



Generosity in action

2025 St. Luke's Foundation Impact Report

Our Mission, Vision and Values

Mission

As a part of the CommonSpirit Health family of hospitals, we make the healing presence of God known in our world by improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who are vulnerable, while we advance social justice for all.

Vision

A healthier future for all—inspired by faith, driven by innovation, and powered by our humanity.

Values

Compassion

Care with listening, empathy, and love.

Accompany and comfort those in need of healing.

Inclusion

Celebrate each person's gifts and voice.

Respect the dignity of all.

Integrity

Inspire trust through honesty.

Demonstrate courage in the face of inequity.

Excellence

Serve with fullest passion, creativity, and stewardship.

Exceed expectations of others and ourselves.

Collaboration

Commit to the power of working together.

Build and nurture meaningful relationships.

FY26 Board of Directors

The St. Luke's Foundation is governed by board members who act as fiduciaries by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies that steer the organization toward a sustainable future.

Paul Beck

Will Cravens, FY26 chair

Shelley Grahmann

Charles A. Gremillion III

Michael Lawson, ex-officio

Paul Layne

Michele Malloy

Stan Marek, FY25 chair

Tara Parker

Louis Pelz

Gloria Portela

Leonard Tallerine

Anna Valladolid

A. Martin Wickliff, Jr.

Our deepest gratitude to you!



Will Cravens

Board Chair
St. Luke's Foundation

Dear friends,

As I settle into my role as board chair of the St. Luke's Foundation, I am honored to be serving at this exciting time in our hospital system's next phase of growth.

We've been through a lot since I first joined the board in 2021, when our health system was grappling with the pandemic, financial challenges, and a board in flux. But through the sound leadership of our St. Luke's Health family and the generosity of our donors and supporters, we have been able to build on our mission and make our hospitals among the best in Texas and the nation for outstanding patient care. Our Catholic identity is reflected in our vision of a healthier future for all, "inspired by faith, driven by innovation and powered by our humanity."

I am truly humbled and excited by what we will be accomplishing together in the coming years as we expand our facilities, and our reach into the communities we serve with new programs and services. Your continuing support of St. Luke's Health makes our success possible.

I am so grateful for you.

Will Cravens

Board Chair
St. Luke's Foundation



Stan Marek
Immediate Past Board Chair

Dear friends,

It's been the honor of a lifetime to serve as board chair of the St. Luke's Foundation. I am so proud of the accomplishments of our board over the last year in elevating the engagement of our donors and partners in our long-term strategic vision for St. Luke's Health.

This past May, we celebrated our supporters at a special reception at the O'Quinn Medical Tower, where we unveiled a donor wall paying tribute to those who supported our Health, Hope, and the Human Spirit fundraising campaign. We also announced the addition of a new chapel for our patients and their family members as a spiritual place in which to pray and reflect. It will be a tribute to our hospital system's Catholic identity and a welcoming space for people of all faiths to find strength and comfort.

The chapel is one of several transformational projects at Baylor St. Luke's, funded by several generous gifts from our donors, including a \$1 million pledge from the Scanlan Foundation – one of our longtime philanthropic partners.

You'll read more about the chapel and other major projects that are made possible through the generosity of you, our donors, and the strong leadership of our board. This year we welcomed three new members – Louis Pelz, Shelley Grahmann, and Ann Valladolid. I am confident that together we can carry our strategic vision forward, and work with our partners and the communities we serve to ensure that St. Luke's Health remains one of the top hospital systems in Texas, and the nation.

I am so grateful to you for your continuing support.

Stan Marek
Immediate Past Board Chair
St. Luke's Foundation



Jennifer Nicely
Vice President of Philanthropy
CommonSpirit Health
South Region

Dear partners,

It is an amazing privilege to be a part of the culture of excellence in which St. Luke's Health operates. That culture is bolstered in no small measure by the generosity and support of our donors, and the exemplary leadership of the St. Luke's Foundation board. "I am especially grateful to former Vice President of Philanthropy Donna Budak, who left the foundation at the end of 2025 to focus on her new role as grandmother. Her exceptional leadership over the past three years positioned the foundation well for the future.

In just the last year, we witnessed St. Luke's Health's achievement of several major medical milestones. The first ever successful in-human Total Artificial Heart implantation in the U.S. was done at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, advancing our legacy in cardiovascular care. Our world-renowned surgeons completed more than 100 lung transplants, putting us in the Top 10 U.S. hospitals by number for this procedure. And for a sixth consecutive time, we were recognized as a Magnet hospital for nursing excellence.

These are just a few of the dozens of achievements of St. Luke's Health Texas hospitals in 2025. We have our donors to thank for their financial contributions that support the acquisition of cutting-edge technology, further our innovative care, and enable our staff to provide best-in-class care to every patient, no matter the complexity of their health issues or their life circumstances.

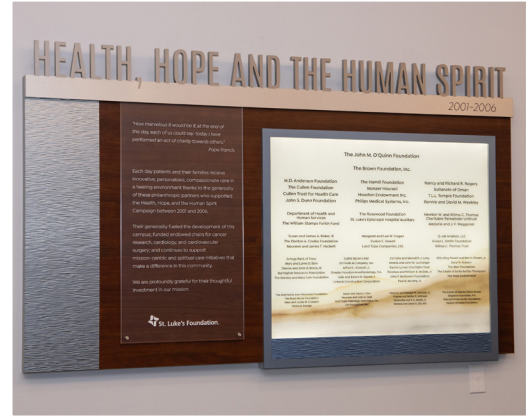
I'm deeply grateful to all our partners and our board of directors whose dedication and devotion are vital to our mission: to make the healing presence of God known in our world by improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who are vulnerable, while we advance social justice for all.

Thank you for everything you do to advance the health and well being of our communities.

Jennifer Nicely
Vice President of Philanthropy
CommonSpirit Health South Region



From left: Howard Tellepsen, Will Cravens, Stan Marek



Celebrating the past, present, and future

On a warm spring evening on May 6, friends, donors, and leaders gathered in the O’Quinn Medical Tower at the McNair Campus of Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center. The occasion was a donor reception hosted by St. Luke’s Foundation to celebrate the generosity of a community of donors who had supported the hospital’s previous Health, Hope, and the Human Spirit Campaign. These supporters were being recognized on a new donor wall that was unveiled at the event.

“Each name etched on this wall represents a profound act of kindness and a belief in our mission to provide exceptional care to our community,” said Ken Carlson, then—director of mission for Baylor St. Luke’s, as he offered a blessing when the wall was revealed. “These are the individuals and organizations who stepped forward with vision and generosity, understanding that their contributions would have a lasting impact on countless lives.”

But this was not just another donor event.

In front of the newly christened wall stood a triumvirate of leaders: Howard Tellepsen, the foundation’s first board chair; Stan Marek, the immediate past chair; and Will Cravens, who assumed the mantle this summer. With decades of volunteer service to the community, the trio represents continuity, commitment — and a bold new chapter at St. Luke’s Health.

United in purpose, these three community leaders joined together to share their commitment for the common good as they announced a combined \$2 million+ in pledges from the Marek family, the Tellepsen family and the Scanlan Foundation. These gifts will support oncology at Baylor St. Luke’s, as well as a new chapel in Tower One at the McNair Campus.

“We are so grateful for these new gifts in support of our chapel project,” said hospital president Bradley Lembcke, MD. “Our philanthropic partners are helping build a beautiful, spiritual space in which patients and their families can pray and reflect, and I look forward to seeing it take shape over the next year.”

The new chapel will serve as a sanctuary — a place for patients, families, and caregivers to find peace, reflection, and strength.

These generous commitments are also deeply rooted in a larger, ambitious vision. The chapel stands among several vital developments currently underway with three transformative projects: Baylor St. Luke’s McNair Campus is relaunching inpatient rehabilitation services and expanding patient capacity, while the original hospital on Bertner is undergoing renovations.

As the expansion of surgical care floors at McNair begins and the ongoing renovation of the Bertner campus advances, there is a renewed sense that St. Luke's health system is growing toward an even more compassionate, whole-person model of care. The spiritual refuge of the chapel will be part of that holistic approach, complementing the advances in medical service, patient comfort, and community outreach.

"Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center is home to some of the most groundbreaking advancements in health care and we are excited about setting the stage to advance our legacy of research, innovation and excellence," said Brad Lembcke, MD, president of Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. "These projects are fueled by CommonSpirit's long-range strategy of local growth through investment in the communities in which we serve, ensuring patients have access to quality whole-person care that is close to home."

By stepping forward together, Howard, Stan, and Will send a message: the legacy of St. Luke's Foundation is not static, but living — anchored in gratitude for what has been built, energized by what is being built now, and confident in what is yet to come. Their pledges do not merely fund oncology care and a chapel — they demonstrate humankindness and commitment to care for the future generations of patients, families and caregivers who will walk those halls.

The gathering of past, current, and future leaders is a reminder that individuals united by a common mission can make a real difference. With their philanthropic support, the legacy of healing at St. Luke's will now include a sacred space that offers solace in times of suffering and honors life's most intimate stories.



More than health care — human care

Each month, the chaplains of Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center assist more than 6,000 patients, family members, and staff at our two campuses. As the clinical footprint on the McNair Campus expands and the number of patients accessing care at both locations continues to grow, the need for a new chapel in Tower One became a pressing priority.

Located on the main floor just off the facility's primary lobby, the new chapel in Tower One of the McNair Campus will be a welcoming place to anyone seeking prayer and spiritual comfort. Designed to elevate our Catholic faith as well as accommodate the diverse faith backgrounds of those who seek care from us, the chapel will be a space that heals and consoles those of any faith tradition.

As a Catholic hospital, Baylor St. Luke's will work with design firm *Studio io* to take special care to ensure that our distinct identity is clear and that the sacred religious items necessary for mass are always present. Studio io is specifically focused on Catholic liturgical spaces and has done some incredibly beautiful work across the country.

Additionally, the chapel will be the site of a weekly Sunday Mass and a Eucharistic adoration on Thursday. Weekly Protestant services will also be held in the chapel, which will be available as well for services for other faiths.

The foundation has already received two lead gifts of \$2 million to work with *Studio io*. Additional donor support will both accelerate the timetable for the chapel's opening and ensure that the chapel is not only functional but enhances the already beautiful Tower One space.

A Legacy of Healing and Giving



Dr. Philip A. Salem

World-renowned oncologist Dr. Philip A. Salem has poured an entire lifetime into service. As a physician credited with a novel treatment that has saved the lives of patients with advanced cancers, he is also recognized as a generous benefactor who has given back to the institutions that have given him the opportunity to build not just a 57-year career in medicine, but also a legacy of caring.

Earlier this year, Dr. Salem donated \$1.8 million to support oncology at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. In recognition, the hospital's conference center will be named in his honor. The Philip A. Salem, MD Conference Center at the O'Quinn Medical Tower is a state-of-the-art conference space designed to bring together medical professionals, researchers, and students.

Dr. Salem's charitable gift is not just a testament to generosity— it is the culmination of a life defined by love, resilience, and a deep commitment to humanity.

A native of a small village in Lebanon, Dr. Salem credits his passion for philanthropy to his mother, a woman who instilled in him a belief in compassion and selflessness. Her own health issues led her son into medicine; later, a close friend's battle with ovarian cancer directed him to oncology.

At just 24, and earning a mere \$500 a month as a medical resident, he established a scholarship at his childhood elementary school. That modest act of giving marked the beginning of a lifelong

commitment to philanthropy that would grow in scale and impact, touching lives across continents.

His path was not easy. Dr. Salem received training in the US, including at Memorial Sloan Kettering and a year-long fellowship at MD Anderson. He then returned to Lebanon to teach for 14 years at the American University in Beirut. But the war-ravaged nation drove Dr. Salem and his wife and three young children to flee in 1987. They arrived in Houston, where he began rebuilding his life and medical career. Starting as a professor at MD Anderson, he found his permanent professional home at St. Luke's, where he spent more than 34 years advancing cancer treatment, research, and patient care.

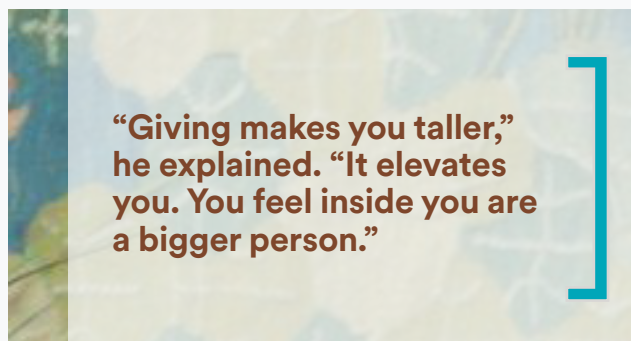
Over the decades, Dr. Salem never lost sight of the principles he learned in his youth, even as he rose to become one of the most respected oncologists in the world. He speaks with deep appreciation for the institutions that gave him sanctuary and purpose.

His philanthropy extended far beyond Houston. In Lebanon, he established a Center for Political Studies at Saint Joseph University, aiming to foster better leadership and help repair the damage caused by decades of poor governance and civil strife. He also funded the Center for Lebanese Heritage at the Lebanese American University to celebrate and preserve the rich cultural contributions of his homeland.

Over his nearly six-decade career, Dr. Salem, now 84 years young, has come to believe that love, empathy, and humility are as critical as medical knowledge. Every patient, he says, deserves to be seen not only as a case, but as a human being. Cancer, he believes, is a profound teacher. "What

you learn from cancer medicine is something no philosopher knows," he said. Medicine, especially oncology, is not simply about science—it is about love, perseverance, and human connection. Even when a cure is impossible, says Dr. Salem, "comfort and hope are always possible."

This philosophy of care is matched by his philosophy of giving. Dr. Salem views philanthropy not as an act of pride, but as a duty.



Above all, Dr. Salem's gift is one of appreciation. To Baylor St. Luke's, which gave him a home to practice medicine; to MD Anderson, which welcomed him as a refugee and scholar; and to America, a country that gave him and his children the freedom to grow.

"I am a great believer in appreciation," he says. "I think children in school, from kindergarten on, should be taught about giving and appreciation."

For Dr. Salem, the heart of cancer care is teamwork, where success often depends on many hands working in harmony. "One alone cannot achieve a great deal," he said. "But together, we can do more than we ever thought possible."



The Philip A. Salem, MD Conference Center is a physical embodiment of that belief: a place where collaboration leads to discovery, healing, and progress—and one that will stand as a lasting symbol of what it means to give from the heart.

Putting Your Gifts to Work

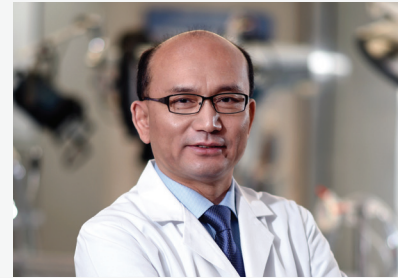
Baylor St. Luke's Surgeons Perform Nation's First Fully Robotic Heart Surgery

Surgeons at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center made international headlines earlier this year when they achieved yet another major medical milestone: performing the first fully robotic heart transplant in U.S. history, and only the second in the world.

This achievement was made possible in large part through the generosity of our donors, whose philanthropic contributions helped fund the advanced technology employed by our world-renowned surgeons.

In March 2025, Kenneth Liao, MD, PhD, chief of cardiothoracic transplantation, led a surgical team in achieving this medical milestone with a 45-year-old patient, who had been hospitalized for months with advanced heart failure.

The surgeons used a robotic platform, called the da Vinci Xi Surgical System, to remove the patient's diseased heart and to implant a new donor heart. The robotic procedure avoids the typical approach to transplantation, involving a large incision to open the chest and the breaking of the breast bone to get to the diseased heart. Instead, the da Vinci Xi robot can perform a minimally invasive procedure in which the robot's "arms" make small, precise incisions,



guided by the surgeon using a high-definition, 3D visualization camera.

The procedure also preserves the chest wall's integrity, reduces blood loss and the need for transfusions; and lowers the risk of developing antibodies against the transplanted heart.

After a month at the hospital, the patient was discharged to home with no complications.

For Dr. Liao, who has performed more than 1,000 robotic cardiac procedures in his surgical career, this operation represents a major leap forward in transplant surgery.

"This transplant shows what is possible when innovation and surgical experience come together to improve patient care," he said. **"Our goal is to offer patients the safest, most effective, and least invasive procedures, and robotic technology allows us to do that in extraordinary ways."**





**The new ECHO machine was truly
a gift from the heart!**

A Gift for Hearts, from the Heart

Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, in collaboration with Baylor College of Medicine, provides comprehensive cardiac care to patients from Texas and around the world. Philanthropic contributions help make possible the highest quality care we give to our patients.

Earlier this year, the generosity of a donor allowed us to acquire a new, advanced echocardiogram, or “ECHO,” a non-invasive heart ultrasound that uses high-frequency sound waves to create moving pictures of the heart. Our cardiac specialists use this vital piece of equipment to evaluate heart function, check the size and shape of the heart, and diagnose a range of heart conditions.

Improving Access to Health Care in Rural East Texas

In June 2025, the Rural Family Residency Program at St. Luke's Health—Memorial Hospital, in collaboration with Baylor College of Medicine, celebrated the graduation of its first three residents—a significant milestone for this groundbreaking effort to bring more young physicians to rural areas and improve health care access for residents of East Texas.

Supported by the T.L.L. Temple Foundation and the Mary K. and Clifford Grum Foundation, the program provides comprehensive training to prepare physicians to meet the unique challenges of rural health care. The inaugural graduates have completed rigorous training, including rotations at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center in Houston and hands-on experience at St. Luke's Health – Memorial and nearby clinics like the Baylor St. Luke's Medical Group – Lufkin Family Medical Center.

The program strives to inspire graduates to stay practicing in East Texas after their training ends so that residents will continue to have access to high-quality, compassionate health care in their own communities.





Better Sleep for Newborns (and their Parents)

New parents will now have better tools to support a safe night's sleep for their newborn, thanks to generous gifts from Entergy and the Junior League of The Woodlands. Through their support, the Gold Certified Safe Sleep Program at The Woodlands Hospital provides families with swaddles, portable cribs and education to ensure their newborns have a safe and secure sleep environment upon leaving the hospital.

Safer Transport

Our tiniest patients at St. Luke's College Station Hospital are also benefiting from the generosity of donors who gifted a new transport incubator to the NICU. The AirBORNE A750i incubator—made possible by contributions from Kandy and Martin Jackson, Brazos Paving, Inc., Civil Constructors, Inc., Texcrete Operations, Inc., and Greens Prairie Investors—allows infants in the NICU to be safely and gently transported within the hospital.

Transforming Care in East Texas

St. Luke's Health celebrated the grand opening this fall of a new, state-of-the-art Catheterization Lab at Memorial–Lufkin Hospital. The \$3.62 million project, supported by a \$1.5 million donation from the Mary K and Clifford Grum Foundation, will transform cardiovascular care in East Texas. The new lab is equipped with the exclusive GE Allia Pulse-7 series, offering incredibly precise, minimally invasive treatments with the industry's lowest radiation. Director Lance Floyd says, "We believe every heart patient deserves the chance to thrive," and this new lab helps us deliver just that!"





Your generosity translates to hope and healing for every community we serve. Thank you!

Gifts of Gratitude



Transplant Patient Gives Back Straight from the Heart

It's easy to imagine L.A. and Rona Train's Uptown Houston condominium filled with grandchildren and great grandchildren. Family pictures fill the home, which over the years has been the hub of activity for their large family. Yet, if not for the care L.A. received at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center 35 years ago, their family history might very well look completely different.

L.A. was first diagnosed with a heart irregularity in the summer of 1958, right before starting his freshman year at Tulane University. Tulane had required all new students to have a complete physical and L.A.'s family doctor included an EKG with his exam. The EKG was abnormal. The doctor told him to see a cardiologist, and to not overdo his physical activity.

L.A. went off to Tulane, where he met his future wife Rona, and the two began planning their life together.

For the next several years, L.A. continued to see a number of cardiologists but no one seemed to understand what exactly his condition was. In 1962, L.A.'s father brought him to the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Washington, D.C. for an angiogram,

which was becoming a standard test for heart conditions, and it showed that L.A. had an enlarged left ventricle. It was likely he would not live past the age of 50.

Despite his serious medical condition, L.A. and Rona settled in Corpus Christi, and over the next 20 years they raised their family and built a successful business. L.A. continued to travel yearly to NIH for angiograms, but the trips were expensive and time consuming.

During those years, the Texas Heart Institute and St. Luke's Hospital in Houston had grown to become a successful cardiac center. L.A. elected to start seeing Dr. Robert Leachman, a prominent cardiologist at Texas Heart who had done the first angiogram there. Dr. Leachman worked closely with Dr. Denton Cooley, the legendary surgeon who performed the first artificial heart transplant.

Dr. Leachman and L.A.'s cardiologist in Corpus Christi worked together to monitor L.A.'s condition, and prescribed medications that helped ease the burden on his heart. But as time passed his health continued to deteriorate. In 1988, doctors found his heart was no longer pumping the volume of blood his body required. To save his life, he would need a heart transplant.

He and Rona made the move to Houston in case a heart became available. As they waited, his condition weakened.

On Valentine's Day of 1990, and approaching his 50th birthday, L.A. was admitted to Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center (then known as St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital). All he wanted for his birthday, he told a nurse, was a heart.

On Sunday, March 4, 1990 his birthday wish came true. L.A. got his new heart, transplanted by renowned transplant surgeon Dr. O.H. "Bud" Frazier.

"I was told by a nurse when I left the hospital to 'go out and live your life to the fullest,'" L.A. recalled. "Take your medicine, get your rest, but don't think of yourself as a sick person because you're not [anymore]."

That was 35 years ago. Today, L.A. is under the care of Dr. Andrew Civitello, medical director of the heart transplant program at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center.

Dr. Civitello is passionate about helping patients live full and healthy lives. "Our goal is for people's hearts to recover without transplant or left ventricular assist devices," he said. "But if not, we have lots of ways to treat them."

That's certainly been the case for L.A. "The transplant allowed me to see my children grow up, marry perfect spouses, and give us eight beautiful grandchildren," he said.

Philanthropy has been an important part of how he and Rona have lived their lives. They give to many nonprofits in Corpus Christi, which they still think of as home. And they've supported Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center generously over the years.

Why do they give?

"The community provided a good life for us, and we feel that it's the right thing to do to give back. I don't think you can tell anybody. It's got to come from here," he said, touching his heart.



What Personalized Care Really Means

Jerry Rubli can tell you the names of everyone on his St. Luke's Health care team. He knows Cedric plays in a band and is active in his youth ministry. He enjoyed hearing about Sheila's granddaughter and Micah's daughter. And he looked forward to Jennifer's warm greeting at every appointment. His immunotherapy infusions would take 30-45 minutes and inevitably someone would ask him: "Do you want us to bring you anything?"

“I’d say yes, please, would you bring me a coffee with two creams and one Splenda and some peanut butter crackers,” Jerry recalled. “It got to the point that when I’d come into the room, they’d have the coffee waiting for me with everything fixed and the crackers.

“I just really appreciated that.”

Jerry certainly didn’t expect to make new friends as part of his treatment at St. Luke’s Health. No more than he expected a cancer diagnosis in 2023. Bothersome symptoms had sent the now retired grandfather of 10 to see a urologist with another health system. He was treated for an infection, but his symptoms continued to worsen. After some additional testing, the doctor delivered the devastating news: Jerry had bladder cancer.

His wife Donna was quick to reach out to their circle of friends for doctor recommendations, and within a week they were at Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center’s new McNair campus sitting in the office of renowned urologic oncologist Dr. Seth Lerner. Dr. Lerner recommended a surgical procedure that a previous physician had dismissed, having told Jerry he was “too old.”

In October of 2023 Jerry underwent a procedure to remove a tumor and reconstruct his bladder. From the start, he felt that his Baylor St. Luke’s doctor cared about him as a person.

Jerry recalled that the day after his procedure, he was told he needed to get up and walk. “So I’m walking pretty vigorously, and Dr. Lerner came by and put his arm around me, so pleased that I was walking.”

After his surgical procedure, Jerry met with Dr. Aihua Edward Yen, who specializes in bladder cancer at the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor St. Luke’s. But because Jerry lives in Spring, the thought of traveling to the Texas Medical Center for biweekly treatments was daunting.

Enter Dr. Laura Meza Rios, an oncologist at the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center in The Woodlands. “Dr. Yen sent me a message and said, ‘Could you see him? Can you take care of him?’”

The two doctors conferred on the best course of treatment for Jerry. Traditional chemotherapy was ruled out because the recommended course is known to sometimes cause hearing loss, which was already an issue for Jerry. His care team determined that immunotherapy was a strong alternative and Jerry finished his course of treatment in January 2025.

“He’s done really well and so far there’s really no signs of the cancer coming back,” said Dr. Meza Rios.

Both Jerry and Donna are impressed by the level of personalized care they received at every step of Jerry’s cancer journey.

“It’s a great, great institution,” said Jerry. “I would just say thank you. You made a scary situation almost pleasant.”

Dr. Meza Rios, who came to The Woodlands in 2020 after serving as a fellow at Baylor St. Luke’s, echoed Jerry’s perspective on the compassionate, personalized care found at St. Luke’s.

“We’re trying our best to help [our patients] and that’s important to me, trying to find out who they are, what they need, and how we can help,” she said. “I always tell them that they can decide their own treatment option. I want them to feel comfortable and trust me. Trust is really important in this relationship.

“I think we have a great team here,” she added. “I love working here. The nurses, everyone is just very kind and you can tell that they care.”



We believe every act of humankindness is worthy of celebration and every expression of gratitude deserves recognition.

How Early Action and Treatment Gave Lung Cancer Patient a Second Chance at Life

Les LeBleu, 67, came down with bronchitis that he couldn't shake. The self-described "stubborn male" mostly ignored it. After three months, his wife insisted he see a doctor. A chest x-ray and additional films revealed a mass in his lungs.

It had an unusual presentation that changed in size and shape as doctors evaluated it. A biopsy confirmed it was primary lung cancer, adenocarcinoma.

The diagnosis felt like "a cold splash of water in the face," Les recalled. The retired IT consultant had never smoked and was never exposed to any hazardous chemicals. But his mother had smoked every day in the house where he grew up. He is convinced his lung cancer stems from secondhand smoke.

Lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer death in the US, accounting for about one in five of all cancer deaths. According to the American Cancer Society, more people die of lung cancer than of colon, breast, and prostate cancers combined.

After his diagnosis, Les was referred to Dr. Mark Mettauer, a cardiothoracic surgeon at St. Luke's Health–The Woodlands Hospital. Dr. Mettauer talked with Les about treatment options. Given the tumor's size, Dr. Mettauer recommended surgery. "It was large, about the size of a lemon," Dr. Mettauer recalled.

It didn't take much to convince Les. "Let's just go get it," he told the surgeon.

Dr. Mettauer was able to remove all of the tumor. "He was lucky his cancer was detected in its early stages," Dr. Mettauer said. "Typically, tumors of

that size have already spread. It had clear margins, and there was no lymph node involvement." Dr. Mettauer did find some emphysema changes consistent with secondhand smoke exposure.

After six days in the hospital, Les returned home, already walking laps around his house. Three weeks later, he was "at 90 percent" and very grateful for the care he received from Dr. Mettauer and Dr. Angela Coscio, a medical oncologist who is also at St. Luke's Health–The Woodlands Hospital.

It's been well over a year since his surgery and Les remains cancer-free, though he will need long-term follow-up to monitor for recurrence.

Les and his wife Cathy were so moved by the care and compassion shown by Drs. Mettauer and Coscio that they decided to do something to help the medical team that pulled him through. So they made gifts to St. Luke's Health–The Woodlands Hospital in their honor.

"I'm a Medicare patient, and the reimbursement for Medicare isn't what it should be," Les explained. "We wanted to do anything to help St. Luke's Health–The Woodlands Hospital. The more resources the hospital has, be it instrumentation or personnel or good old cash, the better."

Les credits his medical team at St. Luke's–The Woodlands for his health today and found spiritual meaning in the early diagnosis that likely saved his life and enabled him to help care for his wife's elderly family members.

"My wife told me, 'You are here for a reason and the way you take care of everybody means that's what God wants you to do."

"You're not done yet."



Charitable Rollovers: A gift that gives twice

**Are you over the age of 70½?
Then you can make an IRA charitable rollover to public charities like St. Luke's Foundation and St. Joseph Health Foundation.**

Like other IRA rollovers, your IRA distribution to charity won't be included in your federal taxable income. And while there is no added deduction, you can save substantial income taxes not otherwise available by making an IRA distribution to charity this year of up to \$108,000.

Why are charitable IRA rollovers gaining in popularity?

Convenience.

It is a very simple and easy way to make a charitable gift.

Lower taxes.

With an IRA charitable rollover, you may take the standard deduction and still receive benefits for your gift. Because the IRA rollover may satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), it may reduce your taxes.

Lower tax on Social Security.

Because of an IRA distribution, you may be paying tax on 85% of your Social Security. An IRA charitable rollover will lower your income and may reduce your taxable Social Security to 50%.

No giving limits.

With an IRA charitable rollover, you may give more than the usual deductible amount.

Discuss the benefits of an IRA charitable rollover with your CPA or tax advisor. To learn more about the benefits of making an IRA distribution to public charities like St. Luke's Foundation, call one of our charitable giving experts at (832) 355-6822 or email: giving@commonspirit.org.

FY25 By the Numbers

 \$14,337,708

Total Dollars Raised

In FY25, our donors came together to realize the power of generosity and gratitude in our community. The results have been inspiring.

\$9,269,895



Transfer to Health Systems

Transfers show collaboration as monies are transferred only after the obligations of donor intent have been met.



\$3,693,510

Total Expenses

Donors bolster innovation, bring together our community and serve the vulnerable. Together we accomplish what none of us could do alone.

\$3.88



Return on Investment

St. Luke's Foundation ended its fiscal year with strong performance across the three markets it serves in Texas.



Your gifts accelerate transformative, compassionate care across Texas, and we are grateful for your partnership.

How Doing Good Gets Noticed

St. Luke's Health is committed to providing compassionate, skilled care in every community we serve. The generosity of our donors allows us to fulfill our commitment to deliver the highest quality of care to each and every patient, with a dose of humankindness.

Our excellence in the services and specialties provided by our world-renowned physicians and health care teams, along with the highest levels of patient safety, is reflected by the numerous accolades our hospitals have achieved in 2025.



US News & World Report once again ranked **Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center** among the Top 50 U.S. Hospitals in 2025 in three areas: Heart & Vascular

Surgery; Neurology & Neurosurgery; and Gastroenterology & GI Surgery. Baylor St. Luke's was also rated a High Performing Hospital in six adult specialties and 19 procedures and conditions; and was ranked #4 in Texas and #2 in Houston among regional hospitals.

St. Luke's Health–The Woodlands Hospital was also recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* among the Best Hospitals; while St. Luke's Health–Lakeside Hospital was named a High Performing Hospital.

Baylor St. Luke's was named to *Newsweek's World's Best Specialized Hospitals 2025* and *World's Best Smart Hospitals 2025* lists.



Baylor St. Luke's achieved its sixth Magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Our donors' support for nursing plays a vital role in creating a culture of excellence for our care teams.

In spring 2025, **St. Luke's Health–Sugar Land Hospital**, **St. Luke's Health–The Woodlands Hospital**, and **St. Luke's Health–The Vintage Hospital** again earned "A" Hospital Safety Grades from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety. Grades are determined based on over 30 measures of errors, accidents,

injuries and infections as well as the systems hospitals have in place to prevent them.



St. Luke's Memorial was recognized by *US News & World Report* as a High Performing Hospital in 2025 in the areas of Stroke and Heart Failure. It also earned an "A" Hospital Safety Grade in spring 2025 from The Leapfrog Group.



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