Ascension St. John operates six hospitals and more than 90 healthcare clinics and facilities in Eastern Oklahoma and Southeastern Kansas, employing more than 8,000 associates.

As the region’s highest and only American College of Surgeons-verified Level II trauma center, and the only Joint Commission Certified Comprehensive Stroke Center, we are committed to helping you provide quality care to your patients.

Physicians may call the 24/7 Patient Logistics Center to admit or transfer a patient:

24/7 Patient Logistics Center
918-744-3500

Ascension St. John Medical Center
Ascension St. John Broken Arrow
Ascension St. John Jane Phillips
Ascension St. John Owasso
Ascension St. John Sapulpa
Ascension St. John Nowata

Ascension St. John Foundation
1923 S. Utica Ave.
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104

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Dear Ascension St. John Friends,

Calendar year 2020 has certainly been a year we will never forget. Not only have we worked tirelessly to combat a world-wide pandemic, but 2020 has been a year where issues of social injustice have been at the forefront. This year has also been one of transition for Ascension St. John. In February, we further celebrated our brand roll-out and also said good-bye to Sister M. Therese Gottschalk, who passed away after serving Ascension St. John for more than three decades.

The work of those who have come before us has created a solid foundation on which we continue to build. As an Ascension Ministry, we are part of one of the largest, faith-based healthcare systems in the country — a national Ministry whose mission for care to the poor and vulnerable builds upon our 94 years of local history. As we have fought to combat COVID-19, the strength of the national Ministry has allowed us to continue to remain focused in caring for our patients, our community, and each other. At the same time, we continue to innovate both locally and across the country to deliver the highest quality and safest care, with an experience our patients and providers have come to expect.

In these pages you will see the many ways Ascension St. John is reaching out to improve the lives of those we serve through innovative and cutting-edge medical services, along with direct community engagement. While some outreach has been impacted by COVID-19, the pandemic has also allowed us to pivot in ways to continue to serve those most in need.

We are so grateful for every one of our associates, providers, and volunteers. To those who provide direct patient care and to all those who support our caregivers, we say Thank You! And to you, our community, thank you for your continued support of Ascension St. John.

Jeffrey D. Nowlin, FACHE
CEO, Ascension St. John
Oklahoma Ministry Market Executive
Fond Farewell

Sister M. Therese Gottschalk, SSM, 1931-2020

Sister M. Therese Gottschalk, SSM, passed away Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. She was 88 years old.

“We are beyond grateful for her 38 years of leadership with Ascension St. John in Oklahoma and the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother,” said Joseph R. Impicciche, JD, MHA, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ascension. A remembrance service and Catholic Mass celebrating her life was held in Oshkosh, WI on March 4, 2020.

Sister M. Therese Gottschalk was born in 1931 in Bavaria, Germany, the second of 14 children. She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother at the age of 21. She moved to Milwaukee in 1953 and earned a pharmacy degree from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1960. After graduation, she operated the pharmacy for a new 150-bed hospital in Roswell, New Mexico, for eight years. Sr. Therese left this position to obtain a master’s degree in hospital administration from Saint Louis University.

Known for both her commitment to the Mission of Catholic healthcare and her business acumen, Sr. Therese became an assistant administrator of St. John’s Hospital in Tulsa (later St. John Medical Center) and its School of Nursing in 1970, serving in this role for two years. As part of her duties, she worked with other assistant administrators to operate the hospital and to design a new hospital tower. Sr. Therese returned to Roswell for two years to serve as hospital administrator, then returned to Tulsa after being named St. John’s Hospital President in 1974. Upon her return, the hospital underwent a $40 million construction project to build the North Tower, now called the J.A. Chapman Tower. The 603-bed tower was dedicated Feb. 22, 1976. Sr. Therese became Chief Executive Officer of St. John Health System in 1982 and served through 2010.

Sr. Therese was always at the forefront of expanding services to meet the growing needs of the community, especially those living in poverty and most vulnerable. During her career, Sr. Therese supervised the building of the Mary K. Chapman Health Plaza, the Bernsen,
Kravis, Holliman and Wheeling buildings, and purchase of the Robert W. Davis Tower in Tulsa. Also during her tenure, St. John Health System expanded to include St. John Sapulpa, Jane Phillips Medical Center, St. John Broken Arrow and St. John Owasso. St. John also opened clinics in Sand Springs, Sapulpa and Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and helped create OMNI Medical Group, a primary care physician group now part of Ascension Medical Group St. John. During her tenure, Regional Medical Laboratory was also established.

Thanks in large part to Sr. Therese’s vision, Marian Health System was founded in 1989, loosely combining the healthcare activities of the three Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother provinces: Wisconsin, New Jersey and Oklahoma/Kansas. Sr. Therese served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Marian Health System, from that time until it joined Ascension on April 1, 2013. Sr. Therese then served as Senior Executive Advisor to the President and Chief Executive Officer of Ascension Health and Executive Vice President of Ascension. She also continued to serve on the boards of the former regional systems of Marian Health System: Ministry Health Care, St. John Health System and Via Christi Health. She also served as an inaugural member of the Ascension Wisconsin Board of Directors until June 2019.

Executive Officer of Ascension Health and Executive Vice President of Ascension. She also continued to serve on the boards of the former regional systems of Marian Health System: Ministry Health Care, St. John Health System and Via Christi Health. She also served as an inaugural member of the Ascension Wisconsin Board of Directors until June 2019.

Through the course of her faith-filled life of service, Sr. Therese achieved many honors and recognitions. She was a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and was recognized with its Regent Award in 1995. She served as President of the Tulsa Hospital Council from 1982-1983, the American Hospital...
Association Governance Committee, and served on the boards of the Catholic Health Association and the Oklahoma Hospital Association (OHA). In 1984, she served as the Oklahoma Hospital Association Board of Trustees Chair. She received the OHA W. Cleveland Rodgers Distinguished Service Award in 1999, was awarded the Association for Women in Communication 2009 Newsmaker Award, was awarded the Award of Merit in 2010 from OHA and held an honorary doctorate of humane letters from the University of Oklahoma. She was inducted into the Tulsa Historical Society’s Hall of Fame in 2011.

On Sept. 25, 2019, Sr. Therese left Oklahoma and Ascension St. John to retire in Oshkosh. The City of Tulsa Mayor, G.T. Bynum, proclaimed this day Sister M. Therese Gottschalk Day for her remarkable service resulting in the legacy of compassionate healthcare for the City of Tulsa, especially for those who are sick and vulnerable.

“May God grant to Sr. Therese eternal rest. Our prayers are with her and her loved ones,” Impicciche said.

Sr. Therese cutting the ribbon at the dedication of Robert W. Davis Tower.

Sr. Therese waving a final farewell to Ascension St. John September 25, 2019.
On a chilly February day in 1920, General John J. Pershing joined a host of Tulsa dignitaries at a former truck farm at 21st Street and Utica Avenue, stuck a common gardening spade in the ground, and turned over the first earth of the future construction site of St. John’s Hospital, now Ascension St. John Medical Center.

The spade was used for many Ascension St. John groundbreakings through the early 2000s. General Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I, was in Tulsa on February 11, 1920, for a downtown parade and a speech at the Tulsa Convention Hall, now known as the Tulsa Theater, when he made his brief stop for the groundbreaking ceremony.

“My hope is that you have planned this institution large enough,” the Tulsa World reported Pershing saying at the ceremony, “For if your wonderful city continues to grow in the next few years as it has in the past, you will certainly need a large one.”

The general was absolutely right.

In October 2018, St. John Health System announced plans to add Ascension to its name as part of a national effort to make it easier for
patients to access care as part of our nationwide Ascension family, the second largest Catholic non-profit health system in the United States.

October 1, 2019, marked the official beginning of our unified brand as Ascension St. John. Branding of interior and exterior signage at hospitals, clinics, security vehicles, ID badges, and even new scrubs for our providers unites our system as one with one of the largest, most advanced Catholic health systems in the nation. Once the signage changes were complete, branding celebrations were held at each location the week of February 10-14, 2020.

The new look brings a new dimension to Ascension St. John. “While we are first and foremost a medical organization, we are also a faith-based one,” said Ascension St. John CEO and Oklahoma Ministry Market Executive, Jeffrey D. Nowlin, FACHE. “The symbolism contained in our new brand—the tri-colored trinity and the very name ‘Ascension,’ a reference to Jesus’ ascent into heaven—serve as a reminder to us, and as a confirmation to our patients that we hold a promise of healthcare that is safe and that leaves no one behind.”

A blessing ceremony was held August 27, 2020, for Ascension St. John Medical Center’s many renovations, including the new main lobby shown here. Presenting are Bishop David A. Konderla of the Archdiocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma (left), Ron Tremblay, Vice President and Chief Mission Integration Officer (center), and Mike McBride, Regional President and Chief Operating Officer (right).
BARTLESVILLE

SOUTH MEMORIAL

BIXBY

JENKS

UNIFIED BRANDING
Robin Siegfried is a businessman who helped build a worldwide company, a past University of Oklahoma regent and an avid outdoorsman. He grew up riding his bicycle across the field of what is now Utica Square to get to school. His grandfather helped build the original St. John Hospital which remains at the core of the current medical center. The Siegfried name is present on several buildings at Ascension St. John (ASJ) Medical Center representing the family’s deep commitment to Tulsa and the health system, manifested through their generous philanthropy.

Something about Mr. Siegfried’s hardiness makes it difficult to imagine him in the state of health he describes when, one year ago, symptoms led to the discovery of a severely leaky mitral valve along with an abnormal heart rhythm. Health effects from Mr. Siegfried’s atrial fibrillation were heightened due to an airplane crash after which he spent over 30 minutes in freezing water, forcing him to seek surgical care in 2019.

Following a friend’s recommendation, Mr. Siegfried visited a cardiothoracic surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic. After two visits and testing, he finally met with the surgeon who declined to operate because of his very high mortality risk, attributed to age and anatomic considerations.

Disappointed, Mr. Siegfried returned to Oklahoma and called a cardiothoracic surgical leader at another institution in Tulsa, who felt Mr. Siegfried was unlikely to survive open heart surgery. Fortunately, Dr. Zainal Hussain asked Mr. Siegfried if he had sought an opinion from a new ASJ cardiothoracic surgeon, Dr. George Comas.

Dr. Comas completed his advanced fellowship training at the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, after graduating from medical school with honors at Cornell University and completing a residency in cardiothoracic surgery at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. During his tenure at Ascension St. John...
in Tulsa, Dr. Comas has also been awarded an advanced robotic cardiac surgery fellowship grant from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. Dr. Comas came to Ascension St. John to develop a robotic cardiovascular program with a focus on micro valve repair and other intracardiac procedures, bringing eight years of experience completing hundreds of minimally invasive valve procedures.

Knowing Mr. Siegfried had been turned down by other surgeons, Dr. Comas and the Heart and Vascular Center team carefully reviewed Mr. Siegfried’s case. He was felt to be a very high risk candidate for mitral valve surgery for several reasons, but particularly due to a marked build up of calcium involving the entire mitral valve apparatus. However, Dr. Comas felt the surgery was technically feasible and that the benefits exceeded the risks.

The surgery included extensive removal of calcium surrounding the valve with subsequent mitral valve replacement (MVR) utilizing a minimally invasive approach along with closure of the left atrial appendage, thus lowering his stroke risk. His cardiologist, Dr. Zainal Hussain, found a well functioning mitral valve prosthesis in postoperative echocardiographic images, deeming the surgery a success both anatomically and clinically. Mr. Siegfried recovered fully and has returned to a very active life as an outdoorsman.

Mr. Siegfried explains that he received world class care before, during and after surgery. “Dr. Comas and the whole team are exceptional, but even Dr. Comas will tell you one of his greatest strengths is his Advanced Care Nurse Practitioner, Laura Dorwart,” says Siegfried. Dorwart, Associate Clinical Director of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, is specially trained to provide post-acute cardiothoracic care. Dorwart ensures the entire surgical and postoperative recovery is carefully orchestrated to the surgeon’s standards, by treating, monitoring, and providing patient updates to the surgeons throughout the healing process.

Ascension St. John’s Heart and Vascular Center differentiates itself in Tulsa as the only hospital providing minimally invasive cardiac valve surgery. Minimally invasive options allow patients to undergo major cardiac surgery through a small incision, thus minimizing risk, post operative pain and dramatically speeding recovery.

When asked why Dr. Comas chose to build a minimally invasive program in Tulsa, he explained that his training would be put to optimal use and provide the greatest benefit to patients at Ascension St. John in Oklahoma. He was drawn to the supportive leadership and administration, and also understood the benefits of being part of a national health system like Ascension.

The Medical Center offers surgeons some of the most advanced surgical equipment available, including the daVinci Xi robot and instrumentation. Dr. Comas explained the Heart and Vascular Center is further differentiated by the expertise and experience of Ascension St. John’s dedicated cardiac anesthesiologists, perfusionists, OR staff as well as ICU providers and associates.

“Our team is patient-focused,” says Dr. Comas. “We work in a collaborative environment that provides a good culture for our team and promotes patient safety. Our collaborative teamwork includes weekly
interdisciplinary conferences with our cardiology, surgery, and anesthesia teams to discuss advanced care options for our patients. We also have an excellent continuous quality improvement team.”

Resources needed to recruit quality surgeons and build the program at Ascension St. John’s Heart and Vascular Center were made possible through the national resources of Ascension, paired with the support of then St. John Medical Center’s President, and now Ascension St. John’s Chief Executive Officer, Jeff Nowlin. Nowlin has previously led other top health systems and has been instrumental in building other high quality heart programs prior to returning to Tulsa to assume his current roles at Ascension St. John.

“From excellent cardiologists with superb sub-specialty training including interventional, heart rhythm, diagnostic and structural cardiologists, three high quality cardiothoracic surgeons, an array of specialty clinics as well as cardiac and peripheral rehabilitation programs, the Ascension St. John Heart and Vascular Center provides excellent and comprehensive care to patients throughout the region. Patients referred to the Heart and Vascular Center can be seen in general and subspecialty clinics including heart failure and structural heart for ongoing management of chronic heart failure, valvular heart disease, and other structural heart abnormalities,” explains Dr. Robert Haas, Medical Director of the Cardiovascular Service line and an interventional cardiologist.

“Ascension St. John Medical Center has earned the American Heart Association’s 2020 Gold NSTEMI Award and the 2020 Gold Performance Achievement Award for the Chest Pain - MI Registry by the NCDR because of the entire Cardiovascular service line’s commitment to quality care,” says Dr. Haas. The Heart and Vascular Center was also recently chosen as a teaching site for minimally invasive surgery. Additionally, the Heart and Vascular Center has also recently received preliminary certification by the American College of Cardiology for its transcatheter valve (TVT) program. Ascension St. John is the only ACC certified TVT program in Oklahoma.

“Ascension St. John’s cardiothoracic surgeons, Dr. Comas, Dr. Nagasawa, and Dr. Neel, along with Dr. Milton and Dr. Katari who provide heart rhythm services, our excellent team of cardiologists, and three Cardiovascular fellowship trained anesthesiologists, Ryan Butterworth, MD, Garrett Scott, MD, and Anthony Tricinella, DO, have the bench strength of the best institutions. Each offers a component of expertise within the cardiovascular service line uncommon among programs nationwide,” says Jeff Nowlin, Ascension St. John CEO.

“Dr. Comas does it right, and I would tell anyone to give him a shot,” says Siegfried. “The Tulsa community is lucky to have Dr. Comas, Dr. Neel, Dr. Nagasawa, Dr. Katari, Dr. Milton, and Dr. Hussain at our health system. Their expertise, combined with the leading innovative therapies and resources Ascension is bringing to the table under Nowlin’s new leadership, is making Tulsa, and more largely Oklahoma, a stronger community.”
Cardiothoracic Surgery

**George Comas, MD**, completed advanced fellowship training at the Emory University School of Medicine, after graduating medical school with honors at Cornell University and completing a residency at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

**Kelly Nagasawa, MD**, completed two advanced fellowships at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and the University of Utah. Dr. Nagasawa completed medical school, his internship, and a residency at the University of Hawaii School of Medicine. Dr. Nagasawa adds a unique contribution with his focus on thoracic care and is developing a Lung Nodule Care Clinic at the Heart and Vascular Center.

**James H. Neel, MD**, completed advanced training in cardiothoracic Surgery with a fellowship at the University of Louisville. Dr. Neel is a cardiothoracic surgeon originally from Sapulpa, Oklahoma. He attended medical school at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, residency at Louisiana State University Health Science Center Shreveport, and completed an internship at University of Oklahoma College of Medicine.

Electrophysiology

**Vikram Katari, MD**, an Electrophysiologist, completed two fellowships at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and Louisiana State University School of Medicine. Dr. Katari completed an internship at the Methodist Hospital of Brooklyn, a residency at Indiana University Medical Center, and medical school at Guntur Medical College.

**Mark Milton, MD**, an Electrophysiologist, completed his advanced fellowship training at the Mayo Medical School and completed his residency at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Milton is highly skilled in ablation procedures, including the Convergent procedure, which is performed in collaboration with Dr. Neel and includes both a catheter based and a minimally invasive surgical approach to particularly challenging cases of atrial fibrillation.

Cardiology

**Zainal Hussain, MD**, completed his advanced fellowship training in interventional and general cardiology at the St. Louis University School of Medicine. Dr. Hussain was selected as chief resident after completing his internal medicine residency at the same institution.

Cardiovascular Fellowship Trained Anesthesiologists

*Ryan Butterworth, MD, Garrett Scott, MD, and Anthony Tricinella, DO*
When minutes can impact the amount of brain loss an individual experiences during a stroke, efficient processes and strong teamwork can make a difference in a patient’s future. Established in 2008, the Ascension St. John Heyman Stroke Center is the only Joint Commission-certified Comprehensive Stroke Center in Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma.

Comprehensive Certified Stroke Centers are recognized as industry leaders because certification requires significant investment into state-of-the-art equipment, surgeons, physicians, nurses, quality improvement staffing, infrastructure, and technology, with continuous education, required to maintain certification.

Oklahoma ranks eighth in the rate of stroke throughout the US, and six Oklahomans die from a stroke everyday, according to the Center for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC). However, very few hospitals nationwide attain designation as a Comprehensive Certified Stroke Center by the nation’s most stringent healthcare accreditation agency, The Joint Commission. Despite over 6,000 hospitals in the US, around 1,400-1,500 have Stroke Centers, yet there are only around 145 Joint Commission Certified Stroke Centers nationwide.

Daryl Thompson, MD, Medical Director, and Errol Gordon, MD, Vice Medical Director of the Heyman Stroke Center, led the Stroke Center.
The Heyman Stroke Center, continued

CARE EXCELLENCE

Center to achieve the highest Certification during its rigorous Joint Commission onsite review for recertification.

Measuring minutes to mitigate effects from a stroke begins as soon as a patient arrives at the ER or by ambulance. “Since brain tissue can be lost by the minute, we continuously strive to ensure every patient experiencing a stroke receives immediate care, counted by the minute” says Dr. Thompson.

Acute stroke treatment involves the timely administration of tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) or the “clot busting drug”, a standard-of-care drug which reduces disability, and as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, St. John Medical Center is able to perform mechanical thrombectomies which is a highly specialized and life saving procedure reserved for the most severe stroke patients.

“The Ascension St. John Heyman Stroke Center has invested in leading clinicians and equipment to become a comprehensive multidisciplinary program dedicated to improving overall outcomes for patients suffering from a stroke,” says Dr. Thompson. The advanced certification demonstrates Ascension St. John’s commitment to ensure our stroke patients receive the best possible care, treatment, and therapy.

Ascension St. John uses a multidisciplinary group of specialists in the fields of vascular neurology, general neurology, neurocritical care, neurosurgery, interventional neuroradiology, neuroimaging, Stroke Team hospitalists, rehabilitation, emergency medicine, social work, pharmacy and nutrition, to orchestrate a coordinated approach to care for complex stroke patients.

“Many advanced health systems do not have a Neuro-Intensive Care Neurologist,” explained Errol Gordon, MD, Medical Director of the Neuro-Intensive Care Unit. “Ascension St. John Medical Center now has two which is rare. We are also working on developing a Neurocritical Care fellowship and Neurology Residency to further expand access to excellent care.”

Fellowship trained at Columbia University Medical Center, and practiced and led the Neuro Intensive Care Unit at Mt. Sinai in New York City before moving to Tulsa, Oklahoma, Dr. Gordon leads the dedicated Neurological Intensive Critical Care Unit and hospital care for patients who have experienced a stroke until patients graduate to a special floor to be cared for by hospitalists specially trained in delivering stroke care.

“Ascension St. John Broken Arrow has one of the most advanced MRI machines available to
provide advanced neuroimaging upon a patient’s arrival,” explains Ascension St. John Broken Arrow and Owasso Hospitals President, David Phillips. “A patient can enter our Emergency Room, receive one of the highest levels of advanced imaging, receive treatment by our team, or be transferred to the Ascension St. John Medical Center if needed. Before the patient even arrives to the Medical Center, physicians and radiologists can review patient imaging, via a secure website and application on their cell phone to see where a blockage may be located in the patient’s brain to begin preparing for the patient’s arrival.” Interventional Radiologists at Ascension St. John stand ready to care for patients and remove clots.

“Our Stroke Team can immediately begin preparing for a patient on their way to the Ascension St. John Medical Center,” says Dr. Thompson. Growing up in Louisiana, Dr. Thompson stated, “I’ll always remember my grandma telling me not to make patients wait when I became a physician. She would sometimes have to wait until the end of the day to receive care.” Dr. Thompson took his grandmother’s message and his desire to provide excellent patient care within a matter of minutes to heart by becoming a fellowship trained Vascular Neurologist at the world renowned Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Notably, Ascension St. John Stroke Center Clinic is the only Outpatient Stroke Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and helps patients through the recovery process after discharge from the hospital. Ascension St. John also has a Joint Commission Stroke Certified Rehabilitation Center.

Excellence in Stroke care requires a team-based approach from everyone involved, from physicians and nurses, to therapy providers including Physical and Occupational Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists, and Respiratory Therapists.

Ascension St. John’s Inpatient Therapy service lines go above and beyond to care for patients. During the Joint Commission survey, the Joint Commission complimented the team on how a Speech Language Pathologist went above and beyond to have an eye gaze communication board donated from the University of Tulsa for a patient with locked-in syndrome so the patient could communicate. She set it up, taught the patient, staff, and even the long term care facility representative where the patient went upon discharge how to use the board.

To educate clinical providers throughout Eastern Oklahoma, Ascension St. John recently hired
another community educator, in addition to its inpatient and outpatient Stroke RN Navigator roles, to teach clinical teams, community hospitals, first responders, and others about Ascension St. John’s stroke protocols since minutes matter.

In addition to Joint Commission Certification, Ascension St. John also earned the American Heart Association’s Get With the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Award.

This award recognizes Ascension St. John’s excellence in providing stroke care to patients utilizing the most appropriate treatments according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines from the latest scientific evidence.

While there is a shortage of Neurologists nationwide, Jason King, MD, shines as a fellowship trained Vascular Neurologist from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. After receiving excellent training, Dr. King wanted to return to his community to give back. Dr. King chose to join Ascension St. John Jane Phillips after completing a Vascular Neurology Fellowship.

Dr. King helps cover the hospital with Stroke consults to determine if patients may need to be transferred to the highest level of care possible in Eastern Oklahoma certified by the Joint Commission. However, since Dr. King serves the Bartlesville area, he helps ensure as many patients as possible get to remain in their own community, in Bartlesville. Consequently, patients only have to be transferred from Bartlesville to Tulsa out of medical need.

“At Ascension St. John, our entire health system works together to provide patients the highest level of Stroke Care,” says Jeff Nowlin, Ascension St. John CEO. “Whether receiving care from a fellowship-trained neurologist in Bartlesville, receiving the highest level of imaging in Broken Arrow, having your scans arrive before you do from Sapulpa or Owasso, or receiving the most advanced Stroke Care in Eastern Oklahoma at Ascension St. John Medical Center, our commitment to quality care, health equity, and a multidisciplinary team approach to care is recognized through the Medical Center’s Joint Commission Stroke Certification and makes us very proud to serve Oklahoma.”

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"CARE EXCELLENCE"
Welcoming Surgery Inc. to the Ascension Medical Group General Surgery Team

On July 31, 2020, Dr. Justin Atherton, Dr. Lawrence Brotherton, Dr. Tim Hepner, Dr. Ty Kirkpatrick, and their teams from Surgery Incorporated joined Dr. Steffan Anderson and Dr. Kip Dorsey in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Dr. Ted Auschwitz, Dr. Brent Steward, and Dr. Scott Williams, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, to expand the Ascension Medical Group (AMG) General Surgery Team. Throughout Surgery, Inc.’s 88-year history, the team has always been an innovative leader in Oklahoma.

“Ascension St. John general surgeons are board and fellowship certified surgeons providing the most advanced surgical care with state of the art equipment, including the da Vinci robotic surgical system. The da Vinci robotic system enables the most complex care to be performed through 1 to 2 cm incisions, greatly helping to reduce recovery time,” says Dr. Kip Dorsey. “Minimally invasive surgery, through the daVinci platform, is available at Ascension St. John hospitals, including Ascension St. John Medical Center, Broken Arrow, and Sapulpa to help Ascension St. John surgeons treat patients with the latest advancements in surgical care.”

continued ➤
Welcoming Surgery Inc., continued

“Ascension St. John stands out as an organization because patients can be confident they will receive the highest quality of care—in both urban and rural settings,” explained Dr. Brent Steward, Medical Director of General Surgery at Ascension St. John Jane Phillips in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. The Ascension St. John General Surgery team largely helped facilitate the recognition of Ascension St. John Jane Phillips as one of the Top 20 Rural Community Hospitals in the United States by the National Rural Health Association—one of only two hospitals recognized in Oklahoma. Dr. Brent Steward, and Dr. Ty Kirkpatrick, who grew up in rural Oklahoma and joined Ascension St. John in Tulsa through the addition of Surgery, Inc., both specialize in helping patients achieve healthy lifestyles through bariatric surgery.

Dr. Kirkpatrick says, “I love it when patients come back for their six-week checkup and tell me they’re off all their diabetes medications. I love hearing them talk about how they can be more active and play with their children and grandchildren.” Dr. Ty Kirkpatrick, Director of Bariatric Surgery, sought additional advanced surgical training, and thus completed a Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. During his fellowship year, Dr. Kirkpatrick received extensive training in laparoscopic, robotic, and bariatric surgery, allowing him to offer a broad range of complex surgical procedures in a minimally invasive approach also including hernia repair, anti-reflux, colon, hepatobiliary and solid organ removal cases.

The Surgery, Inc. surgeons joining the Ascension St. John General Surgery team are committed as ever to surgical excellence and quality care for their patients. Established in February 1932, Surgery, Inc. began its 88-year journey to help patients by improving their physical well-being through excellent surgical care. They became a highly respected organization by building trust with their patients and within the community. This group of passionate surgeons continue to provide quality, compassionate care with
the goal of exceeding the expectations of their patients with the highest quality staff, greatest efficiency, and teamwork.

The surgeons of Surgery, Inc. and the St. John Health System forged an alliance 26 years ago to provide high-quality, unassigned surgical services for the acutely ill and traumatized patients of the greater Tulsa area and beyond. “This charitable commitment of service to our community, regardless of the economic situation of patients, has been a proud tradition of Surgery, Inc. With the support of Ascension St. John, the ability to continue this selfless service to the community will continue to flourish,” explained Dr. Tim Hepner, surgeon with Ascension St. John Medical Group General Surgery and Chief Medical Officer at Ascension St. John Owasso and Ascension St. John Broken Arrow.

Dr. Atherton, who joined Surgery, Inc. in 2000, and was twice awarded the honor of clinical teacher of the year at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine Tulsa campus as a clinical assistant professor of surgery, says many of Surgery, Inc.’s pioneering surgeries were performed at Ascension St. John Medical Center. These surgeries include:

- 1956 - First Open Heart Surgery and first Patent Ductus Surgery
- 1990 - First Laparoscopic Surgery
- 1994 - First Laparoscopic Esophageal Myotomy for Achalasia
- 1997 - First Warren (Splenorenal) Shunt

Additionally, the surgeons of Surgery, Inc. were pivotal in helping Ascension St. John Medical Center achieve the only American College of Surgeons Verified Level II Trauma Center distinction in Tulsa and throughout north-eastern Oklahoma.

Dr. Jason Lepak, President and Clinical Dyad Leader of AMG Oklahoma, says, “our expanding family of general surgeons will continue to serve to enrich the lives of patients for whom we care, to not only expand the depth and breadth of quality care we provide, but also increase access to healthcare for our communities.”

Undoubtedly, the AMG General Surgery team will continue to lead the way in surgical vascular access, bariatrics, trauma, breast, endocrine, laparoscopic and general surgery in Eastern Oklahoma. The recent changes to the landscape of surgical services, including the addition of Surgery, Inc. surgeons to the AMG General Surgery Team, will allow Ascension St. John to continue to provide patients with leading, outstanding quality care, now and in the future.
Leading Science: Ascension St. John’s COVID-19 Clinical Research Trials

Striving to be the First to Serve, Ascension St. John’s COVID-19 Response Demonstrates Our Commitment to Leading and Innovative Patient Care and Research

Ascension St. John was the first hospital in Oklahoma to begin a clinical research trial for COVID-19 treatment and the first hospital in Tulsa to provide convalescent plasma to a hospitalized patient. The Ascension St. John Clinical Research Institute began actively enrolling participants on March 26, 2020.

The drug under investigation was an IV medication, Sarilumab, an anti-inflammatory typically prescribed to treat rheumatoid arthritis. Researchers hoped it would also decrease inflammation in the lungs for patients with severe or critical COVID-19. The drug showed promise in a small-scale study in China earlier in 2020.

While patient care is a clinical provider’s number one priority, the importance of clinical research and trials to find effective treatment options cannot be understated. “Ascension St. John did all that we could to bring the most up-to-date treatments to our patients and the community,” said Stacie Merritt, director of the Ascension St. John Clinical Research Institute. Merritt noted that while a typical rapid deployment for a clinical trial is six to eight weeks, the local team turned this request around in just 48 hours.

“We aggressively sought out this trial, and we are currently working with additional sponsors to bring even more clinical trials to our area,” Merritt continued. “We’re looking into everything from prevention all the way through to critically ill patients. Our hope is that we can bring multiple treatment options to be tested in our local community.

“The Ascension St. John Clinical Research Department has been full steam ahead since the very beginning of the COVID crisis in the United States. We will continue to lead Ascension and our community by offering innovative and experimental trial possibilities. We have a tremendous team that is working well together across disciplines and across departments to provide the very best care we can.”

The primary investigator on the trials has been Anuj Malik, MD, an Infectious Disease
Consultant, Director of Infection Prevention and COVID-19 expert at Ascension St. John. Dr. Malik provided additional details of the innovative COVID-19 related management ongoing at Ascension St. John Medical Center.

Since the Sarilumab clinical study was initiated, an additional four studies have been initiated at Ascension St. John Medical Center. These include the much anticipated antibody cocktail study sponsored by Lilly, and a novel investigational inhaled medication called PUL420 that stimulates the immune system to fight off infections.

As the first hospital in Tulsa to provide convalescent plasma to a hospitalized patient, the Clinical Research Institute actively participated in managing the convalescent plasma program that was available by expanded access nationwide. The deployment of the anti-viral Remdesivir has also been rapid and extensive at Ascension St. John.

Dr. Malik, the lead Infectious Disease physician on these initiatives, expressed appreciation for the Ascension St. John Leadership Team and the entire patient care team. “Ascension St. John has offered leading and state of the art management for COVID-19 patients comparable to the most reputable medical centers in the world. Leadership at Ascension St. John is supportive of pursuing innovative treatments that could help heal our patients.” Additionally, numerous measures have been taken to keep patients safe at Ascension St. John hospitals, clinics, and communities.

“The ICU and hospitalist physicians, nursing, respiratory, and other staff have all come together in an unprecedented way to care for COVID-19 patients throughout the pandemic.” reported Dr. Timothy Young, Chief Clinical Officer at Ascension St. John. “Despite worldwide shortages, Ascension St. John has made associate safety the highest priority, striving to provide associates with the highest grade of personal protective equipment.” Dedicated units for patients with COVID-19 were created by the engineering staff and screening processes for patients, visitors, and staff are in place.

“Ascension St. John even shared its PPE supplies with area hospitals at the beginning of the pandemic to ensure the greater community of clinical providers were also protected as best as possible until their PPE supplies arrived,” says Director of Marketing and Communications, Candice Evans. “Now, with appropriate processes and best practices in place for safe care, our focus is to ensure our patients know they should not delay healthcare services, as this could have detrimental consequences on their health.”

“It has been a team effort and a very successful example of rising together in the face of adversity,” says Dr. Malik.
Nearly 70 Ascension St. John and CommunityCare associates teamed up to support the Tulsa Area United Way’s Day of Caring on September 6, 2019. The Tulsa Area United Way “envisions a community working together to ensure that all of its members flourish and thrive. Similarly, both Ascension St. John and CommunityCare strive to serve Tulsans and Oklahomans, by providing our communities with excellent healthcare services and options,” explained Ascension St. John Foundation President and State Chief Advocacy Officer, Lucky Lamons, MCJ, MPA, MHR.

Through interior painting and cleaning, gardening, and the clearing of a playground recently destroyed by fire, volunteers helped the Tulsa Dream Center in North Tulsa. The Tulsa Dream Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to fulfilling their motto, “See a need, meet it. See a hurt, heal it,” by offering services to address both the immediate and long-term needs within the Tulsa community.

Each year, Ascension St. John raises funds from associates in support of the many programs funded through United Way. Support is provided through elective Associate payroll deduction, t-shirt sales, Food Truck Tuesday events, donation cans set up in various locations, cook-off events, and “jeans days” hosted by various departments at Ascension St. John and CommunityCare.

In 2019, Ascension St. John raised over $69,000 in contributions. Ascension St. John’s 2020 goal for the Tulsa Area United Way and Bartlesville Regional United Way is $75,000.
Ascension St. John Hosts Medical Mission at Home, Extending Care into Our Community

Just as Jesus called his disciples to care for the poor and vulnerable, Catholic healthcare is also charged to serve the greatest needs in our community.

Ascension St. John held its most recent Medical Mission at Home on November 9, 2019, at TriCounty Tech in Bartlesville. Ascension St. John physicians, mid-level providers, nurses, pharmacists, and other specialists provided medical care for nearly 200 attendees. Additionally, TriCounty cosmetology students offered free haircuts, and dental care was provided in the TriCounty University of Oklahoma dental clinic. Volunteers and patients also enjoyed a hot lunch together provided by the school’s culinary students.

More than 250 volunteers from Ascension, TriCounty Tech and other community organizations supported the event.

“We are grateful to our volunteers and community partners who made the event possible,” said Mike Moore, CEO of Ascension St. John Jane Phillips. “Our Medical Mission at Home events are special because they unite the gifts and abilities of many volunteers and organizations for one goal: to improve the health and well-being of our community. Medical Mission at Home events can transform our patients and volunteers. It is through
service that we honor the human dignity of our neighbors and see their struggles with new eyes.”

Ascension St. John, along with Ascension health ministries across the nation, hosts annual Medical Mission at Home events to deliver free medical care to those with limited access and who are struggling in the communities we serve. Medical Mission at Home events take services outside the hospital and clinic walls to low-income and uninsured populations. Through the Medical Mission at Home, individuals receive access to needed health services close to home, including medical care, health screenings, behavioral health, dental care and oral hygiene, follow-up appointments and referrals, prescriptions at no cost, and spiritual care.

With the goal of a holistic approach to care, Ascension St. John partners with local organizations, churches, nursing schools and food banks to offer comprehensive resources. In addition, associates donate clothing, food, infant care items, and other supplies distributed at the events.

Angie Bidleman, chief nursing officer for Ascension St. John Jane Phillips in Bartlesville, emphasized that the Medical Mission at Home is a community collaboration to address immediate needs and connect individuals with follow-up care.

“The Medical Mission at Home events provide real-time delivery of organized health and social services to those who would not otherwise have access. We’re able to care for our neighbors close to home. Medical Mission at Home is more than a one-day health event. Our goal is to also connect these individuals with follow-up care and care continuity, as needed,” said Bidleman.

Ascension St. John initially planned two additional Medical Mission events in Sapulpa and Tulsa in April 2020. The events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of COVID-19, Ascension St. John re-envisioned Medical Mission at Home events for fall 2020, and will offer a series of free flu vaccine drive-through clinics for uninsured and underinsured adults in October and November. Details will be shared on the Ascension St. John website and through social media.

“The drive-through flu vaccine clinics are one way we can continue to address the health and well-being of our communities this fall,” said Jeffrey D. Nowlin, FACHE, CEO, Ascension St. John and Oklahoma Ministry Market Executive. “Both the flu and COVID-19 are highly transmittable. We hope to minimize simultaneous outbreaks of COVID-19 and influenza in our community. This will positively impact the health of our neighbors and help ensure that there are sufficient hospital services and staff to care for those who become sick. In addition to living our mission, we recognize our communities are healthier when all members of our community receive care to prevent and stop the spread of disease.”
Developing strong relationships with the community it serves is receiving renewed attention at Ascension St. John under the leadership of Ascension St. John CEO and Oklahoma Ministry Market Executive, Jeffrey D. Nowlin, FACHE. Community Connection, a dinner and program presentation for leaders in the Tulsa area, was held November 14, 2019, at Ascension St. John Medical Center. The inaugural event was attended by 15 key stakeholders in government, business, healthcare, faith and non-profit organizations.

“We see this as a real opportunity to connect with community leaders in an intentional way, to not only deliver our message but to garner their feedback and to make sure those lines of communication are wide open,” said Nowlin.

The concept for Community Connection evolved from a discussion between Nowlin and an Ascension St. John physician about deeper involvement with the community. “He said we ought to consider an invitation to community leaders, where we could provide updates... highlighting some of our key service lines,” Nowlin said.

The event in November featured Ascension St. John’s cardiovascular services, with key physicians making the presentation to the evening’s guests. The feedback was both positive and enlightening. Some guests “didn’t realize the

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Community Connection hosts Jeffrey D. Nowlin (second from left) and Lucky Lamons (far right) welcome Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum (second from right) and Ascension St. John cardiothoracic surgeon George M. Comas, MD (far left).
amount of minimally invasive heart (procedures) that we’re doing here,” said Nowlin, with some of those procedures being “big firsts for our community and for Oklahoma.”

Community Connection is financed through the Ascension St. John Foundation. Lucky Lamons, MCJ, MPA, MHR, President of the Ascension St. John Foundation and the Ascension St. John State Advocacy Officer, is responsible for determining the guest list.

Lamons relies on his 40 years in Tulsa, which includes extensive community relations work, to determine who receives an invitation. “I know who the leaders are, the thought leaders,” he said. “And I know who Jeff needs to meet.”

Another Community Connection event was held in January 2020 centered on the Ascension St. John Neuroscience team. While additional Community Connection events planned for 2020 were sidelined by the pandemic, Ascension St. John eagerly awaits the opportunity to present the excellence of its other service lines, including its Joint Commission Certified Stroke Center, Level II Trauma Center, and Breast Health service line once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted to inform community leaders of the excellence of Ascension St. John care.

Built into the evening’s program is a 45-minute reception, designed to introduce the community to Nowlin, who was named Ascension St. John CEO and Oklahoma Ministry Market Executive in April 2019. “It’s all about touchpoints,” said Lamons. “We want guests and our community to know Jeff Nowlin. Not so much as a CEO, but as an individual with a family.”

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CONGRATULATING OUR ONA AWARD WINNERS

Three Ascension St. John nurses and one department received awards at the Oklahoma Nurses Association annual convention in early October 2019.

**ONA Excellence in the Workplace Environment: Ascension St. John Hospital Clinical Education Department**
Accepted by LaTonya Mason-Wilson, MS, RN, NE-BC, Oklahoma Market Director, Clinical Professional Development

**Excellence in Nursing – Direct Patient Care:** Judy Stevenson, DNP, MS, APRN-CNS

**Nursing Impact on Public Policy:** Larcile White, MS, RN, RNC-NIC (retired)

**Nursing Research:** Tamara Hryshchuk, MS, RNC-NIC
Ascension St. John Veteran Recognition Program

To honor those who have served in our military, Ascension St. John was proud to launch the first phase of its Veteran Recognition Program over Memorial Day weekend in 2019 as part of the Ascension National initiative to recognize and pay tribute to the local servicemen and women we serve at our facilities. “Our associates are honored to fulfill our Mission of service to those who have served our nation,” says Ramona Miller, Ascension Medical Group Chief Operating Officer and Administrative Dyad Leader of the Ascension Medical Group. Miller was active duty in the Air Force for six years and later served 21 years in the Oklahoma Air National Guard. As a medic, Miller worked in the emergency department at a 1,500-bed Air Force hospital. Upon admission, associates in Registration and, in some cases, associates in nursing, ask if the patient is a veteran. Patients are asked if they would like to be recognized with an American flag patient bracelet, and, if assigned a room, if an American flag magnet may be placed on the veteran's door. Upon the patient’s consent, Ascension St. John provides these symbols of recognition, and to date, has provided more than 5,000 flag patient bracelets to veterans.

continued ➤
Our clinicians and associates who provide care for our veterans strive to create a welcoming, calm and peaceful environment—to help them know they are respected and appreciated. Part of this process includes asking what we can do to alleviate stress inducers such as sounds, smells, or other sensory items, and how we can provide a calming experience with offerings such as music, pet therapy, open or closed curtains, and other stress soothers.

As we encounter veterans in our hospitals, as Associates, we strive to treat them with courtesy and respect—and remember to thank our veterans for their service to our country to help protect and preserve our freedom.

Phase II of the Veteran Recognition Program was initiated in the fall of 2019 to honor our associates and volunteers who have served in the military by distributing pins that attach to their ID badges, making it clearly visible to other associates and patients that we recognize and value our veteran Associates.

We were also honored to provide a Veteran’s Day Breakfast to our Associate veterans to meet and engage with each other. After the breakfast, about 20 Associates, both veterans and non-veterans, braved sleet and sub-freezing wind chill to participate in Tulsa’s 101st Veterans Day Parade through downtown Tulsa. Despite the inclement weather, it was an honor and a privilege to participate alongside about 75 other organizations and groups in showing gratitude and appreciation for the many veterans in the Tulsa area who have proudly served their country.

Ascension St. John is deeply appreciative of our patients and Associates for their service.
Our “Why” During the Pandemic: COVID-19 Associate Hardship Program

In addition to the Ascension St. John Foundation providing $118,349 to local Oklahoma associates during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ascension COVID-19 Associate Hardship Support Program provided $2,146,266 in emergency assistance to associates nationwide experiencing financial hardship resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Associate COVID-19 Hardship Support Program helped associates meet unexpected and uncontrollable emergencies such as a spouse or partner’s work lay off, additional child care expenses while associates served during the pandemic, financial assistance with rent, mortgages, utilities, groceries, medications, funerals, auto repairs, and other emergent needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Only services considered essential qualified for the program. Nationally, Ascension approved over 4,600 of over 7,000 requests to equate to $2,146,266 in care for associates. The average national award was $466, and the maximum award was $2,292.

“Locally, a committee of leaders at Ascension St. John Medical Center met three times a week to review funding requests from Ascension St. John Medical Center, Bartlesville, Broken Arrow, Sapulpa, Nowata, Owasso, and all AMG clinic sites,” says Foundation Director Jeannette Nichols.

Ascension St. John provided assistance totaling an amount of $118,349 in approving 333 requests of 436 requests from April 8, 2020, to June 30, 2020. The average award amount was $355.40, and the maximum award was $1,000.

Nichols explained how leaders intentionally and carefully examined each hardship application to ensure the Ascension St. John Foundation could provide as much assistance as possible to its associates under its stewardship principles. Nichols gracefully managed the entire process from helping review all 436 requests to fulfilling the 333 associate awards, which included work such as calling and making payments for associate utility and insurance bills and requesting check payments for rent, mortgages and car loans.

The COVID-19 Associate Hardship Support Program concluded on June 30, 2020, but was replaced with a general Associate Hardship Assistance Program through the Foundation.
COVID-19 Associate Hardship Program, continued

at each Ascension St. John location. The Associate Hardship Assistance Program will continue to provide assistance to our associates in need when facing hardships and catastrophic situations.

During July through September 2020, Ascension St. John had 43 requests, 25 of which were approved, totaling over $16,000 in assistance to Ascension St. John associates.

“The Foundation intentionally examines each request in the context of our “Why,’” says Nichols. “For each request, we consider “Why” our Foundation exists, the mission of our organization, and how we can ensure our generous donors and their investments into our organization can serve our communities for the greater good.” “Ascension St. John associates and leadership would like to express gratitude towards our donors and Foundation members whose generosity and hard work during this time has greatly supported our community.”

Ascension St. John provided over 333 AWARDS totaling $118,349

COMMUNITY BENEFIT - Our contributions for FY 2020 included:

- UNPAID COST OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS $11,123,005
  This shortfall is created when a facility receives payments that are less than the cost of caring for beneficiaries of public (government-sponsored, means-tested) programs, such as Medicaid.

- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE $58,229,013
  Financial assistance (formerly called “charity care”) is free or discounted health services provided to people who cannot afford to pay, and who meet the organization’s financial assistance policy criteria.

- PROGRAMS/SERVICES FOR THE GENERAL COMMUNITY $8,509,883
- PROGRAMS/SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN POVERTY OR OTHERWISE VULNERABLE $5,821,010

These categories include activities such as community health improvement services; health professions education; subsidized health services; research; cash and in-kind contributions; community-building activities; and community benefit operations.

TOTAL $83,682,911*

*This total includes all six hospital facilities, Ascension Medical Group St. John and Regional Medical Laboratory. It does not include joint ventures. In addition to the total above, Ascension St. John provided $45,351,368 in unreimbursed Medicare services.
Voters in Oklahoma narrowly approved a ballot measure on June 30, 2020, to expand Medicaid to eligible adults who need health insurance. Oklahoma is now the 37th state to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Coverage will begin on July 1, 2021. Based on the final count, the measure passed by just over 6,400 votes—less than one full percentage point.

Medicaid expansion was a key provision of the ACA, but a Supreme Court ruling made it optional and left the decision up to each state. Medicaid is a public health insurance program for the poor, with states splitting the cost with the federal government.

Historically, Medicaid mostly covered low-income children and people with disabilities, but the ACA allows states to expand access to Medicaid to uninsured adults who earn up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. The federal government shoulders 90 percent of the cost of newly-covered adults.

In Oklahoma, Medicaid expansion will likely help drive down the state’s 14 percent uninsured rate, the second highest in the nation after Texas. It is estimated at least 200,000 Oklahomans will now be eligible for Medicaid, with enrollment potentially climbing higher as thousands lose their jobs amid the pandemic.

Ascension St. John found State Question 802 exemplified our mission—rooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, we commit ourselves to serving all persons, with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. “My role was part of a steering committee, working with multiple partners to support and advise a campaign to take the message of Medicaid expansion to the citizens of Oklahoma” said Lucky Lamons, Ascension St. John Chief Advocacy Officer. “Not only did the citizens approve of Medicaid expansion, they voted to put it into the Oklahoma State Constitution.”

One of Ascension St. John’s partners in SQ 802 was Ascension Advocacy. This partnership allowed the leveraging of Ascension Advocacy’s experience with Medicaid expectations in other states. Ascension Advocacy was instrumental in the passage of SQ 802 by sharing best practices to ensure collaboration and cooperation among all stakeholders.

The language used in the ballot measure ensures Medicaid expansion is enshrined in the state’s constitution, which will make it extremely difficult for the Oklahoma legislature to overturn the expansion.