

**Susan E. Burns**  
**President, St. John Providence Health System Foundations**  
**Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award**

**Words to describe Susan: Visionary, Passionate, Dynamic, Strong**

Susan E. Burns is the President of St. John Providence Health System (SJPHS) Foundations, leading philanthropy programs across the health system since August 2008 in a successful effort to enhance patient care services for the community.

Shortly after joining SJPHS, Susan secured the largest philanthropic gift ever received by the health system. The generous donation from Mr. Art Van Elslander was used to further the growth of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence, including the addition of an Epilepsy Center; a new Dizziness, Balance and Falls Clinic; and a Regional Tele-Health Network, which allows physicians to visit a patient's bedside "virtually" through remote-presence technology. The capital improvements from this gift are taking the Neurosciences Center to new heights in patient care.

Most recently, Susan was instrumental in obtaining a substantial gift from a long-time dedicated donor to support the new Inpatient Rehabilitation Center at St. John Hospital and Medical Center, making it one of the most progressive rehabilitation facilities in the country.

Susan continues to develop a system-wide philanthropic capital campaign focused on raising funds for SJPHS's Centers of Excellence (Heart and Vascular Care, Cancer Care, Neuroscience Care and Weight Loss Care), to provide program support, endowments and capital improvements. She was also instrumental in implementing a program for building relationships with grateful patients.

Since taking over the leadership of SJPHS Foundations, Susan has brought several key donors to the table and re-engaged others with the organization. She has heightened awareness of the role of the Foundations in strategic planning and program implementation within the organization, to donors and to the broader community. Her efforts have helped transform the perception of philanthropy's key role in enhancing the mission of St. John Providence Health System.

Susan is an excellent strategist and visionary, helping her team and the leaders at SJPHS see the entire perspective of a situation. Under her exemplary leadership, the Foundation team has been successful in exceeding its financial goals two years in a row during a challenging economic environment. Susan invests her time in developing each of her team members, encouraging them to take an ownership stake in the Foundation's overall goals. She inspires others to reach their highest potential and expects nothing less of herself. Susan is a respected colleague and a valued leader with her staff and donors.

Prior to joining St. John Providence Health System, Susan served as Wayne State University's President of Development and Alumni Affairs and President of the Wayne State University Foundation. Among her many accomplishments, Susan successfully spearheaded the university's first comprehensive capital campaign, which greatly surpassed the fundraising goal. Previously, she led development efforts for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Interlochen Center for the Arts and other organizations.

Susan exemplifies the importance of giving back through her personal giving, time and talent. She has been a board member for Advance Capital Management, Detroit Artist Market, Michigan Humanities Council and Detroit Rotary. Susan was honored by Women of Wayne Alumni Association for Outstanding Leadership in 2004.