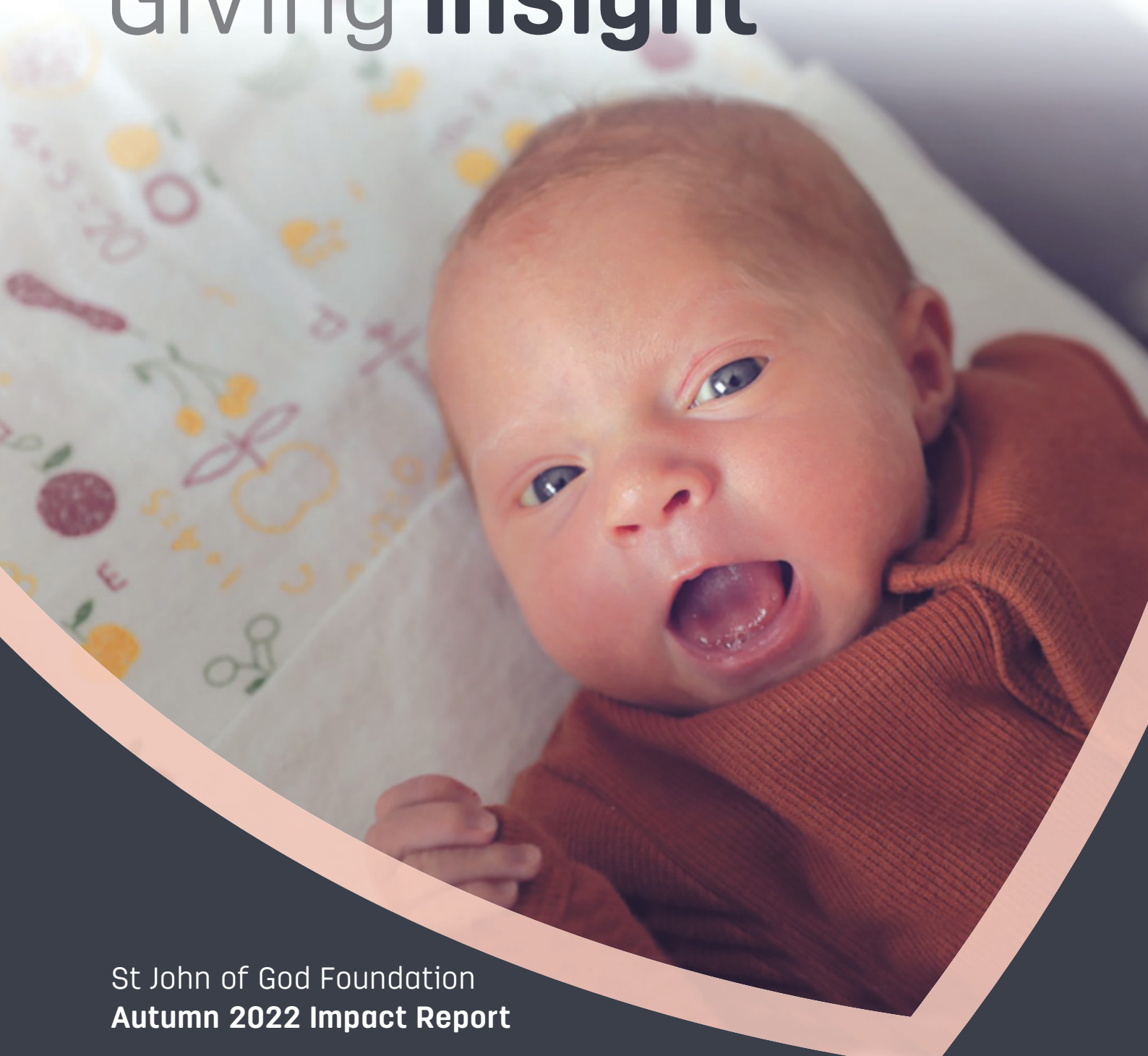


Giving Insight



St John of God Foundation Autumn 2022 Impact Report

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Donor-funded equipment changes lives
- Your amazing impact at Christmas time
- An update on Cuddle Beds made possible by our compassionate community
- PLUS: An exciting opportunity to support new bubs and their parents



ST JOHN OF GOD
Foundation

Transforming health care for **humanity**

A message from Bianca Pietralla, Chief Executive Officer



Hello friends,

It may only be early in the new year, but the many wonderful stories of patient care and medical innovation across St John of God hospitals are ongoing, and it's a privilege to continue to shine a light on how your support makes a big difference to us.

Your generosity to our recent Christmas Appeal has brought hope, comfort and care to patients across Australia when they need it most. Thanks to your kindness we raised over \$35,000 for advanced cancer treatment, financial support for in-need patients suffering with serious illness, and more.

We have been able to provide more Gifts of Hope to cancer patients and have undertaken Cuddle Bed trials across Western Australia and Victoria to provide comfort and connection to patients and their loved ones. You have also enabled us to fund innovative equipment for St John of God Ballarat Hospital. Thank you!

Your giving has inspired many patients and caregivers, who have shared their stories in this issue.

I'm also excited to share our plans to transform care for newborns and their parents at St John of God Geelong Hospital.

I hope you enjoy reading these stories as much as we enjoy sharing them.

Again, thank you so much for your ongoing support – it makes a very real difference, every single day.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Pietralla".

Bianca Pietralla
Chief Executive Officer
St John of God Foundation



**Do you have a story
you'd like to share,
or a message of
thanks to St John of
God caregivers?**

We'd love to hear
from you! Read more
on page 4.



Delivering outstanding care for new bubs and their parents

An exciting new project is on the horizon for St John of God Geelong Hospital, which will focus on enhancing the hospital's Maternity Unit, delivering outstanding comfort and care to new parents, babies and their families.

St John of God Geelong Hospital places great emphasis on high quality clinical care, advancements in technology and the delivery of contemporary service and care. As a leading provider of maternity services in Australia, the hospital is privileged to support parents during the precious first days with their newborn.

This project will include the redevelopment of the Maternity Unit, as well as providing specialised equipment, the creation of a specialised out-patient centre and education programs for caregivers and new parents. This will enable the highest quality of care and comfort for new babies and their parents, support the incredibly important parent-baby bonding experience, and nurturing greater preparedness for parents when leaving the hospital.

With the help of local businesses, philanthropic partners, and our amazing community of compassionate supporters, together we can continue to provide outstanding care and comfort closer to home for families in Greater Geelong and surrounds, now and into the future.

For more information or to discuss how you can contribute to this wonderful project, please contact Bec Takle on 0498 464 298 or Bec.Takle@sjog.org.au

Why I Give...

We are so lucky to have a dedicated community who generously support transformational patient initiatives at our hospitals. A community of people just like you, who are kind and passionate, and care deeply about delivering excellence in health care, education and research.

We asked one of our wonderful donors, Mr Hans-Dieter Meyer, to share the story behind why he chooses to give.



"Thirty years ago, our GP booked an operation for me. He recommended to do it at St John of God hospital, because all of his patients were very well treated there. Over the years since then, my wife Herma, my mother-in-law, our son Robert and myself have had operations and treatments at St John of God," says Mr Meyer.

"The doctors were very experienced and understanding. The nurses very friendly and helpful."

Mr Meyer and his family later decided they wanted to show their appreciation to the hospitals that had cared for them over the years.

"We decided to give back a little bit. And we will continue that for the rest of our lives.

"My parents told me when I was young, 'A hand that does not give, will not receive.' "

Mr Meyer says he hopes that St John of God Health Care will continue to care for his family when they need it, for many years to come.



▲ Pictured: Mr Hans-Dieter Meyer

**Do you have a story of your own you'd like to share?
Please contact Hayley at Foundation@sjog.org.au
or by calling 1800 281 288.**

Glitzy evening raises over \$20,000 for patients in need

In October, caregivers at St John of God Bunbury Hospital hosted the 'All That Glitters Is Gold' Gala Ball, a glamorous night of dressing up and dancing for a good cause.

The annual ball raised over \$20,000, with guests invited to take part in a number of fundraising activities. For the first time, the Ball included a wall of 100 glasses of champagne - 99 of which contained a cubic zirconia gem, and one which contained a genuine diamond. Guests could purchase a glass of champagne for a donation of \$100 for their chance to win the diamond. Guests could also join in the silent and live auctions, raffle, and lolly buffet, with prizes kindly donated by event sponsors and major donors including All Wood WA Cabinets, Willie Creek Pearls, Madeline's Jewellery by Design, and Century 21 Advance Realty Bunbury.

Funds raised at the ball will help to support patient treatment through St John of God Foundation's 'Gifts of Hope' initiative. A Gift of Hope is a gift of financial support provided to in-need patients suffering from a life-threatening condition, such as cancer (read more about this on page 8).

"Our Bunbury caregivers have always undertaken an annual fundraising activity to support the delivery of cancer care in the region. The Gifts of Hope was seen as a positive opportunity to support individuals undergoing cancer and help relieve the challenges a patient can have with some of the cost of accessing new expensive types of medical treatment," says St John of God Bunbury CEO Jeffrey Williams.

"The ability to be able to support our patients when they are experiencing these challenges through some financial support goes a long way to relieve the anxiety and stress associated with treatment. The Gift of Hope program can directly support a person to access potentially life-changing treatment during their time of greatest need."

Congratulations to St John of God Bunbury caregivers for hosting this amazing event and making a real difference for in-need patients and their families.

If you would like to help us support patients in need through the Gifts of Hope program, please contact us on 1800 281 288.

▼ *Bunbury caregivers recently held their annual Gala Ball, fundraising for patients in need.*



▶ Geelong frontline caregivers will receive visits from the new Kindness Cart



Rolling out some extra kindness in Geelong

Since the declaration of the pandemic was first made by the World Health Organisation over two years ago, COVID-19 has placed significant demands on frontline healthcare workers, many of whom have often put their own needs aside in their commitment to caring for their patients.

In these challenging times, we all know how important it is to look after our wellbeing, and that it is often the little things that have the most impact. For our caregivers who spend long days wearing protective equipment, a small act of kindness can be a simple but meaningful way to acknowledge their commitment to our community and say 'thank you'.

St John of God Geelong Hospital has launched a 'Kindness Cart', which will move throughout the hospital each day,

delivering much needed healthy and fresh snacks and drinks to caregivers in areas experiencing high patient activity.

The Kindness Cart was made possible thanks to generous donations from local businesses, Kane Construction and DBS Homes. On behalf of all St John of God Geelong caregivers, we extend our sincerest thanks to these compassionate donors for their support of this initiative, and for making a real difference for hospital caregivers on the frontline.

Spreading Christmas joy

Thank you for supporting our 2021 Christmas Appeal and bringing festive joy to patients and caregivers.

Over the Christmas and New Year period donations to our Christmas appeal supported a number of areas across St John of God Health Care.

Your kindness, and the kindness of people like you, will help to bring hope to patients all over Australia through:

- **Better health outcomes**
for cancer patients through innovative research, technology and treatment
- **More Cuddle Beds**
to bring comfort and connection to patients in palliative care and their loved ones
- **Offering Gifts of Hope**
to provide support to in-need patients suffering from life-threatening conditions such as cancer
- **Providing advanced treatment options**
and better health outcomes for patients where it is needed the most.

We also asked our community to send a special festive message of hope to patients and caregivers, and the results were simply wonderful. Some hospitals also displayed these messages on "Giving Trees", where visitors could also leave messages and make donations.

You can read some of these lovely messages below:

Thank you to all the many nurses, doctors, and all the devoted people working in all areas of St John, and the many patients. A very merry Christmas to you.

A blessed and joyous Christmas to all caregivers and patients.

For better health, peace and God's continued help + love, is my divine wish for all for 2022.

To all the people who need our support, I wish you God's care and that your Christmas will be a happy one. My prayers for you all. God bless.





▶ Left to Right:
Alex Demidov (CEO, St John of God Ballarat Hospital), Mark Harris (Director of Emergency Medicine), Maureen Waddington (Director of Mission Integration), Andrew Oliver (Oliver Family Foundation).

Life-changing equipment for Ballarat Emergency Department

The Oliver family has had a deep connection to the Ballarat community for over 100 years.

For generations, their family business has manufactured safety footwear for people from all walks of life - from boots for local goldminers in the late 1800s, to modern personal protective equipment (PPE) for workers all over the world.

The Oliver family has always been active members of the local community, and passionate supporters of local organisations, including hospitals. In 2021, they provided generous philanthropic support to St John of God Ballarat Hospital, which enabled the purchase of an innovative new mobile ultrasound machine for the Emergency Department (ED).

With the ED experiencing increasing demand on a daily basis, this new machine allows emergency physicians to perform ultrasounds on patients in real time. The machine allows for more sophisticated diagnostic testing for a range of conditions – from severe trauma, to cardiac conditions, to issues during pregnancy.

The machine also means patients can be treated more quickly, and may even decrease the amount of time patients are required to stay in ED. This has a flow on effect to ED wait times, so more patients can be seen in a shorter period of time.

"It was great to see the ultrasound machine and to hear about how valuable it has been for the Emergency Department, and for the patients who have been treated using this machine," said Andrew Oliver, of the Oliver Family Foundation.

We are exceptionally grateful that our community is made up of compassionate individuals and philanthropic leaders like the Oliver Family, and we thank them for their generous support.



Bringing hope to critically ill patients

For patients like Felicity*, being diagnosed with a life-threatening condition like cancer can be made even more distressing by the sometimes prohibitive cost of accessing treatments not covered by health insurance or pharmaceutical benefits schemes.

New medical discoveries, including drugs and specialised equipment, can help patients to live longer and to experience less pain or other debilitating symptoms. However, these treatments can often be costly and out of reach of many Australians, especially if they are facing personal challenges in addition to their illness.

Felicity, who is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer, also has a 12 year old son to care for.

**An alias has been used to protect this patient's privacy.*

Her husband has a serious disability following a sudden cerebral haemorrhage, and they have no other family in the state to help them out. For families like Felicity's, a Gift of Hope can be life-changing.

A Gift of Hope is a gift of financial support provided to in-need Australians suffering from a life-threatening condition, such as cancer. This Gift directly supports patients like Felicity in their time of greatest need.

Dr Andrew Dean, Head of the Medical Oncology Department at St John of God Subiaco Hospital, is a leader in oncology care and research. Dr Dean also regularly participates in international clinical trials and continues to be a major contributor to pancreatic, lung and ovarian cancer studies. He has also seen firsthand the difference a Gift of Hope can make to someone like Felicity.

“

Thanks to a Gift of Hope, she has been able to access advanced care. It allowed her to receive a new, unfunded treatment that she may not have had access to otherwise.”

- Dr Andrew Dean

It is only thanks to the compassion and generosity of our wonderful donor community that we are able to give hope to people like Felicity in their time of need.

To support the Gifts of Hope program, please contact us on 1800 281 288.

Providing comfort and connection across Australia

“The meaningful and intimate connection that can be given to critically ill patients with these beds is an immeasurable gift, and can help to remove physical barriers for loved ones during end of life care.”

Karan Lane

Nurse Unit Manager, Oncology,
St John of God Health Care



Patients in palliative care can often feel a sense of isolation, even when their loved ones are nearby.

‘Cuddle Beds’ are special hospital beds that can be converted to support two or more people, allowing more connection with loved-ones during end of life care. These simple yet profoundly impactful beds allow families to be as close as possible, and lay together during the precious last days of their loved one’s life.

In a first for WA, St John of God Murdoch Hospital was one of the first health care providers in Australia to offer a Cuddle Bed to patients in palliative care.

By raising funds to support Cuddle Beds in St John of God Health Care hospitals, we hope

to ensure that we can offer this level of care and comfort to as many palliative patients as possible.

With this in mind, we are so very pleased to provide the latest update on our fundraising efforts for Cuddle Beds. Thanks to the generosity of our community, Cuddle Bed trials have been underway in eight St John of God Health Care hospitals in recent months.

The feedback from caregivers overseeing the beds in use has been overwhelmingly supportive.

“Palliative patients and families loved this bed..”

“The family loved using the bed, enjoyed cuddling their Dad and found it comfortable to sleep on.”

“The family enjoyed having time to cuddle their loved one. They found the bed very comfortable and loved having this time with their Mum.”

Thank you for your support and kindness in helping to bring the highest level of comfort and connection to our patients and their families experiencing palliative care. We look forward to continuing to provide updates on the roll out of Cuddle Beds across St John of God Health Care hospitals.

Supporting Innovation and Compassion

St John of God Health Care salary packaging partner, Maxxia, has generously donated \$30,000 towards Cuddle Beds in our hospitals across Australia.

We are grateful to Maxxia for their philanthropic leadership and their commitment in helping to bring greater comfort and connection to patients in palliative care.

“Maxxia’s key purpose is ‘making a difference to people’s lives’, we not only stand by this philosophy in terms of the services we offer our customers but also how we operate within the communities that we serve,” says Maxxia State Manager for Western Australia, Rick Sherlock.

“We have built long-term partnerships with a number of organisations and are delighted to have the opportunity to support the incredible work they do. Donating to St John of God Foundation’s Cuddle Bed Campaign was a tangible way we could support those in our community with the purchase of such innovative and compassionate equipment.”



▲ Patients and caregivers at St John of God Murdoch Hospital will have access to a donor-funded ECG machine.

Supporting ground-breaking research at St John of God Murdoch Hospital

High quality data collection is fundamental to successful clinical trials. Accurate data helps to optimise trial outcomes, improves safety for patients receiving new and potentially experimental therapies, and supports the development of treatments which will help many patients now and into the future.

Thanks to donations from the community, a state-of-the-art electrocardiograph (ECG) machine and vital signs monitor, have recently been purchased for St John of God Murdoch Hospital. This equipment will be dedicated to patients participating in ground-breaking oncology clinical trials conducted by researchers at St John of God Murdoch Hospital and across the globe.

As an example, St John of God Murdoch Hospital was recently involved in a global trial of a cancer drug that can double the disease-free survival time in patients with oesophageal cancer. The drug, which is already approved for other cancers such as Hodgkin's lymphoma, melanoma and kidney cancer, gives hope for people with early-stage oesophageal cancer to be able to live cancer-free for longer. St John of God Murdoch Hospital's Head of Cancer Services, Associate Professor Kynan Feeney, said it was hoped the drug would become the new standard of care.

With the new donor-funded equipment, researchers like A/Prof. Feeney and his team will be able to ensure consistency of data collection, and adherence to the often strict time points required for clinical trials. Patients' records can also be stored on the devices, allowing real-time monitoring for any trends or changes in their health, so that caregivers can optimise the care they provide whilst the patients are participating in clinical research.

The new equipment will also broaden the scope of clinical trials offered at St John of God Murdoch Hospital, providing patients with access to new and innovative treatments that otherwise would not have been available.

On behalf of patients, researchers and caregivers at St John of God Murdoch Hospital, thank you to our amazing community for making safe and innovative research a reality.



Mental health care **closer to home**

St John of God Health Care is proud to be expanding its mental health services with the reopening of the St John of God Langmore Centre. The redeveloped, state-of-the-art centre is expected to open in mid-2022, and will offer the latest evidence-based therapies to help people living with mental health issues.

Even before the pandemic, the demand for mental health services was increasing, so now more than ever the Centre will play a vital role in supporting better community health outcomes.

"One in five Australians live with a mental health condition," says Linda Allen, CEO of the Langmore Centre.

"It is quite possible that someone in our family, a neighbour or someone we know at the local sports club, the local school, or working with us is affected."

Some of the most common mental health conditions include anxiety, depression, and addiction issues, all of which can be debilitating and affect people from all walks of life.

For a person struggling with their mental health, their condition may be exacerbated by having difficulty accessing help when they need it. This can also place additional pressure on loved ones caring for the person experiencing issues.

"It is important that people are able to access and be provided with the right support close to home, in order to focus on improving their quality of life," says Linda.

Research also shows that patients are more likely to respond better to treatment and have a sustained recovery when they have access to early intervention mental health services close to home.

The St John of God Langmore Centre will be located in Berwick and will service the fast-growing South East corridor of Melbourne, providing a specialist community mental health service with both inpatient and outpatient services.

We look forward to bringing you more information on this exciting project as it progresses.

For more information, please contact: Upeka Kumarasinghe, Philanthropy Manager St John of God Berwick Hospital, on 0499 528 095 or Upeka.Kumarasinghe@sjog.org.au.



▲ Artist's impression of a patient room at the new St John of God Langmore Centre.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



ST JOHN OF GOD
Foundation

Transforming health care for **humanity**



DONATE TODAY



Donate online today at:
www.sjogfoundation.org.au/donate



Complete the form below and return to:
**PO Box 5753, St Georges Terrace,
Perth WA 6831**

Yes, I/we would like to support transformational health care for people in need.

Please accept my/our gift of: \$25 \$50 \$100 OR \$ _____

Monthly Donation I'd like to make this a regular gift to maximise my impact.

All donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. St John of God Foundation Trust ABN 64 715 901 441

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Providing your email address allows us to email your tax receipt to you, minimising costs and paper usage.

Payment Details

Please debit the above amount to my credit card **MasterCard** **Visa** **OR** **My cheque / money order is enclosed**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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(made payable to St John of God Foundation)

Card Holder's Name _____ Expiry Date _____ / _____

Signature _____ Date of Birth _____

Please be assured that 100% of your donation will be used as you request.

Please direct my gift towards:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area of greatest need | <input type="checkbox"/> Leading medical and health research | <input type="checkbox"/> A specific St John of God Hospital or Service:
_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovative technology and equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Gifts of Hope for cancer patients | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cuddle Beds for end of life care | | |

LEAVING A LEGACY GIFT

By leaving a gift in your Will to St John of God Foundation, 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.

I am interested in leaving a legacy gift, please contact me at: _____

I have already left a gift in my Will

We respect your privacy. If you would prefer not to receive further materials from St John of God Foundation please contact us on 1800 281 288 or email Foundation@sjog.org.au.