



Generosity in action

2024 St. Luke's Foundation Impact Report

CommonSpirit's mission, vision and values inform every aspect of our work each day, and remind us that we serve our patients, their families, our communities — and also each other.

Our mission

We make the healing presence of God known in our world by improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who are vulnerable, while we advance social justice for all.

Our vision

A healthier future for all — inspired by faith, driven by innovation, and powered by our humanity.

Our values

Compassion

Care with listening, empathy and love.
Accompany and comfort those in need of healing.

Inclusion

Celebrate each person's gifts and voice.
Respect the dignity of all.

Integrity

Inspire trust through honesty.
Demonstrate courage in the face of inequity.

Excellence

Serve with fullest passion, creativity and stewardship.
Exceed expectations of others and ourselves.

Collaboration

Commit to the power of working together.
Build and nurture meaningful relationships.

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A message from leadership

Dear friends,

Inside the pages of this report, you'll read about the compassionate and life-saving generosity of supporters just like you who have helped us carry out our healing mission of humankindness. These stories have made my tenure as chair so gratifying. The foundation is the strongest it's been since its formation in 2011. This past year, we welcomed three new board members, and I am pleased to report that nearly 100 percent of our board members made a gift or a commitment to give this year—the highest percentage of participation ever.

I am grateful to you for making our faith-based health ministry and our hospitals some of the best in the nation. And I am humbled and thankful to have served in this leadership role. Thank you for being part of our philanthropic family.

Stan Marek

Chair, St. Luke's Foundation



Stan Marek
Chair, St. Luke's Foundation

Dear partners,

Every day someone benefits from the generosity of our donors, who are driven—through faith, personal experiences and respect for human dignity—to make a positive difference in the world.

Our work at St. Luke's Foundation is about serving as the bridge that connects humankindness with impact and creating a culture of generosity that has the power to accelerate innovation at our hospitals.

Over the past several years, we've focused on building a robust board, and bolstering a healthy major gift pipeline that will strengthen our annual giving program in 2025. Our strategic plan includes growing Baylor St. Luke's into the premier academic medical center in Texas through transformational investments in academics and research, technology, and our facilities.

We're deeply grateful to all of you, whose generosity helps our hospitals provide the exceptional, high-value, high-quality health care the people of our community deserve and ensures that vital services are available close to home. You are helping us to live our mission every day, and I am grateful for your partnership.

Donna Budak

Vice President of Philanthropy, Chief Philanthropic Officer



Donna Budak
Vice President of Philanthropy
Chief Philanthropic Officer



Every act of humankindness is worthy of celebration and every expression of gratitude deserves recognition.

FY24 by the numbers

St. Luke's Foundation ended its fiscal year with strong performance across the three markets it serves in Texas.



\$11,438,233

Total dollars raised

In FY24, our donors came together to realize the power of generosity and gratitude in our community. The results have been inspiring.



\$8,881,785

Transfers to health system

Transfers show collaboration as monies are transferred only after the obligations of donor intent has been met.



\$2,587,702

Total expenses

Donors bolster innovation, bring together our community and serve the vulnerable. Together we accomplish what none of us could do alone.



\$4.42:\$1

Return on investment

**Together
we heal.**

How donor funds were used



Category

	TOTAL	% OF DISTRIBUTIONS
Capital & Equipment	\$ 4,886,586.84	55%
Mission	\$ 1,639,232.79	18%
Endowed Chair Allocations	\$ 949,555.14	11%
Continuing Education, Scholarships and Fellowships	\$ 555,763.61	6%
Research	\$ 497,183.80	6%
Transplant	\$ 210,185.93	2%
Other	\$ 143,276.90	2%
	\$8,881,785.01	

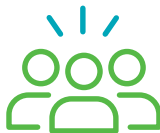


5%
Nursing
\$421,767.47

Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center	\$ 204,080.70
The Woodlands Hospital	\$ 38,025.00
St. Luke's Health - Memorial	\$ 179,661.77



14%
Charity Care
\$1,285,948.02



Anti Human-Trafficking Initiatives
\$ 268,585.59



Transplant Patient Support
\$ 108,173.91



Behavioral Health Patient Support
\$ 269,087.00

How doing good gets noticed

St. Luke's Health is committed to providing compassionate, skilled care in every community we serve, as evidenced by the numerous accolades achieved in 2024.

In 2024, US News & World Report ranked Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center among the Top 50 Hospitals in the nation in Cardiology, Heart & Vascular Surgery, Diabetes & Endocrinology, Gastroenterology & GI Surgery, and Neurology & Neurosurgery; and was rated high-performing in six adult specialties and 15 procedures and conditions. Baylor St. Luke's also ranked #4 in Texas and #2 in Houston among regional hospitals.



In total, seven St. Luke's Health hospitals were recognized by the U.S. News & World Report, the most ever for the Texas health system, including rankings for The Woodlands Hospital, Lakeside Hospital, The Vintage Hospital, Memorial Hospital-Lufkin, and Patients Medical Center. St. Joseph Health Regional Hospital was rated high-performing in six procedures and conditions.

The Woodlands Hospital received national recognition from the American Heart Association for its commitment to quality care for heart attacks.

Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, Sugar Land Hospital, and The Vintage Hospital earned "A" Hospital Safety Grades from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety.

The Rehabilitation Institute at St. Luke's Health-The Woodlands Hospital was recognized among Newsweek's 2024 list of America's Best Physical Rehabilitation Centers.

The Vintage Hospital received certification from DNV as a Primary Stroke Center and designation as a Primary (Level III) Stroke Facility from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center received recognition in several areas in 2024, including being ranked highest in Texas for cardiac surgery on Newsweek's World's Best Specialized Hospitals list and Newsweek's list of America's Best Hospitals.

The impact your generosity makes

Did you know that in March 2024, there were 3,436 patients waiting for a new heart? The perpetual shortage of organ donations means that each day, 17 people die while waiting to receive the transplant they so desperately need. But doctors at Baylor St. Luke's believe that one day, no patient will ever again have to wait in vain.

This past summer, Baylor St. Luke's was the site of a successful first-in-human implantation of the BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart. The BiVACOR Total Artificial

Heart can serve as a bridge to transplant for patients awaiting a donor heart. This clinical trial has been supported by a variety of sources; but a gift from a grateful patient who supports Baylor St. Luke's transplant program was used to support members of the surgical team as they practiced their skills in the lab prior to the implantation.

It's this kind of donor generosity that has enabled St. Luke's Health to enhance the patient experience in numerous areas of care.



BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart Blood Loop Test with Daniel Timms, PhD, Founder & CTO.
Credit: BiVACOR

Your thoughtful partnership means funds for:

- Six new heart and lung machines and an ECHO machine, which shows blood flow through the heart and heart valves and can help determine the presence of heart disease and other conditions. One of those new heart-lung machines was used on the patient who received the BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart. These life-saving machines will allow us to treat even more cardiovascular patients who have critical illnesses or organ failure.
- AngelEye cameras in The Woodlands that will allow parents and family members to view and interact with a hospitalized baby in real time.
- NICU equipment at St. Joseph Health that will benefit families in the Brazos Valley.



- Cancer diagnostic equipment at St. Joseph Health.
- A Pulsed Field Ablation system for treating atrial fibrillation at Baylor St. Luke's, making it one of only 40 hospitals in the United States with this technology.

The support of our donors is also enhancing "breathing lung" transplantation technology, extending the viability of donated lungs and increasing transplant availability. Baylor St. Luke's performed over 100 lung transplants in 2024, ranking among the top 10 programs in the US.

Similar advancements are being investigated for heart transplants, where around 60 percent of offered hearts are unused. New technology aims to keep hearts oxygenated and warm, potentially increasing their viability beyond the current four-hour limit.

And, donor funding is supporting a two-year study on diagnosing amyloidosis earlier through routine ECGs.

Generous donor gifts in support of patient assistance help offset treatment costs and improve access to care for patients who struggle with financial burdens; while gifts to our Employee Assistance Fund help team members who are experiencing financial hardships due to illness or other life events.

The generosity of our donors puts into action the true meaning of Hello, Humankindness: an act of humanity or kindness toward another that feeds (and potentially heals) the human spirit.





A passion for doing good

Serving on the board of a faith-based health ministry like St. Luke's Health "means much more than just raising dollars," says Stan Marek.

Marek, board chair of St. Luke's Foundation, is passionate about charity for others. A successful businessman, Marek is the third-generation leader of his family's business, the Marek Family of Companies, one of the largest interior contractors in the Southwest. Marek is also a devout Catholic and philanthropist known for his advocacy for the underserved and, in particular, immigration reform.

He is inspired by the story of his great grandfather, who emigrated with his family from Czechoslovakia and settled in Yoakum, Texas in the 1800s, leaving behind a successful life as a carpenter for the Habsburg monarchy to start a new life in a new world. Like many others, he took up farming. But drought and the Great Depression took their toll, and the family lost everything — including their home.

The Mareks made their way to Houston and began hanging sheetrock to earn a living. That work evolved into Marek Brothers, which was formally established in 1938.

For Marek, the drive, hard work and faith of his family through the generations have been the guiding light of his own deep connections to the Catholic community and his love of service — a value that is shared by St. Luke's Health and CommonSpirit Health.

"Stan inspires all of us with his desire to make a difference in the world," says Vice President of Philanthropy Donna Budak.

That desire to help comes in many forms, including his role as chair of the St. Luke's Foundation. As chair, he has supported a variety of initiatives that align with his commitment to serve the most vulnerable, including gifts to St. Luke's Employee Assistance Fund and Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center.

Marek sees a bright future for Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center and St. Luke's Health, noting the health system's plans to build the biggest Catholic network in Houston.

"It's the compassionate care for everybody and making this a great place to work for the doctors, the nurses, the staff," he says. "And that satisfaction is felt by patients as well."



A calling to serve and to give

Board member Will Cravens joined the St. Luke's Foundation board in 2021 during a time of transformation. Several original board members were ending their terms, and the health system was recovering from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, discussions were underway about launching a capital campaign.

Cravens, a successful businessman heading a construction company, had undergone his own transformation a few years earlier. Raised an Episcopalian, he had converted to Catholicism after a health scare and retired from his company to join the Scanlan Foundation, which serves Catholic religious, charitable and educational institutions in Texas, as its executive vice president.

Now he felt an even stronger call to serve, a pull to a more mission-centered life.

As a cardiac patient at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, Will had appreciated the outstanding care he received, and was impressed by the role he saw chaplains playing at the hospital. That led him to get involved with the Catholic Chaplain's Corps, a group of priests and lay people who provide pastoral and sacramental care to patients and families in the greater Houston area.

When the St. Luke's Foundation approached Will about joining the board, he saw the tremendous opportunity he would have to make a real difference for his Houston community.

Will made a major gift in the fall of 2023 — the first board member to support the new capital campaign for Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. He also facilitated the Scanlan Foundation's most recent investment in the health system's mission formation program.

Will is now playing an instrumental role in the growth of St. Luke's Foundation by regularly introducing prospective philanthropic partners and board members to the mission of the health system.

As the foundation's next board chair, Cravens aims to explore how CommonSpirit and St. Luke's "can embrace their Catholic identity more." Noting that CommonSpirit's mission "is right in tune with Catholic social teachings as well as so many other religions' social teachings," he poses a guiding question: "How can we really foster and promote the Catholic identity?"

Donna Budak, vice president of philanthropy, calls Will a "gold-star" board member for his ability to cultivate new relationships. "He is always thinking about how he can help us advance our mission," Budak says.

Back in action



Karen and Tod Taylor

Tod Taylor's office is filled with pictures of the planes he flies, quotes that inspire him, and a map tracking the progress of his numerous projects.

It's hard to imagine this active, energetic 62-year-old husband and father so exhausted he could barely navigate the aisles of a grocery store.

Extreme fatigue, however, was the first indication that something might be seriously wrong with Tod. With a flexible work schedule, Tod had been staying with his aging parents in Ft. Worth, to help them out for a couple of weeks. Not long after traveling from Houston to their home, though, he felt unusually tired. At first he shrugged it off. He had just passed a complete physical with flying colors. But after grocery shopping with his parents left him clammy and shaking, he headed to urgent care. A blood sample revealed a dangerously low hemoglobin level, indicating internal bleeding.

"Urgent care suddenly became an emergency," Tod recalls. He was transported by ambulance to a hospital in Arlington where he received three units of blood and an endoscopy was performed to determine the cause of his internal bleeding. Tod was stunned to learn what the procedure revealed: a tumor on the wall of his digestive tract.

Without a specialist and the advanced equipment needed to determine whether the mass was cancerous, Tod returned to Houston and met with his own gastroenterologist, who referred him to Dr. Bill Fisher at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center.

Dr. Fisher, an internationally known leader in pancreatic surgery at the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor St. Luke's, diagnosed Tod with a gastrointestinal stromal tumor. While these tumors are not typically cancerous, they can grow rapidly and cause dangerous obstructions and serious internal bleeding. Fisher knew surgery to remove the mass was needed — quickly.

“The tumor was in a tricky spot,” Dr. Fisher recalls. “But I was able to dissect the duodenum out from behind two major blood vessels and peel it off the edge of the pancreas — saving almost all of the organ.”

Within a couple of weeks of his procedure, Tod was back at work, full of energy, and planning a family vacation.

What struck him most about his experience was the compassion and responsiveness of his care team. To express his gratitude, Tod made a generous gift in support of Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center.

“For a few weeks I thought I was facing a devastating diagnosis, and that was rough for me and my wife,” he says. “I’m so grateful to Dr. Fisher for giving me my life back.”

An early calling

When it comes to cancer care, what sets Baylor St. Luke’s apart? If you ask Dr. Bill Fisher, he’ll tell you it’s the way patients are treated: They’re more than just a number. At the hospital’s Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center, patients are part of the St. Luke’s Health family, where each person is treated with a compassionate, patient-centric approach.

The center’s skilled, board-certified, Baylor College of Medicine oncologists take a comprehensive approach to each person they see.

“Our surgeons are sophisticated, and we work as a team so that we’re up on all the latest protocols,” says Dr. Fisher.

That would include himself.

After losing his father at 13, Dr. Fisher decided he was going to study medicine and become a doctor. Later as an undergraduate student at Wittenberg University in Ohio, his basketball trainer, who was also a surgeon, invited him to scrub in for a surgical procedure. That’s when he found his calling.

“From that point forward, everything was surgery, surgery, surgery,” Dr. Fisher says. “When I got into medical school, my favorite class was anatomy. I studied anatomy more than I needed to know to pass anatomy. I just loved it.”

That drive and passion has led Dr. Fisher to become an internationally known leader and researcher in pancreatic surgery with a slew of honors, awards, and publications.

Fisher says Baylor St. Luke’s leads the way, especially when it comes to pancreatic cancer, noting that the Cancer Center has a large number of clinical trials available for pancreas tumors. “We also offer clinical trials you can’t typically get anywhere else in the region,” he says.

He is especially proud of his colleagues.

“We have a tremendous amount of talent and not just clinically but in research as well. I look at the people around me and just think, wow, it’s great to be here.”



Dr. Bill Fisher

From despair to healing

Kandy and Martin Jackson

Katherine “Kandy” Jackson tears up when she recalls her illness in the winter of 2022. At her lowest points she worried that she wouldn’t see her grandchildren. She feared leaving her husband alone.

Her ordeal began in early February, not long after Martin, her husband of 34 years, tested positive for COVID-19. She was feeling sick as well but while he was out for little more than a day, Kandy’s symptoms worsened. She couldn’t catch her breath and found herself confused and exhausted.

“I didn’t know who he was,” she says. “I didn’t know my kids’ birthdays. I didn’t know anything.” Martin took

her to a local emergency room. Staff checked her oxygen levels, took some X-rays, prescribed cough medicine and an antibiotic, and sent her home.

Two days later Martin was frightened enough by Kandy’s condition to call an ambulance. She asked Martin to take her to St. Joseph Health Regional Hospital, where she had previously undergone neck surgery. By the time Kandy arrived in the emergency room at St. Joseph, her oxygen saturation level had dropped to 65 — critically low. She was diagnosed with COVID pneumonia and Martin was warned his wife might not survive.

Kandy spent 17 days at the hospital, seven on a ventilator. While the experience was incredibly difficult, Kandy recovered, and the two are deeply grateful for the exceptional and compassionate care she received.

“Being there day to day and seeing the staff, the nurses, and the doctors gave me a better outlook and a different respect for them,” says Martin. “They are just wonderful. I couldn’t ask for any better.”

Before Kandy was discharged, Martin decided he wanted to give back to the hospital that had saved his beloved wife.

Kandy’s room looked out on a section of parking lot and driveway that were in need of repair. The owner of a paving company, Martin realized he could donate something that would make a difference for both employees and patients. The repairs to the parking lot were completed in the Fall of 2023 and this past year, Kandy and Martin rallied friends and colleagues to support the hospital’s NICU.

“It was something that we wanted to do to try and give back to the community and to the people who work there,” Martin says. “People who really put their hearts into what they do.”



Her guardian angel

If Gabrielle Barrow-Ross is certain of one thing, it's that labor and delivery nurse Ava Zweifel saved her life, and the lives of her twin sons Ari and Asa.

"I owe her everything," Gabrielle says. "Everything."

Not long after she and her husband Nick learned they would be having twins, Gabrielle checked her blood pressure at home and noticed it was quite elevated. When it didn't go down, she went to the emergency room at St. Luke's Health – The Woodlands Hospital.

Gabrielle's dangerously high blood pressure was a sign of severe pre-eclampsia. She was just 29 weeks into her pregnancy and would have to be hospitalized until the twins were born – ideally in the 34th week of her pregnancy.

Medication seemed to work, and Gabrielle settled into the hospital routine. But things changed one evening midway through her stay. Her husband had made a brief trip back to their house. Not long after, Gabrielle's blood pressure began to spike, and one of the babies' dropped dangerously low. That's when nurse Ava Zweifel entered the room.

While Gabrielle's doctor and health team readied her for an emergency C-section, Ava offered her patient soothing words of reassurance as they rushed her down the hall. She called Gabrielle's husband and held the phone to her ear so she could talk to Nick before she was put under.



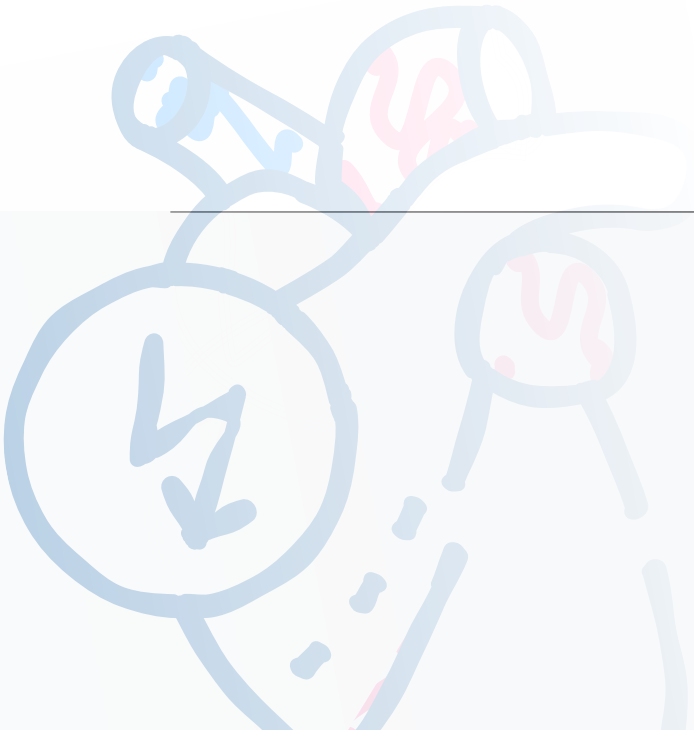
Thankfully, all three came through the delivery safely — although Ari and Asa, born prematurely, still had many medical issues to overcome before they were discharged.

Today, the boys are active, happy, and thriving, but Gabrielle still gets emotional when she recounts her story. While everyone she encountered provided outstanding care at The Woodlands Hospital, Gabrielle regards Ava as her guardian angel. In a moment of chaos, where she wasn't sure what would happen next, Ava's strong and decisive presence reassured her.

"I felt like she was a voice for me," she says.

Ava recognizes that what seemed almost routine to her and the nursing team, was extraordinary for the Barrow-Ross family.

"I'm a very personal person," she says. "When you're my patient, you are a person to me. And I knew about Gabrielle's life at this point. I think it was a blessing to her to have somebody that she knew was going to take care of her."



Dr. Andrew Civitello loves working with “informed patients” like Chuck Lipscomb (profiled below). In talking with the cardiologist it’s clear he enjoys teaching — whipping a piece of paper from a stack on his desk to quickly sketch a picture that will better explain a patient’s condition.

An expert in the field of heart failure — which he prefers to call “heart recovery” — Dr. Civitello is the medical director of the heart transplant program at Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center, and an associate professor of Medicine-Cardiology and director of the Advanced Heart Failure Fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Civitello didn’t plan the career he now has, but it’s hard to imagine a better fit for the renowned physician. The first in his family to pursue an advanced degree, he was an English major at the University of Houston when he took a genetics course that changed his whole perspective. “I thought, ‘this is the coolest thing in the whole wide world!’”

That led to his pursuing a medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center and then a stint at Baylor College of Medicine’s Human Genome Sequencing Center under Richard Gibbs. It was his receiving a cardiology fellowship that exposed him to interventional cardiology and led him to work often with the heart transplant team.

Today, Dr. Civitello is a heart failure specialist passionate about helping patients live full and healthy lives.

“Our goal is for people’s hearts to recover without transplant or left ventricular assist devices,” he says. “But if not, we have lots of ways to treat them.”



Dr. Andrew Civitello

A teacher at heart

The power of prayer ... and clinical expertise

Allison and Chuck Lipscomb

Chuck Lipscomb is one of those “informed patients” who comes to each appointment with plenty of questions about his condition and his care. He’s also one of those people who lives a full and active life, enjoying outdoor activities like working in the yard, even in the heat of an East Texas summer. He and his wife Allison attend church regularly, and relish visits with their kids and grandkids.

So Chuck’s 2020 heart attack came as a surprise, in the middle of the night. He woke up around 2:30 a.m. feeling “something wasn’t right.” He shook awake Allison, who called 911 and a neighbor. He wound up at St. Luke’s Health – The Woodlands Hospital and was rushed to the cath lab, where they found a 100 percent blockage in his left anterior descending artery.

Chuck’s memory of that time is clouded. But he does remember that his care team, thinking he might not make it, allowed Allison to sit with him despite the COVID restrictions in place at the time. It was a compassionate act of kindness that continues to resonate with both of them.

While confidence in their cardiologist was high, as people of strong faith, they also called on their church community for support and prayer.

At first, Chuck seemed to be on the road to recovery. He had a stent implanted, which eased his symptoms, and he began his cardiac rehab. But an

incident during his final rehab session led to another ambulance ride to the hospital, where Chuck’s doctors determined he needed an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD), an internal medical device that monitors abnormal heart rhythms and can shock the heart back into a normal rhythm. The implantation of his ICD was followed by a bout of pericarditis and a referral to Dr. Civitello, who has been guiding Chuck’s care ever since.

A carefully designed cocktail of medications keeps Chuck going strong, as have additional lifestyle changes.

“After the heart attack, we did make major changes in our diet, and a lot of that continues to this day,” Chuck says. “I haven’t had a chicken fried steak in almost four years!”

Chuck and Allison also note that the skilled care Chuck receives from Dr. Civitello is bolstered by the excellence of other team members in his practice.

“God can heal in a lot of ways and he has done some miraculous things,” Allison says. “But he also has used the medication, he’s used Dr. Civitello’s wisdom and experience. He works through our doctors and nurses. They are outstanding.”



Meet the foundation board of directors

The St. Luke’s Foundation is governed by board members who act as fiduciaries by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies that steer the organization toward a sustainable future.

Board of directors

- Paul Beck
- Monsignor Chester L. Borski
- Donna Budak, ex-officio
- Will Cravens
- Charles A. Gremillion III
- Kelly Hackett, ex-officio
- T. Douglas Lawson, PhD, ex-officio
- Paul Layne
- Michele Malloy
- Stan Marek, chair
- Gloria Portela
- Leonard Tallerine
- A. Martin Wickliff Jr.



Your generosity translates to hope and healing for every community we serve. Thank you!



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Thank you!



Hello humankindness®