



# Heart to Heart

A publication of St. Tammany Health System



## 70 YEARS LATER

Looking back at seven decades of caring, p. 8

St. Tammany Pediatrics opens new clinic in Mandeville, p. 4  
North Covington facility helping train next generation of family medicine specialists, p. 6  
RECIPE: Chef Osman Rodas of Pardo's shares his Pecan Pesto Chicken Breast recipe, p. 10  
Foundation announces new name, logo, renewed mission, p. 12

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# Gratefully Yours

## Meet Great Aunt Emmy



Joan Coffman, FACHE

**“Initially, we were not sure of the names of the women in that photo. Then we published it online.”**

If there’s something people love here in South Louisiana, it is a good reason to celebrate – and we have a dandy coming up here at St. Tammany Health System.

As you may have already heard, on Dec. 1 we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the health system, and we are already hard at work making sure that milestone is greeted with all due splendor.

As part of those preparations, we have been working since last September on a 70-part history series we are calling “70 for 70” and which highlights a different artifact every week that helps tell the St. Tammany Health System story.

One of my favorites is the photo gracing the cover of this issue. It shows some of our first nurses, including Emma M. Porche Wetherbee, who appears front and center.

What I like most about it is the way we discovered her identity. Initially, we were not sure of the names of the women in that photo. Then we published it online, prompting local resident Rebecca Mohr Carter to write in not only to provide us with the name of the woman she knew as “Great Aunt Emmy” but also to share a brief and charming biography of her.

To me, it feels only fitting that members of our community are helping us tell the story of a hospital founded decades ago to care for that very same community.

In addition to the wealth of other stories you will find in the pages that follow, you can read more about the 70 for 70 project on pages 8 and 9. There, you will also find a link to read more about Great Aunt Emmy, our cover girl after all these years.

I think she would be pleased. I think you will be, too.

Thank you for reading, and thank you for trusting St. Tammany Health System with your family’s care.

Gratefully,



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



Nurse Practitioner Perry Russell, left, and Licensed Practical Nurse Sydney Williams talk shop at St. Tammany Pediatrics' newest clinic in Mandeville. The clinic, which includes an Express Care Kids afterhours and walk-in clinic, opened in May. (Photos by Tim San Filippo/STHS)

## New pediatrics office emphasizes convenience

### Mandeville facility includes afterhours walk-in clinic

#### By STHS Communication Department

The St. Tammany Pediatrics family is growing again.

In May, St. Tammany Health System expanded its pediatric practice into the heart of Mandeville, with the opening of a new St. Tammany Pediatrics clinic and an integrated Express Care Kids afterhours and weekend clinic all under one roof at 3663 U.S. Highway 190.

"In St. Tammany Parish, we're all about family," health system President and CEO Joan Coffman said. "And at St. Tammany Health System, we're all about making it as convenient as possible for local families to get world-class healthcare. This innovative clinic



St. Tammany Pediatrics' new clinic, which includes an Express Care Kids afterhours and walk-in clinic, is at 3663 U.S. 190, next to the Mandeville Chick-fil-A restaurant.

setup was designed to do just that."

New and existing patients can schedule appointments or walk in for an appointment with any of the clinic's care providers during normal operating hours, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Additionally, they can make afterhours and weekend visits to Express Care Kids, a walk-in clinic that – like the health system's Express

Care walk-in clinic in Covington – provides traditional primary care services, including well-child visits, during nontraditional office hours for the convenience of local families.

Express Care visits are billed like a traditional office visit, so copy amounts are much lower than those for a typical urgent care visit.

Between traditional office visits and Express Care availability, patients will be able to make office visits at the new clinic between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

Drs. Margaret Leefe, Seth McVea and Uyen Nguyen have relocated to the new clinic, along with Nurse Practitioners Perry Russell and Leslie Cook, and a full complement of support staff.

Drs. Rob Fauchaux and Linda Keefer will continue seeing pediatrics patients at the St. Tammany Physicians Network clinic in Madisonville. ■



Scan the QR code or visit [StTammany.health/MandevillePeds](https://StTammany.health/MandevillePeds) to learn more about the newest St. Tammany Pediatrics clinic.

# FLOWER POWER

Every quarter, St. Tammany Health System recognizes nursing excellence with the Daisy Award and non-nursing colleagues with the Sunflower Award. Here are the latest to earn the honors.



Daisy-winning nurse Jake Scheuermann of the St. Tammany Health System Neuro ICU is embraced by health system President and CEO Joan Coffman as Chief Nursing Officer Kerry Milton, left, looks on. Jake was nominated for the award by the family of a patient, who wrote, 'Jake just gave that extra that makes him stand out to me and my family.' (Photo by Jan Budenz/STHS)



New Family Center Nurse Kristi Lamarque was nominated for a Daisy by fellow nurse Charlotte McCall for her compassion toward a grieving mother. McCall wrote: 'Her help was invaluable and all of the nurses on Peds/PICU agree that there is no one more deserving of the Daisy Award.' (Photo by Jan Budenz / STHS)



Telemetry Medicine Nurse Erika Marcev was nominated for her Daisy Award by a grateful patient who wrote: 'Her mission was to make sure that I had the best quality care in a very timely manner. She saw beyond what I was going through and reacted promptly to attend to my needs. She gave top care, the best I've seen in a very long time. She is a true gem to the medical field.' (Photo by Tim San Fillippo/STHS)



Sunflower Award recipient Ashley DiFranco, center, shows off her award with, from left, Director of Emergency Services Bradley Leonhard, Director of Rehab Services Bert Lindsey, Chief Operating Officer Sharon Toups and AVP Critical Care Teresa Krutzfeldt. Ashley was nominated for the award by a patient who wrote, 'I have visited the ER at this hospital more times than I can count. On my last visit, I felt the love of the Lord through this young woman that I hadn't felt in a long time.' (Photo by Jan Budenz / STHS)



STHS Care Coordination Social Worker and Sunflower recipient Caroline Redman, right, poses for a photo with STHS Care Coordination RN Janie Kuebel, who nominated Caroline for the recognition after her intervention in a difficult case. 'She shows compassion/empathy for her patients and does not give up. When a door is closed, she fights for them.' (Photo by Jan Budenz / STHS)

# STAT!

Quick hits from the STHS newsroom

By STHS Communication Department

St. Tammany Health System in March received Healthgrades' **Outstanding Patient Experience Award** for the 16th consecutive grading period, placing its flagship St. Tammany Parish Hospital in the top 10% of U.S. hospitals. ... In April, the Louisiana Society for Respiratory Care named St. Tammany Parish Hospital its **2023 Hospital of the Year for Respiratory Care** among those with more than 200 beds. ... For the 19th consecutive year, St. Tammany Parish Hospital has been named **Best Hospital in West St. Tammany Parish** by readers of Sophisticated Woman magazine. ... The New Family Center at St. Tammany Parish Hospital has once again earned the highly prestigious international **Baby-Friendly designation**, a five-year accreditation, from Baby-Friendly USA. ... The St. Tammany Quality Network Medical Director's Award for the first quarter of 2024 went to **Dr. Joseph Bobrowski** and **Dr. Ralph Millet** for attaining a perfect score on the St. Tammany Health System ambulatory dashboard for 2023. ... The STQN Medical Director's Award for the second quarter went to **Dr. Rick Casey** for his leadership in helping to develop the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease transitions of care program. ... Louisiana's Committee of 100 for Economic Development has selected St. Tammany Health System President and CEO **Joan Coffman** to serve as a member for 2024. ... Coffman has also been named to serve on the board of **United Way of Southeast Louisiana**. ... Congratulations go to Endoscopy scheduler **Gay Dawsey**, who retired in May after 22 years with STHS, and to Parenting Center Volunteer Coordinator **Carmen Fouqua**, who retired in May after 20 years. ■



Is there a St. Tammany Health System employee you'd like to honor?  
Find out how at [StTammany.health/ThankYou](https://StTammany.health/ThankYou) or by scanning the code at right.



St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman and Dr. Lisa Casey, surrounded by local dignitaries including members of the health system and Ochsner Health, cut the ribbon on the new St. Tammany Physicians Network clinic in North Covington. The purpose-built facility is also home to the new St. Tammany Health System/Ochsner Family Medicine Residency Program. (Photo by Tory Mansfield / STHS)

## STHS cuts ribbon on family medicine clinic in Covington

### New facility home to first-in-region STHS/Ochsner Family Medicine Residency Program

#### By STHS Communication Department

St. Tammany Health System cut the ribbon April 26 on a new family medicine clinic in North Covington that, in addition to expanding access to medical care for local residents, will educate the region's next generation of family medicine physicians as part of the health system's first-in-the-region Family Medicine Residency program.

"With one snip of the scissors today, St. Tammany Parish and the rest of the Northshore just got significantly healthier," St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman said. "The realization of years of work and planning, this clinic is a sterling embodiment of our commitment to serving the community, as well as a symbol of the power of the partnership between St. Tammany Health System and Ochsner. What a blessing."

Located at 17240 Heartbeat Circle, near the intersection of U.S. 190 and Louisiana 25, the St. Tammany Physicians Network North Covington Clinic is an 18,000-square-foot, purpose-built facility that includes onsite X-ray, lab draws and physical therapy capabilities.

In addition to longtime local physicians including Dr. Christopher Foret, Dr. Gabrielle Givens and Dr. Catherine Pechon – who are already seeing patients – the clinic on July 1 welcomed the inaugural class of residents in the newly established St. Tammany Health System/Ochsner Family Medicine Residency Program.

Dr. Lisa Casey oversees the ACGME-accredited residency program as its director.

"Our clinic marks a tremendous health opportunity for the families of St. Tammany Parish," Dr. Casey said. "Simply put, the mission of the program is to train residents and to take exceptional care of our patients. As Family Medicine physicians we care for their wellness just as much as we care for their illness. We do this

by focusing on 'whole-person' care and creating strong and continuous relationships with patients and families. In supporting this program in such a robust way, St. Tammany Health and Ochsner have reinforced their commitment to this community and to positively impacting the landscape of healthcare for generations to come. It is truly a privilege to be part of it."

This collaboration is the latest milestone in the decade-long partnership between St. Tammany Health System and Ochsner Health, as they unite their missions of providing trusted community healthcare and quality physician education.

"This isn't just another healthcare clinic," St. Tammany Health System Chief Medical Officer Patrick J. Torcson said. "Family medicine is the Swiss Army Knife of medical disciplines, and its practitioners boast expertise in a variety of fields to effectively and compassionately care for the whole family, from newborns to seniors. The opportunity to better our community by bringing this level of expertise into it is as exciting as it is important." ■

Scan the QR code or visit [StTammany.health/STPNNorthCovington](https://StTammany.health/STPNNorthCovington) to learn more about the family medicine clinic.



# Hail to the chiefs

## New installation pays tribute to hospital's past chiefs of staff

By *STHS Communication Department*

In a nod to its 70 years of caring for the community, and in recognition of the men and women who led the way, St. Tammany Health System leadership unveiled an installation April 17 on the main campus of St. Tammany Parish Hospital honoring the dozens of doctors who have served as the hospital's chief of staff over the decades.

The three-panel installation, located in the hospital's administrative hallway, lists the names of every chief of staff who has served at St. Tammany, starting with Dr. H.E. Gautreaux – who held the role from 1954 to 1959 – to Dr. Andrew Baier, who currently holds the position.

In between are the names of some 59 others. Seventeen were in attendance at April's ceremony, which at times felt as much like a reunion as it did a celebration of the Northshore medical community.

"A lot has changed in the medical profession since 1954 and the days of Dr. Gautreaux," said Dr. Patrick Torcson, the health system's current chief medical officer and himself a past chief of staff. "We now have electronic health records, genomic medicine, robotic-assisted surgery and artificial intelligence. What has not changed is that physician leadership."

Dr. Torcson, who spearheaded establishment of the wall, went on to acknowledge that the installation is not exclusively about the past.

"This display will serve as a tribute and an inspiration to all of the physicians who practice at St. Tammany Health System to



Northshore physicians who have served as chief of staff at St. Tammany Parish Hospital gather for a group photo on April 17 following the unveiling of an installation honoring those men and women who have held the position since the hospital's 1954 founding. (Photos by Mike Scott / STHS)



Dr. Andrew Baier, left, and his father, Dr. Charles Baier, unveil an installation at St. Tammany Parish Hospital honoring its former chiefs of staff. The younger Baier is the current chief of staff, and his father served in the position in 1990.



The new installation consists of three panels, including one dedicated to the current Medical Executive Committee and another that chronologically lists those men and women who have served as chief of staff at St. Tammany Parish Hospital.

recognize their knowledge, skill and dedication in serving patients, the health system and this very unique and special community," he said.

Fittingly, the wall was unveiled by Dr. Baier and his father, Dr. Charles Baier, whose name also appears on the wall as a former chief of staff.

In addition to listing the chiefs of staff, the installation – funded by donations to St. Tammany Hospital Foundation – includes a panel containing the names and photos of the health system's current Medical

Executive Committee, as well as a panel expounding on the significance of the contributions of those men and women named thereon.

"This is truly a momentous occasion to us as we celebrate our 70th anniversary," health system President and CEO Joan Coffman said. "What a testament to the efforts of the Medical Staff and the culture of excellence that exists here today. We have truly become a regional destination for healthcare because of that excellence." ■

# 70 for 70

By Mike Scott,  
mscott@stph.org

On Dec. 1, St. Tammany Health System – which was willed into being by a group of determined community activists in 1954 – turns 70.

To celebrate that milestone, as well as the work of the countless people who built the health system over the years into the world-class organization it is today, we have been counting down to the big day with 70 for 70, a weekly series highlighting 70 meaningful artifacts from the hospital's history.

Recently, we published our 50th installment. On these pages, you can find some of our favorites so far. You can read more about each, as well as future installments, at [StTammany.health](http://StTammany.health).



## ◀ 1946: A CAUSE IS BORN

If hospitals were issued birth certificates, this brief 1946 announcement published in the St. Tammany Farmer newspaper would be St. Tammany Health System's. In it, the Women's Progressive Union of Covington urged the citizens of St. Tammany Parish to join its then-newly announced effort to secure the needed funding to build the parish's first hospital. It would take eight years, but they would eventually succeed.

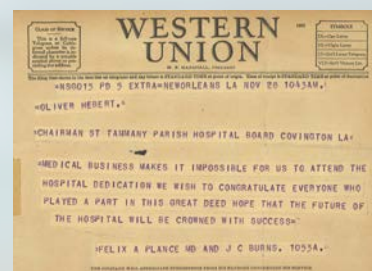


## ◀ 1951: THE SCRAPBOOKING HISTORIAN

Two years before ground was broken and three years before the hospital was complete, a prescient Cecile Hebert – wife of the hospital's first board chairman – started keeping this now-tattered scrapbook. Combining photos, newspaper clippings, invitations, letters and more, it remains an invaluable chronicle of the hospital's early history, continuing through the hospital's 25th anniversary in 1979.

## 1954: TELEGRAM! ▶

On the morning of Nov. 28, 1954, New Orleans physicians Dr. Felix A. Planche and Dr. James C. Burns sent this Western Union telegram to congratulate St. Tammany Parish Hospital Board Chairman Oliver Hebert on the facility's long-awaited opening. Granted, Planche had a rooting interest as a Covington native. Regardless, their message shows that the medical community of Southern Louisiana was paying close attention to the years-long efforts of Northshore residents to found a hospital of their own.



## ◀ 1954: BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

This 1954 blueprint of St. Tammany Parish Hospital shows the original hospital's footprint, as designed by the New Orleans firm of August Perez and Associates. That, for the record, is the same firm behind parts of the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition, the Canal Place office tower, the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, the Piazza d'Italia and the Shrine on Airline, among other prominent New Orleans structures.





### 1954: OH, BABY! ▲

Family has always been central to the culture of the Northshore, and so it was only fitting that St. Tammany Parish's first full-service community hospital greeted its first baby – Cathy Ann Arnold – with pomp and circumstance. That included the gift of a small sterling silver mug engraved with her name, her birth date – Dec. 2, 1954 – and the words "1st Baby" printed just above "St. Tammany Hospital."



### ◀ 1956: TOON TIME

Two years after the hospital opened, the St. Tammany Farmer newspaper published this editorial cartoon, which perfectly and simply speaks to the symbiotic relationship that has existed between St. Tammany Health System (i.e., "Parish Hospital") and the people of St. Tammany Parish from the hospital's very beginning.



### 2003: A STURDY FOUNDATION ▲

This brick is among the only existing pieces of the original hospital building, the last traces of which were demolished in 2003 as part of the hospital's ambitious New Millennium expansion project. Rather than sending the ruins to the dump, health system leadership invited people to collect a piece of it for posterity – like this one, which was inscribed to commemorate the event.



### CIRCA 1950s: THE FIRST NURSES ▲

On Jan. 4, when publishing vintage photos of some of St. Tammany Parish Hospital's first nurses, we lamented not knowing those nurses' names. Then we got an email from Rebecca Mohr Carter, who spotted among them her Great Aunt Emmy (formally Emma M. Porche Wetherbee, at center in the above shot). In addition to putting a name to the face, Carter provided a bio of Aunt Emmy, a delayed but deserving tribute to one of the hospital's earliest nurses – and easily one of our favorite installments in our 70 for 70 series. *Read Great Aunt Emmy's story at [StTammany.health/News/70for70Part29](http://StTammany.health/News/70for70Part29) or by scanning the QR code.*



### ◀ 2020: A ST. TAMMANY TIME CAPSULE

When the nurses of 2070 reflect on the history of their profession, they won't have to work hard to find out what things used to be like for today's nurses. They'll just have to pop open the time capsule prepared by the St. Tammany Health System Nursing Department in December 2020 and given pride of place inside a glassed-in enclosure in the hospital's South Tower shortly before the building's completion in spring 2021.

### 2021: KEYS TO A HEALTHIER NORTHSHORE ▶

These are the keys to the Be Well Bus, St. Tammany Health System's 40-foot mobile medical clinic, equipped with all manner of health screening equipment. The bus has been rolling down the streets of St. Tammany Parish since May 2021 on a twin mission to combat stubborn local health metrics and to address barriers to quality healthcare.





## Chef Osman's Pecan Pesto Chicken Breasts with Chickpea Pasta

Yield: 2 servings

### Ingredients:

2 cups chickpea pasta	Salt and pepper to taste
Water (for boiling pasta)	1 lemon, cut in half
½ cup pecans	3 broccoli florets, chopped
2 cups fresh basil	8 cherry tomatoes
¼ cup plus 1 tsp olive oil	1 red bell pepper, chopped to bite-size
1 clove garlic, chopped	1 green bell pepper, chopped to bite-size
¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese	
2 chicken breasts (about 6 oz. total), pounded thinly	

### Directions:

Boil chickpea pasta in water according to package instructions.

As pasta cooks, combine pecans, basil, ¼ cup olive oil, chopped garlic and Parmesan cheese in a medium bowl.

Heat remaining teaspoon of olive oil in a skillet over medium heat for about 2 minutes.

Season both sides of chicken breasts with salt and pepper, then carefully add breasts to heated oil. Sear each side of chicken breasts for 4-5 minutes, until they reach an internal temperature of 165 degrees.

Squeeze juice from ½ lemon over chicken breasts and cook for an additional minute, flipping once. Add chopped broccoli florets, cherry tomatoes and chopped bell peppers to pan, then cover pan and continue cooking until vegetables are al dente.

Once pasta is al dente, drain and rinse it three times to remove excess starch, then add pesto to pot with pasta and stir gently to combine. Squeeze remaining half of lemon over pasta.

Divide pasta between two plates and serve with chicken breast. Enjoy!



Osman Rodas, left, owner of Pardo's Restaurant in Mandeville, addresses the audience at Healthier Northshore's latest Eat Well, Live Well cooking demonstration as Chef Alex Moss gets things sizzling. (Photo by Tory Mansfield/STHS)

## 'All about the ingredients'

### Pecans, chickpea pasta are stars of latest cooking demo

By Mike Scott, [mScott@stph.org](mailto:mScott@stph.org)

Like everybody else, Osman Rodas enjoys pizza. Also like everyone else, he is a fan of well-made fried chicken. And, as the owner of Pardo's restaurant in Mandeville, he loves — absolutely loves — pasta.

The thing is, pizza, fried chicken and pasta don't always love him back.

That doesn't mean he can't splurge from time to time. It just takes a bit of mindfulness.

"It's all about the ingredients," he said. "It does make a difference what you put in your body."

A perfect example: the Pecan Pesto Chicken Breasts with Chickpea Pasta he made recently as part of the latest Eat Well, Live Well cooking demonstration series hosted by Healthier Northshore, the local nonprofit consortium spearheaded by St. Tammany Health System and including more than 50 other local community stakeholders.

In addition to getting a sample following the demo, all audience members also received a box of fresh ingredients to re-create the dish at home, courtesy of the American

Heart Association with support from Rick and Tina Flick of Banner Ford.

The recipe calls for such familiar ingredients as olive oil, chicken and fresh bell peppers. Rodas' choice of pasta, however — chickpea pasta, available at most grocery stores — might give some pause. But it packs a nutritional punch when compared to traditional dried pasta, including boasting 50% more protein, as well as more fiber and no gluten.

Rodas is also a proponent of locally sourced ingredients. So, his pesto recipe calls for a notably local (and more affordable) pine nut substitute.

"We live in the South," he said. "So let's use pecans."

Judging by the "mmms" from audience members, it was appreciated.

"I truly, truly believe meals are sacred," Rodas said. "There's a special moment you experience when you have a meal." ■

*Learn more about the Healthier Northshore initiative, including information on upcoming cooking demos, at [HealthierNorthshore.health](http://HealthierNorthshore.health).*





STHS executives including, from left, VP/Chief Information Officer Craig Doyle, SVP/Chief Nursing Officer Kerry Milton and SVP/Chief Operating Officer Sharon Toups, staffed the food line for the day, dishing out hot dogs, hamburgers and other hot-off-the-grill favorites.



Among other treats, attendees at Cancer Patient Appreciation Day received free massages.



Patients, family members and care providers crowd the dining tent at this year's event.



St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman addresses the crowd outside the cancer center.



Blues musician Amedee Frederick, a five-year pancreatic cancer patient, provided the music for Cancer Appreciation Day 2024 with his family band. "What a wonderful staff," Frederick said. "I can't say enough about the staff and all the doctors. This whole thing is about surviving and carrying on and living a good, productive life. So, thank you." (Photos by Tim San Fillippo/STHS)

## STHS marks Cancer Patient Appreciation Day

### By STHS Communication Department

In a twin celebration of determination and compassion, the care team at St. Tammany Cancer Center – A Campus of Ochsner Medical Center hosted local cancer patients and their families June 13 for Cancer Patient Appreciation Day, a festive event featuring music, food and fellowship.

Officially, the theme of the day was "Celebrating You," but, unofficially, gratitude was also in ample supply, as the cancer center's care providers expressed thanks to patients and vice-versa.

"It is my honor to thank all of you," St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman told those caregivers and patients in attendance. "We appreciate the work that you do, we appreciate the journey that you're on, we appreciate the resilience and the grit that you have demonstrated in navigating this journey and want you to know we're here with you to celebrate you."

Coffman went on to note that the event was a true community celebration, with well more than a

dozen local businesses and groups playing a role. In addition to support from St. Tammany Hospital Foundation, they included: Winn-Dixie, Double D Sausage, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Hilton Garden Inn Covington/Mandeville, Stone Creek Club and Spa, Coca-Cola, Fidelity Bank, Blue Bell Creameries, Maddy Golf, Aveda Institute, All American Medical, Bionic Babes, Pierre Fabre, LMNT, Good Clean Love, Orgain, Abbott and Mele Printing.

St. Tammany Health System's cancer care program started in earnest in 1998. In 2014, the health system entered into a strategic partnership with Ochsner Health that resulted in, among other things, the expansion of cancer services at St. Tammany Cancer Center, then located in a Covington facility across South Tyler Street from St. Tammany Health System's flagship St. Tammany Parish Hospital.

In June 2021, STHS and Ochsner cut the ribbon on the current cancer center, a \$50 million, 75,000-square-foot, purpose-built facility on Ochsner's Covington campus near the intersection of Interstate 12 and Louisiana 21. ■

# Foundation announces new name and logo

## Northshore nonprofit now known as St. Tammany Health Foundation

By Mike Scott, [miscott@stph.org](mailto:miscott@stph.org)

As it enters its 21st year of channeling the generosity of Northshore residents, the nonprofit St. Tammany Hospital Foundation reintroduced itself to the community July 1 with a new name, new logo and renewed mission statement.

The new St. Tammany Health Foundation will serve as the philanthropic arm of St. Tammany Health System and, as its name suggests, will support programs beyond the health system's flagship St. Tammany Parish Hospital in Covington.

"St. Tammany Hospital Foundation no longer supports just the hospital we stand in today," foundation Executive Director Nicole Suhre said in a ceremony held in the hospital's lobby. "We support a regional health system comprised of a state-of-the-art hospital and nearly 30 off-site facilities including physician and specialty clinics, a cancer center, two emergency rooms, community services, an academic center, Women's Pavilion and more. We want our name to convey that our donors can make a difference in the health and well-being of this community."

The move, which has been a year in the making, also aligns the foundation's name more directly with that of St. Tammany Health System's.

Legally known as St. Tammany Parish Hospital Service District No. 1, the health system was widely known by the catchall "St. Tammany Parish Hospital" before its Board of Commissioners adopted its new organizational identity in late 2019, also in recognition of its expansion far beyond the hospital campus and into the community.

"World-class healthcare must come with the ability to provide world-class support," St. Tammany Health



St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman, center left, and St. Tammany Health Foundation Executive Director Nicole Suhre, center right, are joined by foundation staff and board members as they hold a sign adorned with the newly unveiled foundation logo on Monday, July 1, 2024. (Photo by Tim San Fillippo / STHS)



## ST. TAMMANY HEALTH FOUNDATION

System President and CEO Joan Coffman said. "Our foundation is being reimagined to position itself to take an amazing program of support to a true strategic advancement program for our health system, and we can't wait to see what they accomplish in partnership with its generous donors."

Kevin Gardner, chairman of the foundation's Board of Trustees, added: "As a long-time donor, I am deeply proud to serve as chairman of the new St. Tammany Health Foundation and to be part of change that I know will have transformational impacts on healthcare in our community."

The foundation's renewed focus is articulated in its new mission statement, "to support and enhance the work of St. Tammany Health System as it leads with innovation and cares for its patients and their families with

excellence, compassion and teamwork. Through generous donors, we help our neighbors and the community heal and live healthy, fulfilling lives."

The colors of the foundation's logo, which still features two hands cradling the health system's trademark embracing hearts logo, have also been updated to incorporate a lime green as a complement to the darker shade of "foundation green" it used previously.

"Green is often used to convey health, growth, sustainability and trust," Suhre said. "Lighter greens can also convey faith, vitality, renewal, healing and tranquility. We think this tells quite a story."

The new name, logo and mission will all be put into use immediately.

"I am excited to partner with the generous donors, businesses and grantors in this community in new and expanded ways to make a meaningful impact on healthcare in our region," Suhre said. "The first 20 years of the foundation were incredible. I can't wait to see what the next 20 look like."

Donors who wish to make a contribution to the new St. Tammany Health Foundation may do so at [sthfoundation.org](http://sthfoundation.org). ■



Matthew Lyles and Dr. Angela Buonagura.



From left, STHS Executive Director Nicole Suhre; Lisa Condrey Ward, owner of Southern Hotel; Cher Cairns, wife of the late Dr. Adrian Cairns, the first chairman of the foundation's Board of Trustees; and St. Tammany Health System President and CEO Joan Coffman. Ward was presented with the foundation's 2024 Adrian Award, bestowed annually upon a local business for demonstrating a proven record of generosity through in-kind donations.



STHF Executive Director Nicole Suhre and former St. Tammany Hospital Guild President Ken Lane commemorate the guild reaching its half-million dollar giving total to the foundation.

## Faces of generosity

In celebration of one of its most successful years of fundraising, St. Tammany Health Foundation said thank you to its donors, sponsors and volunteers May 2 at the Southern Hotel. With the theme 'You Are the Element of Our Success,' the night featured all manner science-inspired fun – and a font of much-deserved gratitude.



Paul Meyers and Mike Gennaro, executives for Metairie Bank, and local business leader R.T. McDaniel of MEDDATA/MEDTRON.



STHF Board of Trustees Chairman Kevin Gardner.



STHF Board of Trustees Members Renee Maloney, Becky Carson Parks and Norma Richard.

## Foundation preparing for 4th annual breast cancer awareness campaign

### By STHS Communication Department

Get those pink boas and tutus ready. St. Tammany Health Foundation is preparing for its fourth annual breast cancer awareness campaign, which will once more provide screening opportunities and raise money for Northshore cancer care throughout October, Breast Cancer Month. In addition to offering mammograms at community events aboard St. Tammany Health System's Be Well Bus, the campaign will again

see the foundation partnering with the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office, which will once more raise money for the cause by allowing people to sign a pink-wrapped police cruiser for \$5 a pop. Timeless Touch Medical Aesthetics has also signed on as the campaign's first-ever Partner in Prevention Presenting Sponsor. A limited number of other sponsorship opportunities are also available. "One in eight American women will

get breast cancer, statistics show, but it can be found and stopped early with regular screenings," the foundation's Kathleen Thomas said. "Given how important early detection is when it comes to breast cancer, we are proud to partner with our community throughout October to educate, screen and prevent breast cancer." ■  
For more information, including how you can get involved, visit [sttammanyunited.org](http://sttammanyunited.org), email [kgthomas@stph.org](mailto:kgthomas@stph.org) or call (985) 338-5328.



## THE Gala invites community to ‘Step Under the Sea’

By *STHS Communication Department*

Something fishy is going on at St. Tammany Health Foundation.

And mermaid-y and seashell-y and seahorse-y, too.

Foundation leadership recently unveiled the date and theme for THE Gala 2024, its signature annual fundraiser, and partygoers can expect to be whisked on a deep dive into a realm of undersea wonder.

Set to take place from 7 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 3, at Tchefuncta Country Club, it will be themed “Step Under the Sea” and will incorporate an ocean of marine-inspired fun, including food, drinks, live music, a silent auction and more.

Presented once more by title sponsor HUB International, the event will benefit St. Tammany Health System’s cancer care programs.

“We are thrilled to take our sponsors and attendees on a dive below the sea for an extraordinary evening supporting patients and families at St. Tammany Cancer Center – A Campus of Ochsner Medical Center,” Foundation Specialist Melanie Rudolph said.

Learn more about THE Gala, including how you can get tickets, at [STHfoundation.org](http://STHfoundation.org). ■



St. Tammany Health System Physical Therapist Kim Shockley, right, points out her name on the Sunflower Award wall of honor with Senior VP/Chief Operating Officer Sharon Toups. (Photo by Tim San Fillippo/STHS)

## Sunflower Award wall of honor unveiled

### Daisy Award offshoot recognizes STHS colleagues who go above and beyond

By *Mike Scott, [mscott@stph.org](mailto:mscott@stph.org)*

It’s official: The Sunflower Award program has taken root at St. Tammany Health System’s flagship St. Tammany Parish Hospital, in the form of a new wall of honor unveiled June 19 at the Covington hospital’s main campus.

“I love the quote from Mother Teresa: ‘Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.’ That works for today, doesn’t it?,” STHS Chaplain Kimberly Neuenswander said in her invocation for the wall’s unveiling.

An offshoot of the Daisy Award for exceptional nursing, the Sunflower Award program was implemented in January by the STHS Nursing Department to recognize those non-nursing colleagues who go above and beyond to support the health system’s

nurses in their healing mission.

Now, each Sunflower recipient will also see their name immortalized on the Sunflower recognition wall, designed to coordinate with the Daisy wall installed adjacent to it last summer in the hospital’s Conference Center Hallway.

“The sun truly represents warmth and strength, and the flower represents devotion, compassion and enthusiasm or joy,” STHS President and CEO Joan Coffman said just before the unveiling. “To me, when you put that together, what a special thing the sunflower represents.”

As for the award named after it, she added, “It truly does exemplify our colleagues here at STHS who really go above and beyond for every patient, every touch, every time.”

Both the Daisy and the Sunflower recognition walls were made possible through the generous support of donors to the nonprofit St. Tammany Health Foundation. ■

# Wild about Harry

## A word of gratitude for a dedicated servant leader



Nicole Suhre, STHF executive director

**“Like others who helped establish our foundation, Mr. Warner believes in hard work and service. ... I have been blessed to learn from him.”**

Greetings! Today, I am pleased to address you as executive director of **St. Tammany Health Foundation**.

As you read earlier in this issue (see page 12), our foundation’s Board of Trustees made its biggest announcement in 20 years with the launch of the new St. Tammany Health Foundation. While our announcement event was a special day attended by many friends and supporters, one guest stands out to me, and that’s Harry Warner. Mr. Warner was a founding member of St. Tammany Hospital Foundation when it formed in 2003 and remained a board member until 2013, after which he was instrumental in establishing a Board of Councilors for our foundation that he served on for several years.

If your family is from the Northshore, then you likely know – or know of – Harry, wife June and their family. The Warner family was born and raised here, becoming part of the very fabric of our community. Like others who helped establish our foundation, Mr. Warner believes in hard work and service. A testament to this is the successful businesses he began on the Northshore, the significant philanthropic support given to local nonprofits, and his selfless volunteerism. Harry is a man of faith, integrity and wisdom, and I have been blessed to learn from him.

It was a particularly poignant moment for me to have him present as our foundation builds on the legacy he began 20 years ago.

As our Board of Trustees looks to the next 20 years, I feel a tremendous amount of gratitude for Harry and the countless other founders, past board members, volunteers, donors and friends who have contributed to our success and helped to raise more than \$24 million for St. Tammany Health System.

St. Tammany Health Foundation is about connecting people to purpose. We can’t wait to partner with you, our community, to make our next 20 years of supporting world-class healthcare the most impactful yet!

Sincerely,

Nicole Suhre, CFRE  
STHF executive director

## Foundation calendar Save the dates!



### THE Gala 2024

Oct. 3, 7 p.m. | Tchefuncta Country Club

The foundation’s signature annual fundraising soirée, which has become a highlight of the local fall calendar, steps Under the Sea this year. Expect an evening of music, dancing, live auction, delicious food and fun – all in support of local cancer care.

Details: [THEgalaNorthshore.org](http://THEgalaNorthshore.org) | (985) 898-4141

### Monster Mash

Oct. 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Bogue Falaya Park

St. Tammany gets in touch with its spooky side with the 36th anniversary of the spooktacular Monster Mash presented by Metairie Bank Northshore, featuring family-friendly games, costumes, trick-or-treating and more. Proceeds benefit the STHS Parenting Center.

Details: [DoTheMash.org](http://DoTheMash.org) | (985) 898-4435

### Angels of Light

Dec. 5, 5:30 p.m. | St. Tammany Parish Hospital Lobby

The foundation ushers in the holiday season with the lighting of its Hospice Tree for Life, which is decorated every year with tribute angels purchased by community members to remember or memorialize a loved one. Proceeds benefit St. Tammany Hospice.

Details: [STHfoundation.org/Angels](http://STHfoundation.org/Angels) | (985) 898-4141



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# Northshore Healthbeat

Brought to you by St. Tammany Health System



## Tune in, **Tammany!**

St. Tammany Health System is on the air with “Northshore Healthbeat,” a biweekly podcast dedicated to local healthcare issues and happenings, and featuring insights from trusted local care providers, patients and community stakeholders.

Find it on most major podcast platforms.



[StTammany.health/News](https://StTammany.health/News)