St. Vincent Charity launches $50M campaign
Care Beyond Medicine will update public spaces, add capacity

So few institutions last even a century and yet, here we are today, at 150 years old—the city’s oldest private hospital. It is a testament to our faith, to the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, our caregivers and physicians and to our donors and trustees who have invested in us and supported us.

We are so pleased in this issue of Caritas to feature some of the donors who have supported us and have made significant gifts to Care Beyond Medicine: The Campaign for St. Vincent Charity Medical Center.

What makes me proud is the diversity and breadth of those we’ve featured—longtime physicians, community leaders, professional athletes and one of our own humble caregivers.

When the Sisters began their mission here in 1865, they had little means with which to build a hospital. They relied on the Bishop and the generosity of so many in the community to help build and sustain it. Today, they entrust us to be stewards of their mission.

Our place in Cleveland and our mission as a “Catholic” hospital demands more of us than other healthcare institutions in this city. We have embraced a special calling to serve the poor—of course that brings its own set of challenges— but oh so many graces as well.

In recent years the pace of change has accelerated, challenging us because of who we serve. In spite of new paradigms, government requirements, and our highly competitive environment, we have not lost track of why we exist—to heal and serve our patients regardless of their station in life. I embrace that because it is truly what makes us unique.

2015 has been a year of celebration and we have enjoyed sharing our success with all in Cleveland. Along with Sister Judith Ann Karam, CSA, congregational leader, I have been honored to chair this anniversary. We must not let the joy of this year end. In fact, I am hopeful that it becomes the springboard to our next century in Cleveland.

Our future is bright. We have an increasingly impressive story to tell and people are beginning to take notice.

Please join us and thank you for your support.

David F. Perse, MD
President and CEO
The Cleveland Foundation announced a $125,000 commitment to Care Beyond Medicine: The Campaign for St. Vincent Charity Medical Center to underscore St. Vincent Charity’s critical role in the community’s health care delivery system, particularly as Cleveland’s downtown hospital.

“For more than 100 years, the Cleveland Foundation has been at the center, through vision and funding, of virtually all the key investment projects in our region,” said Dr. David F. Perse, President and CEO. “This grant not only provides critical financial support to the hospital, but also sends a direct signal that St. Vincent Charity is an essential player in Cleveland’s current and future health care system. Given the foundation’s leadership role, we are honored to have its stamp of approval.”

The Foundation’s grant will help support St. Vincent Charity’s investment in Behavioral Health as a Center of Excellence. As one of the only area hospitals offering a full continuum of comprehensive adult psychiatric services, including emergency psychiatric services, inpatient services, detoxification, outpatient services and specialists in geriatric and medical psychiatry, St. Vincent Charity’s strategic plan will help ensure that future behavioral needs of the greater Cleveland community are met.

“We are blessed at St. Vincent Charity with one of the best behavioral health programs in the country,” said Perse. “With one of only six psychiatric emergency departments in the United States, we draw from hospitals and law enforcement throughout the region,” he said. “These funds will help us meet the growing need for mental health services in our community caused, in part, by the alarming rise of heroin and synthetic drug use at a time when mental health beds are in short supply.”

Cleveland Foundation funds will be used for:
- Expansion of the Crisis Intervention Specialist in the Psychiatric Emergency Department (PED). St. Vincent Charity partners with FrontLine Service, Inc. to provide treatment planning and coordination of care. Awarded funds now allow St. Vincent Charity to expand coverage to include evenings and weekends by adding an additional full-time Crisis Intervention Specialist from FrontLine Services.
- Hiring a board-certified Art Therapist and Music Therapist as part of the Creative Arts Therapy Program. The Art and Music Therapists will work with the inpatient geropsych, general adult psychiatric inpatients, partial hospitalization program participants, Rosary Hall’s detox unit and Intensive Outpatient Program.
- Rosary Hall Recovery Coach Expansion. This will help ensure a Recovery Coach is on the floor 24 hours. These additional hours will help reduce the number of individuals leaving detoxification against medical advice and contribute to region-wide efforts to reduce the impact of chemical dependency.

Our Mission
In the Spirit of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, the St. Vincent Charity Medical Center family is dedicated to the healing ministry of Jesus. As Caregivers we serve with a deep respect for the dignity and value of all persons, we are focused on quality care, dedicated to the poor and committed to continuing education.
and Char Fowler Family Foundation gave $50,000 and the O’Neill Brothers Foundation gave $15,000 for our campaign in honor of the 150th Anniversary. The Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation committed $30,000 for an art therapist position. The Woodruff Foundation supported the addition of a Recovery Coach for our Detox Unit with a $15,000 grant. The Ridgecliff Foundation gave $25,000 to support Rosary Hall. One of our vendors, Spineology, made a $10,000 contribution to support the hospital’s 150th Anniversary Celebration as well.

Finally, the internal Caregiver campaign has raised nearly $40,000 this year, setting records for employee giving, both in dollars and donors. That effort continues through the end of the year, but it makes an incredibly strong statement to the broader community that the people who work at St. Vincent Charity every day believe deeply in their colleagues and the mission of this hospital.

During this Thanksgiving, we are honored and blessed to be supported by so many who give generously so that our work might continue and our programs thrive and grow. It is not just that we help and heal and serve. It is HOW we do that at St. Vincent Charity that makes us unique. It is truly Care Beyond Medicine.

On September 27, St. Vincent Charity Development Foundation Board Chairman, Timothy Panzica, announced the public phase of a capital campaign entitled, Care Beyond Medicine. Over the past four years, the hospital received approximately $34 million from the Sisters of Charity Health System in a quiet phase of the fund drive. Along with an additional $2 million contributed from other donors and foundations for the renovation to the Geriatric Psychiatry Unit, the Saint Ignatius High School medical office on Lorain Avenue in Ohio City, and other funds raised this year, the campaign stands at more than $37 million.

Since the campaign’s launch, the hospital has received another $530,000 in several significant gifts. Among them, Margaret Wong, a trustee of the Foundation board, committed $250,000 for the area of greatest need, and Medical Center board member Jeff Krakowiak and his wife, Chris, contributed $50,000 for the Office of Mission and Ministry.

The Cleveland Foundation made a grant of $125,000 to benefit our Behavioral Health program. The Chuck
Zydrunas Ilgauskas tried to ignore the wound on the bottom of his right foot. For six months.

“When you’re a professional athlete, you have access to the best medical care every day,” said the beloved former Cleveland Cavaliers center. “When you’re retired, you’re kind of on your own. I figured it would heal.”

But last summer, when the pain became almost unbearable, he succumbed to suggestions from his wife Jennifer and neighbor and friend Dr. Louis Keppler, Co-Director of The Spine and Orthopedic Institute at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, and had the foot examined.

It was just in time. An MRI showed he had developed a serious infection beneath his third metatarsal. Dr. Michael Canales, foot and ankle surgeon, performed surgery immediately, flushing out the infection. He left the wound open for a few days to facilitate drainage from the infected area and then closed it up.

Ilgauskas, 40, spent six weeks on crutches, two weeks in a walking boot and another two weeks getting treatment in one of the hospital’s three hyperbaric chambers.

“It was no fun,” admitted Ilgauskas, a first-round draft choice in 1996 who became the Cavaliers all-time leader in games played, rebounds and blocked shots. “The doctors and staff were unbelievably professional and helpful throughout the whole process. They made it as easy as possible for me to get in and out. I can’t say enough about them, from start to finish.

“But I don’t want to go back.”

Not that he wouldn’t.

“If he had to, we would definitely be returning to St. Vincent,” said Jennifer Ilgauskas, owner of the North Olmsted Urgent Care and three Rebound Physical Therapy Clinics – in North Olmsted, Brooklyn and Mansfield. “I’ve worked in health care my whole life, so I know how challenging providing appropriate quality care can be.

“St. Vincent Charity did that – and more. We were totally impressed.”

In fact, both Ilgauskases were so impressed with the care he received, the family recently made a generous donation to the St. Vincent Charity Development Foundation. The funds will be used to help implement the hospital’s five-year strategic plan to renovate and expand facilities in an effort to further enhance patient care.

The 7-foot-3 Ilgauskas says he’s nearly 100 percent recovered and ready to take on his new position as a volunteer basketball coach for St. Ignatius High School. Thanks to Dr. Canales, he will not be lugging his nearly six-foot crutches to practice.

“My youngest son took them into his workshop and cut them into about 100 pieces,” said Ilgauskas, who once estimated he’d spent an entire year of his life on crutches as the result of his earlier surgeries.

“Fine with me.”

Zydrunas and Jennifer Ilgauskas with sons Povilas, 10 (left) and Deividas, 11
Physician Profile

Mission is a lifelong vocation for Dr. John Bastulli

For Dr. John Bastulli, the connection to St. Vincent Charity Medical Center has been a lifelong vocation. From his opportunities to shadow hospital physicians as a high school student at Cathedral Latin, to meeting his wife Lorene, a graduate of the St. Vincent Charity Hospital School of Nursing and a caregiver until 1987, to his current position as Director of the Division of Anesthesia, Dr. Bastulli’s bond with St. Vincent Charity spans more than 40 years.

“It feels as though I have always been connected to St. Vincent. I had opportunities to practice at other hospitals, but felt drawn to St. Vincent as the faith-based provider in the city,” Dr. Bastulli said. “The Sisters of Charity truly live their mission to extend the healing hand of Jesus to every individual, irrespective of their socioeconomic status. These are not just words, but something that is exemplified in this hospital every day.”

Since joining St. Vincent Charity Medical Center in 1998, Dr. Bastulli has served as Director, Division of Anesthesia and Medical Director, Surgical Services. In addition, he is president of Cleveland Anesthesia Group. In 2012, Dr. Bastulli was named the Physician Director of External Affairs. In this role, he assists the medical center in the areas of physician recruitment, business development, medical staff affairs and advocates for the medical center with organizations such as the Academy of Medicine in Cleveland and Northern Ohio, Ohio State Medical Association and the Ohio State Legislature.

Dr. Bastulli believes that faith-based providers have a growing role with the evolution of healthcare and rapidly changing reimbursement structures. With greater emphasis on disease prevention and management, healthcare delivery becomes increasingly more complicated for those with limited economic means and a lack of access to primary care. As a result, this situation creates an ever increasing reliance upon institutions like St. Vincent that place a high priority on community outreach and serving the entire population.

“The Sisters and St. Vincent are in lock step with the changing focus to population health management,” Dr. Bastulli said. “They demonstrate a rock solid commitment to improving the quality of care to all patients and provide all caregivers with the resources necessary to provide quality healthcare.”

With this mission as a guiding principle, John and Lorene Bastulli have made a generous donation to St. Vincent Charity’s capital campaign specifically earmarked for the medical offices on W. 25th Street across from Saint Ignatius High School. This collaborative project between the high school and St. Vincent Charity provides essential healthcare services to a desperately underserved community.

“[The Saint Ignatius] project helps to raise another generation of health care workers and leaders who are connected and engaged in the community.”

To his credit, Dr. Bastulli was most recently inducted into the Society of St. Luke for his exemplary service to the hospital and its community. The honor recognizes Dr. Bastulli’s sense of responsibility, compassion and steadfast love for the practice of medicine and the sense of community that is fostered through caring for others.

As further evidence of his commitment to St. Vincent Charity’s mission, Dr. Bastulli was most recently inducted into the Society of St. Luke for his exemplary service to the hospital and its community. The honor recognizes Dr. Bastulli’s sense of responsibility, compassion and steadfast love for the practice of medicine and the sense of community that is fostered through caring for others.
Faith calls her to support Cleveland’s “best-kept secret” in health care

Margaret Wong’s inspirational story from immigrant to renowned immigration lawyer started, she says, with a blessing from the Catholic faith.

Leaving Hong Kong, where her parents had fled following the Communist takeover of China, Margaret and her sister Cecilia came to the United States in 1969 on student visas. Born a Catholic, Margaret was quickly blessed with a full scholarship to attend Ottumwa Heights, a Catholic all-girls junior college in Iowa. That scholarship paved the way for Margaret’s prominent career in immigration law. Margaret earned her bachelor’s degrees in biology and chemistry on a full scholarship from Western Illinois University, followed by her law degree from the University of Buffalo.

As one of the first non U.S. citizens to practice law in New York and Ohio, Margaret found it difficult in the early days to find work as an attorney. After working as a management trainee at a local bank and then a brief stint at a Cleveland law firm, she purchased a $25 desk and went out on her own to set up a law practice.

Over the last 35 years, Margaret has spent her career building her practice into a national and international powerhouse specializing in immigration and nationality law. Margaret W. Wong & Associates now includes seven offices across the county and more than 60 employees.

She has earned numerous awards, including the Margaret Ireland Award from the Cleveland Women’s City Club and Crain’s Cleveland Business named her to their “Women of Influence” list.

So when Sister Judith Ann Karam, CSA, then president and CEO of the Sisters of Charity Health System, came to Margaret in 2011 to serve on the St. Vincent Charity Development Foundation Board, she knew it was time to give back to the faith community that was there for her in the beginning. The connection to St. Vincent Charity was even more fitting, she said, because Sister Judith Ann had served as a mentor to Margaret’s late husband, Kam Chan, as he established his pharmacy practice.

With her work with the Foundation, Margaret quickly learned how special St. Vincent Charity is to the community and people it serves. “St. Vincent gives such great care. It is different from other hospitals primarily because of how they treat patients and families,” she said. “People are always friendly, even when you walk the halls. Nurses and staff are talking to each other, always smiling and saying hello. That makes a difference to patients and their loved ones.”

Because of her belief in St. Vincent Charity’s mission in the community and excellence in care, Margaret recently committed $250,000 to the foundation campaign. She envisions the campaign as a golden opportunity to share what she terms “Cleveland’s best-kept secret in health care.”

The redesign of the main entrance – and the lobby will send a visual message to the community of the excellence in care at St. Vincent Charity. This outside, visual transformation, coupled with the strategic campaign, will help the community uncover the facts that reveal St. Vincent Charity’s integral role in Cleveland’s health care delivery system. “We are the best in orthopedics, bariatics and mental health. However, sometimes as a Catholic institution, we are humble. We don’t want to brag about ourselves,” she said. “However, with reimbursements changing, we need more people to know us and talk about us. This campaign allows us to better brand ourselves. It is the perfect opportunity to tell our story.”

“This campaign ... is the perfect opportunity to tell our story.”
More than a painter, Eugene Jordan is an extension of healing mission

Eugene Jordan feels blessed that after struggling to find work in the steel mills as a young man, the first job interview he set out on landed him at the doors of St. Vincent Charity Medical Center. Now, 30 years later, Eugene cherishes his position at St. Vincent Charity, which he views not only as the hospital painter, but also as part-time caregiver, welcoming committee and mentor.

“I came looking for a job, but what I found was a second home. Everyone here cares about each other and cares about the mission of the hospital. Where else can you go to a job like that?” Eugene asks.

Eugene was hired as the hospital’s painter in 1985 based on the construction trades taught him by his father and grandfather. The elder Jordan started taking Eugene to their construction jobs when he was 12, teaching him how to work with his hands, plaster and paint.

“That was how it worked in those days. I worked with them every day and we did all the work that needed done around the house, too,” Eugene said. “My father and grandfather weren’t just teaching me the trade, but they truly were my role models. We need more positive role models like that today.”

As Eugene started his job at St. Vincent Charity, he put his family trade skills to work to benefit the hospital. However, he quickly learned his role extended well beyond his job as painter. As a St. Vincent Charity employee, he embraced the hospital’s mission that everyone — whether a nurse or physician, maintenance staff or cafeteria worker — is integral to providing patient care.

“This hospital really does live its mission of caring and healing everyone who comes here. We are all treated like family and so we work hard to care for patients and their families like our own,” Eugene said. “When I see a family in the hospital, I try to talk to them, welcome them and answer any questions. We want patients and families to WANT to come back. We take great pride when they choose us.”

That commitment to its mission extends well beyond the walls of the hospital into the local community. He is proud to be part of this hospital family that regularly demonstrates kindness and compassion to the local neighborhood through food drives, clothing donations and programs with the schools. Eugene himself has played “Santa” for the kids at Marion Sterling School for the last 10 years – a job that he says brings him great joy.

As a member of the hospital family, Eugene feels a sense of duty to contribute to the mission, which is why he recently made an additional contribution and joined the Augustine Society. “I know how much this money will mean to caring for more patients. We are growing with the new technology and physicians we are bringing in. Our future looks bright and I know this money will help us get even better. This is my family. I couldn’t say no,” he said.

Following the example of his father and grandfather, Eugene has taken on a mentor role for new employees and staff as they join the St. Vincent Charity family. As an executive member of the Service Employees International Union, he and other longtime staff work hard to welcome new employees and to help “hand down” an understanding and commitment of the St. Vincent Charity mission.

Over the years, Eugene has seen many changes in the leadership, construction and technology at St. Vincent Charity. The one thing that has never changed, he said, is “the mission, values and caring in the healing ways of Jesus. We need to keep that going.”
As we celebrate with gratitude the treasures of 150 years of healing ministry at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, we lift our hearts in praise this Christmas and wish you the gift of love, peace and joy that Jesus brings into our lives.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Blessed New Year.