Courage to Celebrate

Couple’s Wedding at STPH Shares Joy with Bride’s Mother
Growing to Meet the Community’s Needs

Expansion 2020 Progress Continues

Recent advances in St. Tammany Parish Hospital’s largest construction project in 20 years include state-of-the-art automation in its newly expanded pharmacy and installation of huge steel beams that mark the outline of a new patient addition. The technology allows physicians and pharmacists to submit digital prescription orders to the roughly 12-foot carousel with 32 rotating shelves through software that is integrated with Epic, the partnership’s online health-record system.

The technology allows physicians and pharmacists to submit digital prescription orders to the roughly 12-foot carousel with 32 rotating shelves through software that is integrated with Epic, the partnership’s online health-record system. The equipment provides numerous operational and safety enhancements, including real-time tracking of medication inventories, explained Wendy Talley, STPH department head of pharmacy.

“It allows us to work with maximum efficiency,” Talley said. A second high-tech element of the expanded pharmacy includes automation in its newly expanded pharmacy and installation of huge steel beams that mark the outline of a new patient addition.

Inside the pharmacy, a new carousel now provides automated inventory of more than 1,500 different medications. The technology allows physicians and pharmacists to submit digital prescription orders to the roughly 12-foot carousel with 32 rotating shelves through software that is integrated with Epic, the partnership’s online health-record system.

The equipment provides numerous operational and safety enhancements, including real-time tracking of medication inventories, explained Wendy Talley, STPH department head of pharmacy.

“The behind-the-scenes milestones are coupled with hard-to-miss progress of a $96 million expansion project that is designed to support STPH’s projected growth over the next five to 15 years and will result in all private rooms throughout the hospital. Outside the health system’s main building, steel beams for the new four-story patient addition that is the centerpiece of the 36-month project sprung up this summer.”

Shaped by in-depth analysis of market need and an expansion of services through STPH’s strategic partnership with Ochsner Health System, the new addition will house 30 critical-care beds, 40 all-private med-surgery rooms, additional operating rooms and more administrative space.

Those and additional project elements, including a newly opened level two pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) inside the third floor pediatrics department, additional space for obstetrics and an expansion of the level three neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), are in step with STPH’s expanded capabilities in pediatrics, neurosciences, cardiology and other areas of growing demand in western St. Tammany Parish.

“It’s a major project, and things are moving forward,” said Randy Willett, project manager.

With support from sponsors and guests, THE Gala 2018 raised nearly $200,000 for STCC.

STCC provides a full range of cancer-treatment options as a partnership of St. Tammany Parish Hospital, Ochsner Health System and Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center in a single location.

“Prevention and early detection are important parts of what STCC provides, in addition to cancer treatment,” said HUB International’s Kevin Gardner. “This event is one way we can help people in our community facing a cancer diagnosis get the care and services they need, while also supporting prevention and early detection services.”

Tickets for THE Gala go on sale this summer at thegalanorthshore.org.

Sponsorships are available now. Information on coveted sponsorship opportunities is available by calling Melanie Rudolph, 985-898-4141.

New Services, Support & Screenings at St. Tammany Cancer Center

Commitment to the community shown at St. Tammany Cancer Center, a partnership of St. Tammany Parish Hospital, Ochsner Health System and Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, located in the STPH medical office building, 1203 S. Tyler St., Covington.

“We are experiencing tremendous growth and progress, particularly in early detection initiatives,” said Cheryl Corizzo, STCC clinical quality coordinator, “and we’re excited to share current and forthcoming programs, events and plans, improving lives on the Northshore.”

Advancing Early Detection

• Funded by STFH, STCC is preparing to implement a new software application involved in detecting and tracking incidental lung nodules found during CT scans, improving early detection of lung cancer, as well as managing the low-dose lung cancer screening program.

• Upon launch of the new applications, STCC will be first in the state to utilize this exceptional resource.

• The STCC partners collaborated with START Community Health Center in Covington on a recent community presentation on the importance of cervical cancer screenings. It was followed by a cancer screening event with 43 women attending, 34 of whom received breast cancer screenings and 21 of whom received cervical cancer screenings.

Key Support Services

• Beginning mid-summer, genetic counseling services at STCC will help patients better understand their individual cancer risk and what steps or screenings can help them protect their health.

• A good diet works in tandem with treatment, so STCC is working on a new community partnership to address hunger in the patient population without adequate food access.

• The partners plan a car show in the fall to celebrate cancer survivors and their families. Called Survivors, Thrivers and Drivers, the event is planned Nov. 22 and expected to draw as many as 400 cars to the parking lot outside STCC.

• There’s healing in art, and patients can paint encouraging messages on stones for a new rock garden on display in the STCC foyer and across the facility.

More is accessible at STPH.org/cancercenter.

“Step into Paradise” with THE Gala 2019

October Fundraiser Benefits STCC Patients & Families

As mermaids ply the sultry waters of the Southern Hotel pool in historic downtown Covington, guests of the season’s pinnacle event will enjoy lively music, delectable food and fun in an upscale Caribbean setting at THE Gala 2019 to benefit St. Tammany Cancer Center patients and families.

“Step Into Paradise” is the theme for the Thursday, Oct. 3 fundraiser presented by HUB International, a long-time supporter of services for Northshore cancer patients and their families.

Tickets and Sponsorships

Tickets for THE Gala go on sale this summer at thegalanorthshore.org.

Sponsorships are available now. Information on coveted sponsorship opportunities is available by calling Melanie Rudolph, 985-898-4141.
Innovative Care-Delivery Model In Use at STPH

The accountable care unit, an innovative care-delivery model at St. Tammany Parish Hospital, is enhancing communication between patients, family members and caregivers and giving patients unprecedented opportunity to participate in their own care. Structured interdisciplinary bedside rounds are fundamental to the ACU, which has been in practice at STPH since April.

In the ACU, patients are cared for by one clinical team that spends the day together caring for those patients, another tenet of the approach. Still in its early stages, the model’s use at STPH is tied to its commitment to continuum of care, the process of guiding patients through the entire range of healthcare services.

Research shows ACUs shorten patient hospital stays, boost patient satisfaction, lower costs and enhance teamwork among the caregiver team.

The approach was developed at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, where an STPH clinical team visited to study the model firsthand.

During the rounds, each team member—physician, nurse, pharmacist, case manager and/or social worker—addresses the patient with an update on his or her condition or care, with the process concluding after the physician communicates that day’s patient updates and encourages active participation, noted Kathy Felps, STPH director of acute care.

The accountable care unit, an innovative care-delivery model at St. Tammany Parish Hospital, is enhancing communication between patients, family members and caregivers and giving patients unprecedented opportunity to participate in their own care. Structured interdisciplinary bedside rounds are fundamental to the ACU, which has been in practice at STPH since April.

In the ACU, patients are cared for by one clinical team that spends the day together caring for those patients, another tenet of the approach. Still in its early stages, the model’s use at STPH is tied to its commitment to continuum of care, the process of guiding patients through the entire range of healthcare services.

Research shows ACUs shorten patient hospital stays, boost patient satisfaction, lower costs and enhance teamwork among the caregiver team.

The approach was developed at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, where an STPH clinical team visited to study the model firsthand.

“The patient can speak up and verify the accuracy of what is reported during the team round,” Felps said. “That way, everyone present hears the correct and updated information at the same time.”

Team rounds also present a good opportunity for patients and caregivers to discuss what type of care is appropriate after discharge, Felps added.

It is important to note that the interdisciplinary rounds do not replace traditional inpatient rounds by physicians, nor are they intended to discourage patient questions at other points of the day.

Hospitalist Dr. Daniel Elie, for instance, one of the first STPH physicians to take part in the ACU model, continues to visit his patients separately each morning prior to the team round, much as in a traditional inpatient setting.

“This is an efficient additional opportunity to improve communication,” Dr. Elie said.

JoAnne Ehrhard recently experienced the new approach for herself after her 50-year-old son was hospitalized at STPH for pneumonia.

Diagnosed with epilepsy at 7 months and in-and-out of hospitals much of his life, Stephen Ehrhard relies on extensive and complex medications, his mother explained.

The team visit from his physician, pharmacist and other caregivers on the second morning of his recent hospitalization reassured her that each member had a full understanding of his medications and conditions.

“It’s a great thing because there is a chance for everyone to communicate their information,” Ehrhard said.

Courage to Celebrate

Couple’s Wedding at STPH Shares Joy with Bride’s Mother

Jade Rider and her mother Diane Sharp grew closer than ever in the weeks before Sharp’s death from cancer in late February.

Jade’s upcoming wedding was a favorite topic of discussion during afternoons and evenings together over months of treatment at St. Tammany Parish Hospital after Sharp was diagnosed with cancer in her spine, liver, heart and lungs in December 2018.

The 59-year-old Sharp was home briefly for Christmas, but by January cancer had spread to her brain. Blood clots required the amputation of a leg.

Jade and then fiancée, Jordan Rider, 22, had already moved their wedding date from October to March in the hope of including Sharp in the celebration. A heart-to-heart discussion with a nurse caring for her mother helped 25-year-old Jade understand that including her mother required another change in plans.

“The nurse explained that if there was something I felt in my heart I wanted to do, I needed to do it,” Jade said.

On Feb. 7, the couple decided to have a small wedding ceremony at Sharp’s bedside at STPH. They exchanged vows two days later, Feb. 9, with a friend from church officiating. Jade dressed in a simple white dress, Jordan dapper in a suit and tiny Layne, their daughter, looking on with immediate family.

STPH Food Services provided wedding cake, and Still Magnolia Photography captured the poignant family experience.

“I’m so glad we could share our wedding with her. It’s something that I will never forget, because it was what she wanted more than anything.”

– Jade Rider, daughter of STPH patient Diane Sharp

Mother and daughter exchanged gifts afterward. Jordan held his mother-in-law’s hand and promised to take care of Jade and Layne—her girls, as she called them. Sharp admired the wedding band on her daughter’s fingers.

“It was something that my mother could still enjoy,” Jade said. “It was something that she was still there for.”

The ceremony wasn’t a legal wedding—a church wedding took place on March 23 on what would have been Sharp’s 60th birthday.

But it was very real to the couple, who plan to celebrate their anniversary on Feb. 9th to recognize its meaning to them. They will honor Sharp by keeping the focus on her every March 23.

“She was a rock star,” Jade said.

The weeks after the ceremony at STPH brought more opportunities for mother and daughter to share their love for each other. After leaving the hospital for hospice care at home in late February, Layne and Jade stayed over for a three-generation sleepover.

Jade was at work at a dental office when her father called on February 27 and told her to come home. Diane Sharp died that day.

“I’m so glad we could share our wedding with her,” Jade said.

“It’s something that I will never forget, because it was what she wanted more than anything.”
First Children’s Hospital Comes to the Northshore

Partners complete long-term strategy for comprehensive pediatrics

Ochsner Hospital for Children pediatric intensive care physicians coupled with the St. Tammany Parish Hospital inpatient pediatric unit and pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) are part of the partners’ comprehensive array of pediatrics on the Northshore. In recognition of the excellence the partnership brings to the service district, St. Tammany Parish Hospital named its pediatric section, Ochsner Hospital for Children at St. Tammany Parish Hospital.

“For us, this name helps parents know they have the top ranked children’s hospital staffing pediatrics inside their world-class community hospital,” Joan Coffman, STPH President and CEO, said.

“For us, this name helps parents know they have the top ranked children’s hospital staffing pediatrics inside their world-class community hospital,” Joan Coffman, STPH President and CEO, said.

“Five years into our partnership, we are excited to see this level of specialty care, closer to home than ever. It’s only strengthened by Ochsner’s recent recognition by U.S. News & World Report for the third year in a row as a top children’s hospital.”

This summer’s expansion of pediatric emergency hours from 12 to 24 and opening of the PICU capped a focused, years’ long effort to complete world-class pediatric services for west St. Tammany families.

From the start, STPH’s strategic partnership with Ochsner Health System has been central to the effort, with the partners now providing the most comprehensive health system for children across the I-12 corridor, addressing everything from inpatient and outpatient clinical care to parenting advice and support groups.

“We are now going to provide medical care for children who previously had to leave the area to get this level of service,” said Cindy Ingram RN, STPH director of women and children’s services.

Recent data underline community demand for such care. Pediatric cardiology visits to the specialty clinic rose from 78 in 2018 to an anticipated 555 visits in 2019, Ochsner data show. Pediatric endocrinology visits to the clinic are expected to rise from 48 in 2018 to 240 over the same one-year span.

Early achievements in the advancement of pediatrics include Dr. McCall McDaniel’s delicate corrective scoliosis surgery for Shelby Stoop and neonatal post-surgery recovery for Celia Lewko, coordinated carefully between Ochsner and STPH neonatal intensive care units.

The partnership’s benefits touch STPH’s tiniest patients. Telemedicine equipment allows echocardiogram technicians to scan babies’ hearts in STPH’s level three NICU while communicating in real time with Ochsner pediatric cardiologists in New Orleans.

That means those babies don’t have to travel to New Orleans for such care.

“Families want their children to get the care they need close to home,” Ingram said, “and we are delivering on that promise with Ochsner Hospital for Children at St. Tammany Parish Hospital.”
The Gift of Giving
Volunteers Do Vital Work at STPH
Ken Lane knows exactly why he volunteers at St. Tammany Parish Hospital. “In a nutshell, I want to make a difference in people’s lives,” said the retired education professor and president of the 132-member STPH Volunteer Guild. “I also want to give back to the community, and this is one way I can do that. On top of that, it just feels good.”

Lane cited an additional reason, one he said he shares with many fellow volunteers. “When children and grandchildren see you volunteer, the hope is that they will do that themselves in their lives,” Lane said.

The ranks of STPH volunteers vary from STPH guild members to volunteers in specific capacities such as parenting, cancer, hospice and hospital. They are retired engineers, energy workers, teachers, bankers, nurses, pharmacists, homemakers and entrepreneurs. They range in age from 40s to 80-something. Together they donate thousands of hours of their time to the hospital, hospice and cancer center.

STPH volunteers form the Patient and Family Advisory Council. The council’s first official meeting occurred this summer with subsequent meetings to take place quarterly or bi-monthly.

Current and past STPH patients are among the council’s first members. Toups noted. The council will reach out to diversity of voices, including those of patients who have utilized both inpatient and outpatient services at its facilities.

Such patient-focused community advisory groups are of growing interest at U.S. hospitals, according to the federal Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Councils can result in meaningful improvements to patient health outcomes. The new group at STPH has its own model close to home. Feedback from St. Tammany Cancer Center’s four-year-old Patient and Family Advisory Group has prompted a series of care improvements in recent years, including expanded nutritional options for patients undergoing chemotherapy and formation of a daytime support group.

Anyone with interest in the council can visit the volunteers section of STPH.org for information, application and contact information.
Roses galore, festive spring décor and music from New Orleans pianist Joe Krown set the scene for St. Tammany Hospital Foundation’s annual donor recognition event on Thursday, May 16 at Benedict’s Plantation in Mandeville.

Dubbed “Enter the Winner’s Circle,” the derby-themed celebration honored outstanding donors for contributions in 2018.

Presentation of “The Adrian” Spotlight Award to Northshore Media Group and the Dowdy family recognized their longstanding support of the STH Foundation and St. Tammany Parish Hospital. The Adrian each year honors a corporate donor for exemplary in-kind contributions to the foundation in support of the hospital. Ken Lane spoke in his capacity as president of the St. Tammany Hospital Guild, whose lifetime contributions exceed $331,000, elevating them to the Champion level of giving on the foundation’s Donor Wall of Honor. Ken shared that the Guild supports the foundation’s role in promoting health and wellbeing across the Northshore.

Ken Lane shared that the Guild supports the foundation’s role in promoting health and wellbeing across the Northshore.

Events Raise Funds for Expansion

First-ever Golf Rainout Still Lucky, Renewed Gurney Games Still Successful

Two very different weather days in February and April provided fun and support of technology advancements at St. Tammany Parish Hospital.

Stormy weather moved the fun inside but did not deter the celebration or fundraising success of the 2019 Get Lucky! Golf Tournament at Money Hill Golf Course in Abita Springs on Thursday, April 18.

The first ever “rain out” version of St. Tammany Hospital Foundation’s long-running tournament featured indoor putting, an open bar, food, prizes and more inside the clubhouse.

“Even without the tournament itself, everyone came out to celebrate the importance of the cause,” said Nicole Suhre, the foundation’s executive director.

The event raised nearly $44,000 for the STH Foundation Expansion Initiative to provide exciting new technology in the four-story patient tower now under construction.

Sunshine was the order of the day for another favorite spring event—the lively Gurney Games competition at the Covington Trailhead.

The Sunday, Feb. 17 event drew more than 400 spectators and participants. Gurneys decorated in themes from Candyland to the Wizard of Oz were among the entries.

This year’s judges included Covington Mayor Mike Cooper, STPH president and CEO Joan Coffman and Kieran Weldon of title event sponsor fl+WB Architects.

Proceeds from the beloved gurney parade and race also benefited the foundation’s expansion initiative.

“Even without the tournament itself, everyone came out to celebrate the importance of the cause.”

– Nicole Suhre, STH Foundation’s executive director.
OUR MISSION
A full-service acute care facility committed to providing world-class healthcare and the latest technology, St. Tammany Parish Hospital delivers today’s life-improving procedures with the utmost care to area residents with emphasis on wellness, preventive care and disease management close to home. STPH is recognized for quality, safety and the patient experience by CareChex, Leapfrog, Healthgrades, Hospital Compare, Women’s Choice and US News & World Report. St. Tammany Parish Hospital is an independent service district in a clinically integrated partnership with Ochsner Health System. Together, the two organizations focus on aligning their healthcare offerings to best serve patients and families in west St. Tammany and surrounding areas. Under their agreement, the two organizations retain their autonomy; neither partner manages nor owns the other. STPH is a self-supporting not-for-profit community hospital; it receives no tax funding. Learn more at stph.org.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
John A. Evans, Chairman
James L. Core, Vice Chairman
Thomas D. Davis, Secretary – Treasurer
Pat Brister
Wilson D. Bulloch III
Mimi Goodyear Dossett
Merrill Laurent MD
Sue Osbon PhD

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP
Joan M. Coffman FACHE, President and CEO
Sharon Toups FACHE, SVP/Chief Operating Officer
Kerry Milton BSN RN MSN, SVP/Chief Nursing Officer
Patrick J. Torcson MD MMM, SVP/Chief Medical Officer
Sandra DiPietro MBA, SVP/Chief Financial Officer
Carolyn Adema SPHR, SVP/Chief Human Resources
Margaret Collett RN JD, VP/Chief Compliance Officer
Craig Doyle, VP/Chief Information Officer
Jack Khashou M.Ed MS, VP/St. Tammany Quality Network

STPH complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. STPH does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. STPH provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us. If you need these services, contact the Patient Relations Department at 985-898-4669.

OUR MISSION
The St. Tammany Hospital Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established to sustain the healing work of the physicians and staff of St. Tammany Parish Hospital.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Greg A. Pellegrini, Chairman
William P. Trist, Vice Chairman
Darci S. Senner, Secretary – Treasurer
Nancy Baldwin
Joan M. Coffman FACHE
Mimi Goodyear Dossett
Liz Healy
Rock Kendrick
Mary Lee
Norma Richard
Carlos J. Sanchez
David Toups MD
James Woodard MD
Nicole Suhre CFRE, Executive Director

STPH complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. STPH does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. STPH provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us. If you need these services, contact the Patient Relations Department at 985-898-4669.

STPH complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. STPH does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. STPH provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us. If you need these services, contact the Patient Relations Department at 985-898-4669.

Upcoming Events
As the Northshore’s community health network, St. Tammany Parish Hospital hosts events, meetings and opportunities for you to improve and maintain your physical and emotional well-being. We’ve provided a short sample of the many upcoming events below. Please check the calendar on stph.org or additional learning opportunities for individuals of all ages.

“A Colorful Voyage”
JULY 23 – SEPTEMBER 27
Come Set Sail with us for an exhibition of healing art. First floor, St. Tammany Parish Hospital
www.stfoundation.org/healingarts

THE Gala
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3
Transport yourself to paradise and join us at THE Gala, an unforgettable evening benefiting local cancer care in one healing place—St. Tammany Cancer Center—where nationally ranked leaders, St. Tammany Parish Hospital, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center and Ochsner, are fighting to beat cancer.
thegalanorthshore.org

Save the Date:
Monster Mash
presented by Metairie Bank Northshore
OCTOBER 19, 10 A.M. – 2 P.M.
Join the STPH Parenting Center for a reimagined twist on this beloved Halloween family festival featuring new attractions, activities and pricing structure. To sponsor the event, contact Melanie Rudolph at 985-898-4141. For more information on the event, call 985-898-4435 or visit www.stph.org/monstermash.

Vol 15: No 3 Summer 2019