

# The Vigil



 St. Vincent's  
FOUNDATION  
*Called to...do more,  
give more, serve more*

*Sisters' Vigil*

*Fall 2017*

## *Jim Wadsworth invests in the future of Chilton County healthcare*



*Jim Wadsworth*

Jim Wadsworth has supported local non-profits since establishing Wadsworth Oil in Chilton County 40 years ago. But in recent years this Tuskegee native wondered how he could make a more permanent contribution to his adopted hometown.

“I wanted to give to something locally. And I knew that the 2012 closing of the Clanton hospital really left a void. So when I heard the Health Care Authority was talking with St. Vincent’s, the first thing that went through my mind was that would be a home run. I wanted to support it.”

After learning St. Vincent’s Foundation gifts could be designated locally, Wadsworth funded the St. Vincent’s Chilton upper surgery waiting room. He also met with a Foundation-provided Heaton Smith estate planning representative to review his philanthropy plans.

“Later I was asked to be on the Foundation Board. So I’ve

gotten to know more about how everything works. I serve on the allocations committee. We don’t have enough money for all the requests, but I’m impressed by how they prioritize everything for each hospital.”

Wadsworth was so impressed with the Foundation’s efforts that he initiated an Endowment Fund to serve Chilton County for generations to come.

“Since hospitals need money all along to keep up with the latest advancements in medicine, I set up an endowment that specifies the Chilton hospital. It has really been a meaningful and enjoyable experience. I would encourage others to support St. Vincent’s.”

Wadsworth also wants others to know their Foundation gifts can be designated as desired.

“And I would encourage people to go ahead and do it in their will or make some other gift. They can add to an endowment or create one of their own.”

St. Vincent’s Chilton Administrator Suzannah Campbell remarks, “Foundation donors help shape each hospital’s future and ensure our mission. Mr. Wadsworth has been extremely generous to St. Vincent’s Chilton. His support will allow us to continue to invest in this community by funding new programs, technology, and capital expansions. Maintaining and growing a hospital requires significant resources, and it is gifts like these that ensure we are prepared when people turn to us in a time of medical need.”

To learn how you can ensure the mission of St. Vincent’s Health System through your will, IRA designation, insurance gift, or life estate, please call 205-838-6151 or visit [stvhs.com/give](http://stvhs.com/give).

# The rest of the story: Merger opens multiple Mission opportunities



St. Vincent's East Family Medicine Center

Everyone loves a happy story.

That's why Foundation President Susan Sellers enjoys sharing the news about the recent merger of Woodlawn-based Christ Health Center and Chalkville's St. Vincent's East Family Medicine Clinic. Sellers is grateful the Foundation, in partnership with United Way, has a role in funding such important collaborative efforts.

"The story starts with our shared mission of caring for the poor and the vulnerable," says Sellers. "While Christ Health Center was operating in Woodlawn, St. Vincent's Chalkville clinic was caring for a substantial Medicaid population, which are the persons served by federally-qualified healthcare centers. The Foundation applied for a grant from the United Way of Central Alabama's Vision Planning Council to help fund the development of this partnership."

St. Vincent's Chief Clinical Officer Dr. Stephanie Duggan notes that federally-qualified health center funds help fill Alabama's Medicaid funding gaps.

"Combining our East Family Medicine residency clinic and Christ Health allows us to continue to serve our patients who are most vulnerable," Duggan says.

Chalkville Clinic patients have long benefitted from the care provided by physicians working in the St. Vincent's East Family Medicine Residency Program. Now young physicians can be recruited to train in both locations.

"By expanding the program and teaching the residents in this practice model, we're hoping we'll be able to keep more primary care residents in our System," says Duggan. "We are thrilled to create access to quality healthcare through these critical community partnerships."

Sellers comments, "The merger opens multiple mission-centered opportunities.

"The most exciting part for me is that this can help our region recruit and train young physicians in an environment that equips them to care for marginalized persons while understanding their situations and medical needs. It creates relationships and opens access points not just today but hopefully in their future practices. By making a donation to our St. Vincent's East Family Medicine Residency Program, Foundation donors can play a part in the rest of this happy story."

**Each year the Foundation funds a medical mission trip opportunity, allowing some St. Vincent's Family Practice residents to extend their care for the poor and vulnerable in other parts of the world.**

**Woodlawn's Christ Health Center opened in 2009, thanks in part to a large operating capital grant from the Daughters of Charity.**

## Honorariums *The following individuals were recognized through a gift in their honor.*

Mason Thomas Armstrong  
Allen Baker, Jr.  
Cate Elise Burns  
James Richard Conn  
Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Cox  
Aiden Ray Daily-Harrison  
Dr. Jeffrey C. Davis  
Doctors, Nurses, and Staff  
of the NICU  
Dr. Mark A. Elkus

Barry Godby  
Dr. Ira Gore, Jr. and Dr. Cynthia  
McCaleb Gore  
Bennett Gray  
Stephanie Holderby  
Thomas Kelley Hooks  
Dr. and Mrs. Stanley K. Lochridge  
Jeane Long  
Kaiden Hayes McLain  
Susann Montgomery Clark

Dr. Timothy Murray  
Dr. Vinh Nguyen  
Dr. John A. Piede and the  
Oncology Department  
Lucy and Max Poole  
Dr. John B. Richardson  
Dr. Steven Scarcliff  
Dr. Lee A. Schmitt  
Brandon Max Streety  
Jackson Ray Streety

Jonathan Wells Sullivan  
Dr. Kent A. Tucker  
Dr. and Mrs. Albert J. Tully, Jr.  
Dr. Joseph E. Welden, Jr.  
Christine Yost

# Why I give: Ruth White, RN



Ruth White, RN

Why would anyone who has devoted 37 years to an employer choose to regularly return a portion of their earnings?

Those who ask Ruth White that question might have to wait for her answer. This registered nurse and St. Vincent's Birmingham emergency department director isn't eager to call attention to her long record of giving.

But Ruth is eager to talk about why she loves St. Vincent's. That's why she shared what draws her and other Associates to not only give their time and talents, but even their treasure to an organization she says is much more than an employer.

"I give because I am very committed to the mission of St. Vincent's, both professionally and personally," says White. "And I see that same commitment at every level, from the administration to the direct patient care providers. Also, I am Catholic. So, when I moved down here in 1980 as a newlywed from Minnesota, I was drawn to a facility where I was comfortable with the faith."

White has long supported the Foundation's building programs and its St. Louise Fund, which she considers an "impressive example" of the Mission at work, providing Associates with emergency financial aid.

"I've seen the generosity and the good discernment of the people at the Foundation. I trust them, due to the decisions they've made over the years. Also, St. Vincent's feels like family to me. It's such a blessing to work in this environment."

## You Can Make a Gift and Receive One

If you are age 60 or older, you can purchase an immediate or a deferred Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) that will provide you income for life and sustain the unique mission of St. Vincent's Health System. Here are a few features:

1. Personal Satisfaction
2. Attractive Rates
3. Tax-Free Payments
4. Income Tax Deduction
5. Fixed, Regular Payments

There are additional benefits for securing a CGA. Some like the idea of *reducing the size of their taxable estate*. Others like the simple process of *leveraging income for themselves, a spouse or someone who has been significant in their life*. Donors with highly appreciated stock enjoy the added benefit of *bypassing capital gains taxes* by as much as 20%. Contact us at 205-838-6151 for a confidential sample illustration of a current or deferred CGA.

## Memorials *Lord, may our prayers come before you in memory of those we entrust to your eternal care.*

Bobbi B. Amick  
John P. Ansley  
Ruby S. Ansley  
Mable Jacquelyn Aydelette  
Gail Burnette  
Jessica Ann Butler  
Adam Carmello-Harper  
Gloria B. Carter  
Helen Phillips Carter  
June Chapman

Conway Cleveland, Jr.  
Mary Lee Kendrick Collum  
Larry Christopher Daily  
Larkin and Evelyn Davis, Jr.  
Dr. Lee B. DuBois  
Kaison Wade Elam  
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Mary Thomas-Brewer  
D. Dianne William  
Betty J. Williams  
Charles E. Woods



## Volunteer spotlight: *St. Vincent's Auxiliaries unite to serve*



*St. Vincent's Health System Volunteer Council*

It's a typical day in a St. Vincent's Health System hospital lobby. Visitors are greeted warmly. Outpatients are escorted to labs. Families select their gift shop purchases.

And on an upper floor, at a quiet bedside, an end-of-life patient relaxes as a No One Dies Alone-trained volunteer prays aloud.

For decades, highly-trained men and women of all ages have filled such roles as St. Vincent's Auxiliary members. While they have provided supplemental services freeing Associates for other tasks since 1963, Auxiliary contributions have also extended far beyond traditional "pink lady" responsibilities.

Auxiliaries have initiated extraordinary fundraisers, community events, scholarships, and creative ministries. St. Vincent's Foundation was even established in 1984 through Joe Bruno-matched Auxiliary funds. Since then members have worked under the Foundation's auspices to serve an ever-expanding System.

Last summer those efforts expanded yet again, as hospital-specific auxiliaries united under a common council.

"Now we have one volunteer structure, with one volunteer council, bylaws, dues, and requirements for the whole Health System," says the Foundation's Rhonda Buzbee, director of Mission Integration and Philanthropy. "And to reflect the fact that men play roles too, the official name for the group is

'Volunteer Services,' with royal purple as our color." Buzbee says the new structure still preserves the campus-specific services of each hospital.

"Each location has its own niche, with ministries adapted to its needs. At some hospitals, volunteers organize bake sales that are so popular you have to get on the list to purchase a specific volunteer's caramel cake! From Christmas stockings to Valentine's Day balloons, each group knows how to best touch their own community."

Kathy Miller, St. Vincent's Foundation emeritus board member and longtime St. Vincent's Birmingham volunteer, expects members will embrace the new structure.

"Each group will be able to maintain its individuality, but with the hospitals unified as one health system and one common mission, it makes sense. We have to be very careful about confusing stewardship with ownership. We can all be better through this."

"Our volunteers come from all segments of society, and from all ages and abilities. But each volunteer brings such a heartfelt desire to serve the community. They are there to be ambassadors for St. Vincent's, to help the Health System achieve its goals, and to participate fully in this healing ministry. Our volunteers are so dedicated. We all feel it's just a privilege to serve."

## By the numbers:

### ST. VINCENT'S AUXILIARY

Fiscal Year 2017

218

Total Health System volunteers

65

Volunteers' Health System service areas

37,105

Volunteer hours logged

\$927,000

Average-salary value of donated hours

## Volunteers Embrace Cuddler Program

"Babies are the most vulnerable members of our society," says Kathy Miller, Foundation emeritus board member and St. Vincent's Birmingham Cuddler Program volunteer. "When a woman is pregnant, we all hope for a perfect outcome. But for many reasons, some babies must spend months in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. And mom and dad can't always be there.

"Since studies show how important cuddling is to a baby's development, the neonatal nursing staff—with parental permission—can now direct highly-trained volunteers in nurturing these babies."

Miller says the well-researched Cuddler Program illustrates how volunteer services can adapt to evolving needs.

"While a lot of things have changed over the years, the auxiliaries have woven an amazing tapestry. And now our volunteers continue to contribute their individual threads of gifts and talents."



Bill Moran

## In loving memory: William Madison Moran

St. Vincent's Foundation expresses its deepest sympathy to the family of Bill Moran and our gratitude for his life and memory. Bill, 69, died of cancer on July 28.

For many, Bill and the Foundation seemed inseparable. Recruited as an already-accomplished fundraiser in 1984, Bill became our first executive director, later serving as senior vice president for philanthropy and Foundation president.

Bill's key professional achievements included a strong Foundation Board, the building of the first Bruno Cancer Center, the new Bruno Cancer Center, St. Vincent's Birmingham Chapel, the construction of St. Vincent's St. Clair, and numerous other major campaigns that were achieved by building a lifetime of trusted relationships.

When asked early this year what message he had for Foundation donors, this active member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church made one more plea for St. Vincent's Health System.

Bill recalled a statement by Bishop Foley, Emeritus Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Birmingham. He said, "Hospitals function at the edge of life. We are there when people die, but we are also there when people are born. We are privileged to be at that sacred space, that edge, where people pass between life and death. What a remarkable gift and obligation." Bill concluded by saying, "If you're not supporting St. Vincent's, please consider doing so. And if you have, please continue your generosity so this mission endures."



# Jason Alexander, CEO: *“The passion for making a difference”*

Jason Alexander and his family are happy to be home. Last April, Neeyssa Biddle officially transferred her Ascension Health senior vice president and St. Vincent’s Health System chief executive officer duties to Alexander, bringing him and his family back to a health ministry and state they love.

Some would trace Alexander’s new role as Ascension Health’s Birmingham Ministry market executive and president/CEO back 25 years. That’s when Alexander and Biddle met. He was a UAB Healthcare Administration graduate student, and she was a recent graduate. A few years later, Alexander began working for Biddle.

“She quickly became my mentor and has guided many of the critical career decisions I have made. When she called me last year to let me know she was going to be retiring (for a second time!) and that she wanted me to consider replacing her, it was the ultimate compliment. While we all know Neeyssa can’t really be replaced, I jumped at the chance to follow in her footsteps.”

When Biddle called, Alexander was serving as CEO of East Cooper Medical Center in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. As a former executive vice president and chief operating officer for Providence Healthcare in Mobile, Alexander recognized her call as providential.

“While we absolutely loved the time we spent in Charleston, my wife and I have always considered Birmingham to be home. I don’t think anybody was really surprised when we decided to move back.”

There were personal advantages to being close to family, good schools, and soccer programs for the Alexanders’ two sons. But Alexander says he was most eager to rejoin Ascension.

“I originally decided to pursue a career in healthcare because I knew I wouldn’t enjoy just having a job. Healthcare is different, and it has given me the ability to work with other individuals who share the passion for making a difference.

“I would like to think that everyone in healthcare has a commitment to the patients they serve, but being a part of a health ministry is special. Both our patients and our associates seek out the compassion and holistic care that makes Catholic healthcare so extraordinary. St. Vincent’s has a rich history of serving the Birmingham community and is unique in so many ways.”

One way St. Vincent’s is unique, says Alexander, is its relationship with St. Vincent’s Foundation. He’s grateful that Foundation supporters recognize the challenges of serving in a state with substantially lower reimbursement rates than other Ascension health ministries.

“Fortunately, St. Vincent’s receives incredible support from our community, especially through our Foundation. The time, talents, and support of those who serve on our Foundation Board, volunteer for Foundation-related activities and events, and give to our fundraising campaigns allow us to serve our entire community, including the poor and the vulnerable.”



Jason Alexander, CEO

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*“Healthcare is different, and it has given me the ability to work with other individuals who share the passion for making a difference.”*

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# The Saint Luke Society: Generous physicians extend healing legacies

Countless St. Vincent's physicians have left healing legacies. Now, through the Saint Luke Society, retired and practicing physicians are also providing financial legacies.

St. Vincent's Foundation named the new giving society in honor of the patron saint of physicians. Although membership provides benefits to the individual physicians, St. Vincent's Health System Chief Clinical Officer/Emergency Medicine Physician Stephanie Duggan, MD says each \$1,000 annual contribution provides much more.

"The Saint Luke Society is a way to support the work of St. Vincent's Foundation, and to honor the nearly 120 year-old legacy of our founders," says Duggan.

"If we are fortunate enough to have something we can share, we can help extend the founders' legacy. Since donations can be designated, we can show our patients and local businesses that physicians at St. Vincent's financially support their hospitals—and perhaps others will follow our examples."

Member physicians are also using the Society to honor colleagues. Demetrius "Jimmy" Morros, MD was memorialized with a Society gift. Saint Luke Society Member and Foundation Board Member Elizabeth Blair, MD and her

practice also initiated a memorial gift to honor Lee DuBois, MD, founder of Eastern OB/GYN. Blair says Foundation gifts are appropriate ways to honor beloved colleagues.

"Making a donation in Lee's memory means his work carries on. We earmarked our gift for women's services. After all

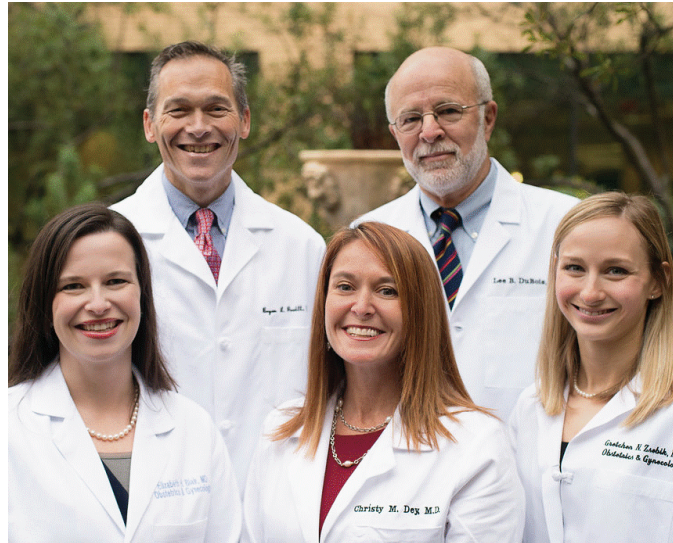
those years he spent caring for people, Lee deserved to be recognized."

Blair said even physicians might be unaware of everything the Foundation does to support St. Vincent's Mission.

"We know they help build buildings and provide equipment, but they also help individual patients. I've called them several times for help with patients' needs. I had an uninsured teen who needed surgery, and they

provided a way to do it quickly. The Foundation uses money very wisely."

Although the Saint Luke Society is a new physician-specific opportunity to support the Foundation's healing ministry, friends and patients may also make a general donation to extend a physician's legacy. For more information on Society membership/benefits or to make a donation to honor a physician, call 205-838-6151 or visit [stvhs.com/give](http://stvhs.com/give).



Eastern OB/GYN physicians memorialized Dr. Lee DuBois

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# Todd Jackson: *New Foundation board chair builds support*



*The Jackson Family*

When St. Vincent's Foundation Board Chair Todd Jackson is asked what message he has for donors, he hesitates. He knows many generous St. Vincent's supporters have long given sacrificially. However, he also knows more than most about today's healthcare challenges.

As regional president for Birmingham-based Brasfield & Gorrie, Jackson often works with healthcare clients struggling with budgets and mandates. He knows the difference donors can make, providing critical facility updates and otherwise-unaffordable equipment.

That's why this employee of *Modern Healthcare Magazine's* third-ranked U.S. construction-design company volunteers to build St. Vincent's donor support. He says that, like other board members, he feels honored to serve an organization that has meant so much to him and his family.

"My wife, Aimee, worked at St. Vincent's as a labor and delivery nurse before our children were born. She loved working

there. Then our children—Gaines, Ben, and Marly—were born at St. Vincent's. Over the years I have had family members treated at the Bruno Cancer Center. So I'm like the other folks who serve on the board. It's really the personal component that ties us to the organization."

Brasfield & Gorrie CEO Jim Gorrie says Jackson is among the firm's many employees who build both St. Vincent's physical structures and community support.

"We enjoy a special relationship with St. Vincent's that has spanned more than 40 years. Our organizations are connected far beyond the bricks and mortar. Our employees have always been long-standing volunteers and supporters of St. Vincent's, and we enjoy the special bond between the two families. The relationship is truly very special to us."

Although Jackson serves many healthcare clients professionally, the foundation for his special relationship with St. Vincent's was poured decades ago.

"The thread that brings St. Vincent's volunteers together is that we were touched in some way by the care we received, or the care a family member received.

"But now, more than ever, healthcare professionals are pressed for how they can keep up, improve services, and keep state-of-the-art equipment in place. One of the ways we can prepare a good path forward for St. Vincent's is through donors willing to help us further build the financial structure necessary to serve future generations."

## Thank you



Since 1898, St. Vincent's healing ministry has responded to the healthcare needs of this community. Please include St. Vincent's Foundation of Alabama, Inc. in your estate plans, and kindly let us know so we can recognize your generosity.

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Published by:

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One Medical Park East Drive

Birmingham, Alabama 35235

Phone: 205-838-6151

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