

# SPIRIT

O F G I V I N G

A publication of St. John Macomb Hospital Foundation

SUMMER 2005

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Cancer endowment
- Breast cancer study
- Annual campaign
- President's message
- Auxiliary update
- New services

## Webber Cancer Center marks second anniversary

The Webber Cancer Center at St. John Macomb Hospital (SJMH) recently celebrated its second anniversary. The 22,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility was named in honor of *Joan and Wayne Webber* of New Baltimore, who donated \$2.3 million toward the \$7.25 million cost for the expansion of the cancer program.

Owners of the Webber Group, a company that operates construction, development and road-building firms, the Webbers wished to make a contribution to the community in which they have lived their entire lives. "We're very, very blessed," said Mr. Webber. "We just wanted to give back."

Mr. Webber, a member of the hospital's Board of Trustees, wanted to make the donation so Macomb County residents would have comprehensive state-of-the-art services close to home in an environment utilizing the mind-body-spirit approach to care.

Besides the Webbers' donation, other funds for the center were raised through private donations, including a \$250,000 gift from the SJMH Auxiliary and associate and physician contributions.

Over the past two years, the Webber Cancer Center has attained many goals, including:

- dramatic volume growth in radiation oncology and in new cancer cases diagnosed and treated
- over \$100,000 in grants for clinical trials
- commitment to state-of-the-art equipment and care such as: addition of second state-of-the-art linear accelerator; ZMED ultrasound-guided radiation therapy; Intensity Modulated Radiation therapy; CT, MRI and



*Joan and Wayne Webber*

PET fusion in treatment planning; and CT simulator (super technology, 4D planning)

- mobile PET/CT scanner services

- success of the Healing Arts Center, with: two successful women's conferences, rapidly expanding acupuncture services, therapeutic massage and expanded scope of classes

The Webber Cancer Center gets many compliments about the expert, compassionate care patients and families receive. Under the medical direction of *Paul Chuba, MD, PhD*, and *Allen Stawis, MD*, the staff addresses the fears and concerns of patients and families as well as performs procedures and tests. Volunteers also offer support, donating time, hosting events and raising funds for the center.



*Webber Cancer Center*

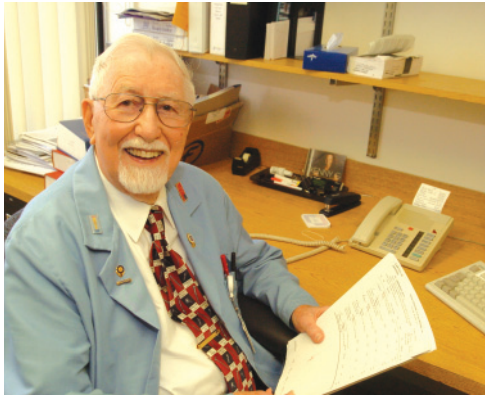


**ST. JOHN  
MACOMB  
HOSPITAL  
FOUNDATION**

**REAL MEDICINE™**

## Cancer endowment helps others

For many years, *Malcolm Hanson* and his family have utilized St. John Macomb Hospital (SJMH) for their health care needs from everything like sprains and bumps when their five children were young to his wife Shirley's battle with cancer. The couple was grateful for the care they received at the hospital and made volunteering there a priority in the



*Malcolm Hanson*

later years of their 53-year marriage. Shirley was a hospitality greeter and hostess for Outpatient Registration, and Malcolm volunteers in the Inpatient Pharmacy and is the legislative chair on the Auxiliary Board.

When Shirley was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1986, she underwent a partial mastectomy and radiation therapy at SJMH. The Hansons enjoyed 14 more years before cancer struck again in 2000, and Shirley died in 2001. It was Shirley's care at what is now called the Webber Cancer Center that inspired Malcolm to set up an endowment to commemorate her memory and help fight cancer.

"I felt that Shirley received 'special treatment,' yet I know her care wasn't unique—that every patient is given the utmost care and compassion," Malcolm said. "But her time was made as comfortable as possible, and I'm grateful for the exceptional care."

Malcolm has donated over \$25,000 to fund the Shirley A. Hanson Cancer Endowment. Interest on the endowment is accumulating and will be used to support and maintain cancer survivorship programs and breast cancer programs.

In 2003, Malcolm remarried. Ironically, while he was courting Marie, now his wife, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her initial reaction was to end the relationship with Malcolm so he did not have to go through that difficult situation again. However, Marie's condition didn't deter Malcolm; he was with her on the day of surgery and subsequently asked her to marry him. The newlyweds are doing well, and Marie is now an "unofficial volunteer," helping Malcolm with special projects at the hospital.

For information on donating to the endowment, call Doug Skrzyniarz, 313-343-7479.

## Treatment yields positive results

St. John Macomb Hospital (SJMH) recently participated in a national breast cancer study that showed promising results in treating patients in the early stages of the disease. The cancer that responded to the treatment, HER-2 positive invasive breast cancer, has tumors that grow much faster and are more likely to recur than tumors that do not overproduce the protein HER-2.

"It was found that women who were given Herceptin® (trastuzumab) with chemotherapy had a 52 percent decrease in disease recurrence, compared to patients who received chemotherapy alone," said *Allen Stawis, MD*, Medical Director, Webber Cancer Center. "This is a significant advancement in treatment for women with high-risk breast cancer."

SJMH is a member of the Michigan Cancer Research Consortium Community Clinical Oncology Program (MCRC CCOP), one of only 50 programs in the country designated as a CCOP by the National Cancer Institute.

## K•U•D•O•S

**Joseph M. Tasse**, President of St. John Macomb Hospital (SJMH), advanced to Fellow status in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). This is the highest level of professional achievement in ACHE, a distinction held by only 3,200 health care executives nationwide.

**John O'Malley**, Vice President/Operations, SJMH, advanced to Diplomate status in the ACHE.

**Sam Awada**, MD, has been named Chief of Family Practice at SJMH.

## Annual campaign gears up

Last fall, St. John Macomb Hospital (SJMH) embarked on a new fund-raising program to request annual gifts from our community. The campaign was a phone/mail program that consisted of two letters followed by a phone call from one of our representatives. This successful program raised \$30,000 for several initiatives, including Cardiovascular Services, the Webber Cancer Center and the Emergency Department.

Our patients need your help once again. You may have already received the letters, one from Joseph M. Tasse, SJMH President, and one from Malcolm Hanson, a dedicated volunteer. One of our representatives will be calling soon to discuss the program with you. Since the demand for quality cancer and heart care in Macomb County is steadily increasing, we are continuing to raise funds for Cardiovascular Services and the Webber Cancer Center.

Annual gifts enable the hospital to make significant improvements to continue to meet the needs of our growing community. We hope that you will take the time to speak to our representative and will again support the hospital in this annual program. If you have any questions, please contact Meg Delor, Annual Giving Director, at 586-582-7490 or meg.delor@stjohn.org.

## Message from the Hospital President

In the 1950s and 1960s, civic leaders looked at their growing Macomb County communities and recognized a need for modern health care services. Through their efforts and vision, St. John Macomb Hospital opened in March 1966 (nearly 40 years ago) to sustain and improve the health of those living in our community. The hospital remains strong in its commitment to providing the highest quality patient care experience in all that we do.

I'm very proud that for close to four decades St. John Macomb Hospital has stood as an indispensable pillar in our community.

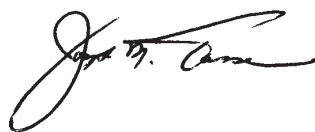
Because of the foresight and generosity of earlier generations and current philanthropic donors, we are able to provide state-of-the-art health care to Macomb County. Over the years, philanthropy has played an increasingly important role in enabling us to maintain and build upon medical excellence.

For example, philanthropic gifts were key to our recent expansion and renovation for our Emergency Department, enabling us to make improvements and adopt a new streamlined care model that addresses your requests to see a doctor quickly. Our Emergency Department is an important access point for you and your family and stands ready to provide care when needed. It also serves as a gateway to our expanded Cardiovascular Services, which offers open-heart surgery, in addition to interventional procedures such as angioplasty and stents.

Heart disease remains the number one killer in Macomb County, and the need for heart services is greater than ever. We are addressing this high demand for specialized Cardiovascular Services by adding a third cardiac catheterization lab and constructing a new Invasive Cardiology Center. We need community support for this crucial project. We look forward to talking with all of our key supporters about giving opportunities to support our center.

Thank you for your generous support. Every contribution helps.

Best regards,



Joseph M. Tasse, FACHE  
President  
St. John Macomb Hospital



*Joseph M. Tasse*

## Auxiliary update

The St. John Macomb Hospital Auxiliary recently installed new board members:

President: *Irene Stempnik*

President-Elect: *Helen Shoff*

First Vice President: *Daniel Rys*

Second Vice President: *Nancy Ormsby*

Third Vice President: *Arnold Hock*

Financial Secretary: *Betty Ferus*

Corresponding Secretary: *Dorothy Boyd*

Treasurer: *Danna Cotton*

Recording Secretary: *Carol Plotzke*

Parliamentarian: *Pat Gerrish*



The Auxiliary recently presented a check for \$192,000 to the hospital. SJMH President Joseph M. Tasse (right) accepts the Auxiliary's donation check from outgoing President Helen Shoff (left) and Chery Allen, Volunteer Services Director. The amount includes \$100,000 toward the Auxiliary's pledge to the Emergency Department campaign.

## Accomplishments

St. John Macomb Hospital (SJMH) received MPRO's, Michigan's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization's, prestigious 2004 Governor's Award of Excellence for Improving Care in the Hospital Setting for acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), pneumonia and heart failure.

SJMH was also recognized by CareScience, a care management and clinical access solutions provider, for achieving top performances in overall clinical outcomes in three areas: ischemic stroke, all acute myocardial infarction and medically managed myocardial infarction.

## New services added

St. John Macomb Hospital (SJMH) has added a Pain Management Program that focuses on helping patients deal specifically with their pain—a very personal experience in which each person reacts differently. *Marianne Gregorich, RN*, who was the clinical nurse manager of Oncology for 10 years, and *Laurie Fanfalone*, pharmacist, lead the program.

As more physicians are aware of the service, they are requesting pain management consults for their patients. For details, call 586-573-5065.

In addition, SJMH has a new Palliative Care Consult Service, which provides high-quality, effective management of patients with debilitating chronic disease and life-threatening illness. Palliative care is offered at any stage of illness (not the same as hospice care) and is especially helpful for seriously ill patients who require complex pain and symptom management or have a high demand for patient/family communication. It improves quality of life and focuses on the prevention and relief of suffering by early identification, precise assessment and treatment of pain and other challenges, including those of a physical, psychosocial and spiritual nature. The program is coordinated by *Annette Walleman, RN*.

For information, call 586-573-5440.

Welcome to *SPIRIT*, a new publication by St. John Macomb Hospital Foundation.

If you would like to learn more about giving opportunities at St. John Macomb Hospital, please call Priscilla Khoury, CFRE, 586-582-7503.

**ST. JOHN HEALTH FOUNDATION:**

Priscilla Khoury, CFRE

**EDITOR:** Kathy Torick

**DESIGNER:** Diane Apfel

**PHOTOGRAPHER:**

Karlest Ford



## ST. JOHN MACOMB HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

11800 E. Twelve Mile Road  
Warren, MI 48093

NONPROFIT ORG  
U S POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ST. JOHN HEALTH