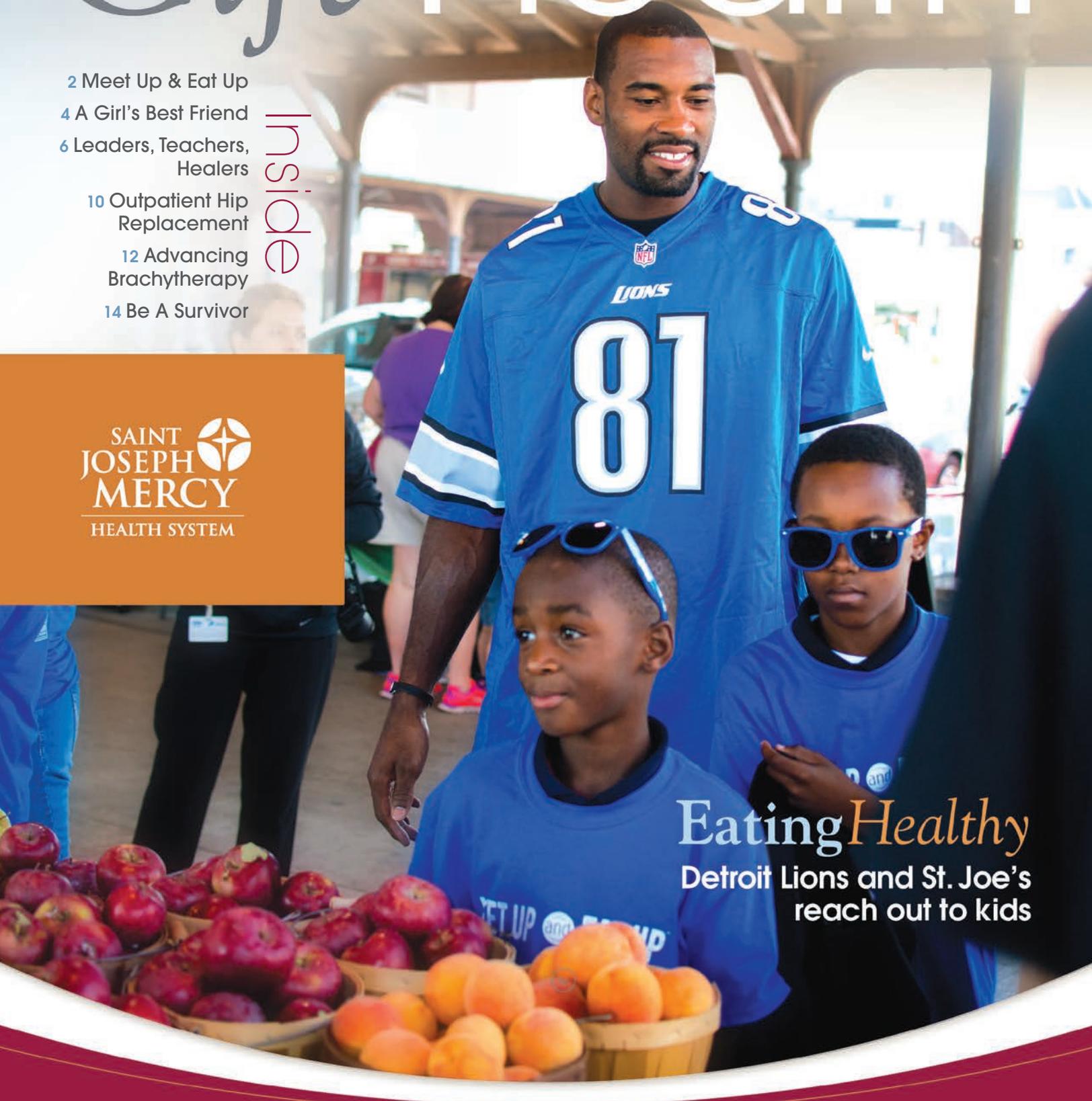


Gift of Health

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INSIDE

SAINT
JOSEPH
MERCY
HEALTH SYSTEM



Eating Healthy
Detroit Lions and St. Joe's reach out to kids

INSPIRING Change



Any Given Tuesday

More than 30 kids from Detroit Public Schools buzzed with excitement as they formed two lines at the loading dock of one of Eastern Market's historic brick "sheds." They were making a grand entrance for their heroes, Detroit Lions Calvin Johnson, Glover Quin, Corey Fuller and Lance Moore. The players greeted the kids with smiles and high fives to kick off the Meet Up & Eat Up event held on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015.

The Detroit Lions, Ford, Eastern Market and Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS) are among the community partners making change happen through United Way's signature Meet Up & Eat Up events.

This is just one of the many initiatives Saint Joseph Mercy Health System has launched or partnered with to make good health possible in our communities.

Involved, Inspired and Working Together

"Michigan ranks 34th in the nation in overall health, making us one of the unhealthiest states," said Rob Casalou, SJMHS President and CEO. "We began asking ourselves, what are we going to do about this? St. Joe's has gone from city to city in southeast Michigan, holding lunch-and-learn programs to talk with community members about what they need most to live healthier lives."

The key, Casalou says is having business and community partners that can leverage resources, solve issues and collaborate on ideas and solutions. "There is no way one organization can do this alone. We're getting people involved, inspired and interested in working together to make change."

SJMHS is rallying people and organizations together through a grassroots initiative called "Join Me." The purpose is to start conversations and ignite change that will make it possible for everyone to live a healthy lifestyle, manage risks and illness, and be well. SJMHS is moving quickly from generating awareness to taking action. Examples include:

Meet Up & Eat Up: Students from Detroit Public Schools meet players from the Detroit Lions at the Eastern Market, participate in the NFL Play 60, receive tokens to purchase fruits and vegetables that day, and enjoy a lunch and learn with Chef Joe Nader of the Lions and Lisa McDowell, Dietician for SJMHS. The program connects kids to farm fresh fruits and vegetables and teaches them the health benefits of eating them.

Prescription for Health: In partnership with Washtenaw County Public Health, our physicians can write prescriptions to qualifying low-income patients for ten dollars in tokens to use at participating farmers markets, including the Farm at St. Joe's, for the purchase of fruits and vegetables. Among community supporters is the Kresge Foundation. For more information about the program visit ewashtenaw.org/prescriptionforhealth.

Continued on page 11...





At the **Meet Up & Eat Up** event, Detroit Public School students participated in the NFL Play 60, an initiative to encourage kids to be active for at least 60 minutes each day.

Saving a Girl's Best Friend

Your generosity is touching the lives of patients and families every day. We recently received a letter from teenager Jenna Magon, expressing her gratitude for the exceptional care and healing environment at the St. Joe's Chelsea Cancer Center that benefitted her grandpa. Gifts of more than \$7 million made it possible to build the Cancer Center, which opened in December 2014. Your support for the Cancer Center is already making a difference and reaching far beyond the walls of our campus.

Dear Staff (especially people who've taken care of my grandpa),

My name is Jenna Magon, Carl Wheeler's granddaughter. He was diagnosed with small cell lung cancer in June. As I'm sure you can imagine, I was devastated to hear that my grandpa, my favorite grandparent, my best friend, had cancer. I never thought I would see a bright side to this until coming here and having the pleasure to meet some of you.

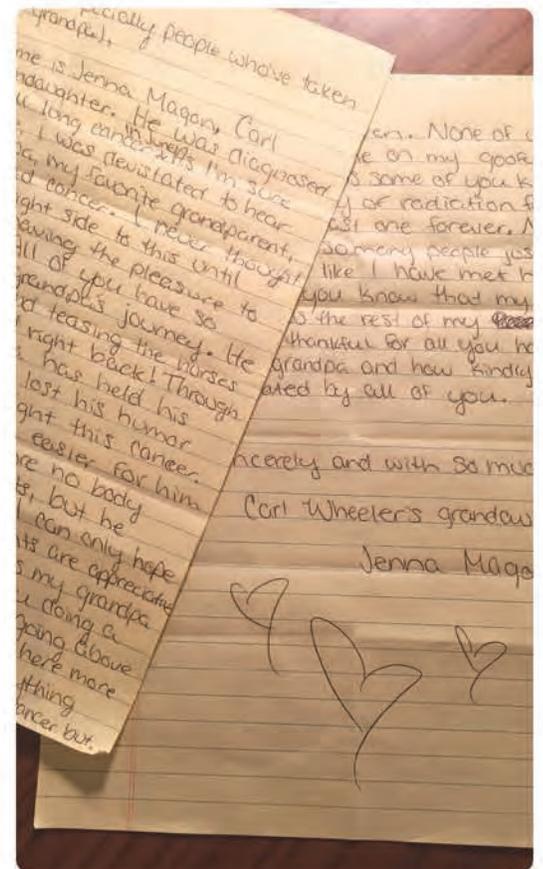
All of you have so greatly improved my grandpa's journey. He enjoys coming here and teasing the nurses and also getting teased right back! Through all of this, my grandpa has held his spirits high and never lost his humor and determination to fight this cancer. You all make it so much easier for him to do those things. I'm sure nobody enjoys the cancer treatments, but he enjoys seeing all of you. I can only hope that every one of your patients are as appreciative of each and every one of you as my grandpa and I are.

Not only are all of you doing a great job, you're all going above and beyond to make the experiences had here more enjoyable and fun. I thought that everything would be hell after finding out he had cancer but being here is heaven. None of you ever fail to put a smile on my goofy ole grandpa's face.

As some of you know, today was his last day of radiation for now, hopefully his last forever. Never have I ever met so many people just happy to do their jobs like I have met here. I hope all of you know that my grandpa as well as the rest of my family are so very thankful for all you have done for my grandpa and how kindly he has been treated by all of you.

Sincerely and with so much love,

Carl Wheeler's Granddaughter, Jenna Magon



Jenna Magon
with her grandpa
Carl Wheeler,
holding his certificate
of completion on
the last day of
radiation therapy at
St. Joe's Chelsea.



For more information about cancer care at St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea or to make a gift
visit stjoeschelsea.org/chelsea-cancer-care or call Judy Stratman at 734-593-5373.



- > Your Passion
- > Your Gift

OUR COMMUNITY'S BENEFIT

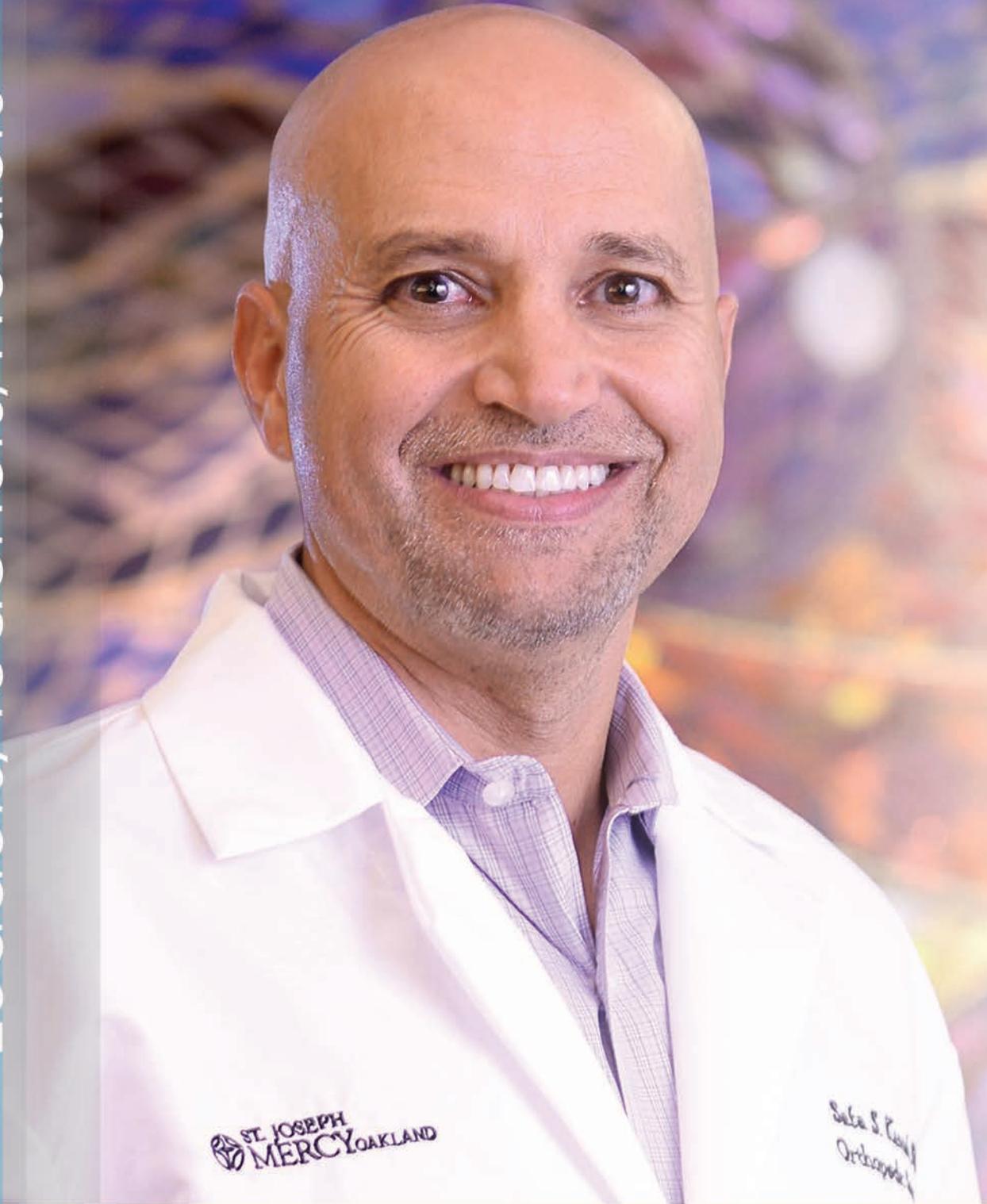
Your financial support makes remarkable care possible. Visit stjoeshealth.org, select your hospital and click on Ways to Give.

Or call our Office of Development:

St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor	734-712-4040
St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea	734-593-5373
St. Joseph Mercy Livingston/Brighton	734-712-4040
St. Joseph Mercy Oakland	248-858-6146
St. Mary Mercy Livonia	734-655-2980



Leaders, Teachers, Healers



Each year, Dr. Safa Kassab, Vice-Chair of Orthopedics at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, performs more than 400 hundred knee and hip replacements, helping patients to regain their freedom. The respect, trust and satisfaction that Dr. Kassab's patients have for him is evident in the number who recommend him to their family members and friends. With each patient, Dr. Kassab goes beyond expert surgical care to also provide courtesy, compassion and a

personalized treatment plan. Dr. Kassab and his partners see patients at every stage of disease and perform advanced orthopedic surgeries that eliminate decades of pain and disability, using the latest techniques and technology for the best in orthopedic care and outcomes.

Dr. Kassab is among the doctors at St. Joe's who serve as leaders, teachers and healers.

Tell us a little about yourself:

Not many people know that I am an immigrant. My family is Chaldean and we emigrated to the U.S. from Iraq in 1973. I went to elementary school in Detroit and middle school and high school in Southfield. It was a pretty modest upbringing. My father opened a grocery store and all six of us kids worked there. I never minded working there. I liked helping people and getting to know them. Most of our regular customers knew I was going to medical school. I'd have my books spread all over the counter and they were proud like I was a member of their own family – it was sweet, like something you'd see in a movie.

With the exception of the one year that Bonnie and I spent in San Diego, while I was earning my Fellowship in Joint Replacement at the University of California San Diego, we've always lived in Michigan in communities near St. Joe's Oakland.

We have three children. Our oldest son is in high school, he is a talented musician who plays the drums and piano. My daughter is a freshman in high school and is involved in several clubs and extracurricular activities. Our 6-year-old son is also a drummer, plays soccer, and keeps everyone in the house laughing.

What drew you to medicine? Where did you study medicine?

I just always knew that I wanted to become a doctor. I look at my son, and he is such a phenomenal musician and I think, I would love to be able to do that. However, we all have our own gifts and I'm thankful to be a good listener, compassionate, and driven. I've always loved learning about people, therefore being a doctor is something I find fulfilling every day.

I studied medicine at Wayne State University and did my residency at Wayne State University Detroit Medical Center.

How did you choose your specialty?

In my fourth year, we were doing rotations and I was introduced to the world of orthopedic medicine. I knew instantly that I wanted to go into this dynamic field. In orthopedics, you are healing people, but you are also rebuilding the joint – the fact that you get to be a doctor and you get to build things is thrilling to me.

How long have you been at St. Joe's? And, what drew you here?

What is unique about the care here?

After I finished my Fellowship, I was looking for a practice to join, and an orthopedic surgeon who had been at St. Joe's Oakland was retiring. That was 1997. I've found that at St. Joe's, you have the best of both worlds. We were just named the 2015 INNO-VATOR of the Year. Along with the exceptional quality of care, the compassion and understanding exhibited by all those who work at St. Joe's is what drew me to this hospital. All of us here at St. Joe's are like family with the common goal of helping our patients get better. I see my colleagues embracing a people-centered approach to care – we listen, laugh and cry with families. St. Joe's is mission driven – it's all about treating every patient like a person.

What are your roles at St. Joe's?

I'm the Vice-Chair of Orthopedics and I've been the Chairman of Credentials, a member of the Medical Executive Committee, a member of the General Surgery Advisory Committee and held various other roles. My goal is to add value and help the medical staff.

My partner Dr. Matt Bahu at Orthopedic Specialists of Oakland County and I were part of the medical leads that designed the new Joint Care Center on the 7th floor of St. Joe's new South Tower. We worked with architects, hospital leaders, clinical staff and former patients to create the best, healing space from every perspective, which resulted in the best functions, workflow and efficiencies for the staff and hospital and the best comfort, safety, privacy and outcomes for the patients.



What is most important to you about your work?

The amazing thing about working in orthopedics and specializing in joint replacement is that post surgery, my patients are usually up and walking within 24 hours and going home in less than 48 hours. Healed!

They go through a few weeks of recovery including physical therapy. Joint replacement, for the most part, is an instant solution for my patients - it removes decades of pain and disability. They are more comfortable, can move easier and pain-free, regain their independence, and can resume or start new activities. My patients get their freedom back and that is gratifying to them and to me.

How would you describe your philosophy of care?

Listening is key. When you listen, you learn the patient's expectations and goals, which are integral to a personalized treatment plan. It took me a few years to learn that patients are just people looking for an honest answer - you can't fix everything. You have to talk with people in terms they'll understand and show them respect and courtesy. I'm honored when my patients say things like, "thank you for your time and understanding." That tells me, I'm doing my job at building trusting relationships.

Progress is also important. In the nearly 20 years that I've been here, we have transformed the patient experience for joint replacements - both procedures and pain management have improved dramatically. We've reduced the length of surgery from three hours to one hour. We have also reduced the length of stay for our patients from an average of six days to less than 48 hours. Most importantly, people are going home comfortably.

What is on the horizon for your program?

Outpatient total joint replacement. It's the next step in improving the patient experience at St. Joe's Oakland. This is possible because of advancements in techniques and implants, and because we are seeing younger patients. The Health System has launched this option at St. Joe's Livingston. We anticipate adding outpatient total joint replacement in the next year.

How do you describe the role of philanthropy in the work you do, at the hospital and in our communities?

Giving back at any level makes a difference. I see the impact of donors' generosity every day when I'm caring for patients in the new Joint Care Center at St. Joe's Oakland. Renewing the Hospital was something that my partner Dr. Bahu and I were proud to support. There was no question that when I see the healing benefits of this new space for our patients and their families, I know we did the right thing.

This is a generous community. I see people giving back to causes they love. I recently attended a fundraising event that honored Bill Ford, Jr. It was attended by entertainers and industry leaders who donated generously of their resources and time. It was inspiring because I think everyone has something to give, whether it's a gift of money, volunteer hours, or donating their expertise to a cause in need.



If you weren't a doctor, what is your second choice for a career?

This is such a difficult question. As a kid, I had all the normal fantasies about jobs that I thought of as adventurous like being a pilot. However, what I'm really drawn to is technology. Although, I think I would be too lonely as a computer engineer. Being a doctor is just something I've always wanted to do, and am very passionate about. From the personal connections that I make with patients during exams to the hands-on, precision work that my team and I do in the OR. There is nothing else I'd rather be doing.

Are you involved in any community, professional or organized groups or activities?

I am the soccer coach for my six-year-old son's team. It's a great way to spend time with him and to help the kids build a foundation for the future such as good sportsmanship, teamwork, motor skills and healthy active lifestyles while keeping it fun!

What are your favorite things to do in your "spare" time?

I reserve my spare time for my kids and wife. I know it sounds cliché, but kids grow up so fast, and I don't want to miss out on this time in their lives. I spend as much time as I can being involved in their schools and extracurricular activities. Bonnie and I always take them with us when we travel. Also, my brother and I take the kids camping annually. I truly enjoy spending time with my family.

What are your favorite travel destinations?

Aruba. It's the first place that my wife and I traveled to as a married couple; we went for our friends' wedding. Since then, we go once a year. It's a fun place to take the kids with the beautiful beaches, great food and laid back atmosphere. We also enjoy going to San Diego to see my sister and friends who live out there.

What is your favorite movie? What is your favorite book?

I can't choose my favorite movie, but I can say that I love movies especially anything starring Al Pacino. I like movies and books that have themes about truth, perseverance, and the triumph of the human spirit. My favorite book right now is "Unbroken." If I didn't know it was based on a true story, I would find it unbelievable. It's hard to fathom one man having the courage and resilience to withstand so many overwhelming and torturous situations and still find the heart to rebuild his life. It's truly an inspiring story!

For information on orthopedic care at St. Joe's Oakland visit stjoesoakland.org/TheJointCareCenter.

Saint Joseph Mercy Health System performs first outpatient total hip replacement surgery



Your support makes revolutionary care possible. This past summer, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS) performed its first outpatient total hip replacement surgery at St. Joseph Mercy Livingston.

This advanced procedure enables patients to return home the same day as their surgery – typically within eight hours after surgery.

Dramatic advancements in minimally invasive surgery and pain management were key in developing a procedure for total hip replacement on an outpatient basis.

Your generous contributions are supporting progress and enhancing surgical care.

The patient benefits from better range of motion, quicker recovery times, reduced pain, minimal soft tissue damage, and the improved comfort of recovering at home with the oversight of a home health care nurse and physical therapist.

“St. Joe’s is on the leading edge of a growing trend in orthopedic surgery requiring less and less recovery time for these surgeries,” said Dr. G. Victor Gibson, DO, the orthopedic surgeon who performed the first surgery at St. Joe’s.

“It’s really exciting to see how improved techniques and technology over the past 15 years have reduced patient hospital stays from a week down to eight hours,” added Gibson. He expects to perform roughly 100 of these surgeries within the next year.

Outpatient total hip and knee replacements are projected to be a customary procedure available at St. Joseph Mercy Brighton’s innovative new short stay center – the largest known freestanding overnight care unit for outpatient care – when it opens in 2017.

This type of revolutionary care is the trademark of the transformation efforts at St. Joseph Mercy Livingston and Brighton including an investment of more than \$41 million to renovate the inpatient unit at the hospital in Howell and renovate space to create the short stay center and add surgical suites at St. Joe’s Brighton.

For more information about orthopedic services, please visit stjoeshealth.org/freedom or call 810-844-7785. For information or to make a gift in support of the Transformation of St. Joe’s Livingston & Brighton, please call 734-712-4040.

INSPIRING Change Continued

Eastern Market: A unique partnership with Eastern Market in Detroit puts food grown from the Farm at St. Joe's on the tables of those who need it most. In addition, the Eastern Market hosts a farmer's market weekly throughout the summer at St. Mary Mercy Livonia and St. Joseph Mercy Oakland.

Walking Bridge - Border to Border Trail Expansion: St. Joe's Ann Arbor is among the sponsors helping the City of Ypsilanti build the Heritage Bridge, a pedestrian bridge over the Huron River and under Michigan Avenue. The bridge is a part of the Border to Border Trail, linking parks, the downtown and Depot Town for pedestrians. Other supporters include the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, the Ypsilanti DDA, and Eastern Michigan University.

Healthy Choice: A partnership with the Detroit Lions, Detroit Pistons, and Detroit Red Wings adds healthy menu items beyond the traditional fare to stadium concessions and restaurants and helps fans recognize healthier options by marking those items with the SJMHS logo.

ShapeDown Weight Management for Children and Teens: Shapedown® is a national weight management program for families offered through Saint Joseph Mercy Health System. Parents and children (ages 6-18) work together as a team with health care experts to learn how healthy eating, an active lifestyle and effective communication promote weight loss and family unity. Learn more about Shapedown and free preview events by visiting stjoesannarbor.org or calling 734-712-5694.

American Heart Association Pledge: SJMHS was the first Health System in Michigan to sign the American Heart Association's Healthy Workplace Food and Beverage pledge that includes making healthier foods the easy option at the workplace.

Smoking Cessation: Saint Joseph Mercy Health System offers FREE four-session Smoking Cessation Programs offering the education and counseling needed to quit smoking. St. Mary Mercy Livonia will be offering the next one in November. Interested individuals may register online at stmarymercy.org and click "Classes and Events" or call 734-655-2973. To learn about additional SJMHS Smoking Cessation Programs and other educational offerings visit stjoeshealth.org and click on "Classes & Events."

Mercy Elite: MercyElite is a full-service training facility to help athletes rehabilitate injuries, screen for impairments and develop training plans to improve performance and promote safety, strength and health. For more information visit mercyelite.com or call 734- 655-8240.

The Farm at St. Joe's: St. Joe's Ann Arbor has the first hospital-based farm in Michigan. Fresh vegetables and fruits are harvested year-round for inpatient meals and outpatient care, sold at the hospital's farmers' markets and cafe, and donated to local food banks. The Farm offers internships for college students, education for patients and the community, and has the first-ever Rehab Hoop House for those with a traumatic brain or spinal cord injury. SJMHS's second farm is located at St. Joseph Mercy Brighton.

Health Fairs and 5Ks: St. Joe's has hosted several community health fairs in Brighton, Howell and Canton promoting healthy lifestyles, skin cancer screenings, and health checks from St. Joe's clinicians. St. Joe's actively supports multiple 5K, walks and runs. The full calendar of events can be found at stjoeshealth.org/joinme.

"This is part of a vision for a stronger, more active community. We know the statistics – obesity and diabetes rates on the rise; life expectancy lowering. Together we can be healthier – for us and for generations to come," says Casalou.

For more information about community health events and programs visit stjoeshealth.org/JoinMe.

Your Gifts

Give Patients a Second Chance

Brachytherapy was the first way that radiation was used to treat cancer over 100 years ago. While it is an important radiation therapy technique, it is not as well-known as external beam radiotherapy.

St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor has one of few dedicated brachytherapy surgical suites in North America, offering high-dose-rate (HDR) and low-dose-rate (LDR) brachytherapy treatments.

“Brachytherapy can be used for many types of cancer. It is used alone and in combination with surgery, external beam radiation and drug therapy.” said Walter M. Sahijdak, MD, SJMHS Medical Director of Radiation Oncology. “And for a patient whose cancer has recurred after receiving the maximum possible amount of external beam radiotherapy, brachytherapy can offer a second chance for treatment.”

During a high dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy procedure, a radioactive source, smaller than a grain of rice, is temporarily placed near or inside the tumor. CT scans and ultrasound imaging can both be used for precise, customized planning. A treatment lasts only five to ten minutes – the cancer is able to be targeted in a way that avoids exposure of the surrounding normal tissues and organs.

Your gifts for cancer care at St. Joe’s Ann Arbor have made it possible to purchase new brachytherapy equipment that expands the options we provide to our patients.

The new single channel intraluminal catheter will be used for esophageal cancers, and can provide an opportunity for treatment when surgery, chemotherapy or external beam radiation are not possible. In addition to esophageal cancer, brachytherapy is used to for prostate, breast, lung and head/neck cancers.

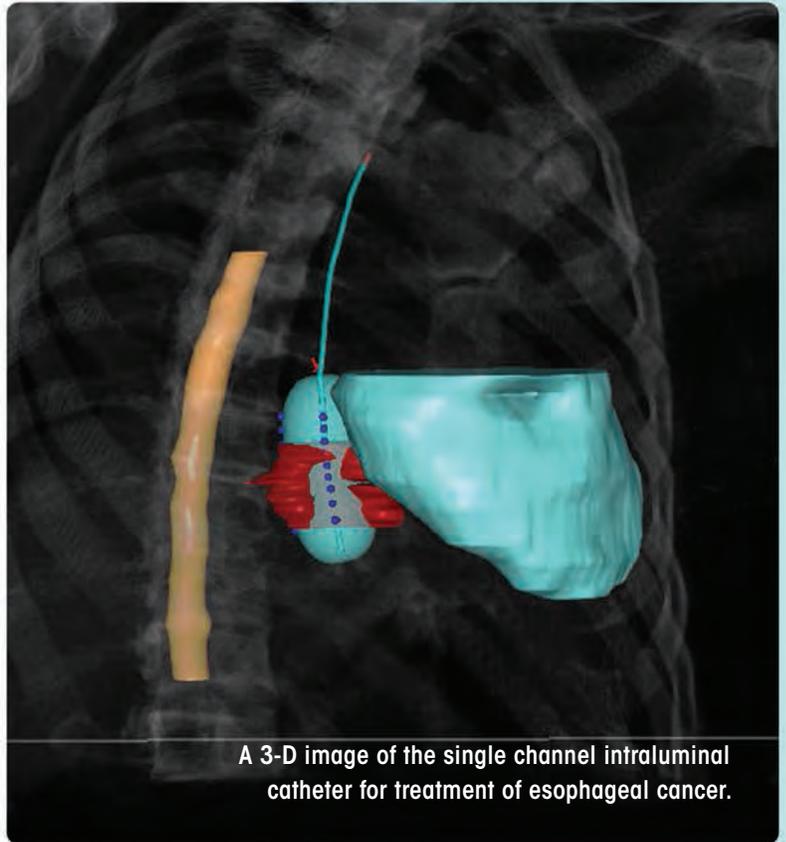


Eva Bieniek, MD, SJMH Radiation Oncologist

“St. Joe’s has a robust and highly advanced brachytherapy program.” said Eva Bieniek, MD, SJMH Radiation Oncologist, “It can be a curative measure. Brachytherapy can also be used to relieve symptoms. For instance, with a previously treated esophageal cancer, brachytherapy can shrink the tumor so the patient can swallow more comfortably.” Dr. Bieniek completed a Brachytherapy Fellowship at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

“At St. Joe’s, we provide personalized cancer care to meet each patient’s unique goals.”, Dr. Bieniek explained. “We take into account the whole person, their specific tumor type and stage. We are grateful to our donors who make it possible to provide additional treatment options for our patients.”

For more information about Cancer Care at St. Joe’s visit stjoesannarbor.org/cancer or call 734-712-HOPE.



A 3-D image of the single channel intraluminal catheter for treatment of esophageal cancer.

Your Legacy

You can ensure the Remarkable Medicine, Remarkable Care that your family has counted on is available for future generations. Making a gift through your will or trust is a simple and meaningful way to leave your legacy.

Call Fran Petonic, Vice President for Development, at 734-712-4040 for sample language and allow us to recognize you as a member of one of our Legacy Societies.





Be a survivor.

Be Remarkable... Be a Survivor.

Praveena Vellanki sensed something was wrong but she didn't say anything. It was too difficult to open up to anyone about such a private matter. She held in her fears especially since her nephew was fighting for his life in her home country of India and her husband was in a job search due to a layoff.

Whatever was going on inside her couldn't possibly be as urgent. Until it was.

"Suddenly, I began experiencing symptoms that couldn't be ignored," Praveena said. "That's when I knew I had to say something."

Praveena and her husband called their family friend, who happened to be a physician. At first, they thought it was an infection. When antibiotics didn't help, Praveena was admitted to St. Mary Mercy Livonia. From there, everything was a whirlwind.

She was diagnosed with breast cancer and quickly began treatment. Chemotherapy hit Praveena hard – she struggled with nausea, vomiting, fatigue and the inability to eat or drink. She lost 70 pounds. Her doctors worked hard to find the right balance between treating the disease and avoiding distressing symptoms caused by treatment.

After eight cycles of chemotherapy, Praveena underwent surgery and radiation. Her treatment spanned over 16 months. Praveena's husband, daughter, mother and sister-in-law all supported her throughout treatment – providing transportation, meals and comfort, while the team at St. Mary Mercy focused on restoring Praveena's health.

"The doctors and nurses were absolutely wonderful," Praveena said. "They listened to me and I could tell they really cared. They provided the best care and are people I will never forget. They are extremely important to me."



Today, nearly four years after Praveena's diagnosis, she is cancer-free and enjoying life. Praveena particularly remembers the moment she was able to re-enter her beloved Hindu temple. According to Hindu customs, individuals must fully cleanse before entering temple. During treatment, Praveena was unable to fully shower; and without a full cleanse, Praveena felt unclean for temple. For six months, she sat in the car while her family attended temple.

"I'd sit in the car and cry," she said. "When I was able to return, I was overwhelmed with joy."

Praveena is once again volunteering at her temple and cooking for family and friends. She's quite the chef – of course, Indian food is her favorite, but she's also known for some excellent Italian dishes made especially for her daughter, a recent college graduate.

"I love to cook, and it's something I missed during my illness," Praveena said. "I'm grateful for every day I have to enjoy the activities I love and being with my family and friends. I'll never forget the remarkable people who cared for me during my darkest days. I'm extremely thankful."

Your commitment helped build the Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center for comprehensive cancer care. Your gifts made it possible for Praveena to be a survivor and for St. Mary Mercy Livonia to be remarkable.

For more information about cancer care at St. Mary Mercy Livonia visit <http://www.stmarymercy.org/livonia-cancer-care> or call 734-655-8818.

#BeRemarkable

Thank you for sharing our vision and mission. Our donors make being remarkable possible. With every new day at St. Joe's, we dedicate ourselves to being a compassionate, transforming, healing presence in the lives of patients. The mission we all share is why we are here – it's what drives us. Our combined efforts are nothing short of remarkable.

At St. Joe's, remarkable is the uncommon blend of extraordinary care and medicine that your gifts support. Your gifts benefit our patients who inspire us to be the best in everything we do.

Be always seeking, bravely fighting, forever hoping...Be Remarkable.

Do you have a remarkable patient story to share? Do you want to see more Be Remarkable stories? Visit stjoeshealth.org/beremarkable

BeRemarkable.

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www.stjoeshealth.org

Please contact us at 1-855-257-1719 if you wish to have your name removed from lists used to send fund-raising requests supporting Saint Joseph Mercy Health System.

FastFacts

- Chance of survival improves for those suffering from cardiac arrest. St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor led a local participation study for Washtenaw and Livingston counties showing that cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) performed using the combination of two new devices, the ResQPump® and ResQPOD® (the ResQSystem®), gave patients who suffered an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest a 49 percent better chance of survival, as compared with standard CPR. The ResQSystem has now been approved by the FDA.
- St. Joseph Mercy Oakland received international recognition as a Baby-Friendly® Hospital by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a global initiative launched in 1991 to encourage and recognize an optimal level of care for infant feeding and mother/baby bonding.
- St. Joe's Michigan Cancer Research Consortium is taking part in the National Cancer Institute's Molecular Analysis for Therapy Choice program, or NCI-MATCH, to identify and target specific DNA mutations in patients' tumors. Genomic-based clinical trials study mutation instead of disease site to develop a treatment plan. If a cancer mutates to "outsmart" the anti-cancer treatment, medications can be adjusted to respond to the mutation and keep the cancer from growing.
- St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and St. Mary Mercy Livonia achieved "Exemplar" status for their respective NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) program. NICHE is the premier designation indicating a hospital's commitment to excellence in the care of patients 65-years-and-older.
- Saint Joseph Mercy Health System was a bronze sponsor for the National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) annual Walk of the Minds to raise funds and awareness for behavioral health services. For the third consecutive year, SJMHS staff walked in the event and served as volunteers.