

2025 IMPACT REPORT

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK





Dear Franciscan Friends,

Thank you for your generous support of the Franciscan Health Foundation in 2025, a milestone philanthropic year thanks to YOU! We draw inspiration from the six sisters who began our Mission 150 years ago: Continuing Christ's Ministry in our Franciscan Tradition. Our theme for 2026 is "extraordinary is in our roots," and it's your continued commitment that allows us to carry our Mission forward for the benefit of the communities we are privileged to serve.

The Foundation is the proud steward of over 100 restricted funds that were created to assist our most vulnerable patient populations – the sick, the poor and the underserved. Please take the time to read the stories in our 2025 Impact Report detailing the powerful influence you had on those in need.

The Franciscan Health Foundation offers an incredibly unique giving experience – 100% of your charitable contributions are directed to your designated fund. Donations are not used for staff salaries or expenses, which allows you to make the greatest impact with your gift.

Thank you for choosing to Make a Difference by creating life-changing results for our most vulnerable patient populations.

Yours in philanthropic partnership and gratitude,

Caitlin Leahy
Caitlin A. Leahy, MHA

Senior Vice President
Franciscan Health Foundation
& Community Health Improvement

STROKE SURVIVOR FINDS NEW PACE

Brian Reith had his world turned upside down 11 years ago. The former marathon runner had a stroke at age 51 and could not walk for a while.

Thanks to his perseverance and the rehab team at Franciscan Health Lafayette, he learned to walk again and last year walked the entire 5K distance in just over two hours at the annual Franciscan Health Race for Kids. This marked the first timed event for Reith since his stroke.

Along with participating in the Race for Kids, Reith, who is now 63, attended Franciscan Stroke Camp, both of which the Franciscan Health Foundation is a partner of.



“It’s very important to have the Franciscan Health Foundation,” said Reith. “They do a lot for the community. Without them, I don’t think Stroke Camp would be in existence. The Race for Kids is a great event as well.”

Reith attended Stroke Camp a couple of times and enjoyed the activities that campers take part in as well as the socialization that comes with the territory. Ziplining has been one of the main highlights for the Lafayette resident.

“Stroke Camp is great,” said Reith. “The resources that you can use and the friends you make is amazing. I’ve met so many wonderful people who I keep in touch with from all over Indiana. Every day there is information presented and you learn something new.”

Reith is very grateful to the Franciscan Health Foundation for supporting Stroke Camp and the volunteers who have become like family to him.

“Stroke Camp volunteers are the same year after year and that is so nice because they recognize you the second time around,” said Reith. “They keep coming back to volunteer which means a lot to everyone.”

FRANCISCAN STROKE CAMP

2025

39 campers
10 Franciscan Health
volunteers

2024

9 campers
6 Franciscan Health
volunteers

2023

8 campers
7 Franciscan Health
volunteers



Brian Reith at Franciscan Stroke Camp.

A MILLION DIAPERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Pamela Anderson never had children of her own, so when she unexpectedly found herself caring for her husband's six-week-old granddaughter, she wasn't sure where to begin.

The 57-year-old said she was overwhelmed and wasn't sure where to turn for help. She works full-time, but was on leave recovering from surgery.

"It was very, very scary," she said. "We had nothing. It was a really challenging time."

Anderson initially went to an organization in Northwest Indiana seeking help and the staff there, "made me feel really embarrassed," she said.

When Anderson was told the organization couldn't help her because she had a source of income, two other women took Anderson aside and told her about the Franciscan Supplementary Diaper Pantry in Crown Point. That is when everything changed for the better.

"I was so welcomed by the woman at the front desk," she said. "She gave me a number to help with formula, too, because I obviously couldn't breastfeed. It was just a totally different atmosphere."

Anderson said the stress she felt having to ask for help fell away at Franciscan.

"We never thought this would be our lives," she said. "Having that extra help, with clothes, too, really made a difference. They made it all so much easier."

As of this year, Franciscan Health's Prenatal Assistance Program has officially given away more than 1 million diapers through its Supplementary Diaper Pantries in Crown Point, Michigan City, Munster and Rensselaer.

According to the National Diaper Bank Network, which partners with Franciscan to help provide diapers, nearly half of all families struggle to afford diapers, which can cost nearly \$1,000 a year. As many as 25% of families with diaper insecurity report missing school or work because they do not have the diapers needed to send their children to childcare.



COMFORT IN A TIME OF CRISIS

A patient expecting the birth of her child was homeless and living in her car. All avenues for assistance were leading to a dead end until a Franciscan Health Michigan City nurse practitioner shared her patient's story with hospital administration.

Thanks to her compassionate concern, the Franciscan Health obstetric staff, Foundation team, Prenatal Assistance and Food Insecurity teams were able to quickly collaborate to arrange a local hotel stay.

Jodi Perrine, with our Community Health Prenatal Assistance Program, further represented our Franciscan Mission and Values, making daily hotel visits to deliver food, clothing and toiletries, and to learn how we can improve the patient's situation. Jodi said this personal attention made the woman feel heard and "worth it." Jodi and the woman shared tears of joy and pure human connection.

During Jodi's visits, she discovered the patient's son was the subject of a Child Protective Services case. She needed to get her son and seek safety with family out-of-state. The Foundation was able to extend her hotel stay to allow extra time to coordinate travel plans. The patient sold her car to a scrap yard and used the money to purchase a suitcase and two bus tickets. Jodi drove the woman and her son to the bus station to begin their journey to better lives.

2025 NUMBERS

PRENATAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (program locations include Crown Point, Michigan City, Munster and Rensselaer)

949 women served

3,061 encounters with patients

SUPPLEMENTARY DIAPER PANTRY

(sites include Crown Point, Michigan City, Munster and Rensselaer)

5,553 children served

287,538 diapers distributed

PROJECT SWADDLE

(home visiting program in Jasper, Newton and LaPorte counties)

191 women served

COMFORT AND SECURITY IN A FURRY PACKAGE

Capping a year of pets, wags and snuggles, Franciscan Health Michigan City's comfort and security dog Oaken celebrated his one-year anniversary on March 1.

"Oaken has been a success since day one and has been everything we hoped for and more," said Oaken's handler, security officer Doug Samuelson.

Oaken came to Franciscan Health Michigan City through a Franciscan Health Foundation-led employee contest called the Blue Skies Innovation Challenge. The proposal for the comfort and security dog was one of the employee-proposed projects awarded.

On Oaken's first day of duty, Samuelson took him to the ER, where the staff was debriefing after a traumatic event involving a child.

"He went to every staff member in that room and let them pet him, and he even sat his head on the laps of some. Oaken interacted with every member of the staff that had been part of the trauma, and you could see on their faces how Oaken being there helped staff to cope with what they had just experienced," Samuelson said.

Oaken spends his day greeting staff and visitors throughout the hospital. His presence has inspired his own merchandise table in the Michigan City gift shop, complete with T-shirts, sweatshirts, and stuffed Oaken dolls. Oaken also has his own baseball cards that are free for visitors and staff and available at the front desk for a keepsake.

Oaken, who celebrated his second birthday on Feb. 10, is now assisting in the training of Franciscan's newest K-9, Rohan, a red English Lab that will start his post at Franciscan Health Crown Point.



OAKEN BY THE NUMBERS

123 Security events per month

218 K-9 events per month

50-60 Room visits per month

10,000 to 15,000
Oaken's handler's average steps per day



REVIVE & SURVIVE

Since 2006, the program has offered **3,165** free CPR trainings to individuals and distributed **633** AEDs to **381** organizations.

REACHING MORE WITH LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT

With the support of Franciscan Health Foundation donors, the Revive & Survive program, which provides automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) and CPR training, has expanded its reach in Western Indiana to Jasper and Newton counties.

“This will empower us to enhance public awareness of sudden cardiac arrest through community education while increasing survival rates through distribution of life-saving AEDs to non-profit entities,” said Talitha Huber, Revive & Survive grant coordinator.

The Revive & Survive program, since its inception in 2006, has offered free CPR trainings and AEDs throughout Tippecanoe, Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Montgomery, Warren and White counties. The program has received three applications from Jasper and Newton non-profit entities so far, with plans to distribute six AEDs between them.

“We are so excited about the opportunity to reach more communities in these counties that can benefit from this life-saving program,” Huber said.



A PARTNERSHIP BUILT ON CARE FOR CANCER PATIENTS

When a patient is undergoing cancer treatment, gracious hospitality can make all the difference in the world.

That notion was the driving force behind a partnership between Fair Haven and the Franciscan Health Foundation that began in 2015, creating a housing program for patients in the Indiana Blood & Marrow Transplantation (IBMT) program.

Fair Haven provides two apartments to be available for IBMT patients specifically. The apartments are most often used for allogeneic patients who live a distance away but need to stay close to the hospital following discharge. Fair Haven leases, furnishes, cleans and maintains the two apartments.

Fair Haven Foundation Executive Director Amanda Miller says, “We are a Christian ministry and so we also come alongside each patient and their family to provide hospitality and compassionate support while they are battling a serious illness far from home. Our Guest Service Director, Tricia Bishop, stays in touch with families staying in the apartments for Franciscan Health patients and attends to their needs and visits them.”

Juanita Amaya of Merrillville, Ind., said, “This has been a blessing to be with my son. The hospital being so close, I would get lost if I wasn’t nearby. I want to thank you for all you do for families that cannot afford hotels, especially when a family member has cancer.”

“It took so much pressure away from dealing with housing. So appreciated!”

- DARREL & CATHY KIRKHAM, Elkhart, Ind.



“There is no way we would have gotten care if we had to go home!”

- COURTNEY FRANCIS & VICKIE FRANCIS (MOTHER), West Lafayette, Ind.

In 2025, IBMT patients and their families stayed at Fair Haven apartments for a total of **392** nights, with the average stay lasting **28** days.



GUIDING FUTURE HEALTHCARE LEADERS

In summer 2025, Franciscan Health Olympia Fields hosted two Healthcare Career Camps where high school students experienced a first-hand view of what it's like to work in a hospital.

Campers learned skills such as how to take blood pressure readings and steps to prevent infections. They rotated among different hospital departments to observe and learn about different healthcare professions. They got a chance to talk with medical residents about their experiences in medical school.

Healthcare Career Campers were recruited via schools, Franciscan employees, and word of mouth. Campers worked in small teams to complete an escape room activity that focused on completing simple clinical tasks and used Pathful Explore software to learn about careers.

Cheyenne Smith, a senior at Homewood-Flossmoor High School, said, "I'm really glad that I got to take part in this program. It gave me some insight into what I want to do for my future."

"The people that work at this hospital really are caring, and they gave me so much knowledge that I never knew I needed," Cheyenne said. "I believe the Franciscan Health Foundation should continue to have these programs, because it opens doors for a lot of high school students that don't know where they want to start. These programs give them some insight on where they might want to go in life."

HEALTHCARE CAREER CAMP

2025

2 weeks of camp

10 campers each week
ages 16-18



ONE DONOR'S STORY: JERRY KARWOWSKI

Jerry Karwowski's career as a pharmacist led him to meeting his wife, Terry, while working at St. Francis Hospital, later to become Franciscan Health Indianapolis. Terry was a licensed practical nurse when he met her and was a young single mother with two children. They started out as friends, then ended up getting married and had two kids together. Terry went back to school and worked her way through pre-op and post-op, surgical and emergency department shifts, eventually managing the endoscopy department for 19 years.

Jerry and Terry were married for 48 years and had nine grandkids before she passed in 2021. Jerry said, "it was the best 48 years of my life; it was a dream come true!"

When asked what made Jerry want to donate to the Franciscan Foundation, he said, "It was primarily because what the hospital did for my wife. She always considered it her home. She was a big supporter of Franciscan and nursing in general. It was her calling."

The Franciscan Health Foundation in Central Indiana annually contributes more than \$2 million in support of patient care and hospital operations.

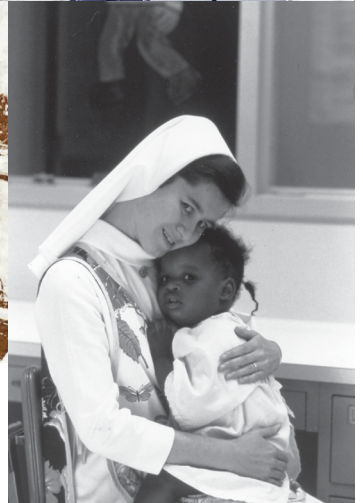
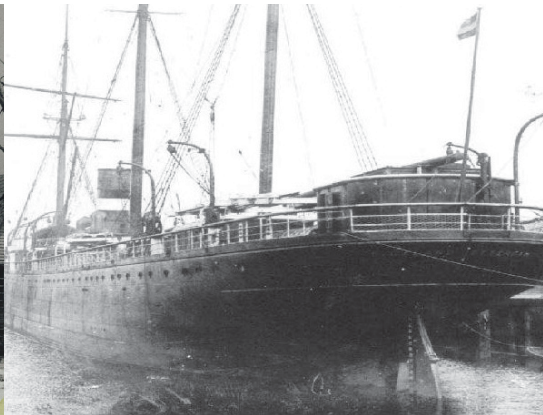
"This annual support is made possible thanks to generous donors like Jerry," shared Greg Williamson, executive director of the Foundation in Central Indiana. "This includes donations from grateful patients, employees, physicians, corporations, family foundations and government agencies," he added.



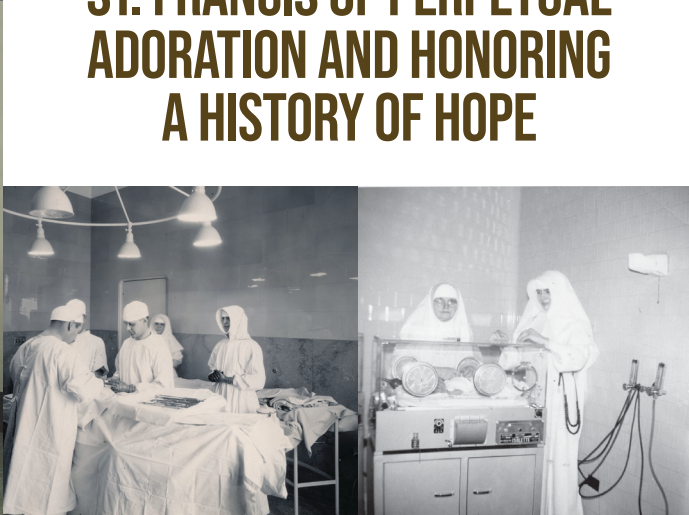
In 2025, the Franciscan Health Foundation received ...

72,675 gifts

From **5,323** donors



**CELEBRATING THE SISTERS OF
ST. FRANCIS OF PERPETUAL
ADORATION AND HONORING
A HISTORY OF HOPE**



OUR COMMITMENT TO SERVICES AND QUALITY ALLOWS US TO CARRY ON OUR TIMELESS MISSION

YOU CAN MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

A bequest is one of the easiest gifts you can make to benefit our most vulnerable patients and their families.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR LEGACY GIFT TODAY:

1. Learn more about our Franciscan Mission and opportunities for you to establish your Legacy Gift by contacting one of our offices..
2. Arrange a meeting with your financial advisor to make sure your plans will fulfill your philanthropic goals.
3. Please let us know if you choose to include the Franciscan Health Foundation in your will, so we can celebrate your generosity.

CONTINUING CHRIST'S MINISTRY IN OUR FRANCISCAN TRADITION



The Franciscan Health Foundation exists to support the programs and services of Franciscan Alliance, Inc. We are dedicated to addressing the ever-growing healthcare needs of our communities and supporting patient needs at our not-for-profit hospitals, outpatient facilities and community-based programs throughout Indiana and South Suburban Chicago.

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