

# Giving Insight



ST JOHN OF GOD  
Foundation

Transforming health care for **humanity**



## SPRING 2024

ST JOHN OF GOD FOUNDATION  
30TH ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Transforming the future of health care for our community, together**
- **Celebrating YOU - 30 years of compassionate support**
- **Keeping it all in the family at Bendigo**

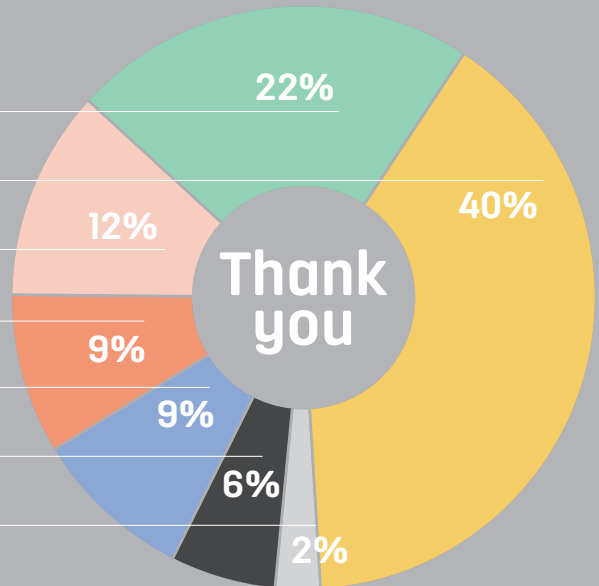


# Your kindness in action

The life-changing impact of your generosity over the past year

## You have helped to support...

- Area of greatest need
- Expanded hospital services
- Innovative medical equipment
- Medical and health research
- Clinical services
- Patient and caregiver support
- Community services



## Your generosity has helped to support:



Specialist nursing positions and scholarships



Over \$600k for health and medical research



Gifts of Hope for cancer patients



Support for regional hospital services and care



Compassionate support for palliative care patients



New surgical equipment and medical technology



And more

**Thank you**  
for helping  
us to raise  
**\$9.7M**  
in 2023-24



# What's on your mind?

A quick-fire Q&A with our CEO, Bianca Pietralla



Q

**What's been your most memorable moment as Foundation CEO?**

A

It's hard to choose just one! Hearing from a patient or client on the very personal, life-changing impact donor support has had for them and their family always touches my heart.

One of the first times I recall this happening was when Intraoperative Radiation Therapy (IORT) was first made available to patients at our St John of God Subiaco Hospital. IORT delivers a one-time, targeted dose of radiation to breast cancer patients during surgery, meaning a patient can avoid spending weeks receiving traditional radiotherapy.

I still remember the hospital's first-ever IORT patient, Debra, and how grateful she was to donors for making this treatment possible.

I've also been honoured to connect with some very special donors alongside their families during their best and darkest times. One of whom sadly lost his battle to cancer after receiving novel immunotherapy treatment, which gave him another few years of quality life with his beloved family. Supporting oncology trials through philanthropy became a cause that was personal and meaningful for him. His passing was incredibly sad, but it was a privilege and honour to have known him and provide comfort that his legacy could continue in line with his wishes to help future generations of cancer patients. That's something I'll never forget.

Q

**If you could switch roles with any caregiver at St John of God Health Care for a day, who would it be and why?**

A

I have an immense amount of respect and admiration for our nursing caregivers, who I see work incredibly hard each day to deliver care of the highest standard to patients in our hospitals and services. I would consider it an honour to spend time seeing the world through their eyes. I've been a patient myself throughout life's moments in some of our WA hospitals, from celebrating the births of my two children, to having surgery, and I have always been in awe of how the whole team goes above and beyond to ensure every person in their care is treated with compassion and dignity, offering comfort in times of need.

Q

**What are you looking forward to in the final few months of 2024?**

A

Christmas! The festive season is such a special time, where people often feel inspired to reflect on their blessings and find ways to give back to those in need. It's a time when our community truly embraces the spirit of giving, hope and joy, including all of our hospitals and services.

One of my colleagues in the Foundation has quite the collection of Christmas shirts, and we always have office Christmas decoration competitions, both of which always make me smile. I cherish spending Christmas time with family and friends, enjoying the warm weather and joy of the season.

**Do you have a question for Bianca?**

Please write to us at [Foundation@sjog.org.au](mailto:Foundation@sjog.org.au) and we'll do our best to get it in print!

# Family tradition of fundraising continues

Making world-class health care available closer to home

It's back to the future for St John of God Bendigo Hospital's Anna Hill, who is continuing the family tradition of raising funds for excellence in health care.



▲ Anna Hill

Anna is the granddaughter of Frank K. Hill, a respected Bendigo businessman and gifts chairman of the Mount Alvernia Hospital building appeal (now St John of God Bendigo Hospital), who set out to raise \$2 million in 1968. That would be equivalent to \$176 million today, according to the Reserve Bank's inflation calculator.

Anna's grandmother, Bon Hill, was also the first president of the Ladies' Auxiliary and led the hospital's fundraising efforts for 20 years.

Anna is driven to serve her community in the same way as her grandparents, to help ensure state-of-the-art, high quality care, closer to home.

**She is currently leading the campaign to raise \$2 million for a da Vinci Xi surgical robot, which will transform surgery for patients in the Bendigo and Loddon Mallee regions.**

▼ The original brochure from the 1968 fundraising campaign led by Anna's grandfather Frank Hill

**MOUNT ALVERNIA AND ITS WORK**

"... to serve humanity"

**HELP TO MEET ONE OF BENDIGO'S GREATEST NEEDS**

"... nursing skills of the highest order"

"... comfort, care and attention"

Centre Age Press, Bendigo

**LIVING MEMORIALS AND DESIGNATED GIFTS**

The new "Mount Alvernia" building programme offers a splendid opportunity for those able and willing to make substantial gifts to designate living memorials which, together with the other gifts, will cover the whole needs of the project. Each item chosen will be designated with a permanent plaque carrying the inscription desired by the giver.

**HERE ARE SOME OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE — All items are subject to prior reservation at the time of enquiry.**

MAIN ENTRANCE FOYER	\$5,000	MATERNITY SECTION:	
CHAIRMAN'S ROOM	\$20,000	6 Bed Children's Ward	\$6,000
CASUALTY DEPARTMENT	\$20,000	2 Bed Intensive Care Ward	\$2,000
OPERATING THEATRE	\$5,000	1 Bed Wards (6 available)	each \$2,000
NURSES' TRAINING DEMONSTRATION ROOM	\$2,000	3 Cot Premature Nursery	\$2,000
SURGICAL WARD	\$2,000	2 Bed Wards (4 available)	each \$1,500
6 Bed Children's Ward (plus 2 cot cubicles)	\$6,000	3 Bed Ward	\$1,750
2 Bed Intensive Care Ward	\$2,000	Day Room	\$1,500
4 Bed Wards (4 available)	each \$2,000	MEDICAL SECTION:	
2 Major Operating Theatres	\$10,000	1 Bed Wards (6 available)	each \$2,000
		2 Bed Wards (8 available)	each \$1,500

The gift values listed do not represent the actual cost of construction but rather the measure of concern of the givers, both to the work of "Mount Alvernia" and to the particular designation itself. A selected item may, if desired, be reserved on behalf of an intending giver, to facilitate discussion with other interested parties. Further information may be secured from the Appeal Office.

**ITEMS ALREADY DESIGNATED**

Main Hospital Kitchen	\$4,000	The Sisters and Priests of the Bendigo Diocese	
Four Bed Children's Ward	\$4,000	Mr. C. X. Taylor in the name of "The Taylor Family"	
Stater's Dining Room	\$3,000	In the name of Golden Drive and Plaza Theatres	
Three Bed Surgical Recovery Ward	\$2,000	In the name of "The Favolaro Family"	
Nurses' Lecture Hall	\$4,000	Mr. & Mrs. F. K. Hill	
Two Bed Intensive Ward	\$2,000	Dr. J. A. Kelly	

**THE APPEAL ORGANIZATION**

Mr. E. Sanderson Appeal President	Mr. J. C. O'Brien Treasurer
Mr. K. Houlden Advances Gifts Chairman	Miss J. C. O'Brien Nurses' Gifts Chairman
Dr. W. John Long & Mr. J. F. Hill Joint Memorial Gifts Chairman	Mr. C. X. Taylor Appeal Committee Chairman
Mr. G. Gallagher Divisional Chairman	Mr. L. Gordon Nurses' Gifts Chairman
	Dr. J. A. Kelly Sponsors' Committee Chairman

**TAXATION ADVANTAGES OF GIFTS TO THE APPEAL**

Taxable Income	Gift	Will Save in Tax Each Year
\$5000	64	\$130
\$10000	78	\$156
\$15000	94	\$190
\$20000	112	\$244
\$25000	130	\$298
\$30000	148	\$352
\$35000	166	\$406
\$40000	184	\$460
\$45000	202	\$514
\$50000	220	\$568
\$55000	238	\$622
\$60000	256	\$676
\$65000	274	\$730
\$70000	292	\$784
\$75000	310	\$838
\$80000	328	\$892
\$85000	346	\$946
\$90000	364	\$1000
\$95000	382	\$1054
\$100000	400	\$1108
\$105000	418	\$1162
\$110000	436	\$1216
\$115000	454	\$1270
\$120000	472	\$1324
\$125000	490	\$1378
\$130000	508	\$1432
\$135000	526	\$1486
\$140000	544	\$1540
\$145000	562	\$1594
\$150000	580	\$1648
\$155000	598	\$1702
\$160000	616	\$1756
\$165000	634	\$1810
\$170000	652	\$1864
\$175000	670	\$1918
\$180000	688	\$1972
\$185000	706	\$2026
\$190000	724	\$2080
\$195000	742	\$2134
\$200000	760	\$2188
\$205000	778	\$2242
\$210000	796	\$2296
\$215000	814	\$2350
\$220000	832	\$2404
\$225000	850	\$2458
\$230000	868	\$2512
\$235000	886	\$2566
\$240000	904	\$2620
\$245000	922	\$2674
\$250000	940	\$2728
\$255000	958	\$2782
\$260000	976	\$2836
\$265000	994	\$2890
\$270000	1012	\$2944
\$275000	1030	\$2998
\$280000	1048	\$3052
\$285000	1066	\$3106
\$290000	1084	\$3160
\$295000	1102	\$3214
\$300000	1120	\$3268
\$305000	1138	\$3322
\$310000	1156	\$3376
\$315000	1174	\$3430
\$320000	1192	\$3484
\$325000	1210	\$3538
\$330000	1228	\$3592
\$335000	1246	\$3646
\$340000	1264	\$3700
\$345000	1282	\$3754
\$350000	1300	\$3808
\$355000	1318	\$3862
\$360000	1336	\$3916
\$365000	1354	\$3970
\$370000	1372	\$4024
\$375000	1390	\$4078
\$380000	1408	\$4132
\$385000	1426	\$4186
\$390000	1444	\$4240
\$395000	1462	\$4294
\$400000	1480	\$4348
\$405000	1498	\$4402
\$410000	1516	\$4456
\$415000	1534	\$4510
\$420000	1552	\$4564
\$425000	1570	\$4618
\$430000	1588	\$4672
\$435000	1606	\$4726
\$440000	1624	\$4780
\$445000	1642	\$4834
\$450000	1660	\$4888
\$455000	1678	\$4942
\$460000	1696	\$4996
\$465000	1714	\$5050
\$470000	1732	\$5104
\$475000	1750	\$5158
\$480000	1768	\$5212
\$485000	1786	\$5266
\$490000	1804	\$5320
\$495000	1822	\$5374
\$500000	1840	\$5428
\$505000	1858	\$5482
\$510000	1876	\$5536
\$515000	1894	\$5590
\$520000	1912	\$5644
\$525000	1930	\$5698
\$530000	1948	\$5752
\$535000	1966	\$5806
\$540000	1984	\$5860
\$545000	2002	\$5914
\$550000	2020	\$5968
\$555000	2038	\$6022
\$560000	2056	\$6076
\$565000	2074	\$6130
\$570000	2092	\$6184
\$575000	2110	\$6238
\$580000	2128	\$6292
\$585000	2146	\$6346
\$590000	2164	\$6400
\$595000	2182	\$6454
\$600000	2200	\$6508
\$605000	2218	\$6562
\$610000	2236	\$6616
\$615000	2254	\$6670
\$620000	2272	\$6724
\$625000	2290	\$6778
\$630000	2308	\$6832
\$635000	2326	\$6886
\$640000	2344	\$6940
\$645000	2362	\$6994
\$650000	2380	\$7048
\$655000	2398	\$7102
\$660000	2416	\$7156
\$665000	2434	\$7210
\$670000	2452	\$7264
\$675000	2470	\$7318
\$680000	2488	\$7372
\$685000	2506	\$7426
\$690000	2524	\$7480
\$695000	2542	\$7534
\$700000	2560	\$7588
\$705000	2578	\$7642
\$710000	2596	\$7696
\$715000	2614	\$7750
\$720000	2632	\$7804
\$725000	2650	\$7858
\$730000	2668	\$7912
\$735000	2686	\$7966
\$740000	2704	\$8020
\$745000	2722	\$8074
\$750000	2740	\$8128
\$755000	2758	\$8182
\$760000	2776	\$8236
\$765000	2794	\$8290
\$770000	2812	\$8344
\$775000	2830	\$8398
\$780000	2848	\$8452
\$785000	2866	\$8506
\$790000	2884	\$8560
\$795000	2902	\$8614
\$800000	2920	\$8668
\$805000	2938	\$8722
\$810000	2956	\$8776
\$815000	2974	\$8830
\$820000	2992	\$8884
\$825000	3010	\$8938
\$830000	3028	\$8992
\$835000	3046	\$9046
\$840000	3064	\$9100
\$845000	3082	\$9154
\$850000	3100	\$9208
\$855000	3118	\$9262
\$860000	3136	\$9316
\$865000	3154	\$9370
\$870000	3172	\$9424
\$875000	3190	\$9478
\$880000	3208	\$9532
\$885000	3226	\$9586
\$890000	3244	\$9640
\$895000	3262	\$9694
\$900000	3280	\$9748
\$905000	3298	\$9802
\$910000	3316	\$9856
\$915000	3334	\$9910
\$920000	3352	\$9964
\$925000	3370	\$10018
\$930000	3388	\$10072
\$935000	3406	\$10126
\$940000	3424	\$10180
\$945000	3442	\$10234
\$950000	3460	\$10288
\$955000	3478	\$10342
\$960000	3496	\$10396
\$965000	3514	\$10450
\$970000	3532	\$10504
\$975000	3550	\$10558
\$980000	3568	\$10612
\$985000	3586	\$10666
\$990000	3604	\$10720
\$995000	3622	\$10774
\$1000000	3640	\$10828

**WE NEED A MODERN PRIVATE HOSPITAL**

**BUILDING...**

**FOR NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE**

**APPEAL OFFICE:**  
Shamrock Buildings,  
304 Williamson Street,  
Bendigo, Vic. 3550  
Telephone 2.1663

**"MT. ALVERNIA" HOSPITAL  
BENDIGO, VICTORIA  
BUILDING APPEAL  
1968**



Anna, who is the hospital's Director of Marketing and Business Development, was born at Mount Alvernia Hospital along with her two older brothers, Francis and William.

*"I'm proud of the family tradition and feel it's an honour and a privilege to follow in the footsteps of my philanthropic grandparents," Anna said.*

*"The da Vinci Xi is a breakthrough in surgical technology that will enable high precision cancer surgery for patients in Bendigo and the Central Victorian region without the need to travel to Melbourne.*

***"Every dollar that is donated will enable us to innovate and improve our community's care."***

The da Vinci Xi will enhance St John of God Bendigo Hospital's capabilities for prostate surgery, colorectal surgery, thoracic surgery, and renal and gynaecological surgical procedures.



▲ Bon Hill (centre) - President, Mount Alvernia Ladies' Auxiliary 1967

► Frank K. Hill - Gifts Chairman, Mount Alvernia Hospital Building Appeal 1968

**Please donate online now at [sjogfoundation.org.au/donate-Bendigo](http://sjogfoundation.org.au/donate-Bendigo) or by calling St John of God Foundation on 1800 281 288.**



Over the past seven years Mt. Alvernia has become accepted as a "community" hospital. Bendigo needs more hospital beds and this hospital has to expand if it is to cope properly with the demands being made upon it. I commend this appeal to you.

*E. Sanders*  
(E. Sanders)  
APPEAL PRESIDENT

Although fully approved by the Government through the Hospitals and Charities Commission, the new Hospital project does not benefit by any direct Government grant or building subsidy. The Committee is therefore appealing for substantial assistance from the residents of Bendigo and District.

There is no doubt in my mind that this important community project will evoke a ready and generous response from everyone and that its success will be assured. I commend the Appeal to you.

*L. J. Gordon*  
(L. J. Gordon)  
SPECIAL GIFTS CHAIRMAN



## We commend this appeal to you!



The nurses who conduct Mt. Alvernia have demonstrated their tremendous faith in the future of our city on days going ahead with plans to build a Hospital which will cost approximately \$2,000,000. They have made financial arrangements to cover the greater part of this amount. However, they are seeking the generous support of the people of Bendigo and District to provide the balance. This wonderful display of confidence represents a challenge to every citizen to recognize the opportunity to help.

*A. J. Murphy*  
(A. J. Murphy)  
APPEAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



It is perfectly obvious, after investigation and obtaining expert advice, that a new Mount Alvernia Hospital is a necessity if Bendigo is to be adequately served by a modern private hospital. In all public facilities, we must look to the future, and it is a fact that Bendigo will develop enormously. The dedicated and devoted Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood have shown clearly their confidence and faith in Bendigo by their presence here and have backed it with their determination to provide us with a new hospital. The amount required from the community of the total cost of the project is relatively small. We cannot and must not let them down.

*(F. K. Hill)*  
(F. K. Hill)  
INITIAL GIFTS CHAIRMAN

## WHY THE APPEAL?

- Since the opening of Mount Alvernia in 1961 with an initial capacity of 20 beds, the Hospital has provided Medical, Surgical and Maternity Services. With the addition of a "Basin Block" and further bed accommodation, it can now offer private and semi-private wards for 30 patients. (This includes a separate 8-Bed Children's Ward).
- Of the remaining 42 beds available for adult patients, more than one half, 24 beds in fact, are in the form of individual single-bed private wards — a feature considered vital in the performance of the true community role of "Mount Alvernia" as a private hospital.
- A lot of people would not be aware of the "problems" at present being encountered by the Sisters at Mount Alvernia.
- There is no doubt that, if certain circumstances were allowed to continue it would be difficult for the Sisters to maintain their present high standards of hospital service.
- FIRSTLY**, the present Hospital has as its "focus" an old building which was never designed to be used as a Hospital.
- SECONDLY**, subsequent "piece-meal" additions of extra facilities and ward accommodation have been planned and executed by the dictates of "necessity" rather than evolved purely as logical facilities to fit in with the needs of long-term expansion.
- THIRDLY**, at the present time, Mount Alvernia is hampered with the handicap of being "too small". The fact is that it simply is not BIG ENOUGH to enable it to operate at the point of maximum efficiency?

## Bendigo needs the Best Private Hospital

- The Sisters are willing to strain their financial resources to the utmost to make this possible.
- They are demonstrating their confidence in Bendigo and its future by adding just on \$2 million to its immediate development.
- As a rapidly-growing Provincial City, Bendigo should no longer be expected to put up with "second best" as far as private hospital facilities are concerned.
- Bendigo has been favoured with the establishment here of medical specialists of the highest repute — and we want to attract still more. We can only do this if we have local hospital resources of comparable standard and capacity.

## HERE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY

To prove that Mt. Alvernia's confidence in Bendigo & District is not misplaced

- Every citizen.
- Every business or industry.
- Every company, or firm, or profession will be given an opportunity to support this appeal.
- A personal approach will be made to you by a "follow-up" person (who himself has already subscribed a generous gift). He will be prepared to discuss any aspect of the appeal with you.
- TAXATION BENEFITS — ALL BUS. SUBSCRIBERS TO THE APPEAL ARE DEDUCTIBLE FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES. Official receipts will be issued for all monies received. (EXAMPLES OF TAXATION BENEFITS ARE GIVEN OVERLEAF).
- OUR PLAN PROVIDES FOR MAKING SUBSCRIPTIONS OVER THREE YEARS, THAT IS FOUR TAXATION YEARS. IF DESIRED, Givers are thus able to make their subscriptions as generous as they would wish, without the limitations of an immediate cash donation.
- Remember, your visitor, who is a member of our Appeal Committee, will discuss the project with you. He will suggest that you complete a subscription card indicating a generous gift OF YOUR OWN CHOICE. This card is merely a record of your gift, and how you plan to pay it. It is, of course, in no way a legally binding commitment.
- MEMORIAL AND DESIGNATED GIFTS ARE AVAILABLE. Some are listed on the back of this brochure. Apply to the Appeal Office for further details.

... Your decision now means much to the future of Bendigo and District

**It depends on YOU!**

## Answers to your questions

- WHAT WILL THE NEW HOSPITAL COST?**  
The estimated cost of Stage 1, a three-storey building, will be about \$2,000,000.
- WHERE WILL THE MONEY COME FROM?**  
Financial arrangements made by the Sisters will supply the greater part of the finance needed. The public of Bendigo and District are invited to contribute as generously as possible so that borrowing will be kept to a minimum and interest payments reduced accordingly.
- HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO BUILD?**  
Tenders will be called for early in 1969 and the Architects estimate that Stage 1 will be completed within 17 months of the signing of the contract.
- HOW MANY PATIENTS WILL BE ACCOMMODATED?**  
The plans provide for 120 beds being available on completion of Stage 1. Stage 2 will provide a further 100 beds in a two-storey addition to the Hospital when needed.
- WILL THE HOSPITAL CARE FOR ALL?**  
The new "Mount Alvernia" will be available for all who need hospital care regardless of race, colour or creed.
- WILL THE NEW "MOUNT ALVERNIA" BE A TRAINING HOSPITAL?**  
It is proposed to use the present Hospital building as a Nurses' Home and for the new Hospital to be a general training school for nurses.
- HOW DOES THIS APPEAL DIFFER FROM OTHER APPEALS IN THE AREA?**  
This is a Building Appeal — not an appeal for normal working expenses. Accordingly, gifts will need to be many times larger than those made to familiar annual appeals.
- WILL I BE COMPELLED TO PAY IF CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO FULFIL MY GIFT?**  
No. The subscription may be varied at any time at the option of the giver. Each contribution card clearly states this.
- WILL THE BUILDING BE SUBSIDISED?**  
There has never been any Government subsidy to help with the building costs — no special grants — and no previous direct Appeal to the Bendigo community.

Apart from the assistance rendered initially by the Diocese, the Sisters have handled the cost of the development entirely on their own — and at a time when their Corporation had (and still has) heavy demands upon its resources to finance its hospital and other work in "less privileged" parts of the world.

Moreover, this has been achieved while adhering strictly to a definite policy of restricting patient charges to a level commensurate with those levied for comparable private accommodation in government-supported general hospitals.





*Pictured: St John of God Bunbury Hospital caregivers and Piacentini & Son staff posing with the 'Pink Panther'*

# Why We Give...

**Making a donation to a cause close to your heart can be a deeply personal gesture. We are genuinely grateful when donors share their stories with us, and give us an insight into why they choose to give.**

Donations from generous individuals, families, and organisations directly support the facilities, equipment, and care for people in our hospitals and services. In this edition, we are privileged to share the giving stories of Piacentini & Son, an earthmoving and transport company in WA's South West.

The generosity of Piacentini & Son and their employees, through their Workplace Giving Program, has provided crucial support for cancer patients experiencing financial hardship related to their cancer treatment. We call this support a 'Gift of Hope'.

*"Through supporting Gifts of Hope, we have been able to assist people at often the most vulnerable moment of their lives,"* said Alison Piacentini.

*"It's great to know we have been able to make a difference."*

In honour of the many Australians diagnosed with breast cancer each year,

Piacentini & Son has also painted a new 'Panther Series II Low Loader' vehicle completely pink. Affectionately known as the 'Pink Panther', this vehicle symbolises the community's fundraising efforts. Over \$105,000 has been raised through raffles, events, and merchandise sales for breast cancer treatments and care at St John of God Bunbury Hospital.

Thanks to the incredible efforts of the Piacentini & Son community, these funds will support the establishment of a metastatic nurse to assist regional breast cancer patients with terminal diagnoses. Additionally, the funds will help purchase a chemotherapy cooling cap and a SOZO machine to address lymphedema issues.

Alison says that they felt inspired to give after experiencing firsthand the amazing care at St John of God Bunbury Hospital.

*"Unfortunately, many of our employees have personally experienced firsthand or been witness to the insidious disease of breast cancer and its impact on loved ones,"* said Alison Piacentini.

*"We felt inspired to support cancer care at SJG Bunbury because we believe in supporting organisations in the regions primarily where we provide employment to allow for care and treatment in familiar surrounds, whilst remaining close to family and loved ones during this difficult time."*

**Our sincere thanks to the entire Piacentini & Son team for their generosity and dedication to supporting the South West community.**

**Please visit [www.sjogfoundation.org.au/hope](http://www.sjogfoundation.org.au/hope) to donate to the Gifts of Hope program for cancer patients.**

# Supporting our nurses to provide exceptional care

## Donation from generous partners to enable further education for Subiaco nurses

Thanks to a generous donation from our partners at Maxxia, 15 outstanding nursing caregivers at St John of God Subiaco Hospital have received scholarships to undertake postgraduate studies.

Maxxia's support will mean these caregivers have the opportunity to study and develop their skills across a range of health disciplines including Oncology, Critical Care Management, and Psychology, which will help the hospital to meet the growing demand for health care in the community.

The scholarships were further supported through a partnership between St John of God Health Care and the University of Tasmania that was established in 2023, which offers caregivers access to high-quality, flexible post-graduate courses to support their career progression and development at a subsidised cost, in a wide range of Nursing and Midwifery specialisations.

Vanessa Tran, the Director of Nursing at St John of God Subiaco

Hospital, said the scholarships will benefit not only caregivers, but patients in hospital as well.

*"Patients currently benefit from our excellent nursing care. Having our nursing caregivers continue their education journey and complete postgraduate studies allows them to gain additional knowledge and skills to apply advanced practice to patient care,"* Vanessa said.

*"Our frontline nursing caregivers are so keen and motivated to increase their knowledge through postgraduate studies and some have the financial ability to support their studies, but the majority do not have this luxury. Scholarships will greatly support our frontline nurses who deliver care every day to become even better nurses through ongoing postgraduate studies."*

Scholarship recipient and Nurse Unit Manager, Louise Haliday, said she hopes that the strategies and skills she learns through further study will enable her to better support her team and the patients they care for.

*"I hope that this will give me a much better insight and understanding into the way my team operates within the organisation, and strategies and skills that I can incorporate into my everyday leadership that will support, empower and assist them as individuals and as a team. This in turn will have a positive impact on the caregivers and patients,"* Louise said.

Louise also expressed her heartfelt thanks to Maxxia for making further studies more accessible for caregivers.

*"Thank you, the opportunity to study can come at a large price, and by receiving the funds that have been very generously donated, I have been able to further my professional development and education which will benefit all those who I have contact with."*

**Congratulations to all of the scholarship recipients, and thank you to Maxxia for this wonderful gift!**



Pictured: St John of God Subiaco Hospital caregivers and scholarship recipients, with Rick Sherlock, Maxxia General Manager (far left)



# Caitlyn's inspiring story

How one family gave the most special gift for our littlest patients



▲ Pictured: Caitlyn Jolly, her husband Aaron, and their baby Eleanor

Baby Eleanor was born six weeks premature at St John of God Geelong Hospital in 2021, and spent over twenty days in the hospital's Special Care Nursery.

Eleanor experienced respiratory distress syndrome and needed a specialised procedure that required equipment that was unavailable in Geelong at the time, meaning she had to travel all the way to Melbourne at only a couple of weeks old. If Eleanor could have had this procedure in Geelong, it would have meant that she could stay close to her family.

This distressing and difficult experience deeply affected Eleanor's parents and extended family. Inspired by this, her mother, Caitlyn Jolly, decided to give back by helping other local families access vital care closer to home. Caitlyn dedicated herself to fundraising in support of St John of God Geelong Hospital, to enable the purchase of new video laryngoscope equipment.

*"My hope is that it will help fewer parents be separated from their precious babies when a little extra care is needed,"* Caitlyn said.

*"I'm so grateful to everyone who has shown their support; it really means the world to me."*

Caitlyn created an online fundraising page, 'Eleanor's Gift', to encourage her friends, family and local businesses to give in support of the new equipment – and donations began to pour in. She also organised a silent auction featuring beautiful hampers, thanks to the support of many local businesses across Geelong. The hampers included wine, baby gifts, and wellness and beauty products.

After nearly two years of fundraising, Caitlyn reached her goal and the hospital was able to purchase the vital video laryngoscope equipment for the Special Care Nursery.

To celebrate, the hospital community came together for an afternoon tea event, where Caitlyn, her husband, and their families gathered.

▼ Pictured (R-L): Aaron and Caitlyn Jolly, Dr Kym Anderson, and St John of God Geelong Hospital CEO Stephen Roberts

Dr Kym Anderson, one of the doctors who uses the new equipment, also explained its benefits and the significant impact it will have for the hospital's littlest patients.

**On behalf of St John of God Geelong Hospital caregivers and patients, and especially newborn babies and their families in the Special Care Nursery, our sincerest thanks to Caitlyn, her family and the local community for this incredible show of support. Thanks to Caitlyn's dedication, Geelong families will be able to access the best care close to home for many years to come.**





# Thank you, Telethon!

## Exceptional care for vulnerable babies and their families across WA, thanks to Telethon



St John of God Foundation is thrilled to be a Channel 7 Telethon Trust (Telethon) beneficiary once again in 2024. Telethon funding means that state-of-the-art maternity and paediatric equipment will be available in WA to help provide the very best care for vulnerable babies and their families. This includes:

- ♥ **Three new Neonatal Ventilators** for St John of God Subiaco and Midland Hospitals, to provide vital, temporary ventilation whilst transporting newborn babies with critical or life threatening conditions.
- ♥ Seven Panda Warmers with ResusView for Special Care Nurseries at St John of God Murdoch and Subiaco Hospitals, **keeping babies warm, safe and comfortable** while in hospital.
- ♥ Three baby CPR Mannequin sets for St John of God Murdoch, Midland and Subiaco Hospitals, **helping to prepare caregivers for emergency situations.**
- ♥ An Accuvein Finder for St John of God Midland Hospital, to help caregivers find veins as quickly and safely as possible, **reducing anxiety and distress in young patients.**
- ♥ An **Airvo Respiratory Device** for St John of God Murdoch Hospital

Dr Noel Friesen, Head of Department, Paediatric Medicine – St John of God Midland Hospital, said the new equipment will have a multitude of benefits for patients in the local community.

*"We will be able to train our doctors with cutting edge equipment to maximise outcomes during neonatal resuscitation, provide ventilation to babies born prematurely which will protect their lungs, and to support infants, toddlers, and preschool children who have respiratory infections with a piece of equipment that now makes transportation easier while their breathing is supported,"* Dr Friesen said.

▲ *Pictured: St John of God Foundation caregivers with Channel 7 mascot and Perth icon, Fat Cat*

Dr Friesen also expressed his thanks to Telethon for helping to make this possible.

*"A very sincere expression of thanks as this equipment will really help us continue providing high quality care when it comes to resuscitation of neonates and in their post-resuscitation care. Additionally, some of the other items of equipment will have a big impact on our ability to manage paediatric respiratory infections, our most common reason for admission, when those patients deteriorate. What I'm most grateful for is that we can give the people of this area, many of whom are disadvantaged, the highest quality of health care."*

In the past year, Telethon has also supported St John of God Murdoch Hospital with the provision of a baby ventilator for the Special Care Nursery, as well as providing a fetal monitoring machine at St John of God Subiaco Hospital.

**"We are incredibly proud to partner with Telethon again this year, and are grateful for their ongoing commitment to WA families,"** said St John of God Foundation CEO Bianca Pietralla.

Thank you, Telethon, for your ongoing support for families in our WA hospitals!



*Pictured: Maternity Nurse Unit Manager Joan Cunningham demonstrates the new fetal telemetry device*

# Your community cares

## Beanies for babies – by Tess

New babies born at St John of God Geelong Hospital have been gifted some beautiful, colourful, hand-knitted beanies – thanks to a very kind community member.

Tess McKay, from Corio in Victoria, turned to knitting when she found herself with some extra time on her hands last year.



*"I was unwell last year and unable to work, spending a lot of time stuck at home on couch – I felt like I wanted to contribute in some way. I thought if I don't do something, I'll be so bored," Tess said.*

Tess found herself knitting tiny baby beanies, and decided to donate them to families in St John of God Geelong Hospital's Special Care Nursery after a conversation with a caregiver.

*"It's just good to know something that helped me so much will help other people too. I'm not a mum myself (I have my dog) but I know that little newborns - even when not premature or sick - are so tiny and fragile. If I can contribute in any way, then why not?" Tess said.*

*"The beanies are made with love and care – I'm not the best knitter, but I hope they're just a little something to brighten someone's day and bring comfort."*

St John of God Foundation caregiver Rachel Bruechle was particularly moved by Tess's kindness.

*"I had the privilege of speaking to Tess when she first got in contact about her knitting, and then when I saw the photos of the hospital caregivers holding the beanies... I realised how special a gift this truly was. What a wonderful person she is to be thinking of others and making these beautiful gifts for families in the region."*

## How Eleanor rallied her community for a cause

When Eleanor Roderick commenced treatment for Chronic Lymphatic Leukaemia at St John of God Murdoch Hospital Cancer Centre in July 2022, she was terrified of what lay ahead. During her treatment, a journey that continued until the end of August 2023, Eleanor was uplifted by the compassion, respect and support of St John of God Murdoch Hospital Cancer Centre caregivers – so much so, she now calls them her 'angels who illuminated the light of hope'.

*"The support provided to me by the St John of God Murdoch Hospital Cancer Centre staff, who bring their hearts and souls to work each day, resonates deep in my heart. They unconditionally accompanied me on my journey, creating a safe space for me to find inner strength, hope, and courage," said Eleanor.*

Upon completing treatment, Eleanor decided she wanted to show her gratitude. So she reached out to her community – friends, family and colleagues, locally in Perth and overseas – and asked them to donate in honour of the caregivers she had come to know so well.

Eleanor's efforts, and the kindness of her community, raised over \$2,587 in total, which will go towards supporting caregivers to continue to make a difference to the lives of people diagnosed with a life-limiting illness.





## Vroom vroom!

Thanks to a very generous donor, St John of God Geelong Hospital has recently received a very snazzy remote control car for young patients – it even has custom 'SJG' number plates!

For many children, undergoing surgery can be a very scary and distressing experience. One creative way that hospitals can help kids to feel more calm and comfortable is by allowing them to 'drive' themselves into surgery – like little Freddie, pictured here taking the car for its very first test drive.

This new car will help to bring smiles to our littlest patients and ease their anxiety while in hospital.



## Running for a Reason!

The 2024 'HBF Run for a Reason' event brought together 422 of our dedicated caregivers, a new record for St John of God Health Care.

Many caregivers and members of our community also chose St John of God Foundation as their charity of choice this year, and together raised over \$1,400 for community mental health services in WA – thank you to all caregivers who took part in this iconic event!

## Young entrepreneurs choose to give back

Year 6 Students at St Joseph's School in Moora, WA recently held their Market Day, where students were challenged to create a small business that sold a food product and made a profit. Students had to research what our consumers wanted and make the item that most students voted for.

Karu Van Wyk, Tenjah Narrier, Madyx Wilkie and Genevieve Smith created a successful small business, 'Pizza Peeps', which was very popular with their peers! (*Editor's note: Excellent alliteration there!*) With the profits from their pizza business, they decided to make a donation to St John of God Foundation.

*"We chose you as our charity to donate to because you guys have created an amazing health care and education service. We hope that this donation will keep your services running for a long time. We are from a Catholic primary school, and we chose your Catholic foundation because it was our favourite and you stand for everything we learn about at our school,"* they said.

A big Foundation thank you to Karu, Tenjah, Madyx and Genevieve (a.k.a. Pizza Peeps) for their amazing efforts and generosity!







# Generous donor support boosts vital community service



The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation has partnered with St John of God Midland Hospital and East Metropolitan Health Service to revamp and revitalise a crucial service delivering culturally appropriate perinatal care to Aboriginal mothers and newborns.

Moort Boodjari Mia, which translates to 'Family Pregnancy House' in Noongar language, is a service that provides education and support for pregnancy, health and parenting to reduce social and individual risk factors that can affect the health of mothers and children.

Supported by Aboriginal caregivers working alongside professional midwives, the service prioritises family involvement and the role of grandmothers and aunts in providing a positive environment for a child's upbringing.

St John of God Midland Public Hospital's Aboriginal Maternity Group Coordinator Jodee Hollingsworth, who is also a clinical midwife, said that Moort Boodjari Mia has been actively working with women and families to provide education surrounding healthy pregnancies.

*"We have seen a rise in the average gestation at delivery to 38.8 weeks and the average birthweight has risen to 3401.6g in the second quarter of 2023. This is well above the national average of 372 weeks and 3265g, confirming we are on target to meet the National Closing the Gap targets," she said.*

Thanks to the generous support of the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation, Moort Boodjari Mia will receive vital upgrades, including the creation of a culturally appropriate waiting room, an educational area, and a clinical treatment space.



This funding will also enable the hospital to reach out to the local community, building relationships to further improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal families in the local area.

Hannah Weir, Associate Director of Philanthropy at St John of God Foundation, said the generous support from Stan Perron Charitable Foundation would help to improve outcomes for children and families for many years to come.

***“We are truly grateful to the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation for their compassion and ongoing commitment to ensuring better health outcomes for our communities.”***

Hannah Weir,  
Associate Director of Philanthropy  
St John of God Foundation

**The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation also generously provided funding for several pieces of vital equipment in St John of God Health Care Hospitals across WA in 2023, helping to bring the very best care to vulnerable babies and children.**





# A remarkable legacy for patients and their families

We are honoured to share the story of Lois Batten, a grateful patient who left a generous legacy gift to support the caregivers, patients, and families at St John of God Warrnambool Hospital, as well as the wider community.

Lois, originally from Adelaide, faced many challenges in her life. In 1980, a serious motor vehicle accident left her in a coma for several months, with a poor prognosis. When she awoke, she had severe injuries and reduced mobility, making her fully dependent on supported care — first from her devoted parents, and later from professional care homes.

Throughout her life, Lois also experienced the compassionate care provided by St John of God Warrnambool Hospital. In gratitude for this support, she decided to leave a special gift in her Will.



Lois' legacy gift will fund essential upgrades at the hospital, including new surgical equipment, a chemotherapy treatment chair, and gym equipment to aid in patient recovery from illness and surgery. These improvements will enhance the already excellent care provided and benefit the health of the entire community.

*"It is truly inspiring that Lois, despite her many hardships, still chose to give back to her community and leave a lasting legacy,"* says Preema Wong, Director of Philanthropy at St John of God Foundation.

*"When planning our Wills, we can all consider the impact of our legacy. No matter the size of the gift, it can make a difference and help shape the future of health care and the lives of patients."*

Lois' generosity will be felt for years to come, and her story is a powerful reminder of the enduring impact one person can have on the lives of many.

**Leaving a legacy gift in your Will can help St John of God Health Care meet the growing needs of patients in our communities.**

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**By choosing an area of support that's meaningful to you, you can help to ensure the very best health care is available for people in their time of greatest need, now and into the future.**

**We welcome you to contact Preema on 0427 526 899 or email [Preema.Wong@sjog.org.au](mailto:Preema.Wong@sjog.org.au) for a confidential discussion on how leaving a gift in your Will can create a lasting legacy.**



# Celebrating 30 years of life-changing outcomes

30  
years

In June, we celebrated St John of God Foundation's 30 year anniversary, and three decades of your incredible support helping to improve health outcomes for the communities we serve.

It was an opportunity for our team to come together, reflect and celebrate the impact of our incredible donors – that's you! – and the impact of your generosity on frontline caregivers, patients and clients, and the community as a whole.



St John of God Foundation caregivers and Foundation Board Chair Tony Howarth AO gather to celebrate the 30th anniversary milestone



CEO Bianca Pietralla reflects on the Foundation's 30th anniversary and the power of philanthropy to transform health care in the July 8 edition of Business News



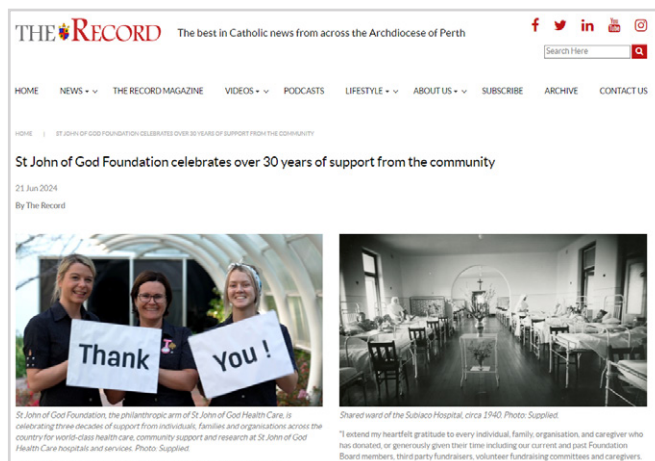
St John of God Foundation Board Chair Tony Howarth AO and CEO Bianca Pietralla cut the cake



30th birthday decorations at our Perth office



Our 'birthday cake'!



Celebrating our history and donor impact in the Catholic Record - June 2024



# Hope is in your hands

If you would like to know more about how leaving a gift in your Will can create a life-changing health care legacy for future generations, please contact Preema Wong for a confidential discussion:

**Preema Wong**

**T: 0427 526 899**

**E: [Preema.Wong@sjog.org.au](mailto:Preema.Wong@sjog.org.au)**

## Together, we can change lives

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Scan here or visit our website to donate today:  
[www.sjogfoundation.org.au/donate](http://www.sjogfoundation.org.au/donate)



**ST JOHN OF GOD**  
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Transforming health care for **humanity**

