

HEART AND SOUL

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WHY WE GIVE
BY ERICKSON
AMBULANCE

GARDTEC
COMMITTED TO
THE COMMUNITY

A HELPING HAND

HOW THE EAGLES
HOPE FUND HELPS
CANCER PATIENTS
SUCH AS RACHEL



All Saints Foundation



A SOARING GENEROSITY

RACINE EAGLES' GIFTS ARE IMPROVING CARE AND LIVES AT ASCENSION ALL SAINTS

Whether it's serving up tasty Italian sausage sandwiches, organizing live music for a cancer benefit or lining up classic cars for the annual car show, members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #281 have one thing on their minds—helping people in need.

“That’s what we’re all about,” says club secretary and past president Kai Genich. “It’s our purpose and our mission, and we certainly have a good time doing it.”

The Eagles have helped people and charities internationally, nationally and locally, including Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare – All Saints, part of Ascension.

The club’s ongoing generosity and philanthropy has benefitted numerous departments and programs at All Saints, thanks to annual fundraising dinners, benefits and events.

“We find all sorts of ways to raise money and give back,” Genich said. “Because of the public’s support of our club, we’re able to help a lot of people and see the results of all our efforts.”

Genich used his recent tenure as state president of the Eagles to rally Wisconsin-wide support for the Hope Fund at All Saints, which assists cancer patients in financial need. Contributions from around the state now help cancer patients in Racine as a result.

“It can sometimes be a struggle for cancer patients to keep their head above water,” he said. “And that’s what we’re here for—to make life a little better for everyone.”

Genich’s work is supported by the 65 members of the Women’s Auxiliary and the 71 members of the Racine Aerie, including chairman of the board and manager Richard Fortier.

“We see all these people who desperately need a little help, and the Hope Fund at All Saints can go a long ways toward helping them,” Fortier said. “We’d love to see a



Eagles club members (top) raise money year-round through a variety of local events, benefits and fundraisers. Recent efforts enabled them to fund the purchase of an ergometer for the All Saints Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Department, which helps patients such as Peter Oertel (above) regain their strength and endurance.

cure for cancer, but in the meantime, we can at least help people pay their bills.”

“And a great thing about giving to All Saints Foundation is that all the funds go directly to local people who need help, which makes a tremendous impact,” he said.

Gaining Strength and Endurance

Patients in All Saints’ Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation programs are benefitting directly from the Eagles’ philanthropic deeds through the donation of a much-needed arm ergometer. Essentially a bicycle for the upper body, the equipment strengthens muscles while also providing a cardiovascular workout. The ergometer enables patients to regain the loss of strength from inactivity spanning a couple weeks to a few months, according to Megan Justman, Interim Manager of Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation.

“It trains patients who have been severely deconditioned,” Justman said.

The ergometer is an additional tool to build strength and endurance while improving quality of life, she said.

“It has many benefits. For example, when pulmonary patients struggle to breathe, they rely on their accessory muscles to help them. The ergometer helps strengthen those muscles,” she said.

Cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation programs are beneficial to patients recovering from acute cardiac events or long-term chronic illnesses. It doesn’t take long for health to be impacted by inactivity—just eight hours of bedrest can result in a loss of muscle strength. That strength and endurance can be critical to accomplishing common, daily tasks such as showering and washing dishes. It can also impact patients’ ability to return to physically demanding jobs.

The ergometer’s portability particularly benefits patients confined to beds or wheelchairs as well as those in an outpatient setting who can easily use the ergometer on a countertop.

“We have so many patients who use this equipment every week,” Justman said. “We are thrilled that through All Saints Foundation, the Eagles were able to fulfill this important need.”

Improving the Patient Experience

Every week, as the Inpatient Rehabilitation Department at All Saints helps patients recover from strokes, hip fractures, joint replacements and other injuries and ailments, the wheelchairs in the department are in high demand. So when the Eagles offered to donate funds to purchase a

high-strength, lightweight adjustable wheelchair, the new equipment was a welcome addition to the department’s current busy fleet.

The additional wheelchair improves the staff’s ability to provide patients with wheelchairs of different sizes and with a variety of attachments and features, says Physical Therapist Anika Johnson.

“Having additional, up-to-date equipment makes our patients’ stay on the unit much easier and more efficient,” she said. “We’re very grateful for the Eagle’s donations, as new equipment is essential but costly.”

Increasing Home Access

As patients prepare to be discharged from the rehabilitation unit at All Saints, the rehabilitation therapy team often performs a home visit to ensure patients are fully prepared to return to their home. Patients usually do not have a wheelchair ramp installed at their home, which can make entry difficult, particularly to homes with multiple stairs. The Eagles’ donation of a mobile ramp allows patients safe access to their home.

“Thanks to the portable ramp from the Eagles, we can perform more home visits, which allow patients to practice the tasks and motions necessary when they’re back in their homes for good,” said Occupational Therapist Elizabeth Olley. “It’s a huge help.”

Making a Difference

The Racine Eagles have built a legacy of helping All Saints patients through the purchase of much-needed equipment. From adjustable wheelchair cushions that help prevent pressure ulcers for patients with spinal cord injuries to bed support rails that allow patients at home to sleep in their current bed instead of a hospital bed, the Eagles’ commitment to helping people is immeasurable, says Johnson.

“The number of patients that the Eagles have helped is countless at this point,” she said. “Each day, they touch multiple lives. They’ve impacted every one of our patients with a piece of equipment that they’ve donated. We’re incredibly fortunate and grateful.”

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—Anika Johnson, Physical Therapist

To learn how you can help patients at All Saints, call All Saints Foundation at 262-687-8654.

THE EAGLES HOPE FUND

BRIDGING THE GAP DURING A TIME OF NEED

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #281 has landed itself a place in the heart of cancer patients—today and tomorrow.

The Eagles Club of Racine has established a permanent endowment toward the Hope Fund—the program that financially helps out cancer patients facing financial hardships. Patients such as Becky Hinds.

As a working mother of three young children, Hinds is used to heavy demands of her time, energy and income. A cervical cancer diagnosis put additional stress and strain on her already full plate. Chemotherapy treatments drained her energy and left her unable to work. With almost all of her income going to rent and living expenses, she worried how she would pay her medical bills and make ends meet without a paycheck.

“I’m very independent, so I usually take care of everything on my own,” she said. “I don’t usually ask for any help.”

Hind’s sister suggested she apply for assistance

through the All Saints Hope Fund, which supports cancer patients who are in financial need due to their ongoing treatment. Before she knew it, the fund’s committee reviewed her application and determined she met eligibility requirements. Help arrived—the Hope Fund would pay her rent for three months.

“It was a huge relief. I was less stressed and I could focus more on my treatment and my kids,” she said.

Hinds remains deeply grateful for the generous donors who made the assistance possible.

“I think donors to the Hope Fund are doing a very good thing by helping cancer patients like me,” she said. “And I would personally like to thank them.”

Big Impact

The Hope Fund is a vital safety net created precisely for cancer patients such as Hinds—patients who fall into financial need due to a cancer diagnosis. Since its inception in 2008, the fund has provided more than



RACHEL MARQUEZ

BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR

Watching the bills pile up adds even more stress to dealing with cancer. So when the Hope Fund paid my rent and utilities for three months, I was incredibly grateful. A huge burden lifted off me, and I could focus on healing and paying my other bills. I can't work right now, so without that extra help, I would have been really strapped for cash. I would have had to ask my family for help, and that's hard to do. My father was more than willing to help me if needed, but because of the Hope Fund, I didn't have to ask. And for that, I'm very thankful.



STEVEN DEROSIA

COLON CANCER SURVIVOR

When I was diagnosed with cancer, my wife and I were shocked. The diagnosis came completely out of the blue. I was immediately admitted to the hospital, and instantly out of work. We were stressed out about trying to make ends meet, and didn't know where to turn for help. Luckily, my wife found the Hope Fund, which quickly paid our rent. We were elated. We're so grateful that there are people who are willing to help cancer patients in financial need. Without the Hope Fund, we might have been homeless.

\$500,000 in basic living expenses. It's based on the belief that no patient should have to make the unbearable choice between paying the bills and receiving the medical treatment they need.

"A reduction of income can very well mean a reduction of independence," says Christopher David, cancer care social worker at All Saints.

In receiving a much-needed financial cushion, patients can keep their independence as well as a sense of normalcy and stability during what can be a time of disruption and crisis, David said.

"The financial assistance can boost their morale," he said, "And from a psychological standpoint, that's very important."

Melissa Kacmarsky, All Saints' Manager of Clinical Radiation Oncology, has seen how the fund provides numerous benefits for patients and their families.

"It helps patients fully focus on their recovery," she said. "And it also eases strain on the family. Families of patients are already doing so much by providing things like transportation, child care and emotional support, that it's difficult for patients to ask for money from them on top of all that."

"I think donors to the Hope Fund are doing a very good thing by helping cancer patients like me. And I would personally like to thank them."

—cancer survivor Becky Hinds

Paying for large expenses such as rent, mortgage payments and utilities makes the biggest impact on patients' budgets, which then gives them room to pay for other items such as prescriptions, co-pays and groceries, Kacmarsky said.

The Eagles Hope Fund Endowment

As the Hope Fund approaches its tenth year, administrators recently announced the creation of the Eagle Club's endowment. This contribution will ensure the future of the Hope Fund and allow its mission to continue in perpetuity, helping cancer patients in need for generations to come.

Along with additional gifts from multiple donors, the endowment will grow over time, providing a sound financial base for the fund, and leaving a legacy for the Eagles and their supporters.

"It's very touching that we have a community of individuals who are committed to helping these patients," Kacmarsky said. "Their thoughtfulness and generous spirit makes a huge impact on these patients' lives."



DEBORAH LLOYD
LEUKEMIA SURVIVOR

The Hope Fund helped me through the worst of times. My medication made me so weak and sick, I could not work. When I worried about all my bills, I made myself sicker. Then a co-worker told me not to be too proud to ask for help. So I asked, and the Hope Fund was there for me. It was like a guardian angel protecting me, easing my financial worries so I could focus on healing. Hope is like faith -- you might not see it, but it's there. For me, the Hope Fund gave me hope indeed that I could make it through treatment. It is truly a blessing.



MELISSA EASI
CERVICAL CANCER SURVIVOR

The Hope Fund didn't make my cancer go away, but it certainly eased my mind. As I began daily radiation treatment and weekly chemotherapy for nearly stage 4 cervical cancer, I worried about paying my bills. I continued to work weekends, but I couldn't work during the week because of the appointments and treatments. Hope Fund representatives quickly started the process of paying my rent. I was relieved. I finished treatment, and I'm doing well. The Hope Fund and the staff at All Saints saved me. I can now remain focused on my life's goal of beating cancer.

BY THE NUMBERS

The number of visits each week to All Saints' Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation programs. The well-established programs provide ongoing, personalized support to help patients achieve an active and heart-healthy lifestyle.



23

The number of patients in the Mobile Integrated Healthcare program. The MIH provides a full spectrum of healthcare and social services to underserved populations. This growing program provides the right care at the right time in the right place for each patient it serves.



75+

The number of holiday gifts given to the Ascension All Saints Pediatric Department by the Racine Harley Owners Group (H.O.G.) during last year's holiday season.

More than 25 HOG members rode their Harleys to the All Saints Spring Street campus, bringing cheer and delight to young patients and their families, a tradition the group started 20 years ago.

At Erickson Ambulance, the patient is the heart of everything we do. They're our sole focus and the reason we began providing ambulance service six decades ago. Today, as we strive to continue exceptional response times for patients whenever they need us, we're equally dedicated to expert, compassionate care. That's why we appreciate our relationship with Ascension All Saints. They share with us the same mission of unwavering commitment to quality care and service.

Erickson Ambulance values its long history with All Saints. When St. Luke's and St. Mary's merged to form All Saints, we were excited to help. We moved patients to the All Saints Spring Street campus where they received care in a brand-new, first-rate facility. We were proud and honored to be part of this community-wide effort.

Today, we're again proud to expand our valued relationship with All Saints by supporting the efforts of All Saints Foundation. By sponsoring the corporate-wide Golf Outing and the Foundation's Kentucky Derby Gala, we're able to support excellent health care services in our community by way of a health care organization that shares our values of compassion, integrity and professionalism.

To be in and maintain such a natural partnership, one that continues to grow as we work together to provide the best care possible for every patient we serve. That is why we give.

WHY WE
give
by Erickson Ambulance



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SAVE THE DATE

Night with the Saints: A Kentucky Derby Gala
 Saturday, May 5, 2018
 The Johnson Bank Building in Downtown Racine



All Saints Foundation

West Professional Office Building
 3805-B Spring Street, Suite 220
 Racine, WI 53405
 262.687.8654

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 Photos by Mark Albertini.





West Professional Office Building
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GARDTEC GIVES BACK

In their work and in their hearts, Dave and Debbie Petersen are fans of Ascension All Saints.

Their family business, GardTec of Racine, supplies fan accessory products and shares Ascension All Saints' dedication and commitment to the greater Racine community.

Seeing All Saints and Racine continue to grow inspires their longstanding support of All Saints Foundation, says Debbie, GardTec's Chief Financial Officer.

"As Racine natives, we've seen All Saints change and grow over the years," she said. "All Saints is a #1 facility, and we want people to realize the great care they provide right here in Racine."

Debbie and Dave, president of GardTec, began supporting All Saints' Pink Paddling Power breast cancer support group several years ago when Debbie's sister and a friend were both receiving treatment for breast cancer. Their support hit home when, three years ago, Debbie was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"The staff at All Saints guided me and were with me every step of the way," she said. "My friends, family and the staff were all there for me, so I wanted to give back in some way."

Debbie now serves on the All Saints Foundation Board of Directors and the Foundation's Kentucky Derby Gala committee. Additionally, GardTec has proudly sponsored the annual Gala.

"It's heartwarming to see so many people participate and contribute," Debbie said. "We're fortunate to be involved with the hospital, and we want to be a part of helping it grow even more in the years to come."

SARAH STROMMEN, DAVE PETERSEN, DEBBIE PETERSEN AND CHRIS PETERSEN