society of America. ...

Fitch Ratings in August affirmed the health system’s **“AA” credit rating.** ...

STHS was recognized by the American Heart Association with a **2022 Get With the Guidelines – Stroke Gold Plus achievement award.** The health system was also placed on AHA’s **Target: Stroke Honor Roll.** ...

The Anticoagulation Forum once more named the health system an **Anticoagulation Center of Excellence.** ...

In September, St. Tammany Parenting Center was named a **Certified Autism Center** by IBCCES, making it the fifth STHS department to earn the designation. ...

In October, STHS Trauma Services Manager **Bethany Monistere** was named one of the Great 100 Nurses of Louisiana for 2022. ...

STHS President and CEO **Joan Coffman** was named to New Orleans CityBusiness’ Power 50 list, and Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer **Midge Collett** was named to CityBusiness’ 18th Leadership in Law list. ...

In November, the Leapfrog Group awarded STHS its 14th consecutive **“A” grade for patient safety.** It is the longest such streak of any Louisiana health system. ...

On Dec. 1, Women’s Choice named St. Tammany Health System **among the country’s Best 100 Hospitals for Patient Experience.** In addition, the Covington-based health system was singled out for distinction in nine areas. That includes being named a Best Hospital for **patient safety, obstetrics, heart care, cancer care, comprehensive breast care, stroke care, minimally invasive surgery, mammography and women’s services.**



2022 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCREDITATIONS

Since 1954, St. Tammany Health System has been the premier place for delivery of comprehensive and trusted healthcare on the Northshore. That's true now more than ever.

But don't just take our word for it. St. Tammany Health System consistently earns local, regional and national recognition for safety, quality and service excellence. Find a sampling below.



STROKE



COPD



HEART ATTACK



KIDNEY FAILURE



2022 **CITY BUSINESS** Best Places to Work



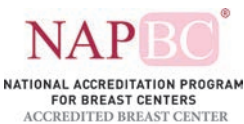
HEART FAILURE



PNEUMONIA



HIP FRACTURE



U.S. News & World Report

- High performing in Heart Failure Care
- High performing in COPD Care
- High performing in Heart Attack Care
- High performing in Kidney Failure Care
- High performing in Hip Fracture Care
- High performing in Stroke Care
- High performing in Pneumonia Care

Press Ganey

Human Experience Guardian of Excellence

Leapfrog Hospital Safety Score

A-grading period marks 14th consecutive semester

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

5 Stars for Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating

Healthgrades

- Outstanding Patient Experience
- Five-Star recipient: Pacemaker Procedures

Quantros (formerly CareChex)

- Top 10% in Nation for Trauma Care
- Top 10% in Nation for Pulmonary Care
- Top 100 in Nation for Cardiac Care Patient Safety
- Top 100 in Nation for Cancer Care Patient Safety

Women's Choice Awards

- Highest Safety Ratings
- America's Best Comprehensive Breast Center
- America's Best Stroke Center

Women's Choice Awards, America's Best Hospitals for:

- Cancer Care
- Heart Care
- Obstetrics
- Minimally Invasive Surgery
- Orthopedics
- Patient Safety
- Women's Services
- Minimally Invasive Surgery

Accreditations

- American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM)
- American Association of Blood Banks (AABB)
- American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR)
- American College of Radiology (ACR)
 - All imaging modalities at all locations
 - Breast imaging center of excellence
- American College of Emergency Physicians
 - Geriatric Emergency Department
- American College of Surgeons
 - National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC)
 - Verified Trauma Center, Level 3
 - Commission on Cancer Accredited Community Program (CoC)
- American Diabetes Association (ADA)
- American Heart/Stroke Association (AHA or AHA/ASA)
 - Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Center (AHA and Joint Commission)
 - Stroke Quality Achievement Award/Get with the Guidelines Stroke Gold
- Baby Friendly Birth Facility
- Gift Shining Star
- International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards Certified Autism Center (CAC)
- Joint Commission
 - NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders)
 - American College of Cardiology
 - Accredited Chest Pain Center
 - LAPQC Birth Ready Hospital
 - 2022 Brilliance Award / Vizient Southern States
 - CityBusiness 100 Best Places to Work 2022
 - Anticoagulation Center of Excellence (2021-2024)

FOUNDATION



fin
Fun Fact: Manta rays get a helping hand from their undersea community at cleaning time, making regular visits to “cleaning stations” on coral reefs, where they sit still as smaller fish clean them of parasites and dead skin. Like many acts of generosity, it’s a win-win: The rays get a good scrubbing, and their fishy friends get a meal.

There are a lot of reasons to love living on the Northshore, but one of the most inspiring is the unflagging generosity of local residents genuinely interested in giving back. That’s why St. Tammany Hospital Foundation was born in 2003, to channel the philanthropic spirit of those determined to make St. Tammany Parish stronger by supporting the healing mission of the care providers at St. Tammany Health System. Thanks to the foundation team, a wide array of philanthropic superstars big and small have done just that over the past 20 years. For that, we are enormously grateful, because, as the foundation’s motto says, “Keeping St. Tammany Health System Healthy Keeps Our Community Healthy.”

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SUCCESS

Dear friends,

We are deeply proud to recognize the 1,400 individuals, STHS colleagues, businesses, organizations and foundations who made contributions totaling \$972,774 in 2022. The generosity of these supporters has brought contributions in support of the healing work of our health system to over the \$22,588,000 mark raised since our inception.

Gifts from the generous donors in our community enabled the foundation to grant an unprecedented \$958,061 to St. Tammany Health System in 2022, funding equipment, education and training opportunities, department programs, health system initiatives and more. These disbursements allowed for continuing support of programs for patients in need like the cancer center's therapeutic food pantry and transportation assistance programs, the Stop the Bleed outreach initiative; as well as funding for colleague meals during the pandemic, patient and family education materials and bereavement meals for Hospice, enhancements for the Security department, NICU baby monitors, an Intuitive Robotic Bronchoscopy machine, the certification program for two more STHS sites to become a Certified Autism Center, and a first-of-its-kind "Reefie" fish installation. And these are just a few examples.

In addition to support from the community and grateful patients, our incredible colleagues demonstrated their commitment to St. Tammany Health System with 766 team members and physicians raising more than \$104,000 through the annual One Heartbeat Employee Campaign. Hustle & Heart is truly what sets them apart.

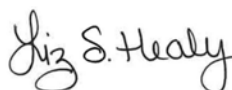
The foundation has always believed that the events we host not only serve to raise needed funds for the work of STHS, but they also create a sense of community among those who participate. We want to extend our sincere gratitude to the many corporate sponsors, individual donors and community volunteers who are part of our foundation family. Your support made a difference!

We invited the community to step into their imagination at a fantastical Willy Wonka themed soiree for THE Gala 2022 presented by HUB International which raised a record \$212,776 in support of programs at St. Tammany Cancer Center – A campus of Ochsner Medical Center. The 34th Monster Mash presented by Metairie Bank raised \$84,290 in support of the mission of the STHS Parenting Center. The Get Lucky! Golf Tournament presented by Five Star Food Service broke its record again, raising \$64,613. And Angels of Light raised \$24,625 to benefit Hospice.

As our community's health system continues to grow, so do its needs. St. Tammany Hospital Foundation exists to support the healing work of this world-class system. We do this by connecting people to purpose. We take great pride in being the conduit between the good people and businesses of St. Tammany Parish (and beyond) and the areas of healthcare where they can make the greatest and most meaningful impact.

Thank you to all who partnered with us this past year to make an impact on healthcare on the Northshore. We sincerely appreciate the trust you put into our organization to put your dollars to work.

Sincerely,



Liz Healy
2022 chairman, STHF Board of Trustees



Nicole Suhre, CFRE
executive director, STHF



Representatives of St. Tammany Health System and St. Tammany Hospital Foundation gathered Oct. 20 to accept the President's Award at the St. Tammany Commission on Cultural Affairs' 2022 President's Arts Awards. The award was bestowed upon St. Tammany Hospital Foundation in recognition of the impact of its Healing Arts Initiative. Pictured are, from left, Healing Arts Committee members Catherine Cooper, Cindy Pulling, Mary Lee, Norma Richard and Becky Carson Parks, foundation Executive Director Nicole Suhre, health system President and CEO Joan Coffman, and Healing Arts Committee members Jean-Marie Desrosiers and Carlos Sanchez.

An artful impact

St. Tammany Hospital Foundation has for years been shining a spotlight on local artists through its Healing Arts Initiative, but in 2022 it found itself in the spotlight.

On Oct. 20, the St. Tammany Commission on Cultural Affairs recognized the program, naming St. Tammany Hospital Foundation's Healing Arts Initiative the 2022 recipient of the commission's President's Award.

Presented as part of the commission's 16th President's Art Awards, which annually celebrate artistic achievements on the Northshore, the honor recognizes the foundation's continued efforts to incorporate the work of local artists as part of its larger support of the healing mission of the care providers at St. Tammany Health System.

"It is an honor beyond words to see our Healing Arts Initiative recognized in this way," said St. Tammany Hospital Foundation Executive Director Nicole Suhre. "The foundation is proud to be the steward of this nationally recognized initiative through the hard work and dedication of our Healing Arts committee. Additionally, we are deeply proud to have donors who are passionate

about making the inclusion of arts in healthcare a standard at St. Tammany Health System."

Suhre was on-hand to accept the award on behalf of the foundation, along with St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman and foundation Trustee and Healing Arts Committee Chair Mary Lee.

The Healing Arts Initiative was started in 2004 with donations made by St. Tammany Parish Hospital employees for the purchase of a player piano for the hospital lobby, aquariums for the hospital's Pediatric Unit and Paul D. Cordes Outpatient Pavilion, "Healing Ceiling tiles" in MRI and CT rooms, as well as a restful south Louisiana landscape mural in the Radiology Department.

Since then, the initiative has grown to encompass a wide-ranging collection of works created by local visual artists — from paintings to sculptures to photographs and more — that are on display at St. Tammany Health System facilities across western St. Tammany Parish, as well as the inclusion of architectural elements and music therapy that all work together to create a healing environment for patients, guests, and staff.

| St. Tammany United

In 2021 St. Tammany Hospital Foundation began its foray into formal awareness campaigns for select initiatives, first with its autism awareness campaign in April and then with its United in Pink campaign in October. In partnership with numerous departments at St. Tammany Health System, our combined efforts to unify our community through the healthcare initiatives important to them has been hugely successful. The second annual autism awareness and United in Pink campaigns in 2022 joined the foundation and the health system with corporate partners, local schools and organizations, the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office and individual donors to raise money for STHS's efforts to care for those with autism, as well as our efforts to educate the community on the importance of early detection of cancer through screenings. The community is who shines in these campaigns. Their consistent, enthusiastic and generous support is why these campaigns grow bigger and more impactful each year.

| Gifts that made a difference

Chances are you already know, but it bears reiterating: The Northshore is a great place to live for innumerable reasons. There's the peace, the quiet, the family-friendly atmosphere, the natural beauty. But we're also always moved by the community's unflinching generosity. Here are a few snapshots from 2022 worth celebrating:

- **GRANTS:** No patient should have to forgo treatment due to transportation obstacles. In this spirit, the American Cancer Society made a \$10,000 grant to the Transportation Assistance Program at St. Tammany Cancer Center – A campus of Ochsner Medical Center, to alleviate the financial burden of cancer treatment on patients in need.
- **CORPORATIONS FOR COMMUNITY:** The foundation was honored to be a recipient of the Shell Giving Pump campaign at select Diaz Shell locations on the Northshore in 2022. This first-time partnership with Diaz Energy was a great success, with proceeds going to benefit pediatric advancements at St. Tammany Health System.
- **THE GUILD THAT GIVES:** The all-volunteer St. Tammany Hospital Guild made a gift of \$41,000 in support of various projects in 2022, including an Echo Bed for Cardiology, gliders for the NICU, and ongoing support of the Be Well Bus and our integrative oncology programs at the cancer center. This donation brings the guild's cumulative giving to more than \$416,000 since 2003.
- **COLLABORATION IS KEY:** In 2021, St. Tammany Hospital Foundation and the Northshore Food Bank embarked on an innovative and hugely impactful collaboration with our cancer center through its Therapeutic Food Pantry, which aims to provide essential nutrition to patients who screen for food insecurity while in active treatment. In 2022, 163 patients received 814 food boxes, a nearly 100% increase from the program's first year. From the food staple boxes provided by Northshore Food Bank to the fresh produce, dairy and dietary supplements provided by the cancer center dietitians, this vital program has been fully funded by philanthropic donations since day one.



Scrumpdiddlyumptious!

With a little assistance from Willy Wonka, who helped transform Tchefuncta Country Club into a makeshift chocolate factory, St. Tammany Hospital Foundation and its supporters stepped into a world of pure imagination in October at THE Gala 2022. Sponsored by HUB International – and featuring food, music, an auction and LOTS of candies and confections – the event raised a record-breaking \$212,000 to support St. Tammany Cancer Center, a campus of Ochsner Medical Center. How sweet it is, indeed! (Photo by Chuck Billiot for STHF)



Trick-or-treaters, assemble!

Captain America and the Metairie Bank team did their best to put smiles on the faces of Northshore trick-or-treaters this past October at the 34th annual Monster Mash in Covington's Bogue Falaya Park. More than 3,500 little ghouls, goblins, princesses and superheroes attended the family-friendly Halloween event, which – with help from presenting sponsor Metairie Bank Northshore – raised more than \$84,000 to help fund the work of St. Tammany Health System's Parenting Center. (Photo by Chuck Billiot for STHF)

A team effort

The foundation got some big-league assistance in October 2022, in the form of the New Orleans Chapter of the NFL Players Association, members of which volunteered to wait on fans as part of a Celebrity Waiter Tailgate Soiree. Money raised went to local cancer care. "Philanthropy is every bit as much a team sport as football, so nobody should be surprised how these guys were able to pull together for such a successful event in October," said Melanie Rudolph of St. Tammany Hospital Foundation. (Photo by Chuck Billiot for STHF)





A 2022 golfer eyes his next shot as his teammates look on.

The swing of things

The 11th annual Get Lucky! Golf Tournament presented by Five Star Food Service teed off April 28, at Beau Chene Country Club, and it was a perfect day by all accounts. Golfers enjoyed food and drinks by Pyre Provisions, PJ's Coffee, Bosco's Italian Café, Chick-fil-A, and Pot & Paddle. In the process, a record \$65,000 was raised in support of the programs and services of St. Tammany Health System. (Photos by Chuck Billiot)



A golfer puts a little body English on his putt.



Since its inception in April 2012, the Get Lucky! golf tournament has raised around a half-million dollars in support of STHS.

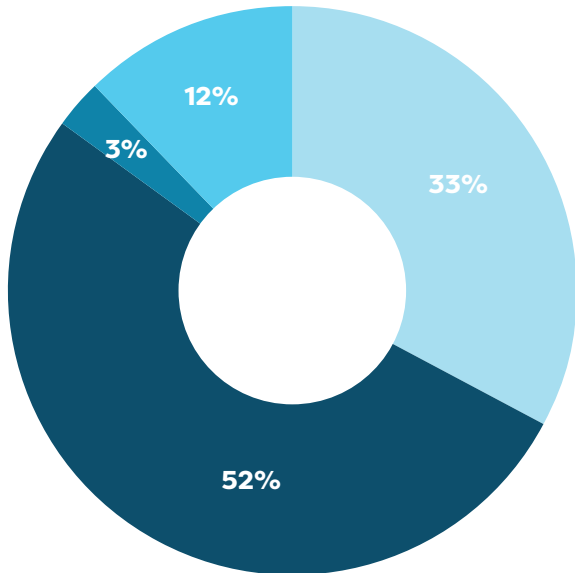


The team from PJ's Coffee took home the trophy as the first-place finishers of 2022.



A cart full of volunteers take a brief break from keeping the tournament firing on all cylinders.

KEEPING ST. TAMMANY HEALTH SYSTEM HEALTHY KEEPS OUR COMMUNITY HEALTHY

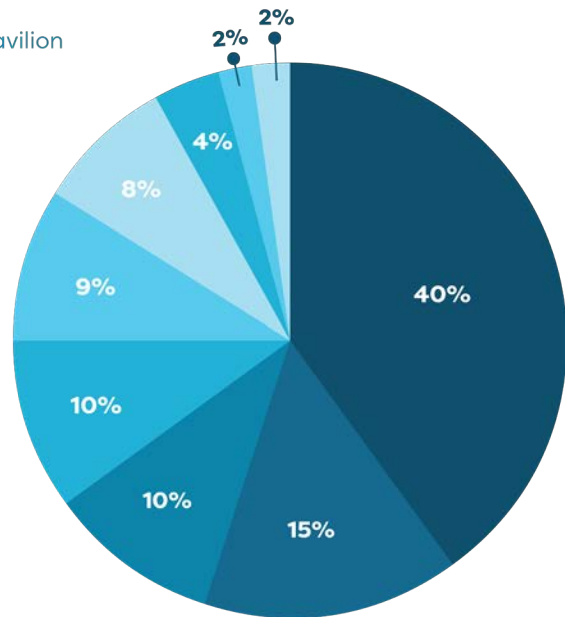


Sources of Funding

- Foundation / Organizations
- Other
- Individuals and Employees
- Companies

Stewardship of Gifts

- Cancer Services / Oncology Medicine / Women's Pavilion
- Healing Arts Initiative
- Pediatrics
- Unrestricted Caring for St. Tammany
- Parenting Center
- Endowment / Other Donor Restricted
- Hospice
- Colleague Benevolent Fund
- Cardiac Care



The foundation raises funds through a comprehensive development program including corporate partnerships and major gifts, planned giving, bequests and charitable gift annuities, tribute gifts, an annual support program and special events. In doing so, the foundation impacts the healthcare and well-being of the entire Northshore community.

“Since 2017, we have enjoyed working with countless Parenting Center, hospital and foundation staff to present Monster Mash. And today, we could not be more excited about this opportunity to further our partnership. With all the technological advancements in both healthcare and banking, everything still comes down to people, trust and relationships.” –Paul A. Myers, Metairie Bank Northshore



Why is this group smiling? In September, they – Metairie Bank’s Michael Gennaro, Paul A. Myers and John LeBlanc – joined St. Tammany Health System and St. Tammany Hospital Foundation leadership for the dedication of the exam room in the health system’s inpatient pediatrics.

Putting community first

The quarters were decidedly cramped in early September when Metairie Bank’s Michael Gennaro, Paul A. Myers and John LeBlanc crammed shoulder to shoulder in the pediatric inpatient exam room at St. Tammany Health System’s Covington hospital.

The space originally had been designed for children, but to all those watching, it felt like a perfect fit anyway.

Five years earlier, Metairie Bank’s then-President and CEO Ron Samford Jr., along with the bank’s Northshore Market President Paul Myers, visited the health system’s flagship St. Tammany Parish Hospital to present a gift to St. Tammany Hospital Foundation in support of the STHS Parenting Center. This gift, a multi-year sponsorship of the annual Monster Mash fundraiser, would be the first of what has been numerous donations made by the bank in support of the health system’s mission

and families on the Northshore.

In September, the health system and the foundation returned the favor during a brief ceremony in which the pediatric exam room was dedicated in honor of the community-minded financial institution’s generosity.

“Not only have they donated more than \$140,000 to support the great work that the Parenting Center does for the families in our community, but they have donated the ultimate gift of their time in support of our mission,” the foundation’s Melanie Rudolph said.

She continued: “We could not ask for better partners, better friends and ... we are proud to permanently have their name etched on the walls of our hospital in support of the children and families in our community who need us most.”

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Back Row, left to right: Renee Maloney; Liz Healy, Chairman; Jim Bradford; Sunny McDaniel; Kevin Gardner; Tim Lentz; Kevin Mashburn; Paul Davis; Becky Carson Parks; Laura Brown

Front Row, left to right: Nicole Suhre, Executive Director; Joan Coffman; John Evans; Norma Richard

OUR MISSION

The St. Tammany Hospital Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, was established to sustain the healing work of the physicians and staff of St. Tammany Health System. Through the development of philanthropic support, the foundation seeks to fortify the promise to provide world-class healthcare close to home, now and for generations to come.

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