

Lasting Impact

ST. LUKE'S
FOUNDATION
IMPACT REPORT



UnityPoint Health
St. Luke's Foundation





LOOKING BACK ON 2025 with gratitude

Your generosity is making a profound difference in the health and quality of life for people right here in the Siouland community. The achievements highlighted in this report are a testament to your incredible support. The gratitude expressed daily by patients, families, community partners, and our healthcare teams belongs to you. Thank you for your exceptional partnership in this vital work.

About UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Foundation

THIS WORK BEGINS WITH OUR VISION:
A healthy community for everyone.

THIS VISION FUELS OUR MISSION:
Improve the health of the people and communities we serve through inspired giving.

The St. Luke's Foundation team is driven by these values to address the unmet healthcare needs in our region. By collaborating with donors and community members like you, we are committed to maintaining excellence in quality, safety, and service. Our goal is to ensure that high-quality healthcare is accessible to every patient and neighbor in need. Together, we provide essential care and support for patients, families, caregivers, and our entire community.

you matter

A MESSAGE FROM KARI

As I look back on 2025, I'm struck by how much change, growth, and possibility this year has brought. With the acquisition of MercyOne Siouxland and the unification of the MercyOne Foundation with the St. Luke's Foundation, we have entered a new chapter – one that expands our reach, strengthens our mission, and deepens our ability to serve the Siouxland community.

We are especially excited to welcome the Child Advocacy Center and the June E. Nysten Cancer Center under our foundation umbrella. These programs represent extraordinary work already happening in our community, and we are honored to support them as we continue connecting philanthropic passions with strategic initiatives that elevate healthcare across Siouxland.

Throughout this report, you'll see stories that reflect the heart of our mission – stories of resilience, compassion, and meaningful impact made possible through your generosity. Your support has allowed us to advance critical projects, enhance patient care, and invest in programs that make a tangible difference in the lives of individuals and families.

Amid a year of transition, one thing has remained constant: your trust in us. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and for the belief you place in our work. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier future for Siouxland, and we are energized by the opportunities ahead.

Thank you for standing with us and for continuing to make this important work possible.



Kari Winklepleck
President, UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Foundation

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2026 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Advancing Breast Health Through Innovation:

**THE BREVERA BREAST BIOPSY
SYSTEM IS TRANSFORMING
BREAST CARE WITH FASTER
RESULTS AND GREATER COMFORT.**



Early detection is one of the most powerful tools in the fight against breast cancer. Thanks to donor support, the St. Luke's Foundation helped bring the Brevera Breast Biopsy System to UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's, giving patients access to faster, more accurate, and more compassionate breast care.

The Brevera system is an advanced, real-time breast biopsy technology that streamlines the entire biopsy process. Traditionally, breast biopsies require multiple steps: collecting tissue, sending it to imaging, waiting for confirmation, and sometimes repeating the process if the sample is insufficient. This can extend procedure times and increase patient anxiety.

The Brevera system changes that experience entirely. It allows radiologists to collect tissue and immediately verify sample adequacy within the same device – right at the patient's side. This reduces procedure time, minimizes discomfort, and decreases the need for repeat biopsies. For patients facing the fear and uncertainty of a possible cancer diagnosis, those improvements are profound.

Claudine Van Meeteren, Director of Imaging, shared how meaningful this technology is for both patients and care teams: "The Brevera system allows us to work more efficiently while giving patients a more comfortable and reassuring experience. Being able to confirm tissue samples in real time means fewer needle insertions, shorter procedures, and faster answers. It truly elevates the level of care we can provide."

The addition of the Brevera system also enhances the workflow for imaging staff, allowing them to focus more fully on patient care rather than managing multiple steps and equipment transitions. This efficiency helps the entire breast-health team deliver a smoother, more compassionate experience from start to finish.

This investment brings comfort, clarity, and confidence to patients during one of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. The Brevera Breast Biopsy System is more than a piece of equipment – it is a promise to our community that every patient deserves the highest standard of care. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, that promise is now a reality.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL NET ASSETS
\$9,155,617

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
\$1,185,244

TOTAL # OF DONORS
1,567

OF NEW DONORS
332

CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK STATS

BABIES DELIVERED
2,189

BABIES IN NICU
316

PEDIATRIC PATIENT VISITS
42,000

COLLEGE STATS

OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
162

TOTAL # OF SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED
\$249,617



Meet "Jack" - A Legacy of Care That Continues to Deliver

Trust, experience, and a commitment to being ready when it matters most have long defined care at UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's.

Dr. Jack Bristow is a familiar and respected name throughout Siouxland and at St. Luke's. In a community where St. Luke's is known as Siouxland's premier birth center, he spent his career working alongside nurses, physicians, and staff in Labor & Delivery, guiding families through some of life's most joyful and most critical moments. Over the years, he helped deliver more than 6,000 babies at St. Luke's.

Though his clinical career concluded years ago, his connection to St. Luke's and its caregivers remains strong.

At the invitation of the St. Luke's Foundation, Dr. Bristow returned with his wife, Janice, to tour the Labor & Delivery unit. As they walked familiar hallways together, stories resurfaced, and memories returned. They reflected on the teams, families, and moments that shaped his time at St. Luke's and the relationships that continue today.

A few months later, the Labor & Delivery team shared a critical need with the Foundation: a Postpartum Hemorrhage Emergency Cart. Designed as a fully stocked mobile resource, the cart allows care teams to respond swiftly and in a coordinated way during obstetric emergencies, when seconds can significantly affect outcomes for mothers and families.

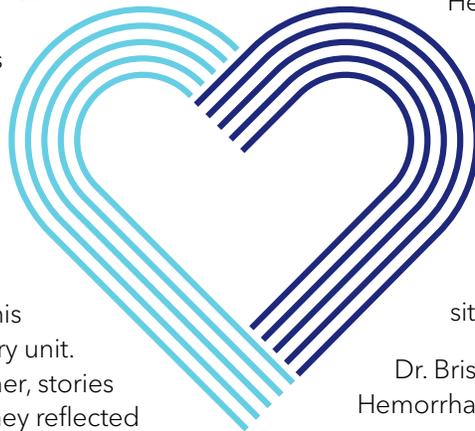
When the need was shared with Dr. Bristow, it struck a deeply personal chord.

In all his years of delivering babies, he had lost only one patient. That loss was the result of postpartum hemorrhage. Supporting this initiative aligned closely with his experience and his respect for the teams who step forward in those high-pressure moments.

He also saw this gift as a meaningful way to honor the memory of that patient and to help ensure that future mothers receive every possible advantage in critical situations.

Dr. Bristow chose to fully fund the OB Hemorrhage Cart and its initial complement of emergency supplies, guided by his confidence in the caregivers who would use it and in the care delivered every day at St. Luke's.

Today, the OB Hemorrhage Cart, affectionately known as "Jack," is prepared for the moments no one can predict, but every caregiver trains for. When it is called into action, it does more than provide supplies; it allows the team to respond with speed and coordination when it matters most. In those critical moments, "Jack" reflects Dr. Bristow's deep respect for and confidence in the caregivers whose skill and steady presence guide women through one of the most significant and vulnerable moments of their lives.



Enhancing Dignity, Access, and Comfort in Outpatient Therapy

Every day in Outpatient Therapy, small moments reveal big needs.

They appear in the way families plan their visits, in the quiet questions caregivers ask, and in the extra steps some parents take to make therapy possible for their child. Over time, those moments add up. When they are noticed, they create opportunities to care more thoughtfully.

At UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Outpatient Therapy Services, therapists serve patients of all ages from across the Siouxland region, many of whom are children and young adults living with mobility, sensory, or developmental challenges. For some families, something as basic as access to a more accessible, height-adjustable changing space for hygiene and personal care during therapy visits presented challenges that added stress to an already demanding day.

That opportunity for improvement was recognized by physical therapists Heather Mehlhaff, PT, MPT, and Jaimie Vacha, PT, DPT, CPST, who saw firsthand how additional adaptive equipment could enhance safety, accessibility, and independence for patients and caregivers alike. With the support of the St. Luke's Foundation, they began exploring a solution that would further improve comfort, preserve dignity, and better support families during therapy visits.

Thanks to an \$11,735 grant from Variety - the Children's Charity of Iowa, the solution is now in place.

The grant funded the installation of a Pressalit 1000 ADA-compliant, adult-sized, height-adjustable changing table. Wall-mounted and electronically adjustable, the table allows caregivers to work safely while offering patients a clean, accessible, and respectful option for hygiene needs.

"For kids like Shania, who've trusted us with their care for years, this really makes their visits easier, more comfortable, and far more accessible," shared Jaimie. "We're so grateful to Variety for helping us bring this to our patients."



Since installation, the impact has been immediate. Stress for families has been reduced, caregivers can work more safely, and a barrier that once complicated therapy visits has been removed. It's a change that may seem simple, but one that carries meaningful weight for those who rely on this space.

This project reflects what philanthropy makes possible at St. Luke's: team members identifying real-world opportunities and partners who believe in meeting families where they are.

We are deeply grateful to Variety - the Children's Charity of Iowa for their partnership and continued commitment to improving access, dignity, and quality of life for children and young adults with special needs. We are equally thankful for the attentiveness and advocacy of our Outpatient Therapy team, whose dedication led to recognizing this opportunity for improvement. Together, our healthcare team's insight and Variety's generosity demonstrate a shared belief that removing barriers to care strengthens families and improves lives. We look forward to continuing this work together in support of children, families, and the evolving needs of our community.

Building Brighter Beginnings:



A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT EARLY LITERACY

Every three years, Siouxland District Health Department, together with several healthcare organizations across the region, conducts a comprehensive Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). These efforts help identify the most pressing health needs in our community and guide collaborative strategies to address them. While many priorities emerge from each assessment cycle, early childhood development and literacy have consistently remained areas of focus over the years. UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's has made it a priority to not only understand these needs, but to actively develop solutions that support families and strengthen the long-term health of our community.

Research shows that reading to newborns supports brain development, strengthens parent-child bonding, and lays the foundation for language and literacy skills that influence future academic success. Yet for many families – particularly those facing financial or social barriers – a child's first book may not arrive until much later. Closing this early literacy gap became a shared community goal.

To help meet this need, CENTURY 21 ProLink partnered with the UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Foundation to launch the Pediatric Literacy Program, ensuring every newborn at St. Luke's Hospital receives a high-quality board book before heading home. The Foundation collaborates with Barnes & Noble to

source developmentally appropriate books and applies custom labels featuring the CENTURY 21 ProLink logo, giving families a meaningful keepsake and a clear message of community support.

Lisa Croston, Broker/Owner at CENTURY 21 ProLink, shared why this initiative resonated so deeply with her team: "A child's first book can spark curiosity, connection, and confidence. We wanted to make sure every family – no matter their circumstances – has that opportunity from day one. Supporting early literacy is one of the most meaningful investments we can make in our community's future."

This partnership is strengthened even further by Barnes & Noble's annual holiday book drive, which collects hundreds of donated board books for St. Luke's. Together, these efforts ensure a consistent supply of books for newborn families and for children visiting St. Luke's pediatric clinic during wellness appointments. For some families, this may be the very first book they own – a small but powerful step toward nurturing a lifelong love of reading.

By investing in early literacy, our community is investing in the future health and success of Siouxland's children. Through this collaborative effort, families at St. Luke's receive the tools to begin building strong, healthy foundations from the very start of their child's life.



Aubree's Legacy:

ADVANCING RESPIRATORY CARE FOR FUTURE STUDENTS



The St. Luke's Foundation was deeply moved by the extraordinary legacy of one of our own – St. Luke's College alumna, Aubree Kueny. Aubree graduated from the respiratory therapy program with the same compassion, determination, and quiet strength that would later define her career. Though her life was heartbreakingly short, the impact she made in her 24 years continues to ripple far beyond the walls of any hospital.

After completing her training at St. Luke's College, Aubree went on to serve as a respiratory therapist at Mayo Clinic, where she cared for patients with remarkable empathy and skill. Her dedication to her profession – and to the people she served – left a lasting impression on colleagues, families, and patients alike.

Following her unexpected passing, **Aubree's parents, Jennie and Ron, knew they wanted to honor her in a way that reflected the work she loved. Through their generosity, the St. Luke's Foundation was able to purchase a new non-invasive ventilator for St. Luke's College – the same type of advanced technology shaping respiratory care today.**

Jennie shared why this gift felt like the right way to honor her daughter: **"Aubree loved being a respiratory therapist. It meant everything to her to help people breathe easier**

and feel cared for. We wanted her legacy to support the next generation of students who will carry that same compassion into their work. Knowing that others will learn and grow because of her brings us comfort."

Cindy Duncan, Program Director of Respiratory Care, shared how meaningful this gift will be for students: "This ventilator gives our students the opportunity to train with the technology they will encounter in modern practice. It elevates their education and helps ensure they are fully prepared to care for patients from day one – a legacy that reflects exactly who Aubree was."

The ventilator is more than an educational resource – it is a continuation of Aubree's legacy. Every student who trains on it will be learning in her honor. Every future patient supported by those students will feel the ripple of her influence. And every graduate who enters the field will carry forward the same spirit of compassion that guided Aubree's work.

A plaque now displayed at St. Luke's College serves as a tribute to her life and a reminder of the difference one person can make. Through this memorial, Aubree will continue doing what she did best – caring for people. We are profoundly grateful for the lasting impact her legacy will have on future caregivers.

The Moments That Matter Most:



CELEBRATING THE VOLUNTEERS WHO BRING COMPASSION AND COMFORT TO ST. LUKE'S

As we reflect on the past year, one theme rises above everything else: the power of meaningful moments. Our volunteers created thousands of them – moments of comfort, reassurance, joy, and human connection that shaped the experience of patients, families, and staff throughout St. Luke's.

Their impact could be felt everywhere. From guiding visitors and supporting families to offering companionship at the bedside, volunteers brought warmth into spaces that needed it most. Their presence helped ensure that every person who entered our hospital felt seen, supported, and cared for.

This year also marked exciting growth in several of our specialty programs, including the expansion of pet therapy and the launch of our Veteran Visiting Program. These initiatives have quickly become some of the most meaningful ways volunteers connect

"Volunteers bring so much heart to St. Luke's. Whether they're welcoming visitors, supporting families, cuddling our NICU babies, or offering quiet companionship to a patient, their presence brings comfort in ways that truly matter. Their generosity of time and spirit is felt throughout the entire hospital."
– Mary O'Brien, Manager, Volunteer Services

with patients. The Veteran Visiting Program, supported by both volunteers and local Veterans Service Organization members, ensures that hospitalized veterans receive recognition and support during their stay. Among those leading the effort is Ralph Webb and his service dog, Walker, who spend their Tuesdays honoring veterans across the hospital. With a visit, a pin, and the calming presence of a loyal dog, they help ensure that those who served feel valued and remembered. Their work – along with the broader team of veteran volunteers – has strengthened patient satisfaction and brought dignity and comfort to countless individuals.

Our pet therapy volunteers continue to brighten hallways and hospital rooms as well, offering comfort, reducing stress, and creating moments of joy for patients, families, and staff. Whether visiting a child, an oncology patient, or someone recovering in the ICU, these gentle interactions remind us that healing can take many forms.

We were also proud to welcome a new generation of volunteers through our College Boot Camp and Junior Boot Camp programs, which offer meaningful summer opportunities for students ages 14 and older. These young volunteers bring energy, curiosity, and compassion to their roles, and many leave inspired to pursue careers in healthcare. Their contributions have become an important part of our volunteer community and a promising investment in the future of care.

As we celebrate the incredible contributions of our volunteers, we are excited to continue growing this community. Whether someone is drawn to supporting patients, assisting families, cuddling NICU babies, honoring veterans, sharing the joy of pet therapy, or exploring healthcare through our youth programs, there is a meaningful place for them here.

Every hour given, every smile shared, and every moment of kindness leaves a lasting imprint. The time our volunteers offer is more than service – it is a gift that strengthens the entire St. Luke's community.



675 hours spent as NICU Cuddlers, providing comfort to more than 1,000 newborns.

For premature and medically fragile babies, human touch is vital for healthy development. Volunteers offered warmth, security, and a steady heartbeat – helping our tiniest patients thrive during their earliest and most vulnerable days.

7,000 patient visits, offering meaningful engagement, heartfelt conversation, and a reassuring presence.

Whether sharing stories, offering encouragement, or simply sitting with someone who needed company, volunteers created moments of connection that made a real difference.

350 hours of knitting and sewing, resulting in more than 2,500 handmade items.

These lovingly crafted blankets, caps, and comfort pieces brought warmth and care to patients and families throughout the hospital.

1,500 coloring and activity books distributed through the Comfort Care Cart.

A small gesture can brighten a difficult day – volunteers helped lift spirits and spark joy for patients of all ages.

688 hours assisting visitors and supporting the Gifted Boutique Gift Shop,

offering friendly greetings, helpful guidance, and thoughtful gifts during stressful moments. Their presence enhanced the overall experience for patients, families, and visitors.

268 hours of pet therapy, providing unconditional love and emotional support.

Sometimes healing comes with fur and four paws – our therapy animals brought joy, reduced stress, and offered comfort when words weren't enough.



**BELIEVE
WHAT YOU DO
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE.**



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