

# The Foundation for St. Luke's Hospital™

*Investing in Health Care*

## Bringing World-Class Cardiology to Polk County <sup>2</sup>



Photo: Dr. Evans Kemp

**Ache Around  
the Lake**

A fun event for a  
great cause

**4**

**New Board  
Members**

joining the foun-  
dation leadership  
this year

**5**

**Grant  
Received**  
for new  
Cardiology  
program

**5**

**100-Hall  
Patient Room  
Renovation**

Donor  
Recognition

**7**

**WELCOME!**

We hope you enjoy  
hearing what's going  
on at the Foundation  
for St. Luke's Hospital

# BOARD MEMBERS

Ben Ellington Chair

Tom Trobaugh Vice-Chair

Scott Pleune  
Treasurer

Renae Waldman  
Secretary

Alexandra Adams

Kim Adams

Jeff Byrd

Becky Collins

Aaron Greene

Linda Greensfelder

Don Hofmann

Nancy Holland

Bill Miller

Phil Mosely

Joanie Newman

Barbara Oklesen

Lane Price

Linda Schutter

C. Edgar Spencer

George Sweet

Meghan Young

# STAFF

**Kristie Garrett**  
Office and Grant Coordinator  
Kristie.Garrett@slhnc.org

**Amanda Thompson, MSN RN**  
Executive Director of Philanthropy  
& Community Benefit  
Amanda.Thompson@slhnc.org

## From the Executive Director



Dear supporters,

It is hard to believe we are halfway through 2022 already! While we faced many challenges in 2021 with the pandemic, our supporters made it possible for St. Luke's to officially start the 3D Mammography Program. St. Luke's has experienced a 48% increase in number of mammograms performed compared to the prior year with 2D mammography. St. Luke's can now perform stereotactic breast biopsies that patients prior had to be referred to other hospitals to receive. Several patients that have been diagnosed with breast cancer have shared that the 3D technology allowed the cancer to be caught early. Multiple patients have expressed their appreciation to the donors that made it possible for St. Luke's to be able to offer the "gold standard" in preventative breast cancer screening.

Besides funding the new 3D Mammography Program this FY2022, The Foundation has been able to fund several other important projects at St. Luke's Hospital thanks to your generous donations such as:

- \$31,510 for 24 patient room recliners
- \$15,394 for 23 new overbed patient tables
- \$9,692 for five CPR mannequins and a training ZOLL defibrillator for clinical staff emergency response training
- \$6,000 for a Vein Visualization System for clinical team to use on patients with difficult to locate veins for IV access or blood draws
- \$3,022 for 3 portable suction units for hospital crash carts used in an emergency

In this newsletter, you will learn about St. Luke's new cardiology program and our new campaign to raise \$600,000 for a world-class CT scanner. This cutting-edge technology will change the way we care for our community, for the better. In seconds, detailed images can be taken of the heart in someone experiencing chest pain, of the brain in someone experiencing stroke symptoms, of the lungs in someone having difficulty breathing from COVID-19, of the body of a cancer patient to determine spread, and so much more!

We are excited for the continued growth in specialty services offered at St. Luke's Hospital with the new access to cardiac care and for the opportunity to offer world-class CT imaging in Polk County. We hope you will consider supporting this CT campaign that will benefit so many in our community.

With gratitude,

Amanda Thompson

Ben Ellington

# Bringing World-Class to Rural Polk County

This June, St. Luke's Hospital will launch a new cardiology program with world-class, board-certified cardiologist, Dr. Evans Kemp. Prior to joining SLH, Dr. Kemp led a 70+ cardiologist group in Nashville, TN. He was the Co-Director of the Cardiovascular Service Line and Chief of Cardiology for Ascension Saint Thomas. He also served as the Medical Director of Cardiac Rehab for Ascension Saint Thomas West Hospital. Dr. Kemp received his training from Duke University, UNC Chapel Hill and Vanderbilt University. Appointments can be made now at Foothills Medical Associates by calling 828-894-5627.

**In support of the new cardiology program, The Foundation for St. Luke's Hospital is raising funds for WORLD-CLASS CT IMAGING.**



## The Need:

- The hospital's current CT scanner is over 7 years old and the lease ends in December 2022.
- The current CT scanner is a mid-tier model and cannot do cardiac studies.
- The top cause of Emergency Room transfers is chest pain. This advanced CT can accurately and quickly detect blockages with clear images which will allow our providers to determine if a patient can remain at St. Luke's for their care or if they need to be transferred to a Cath Lab.
- Currently, other St. Luke's specialties must refer patients to large urban areas for advanced CT scans. With this technology, patients will be able to receive the same top-tier CT found in downtown Charlotte right here in Polk County.

## The Benefit:

- Quick and reliable results in time sensitive emergencies
- Acute stroke rule-out in less than five minutes
- Early detection of artery plaque build-up
- Uncompromised image quality for morbidly obese
- Decreased breath-hold time for COVID-19 patients
- Clearer images and reduced artifacts for those with metal implants such as artificial hips and knees
- Low-dose CT screening for early lung cancer detection
- Sharper images to locate cancer, evaluate cancer progression and response to treatment

## Budget: Total cost for this CT project is \$1.9 million.

- St. Luke's Hospital has received federal funds that can cover a portion of the CT costs, but the equipment must be paid for by December 31, 2022.
- Along with St. Luke's Hospital's support, the Foundation has set a goal to raise \$600,000.

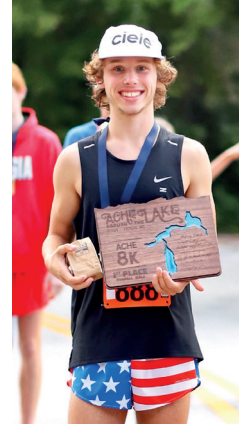
**Will you be part of bringing this life-saving technology to our community?  
Please consider donating today!**

# Ache Around the Lake 2021

The 2021 Annual Ache Around the Lake Run Festival was held at beautiful Lake Lanier on October 16th. The race raised \$20,894 for St. Luke's Hospital's new 3D Mammography Program.

Ache 2021 was made possible by The Ann Jacob Toms Fund at the Polk County Community Foundation. We sincerely thank all our generous community individual and business sponsors, volunteers, board members, Katie Malone for coordinating the race, and all the participants for making this event a huge success! We are now gearing up for Ache 2022. All funds raised will support St. Luke's new cardiology program and our goal of bringing a world-class CT scanner to Polk County.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, volunteering, or participating in the race; please visit:



## Thank You to Our 2021 Sponsors

Ashworth Financial Group

Ellis & Linda Fincher

Edwards Jones of Columbus (Jay Geddings)

New View Realty

Parsec Financial Management

Aoki Landscape & DeSign

RE/MAX Advantage Realty

Dusenbury Insurance Agency

Steve & Becky Collins

F A T S Plumbing & Gas

Town & Country Realty of the Carolinas

Main Street Financial/Insurance Group

Cindy Viehman-Tryon Foothills Realty

Pavillon

WWE Realty

Diamond B Energies (Burrell's Fuels)

Tom & Patti Trobaugh

McFarland Funeral Chapel

Trade Street Chiropractic

Openroad Coffee

Tryon Builders

Salon Ebenezer

Tryon Equine Hospital

Stitching Fox

Tryon Movie Theater

Suellen Skach

Wild Petunias (formerly Vines of Tryon)

**OCT 22 • 7:30AM**  
**ACHE 8K**  
**ADULTS 2 MILE**  
**KIDS 1 MILE FUN RUN**

Open to All Runners, Walkers, Strollers & Canine Friends on a Leash

Professionally Timed  
 (Registration includes event t-shirt and medal)

Benefiting The Foundation for St. Luke's Hospital  
 made possible by The Ann Jacob Toms Fund at the Polk County Community Foundation

# 4 New Board Members Join Foundation

The Foundation for St. Luke's Hospital is pleased to announce the four new board members joining the foundation leadership this year.

Lane Price of Mill Spring, C. Edgar Spencer of Saluda, and Joan E. Newman and Barbara Oklesen, both of Tryon, have volunteered to help the foundation in its mission to promote St. Luke's by raising awareness and funds for new equipment, facility improvements, and educational programs.

Ed Spencer spent his career in hospital administration in South Carolina, serving as director of the S.C. Department of Mental Health Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services. He founded the state's telemedicine psychiatry and addictions counseling program.

When he moved to Saluda, Spencer volunteered with the Saluda Medical Center on a telemedicine project, where he saw firsthand

the need for local health.

"One day, we saw a man in the clinic in Saluda who had a diabetic sore, almost gangrenous," he recalled. "A rural area needs a presence of medical care – to help face conditions of obesity, diabetes, heart conditions and more."

A local hospital is important to those seeking a new home as well. Barbara Oklesen spent her career practicing law in Illinois and Florida, retiring as managing assistant county attorney in Pinellas County. She and her husband searched through Western North Carolina for a home after friends moved to Brevard.

"We'd rent a house and stay and see what life was like in different communities," she recalled. "We always looked for the location of a nearby hospital. That was a super important factor."

Volunteer service to this community is nothing new to Price and Newman. Lane Price, with

a degree in wildlife biology and a master's in behavioral science, retired as director of strategic planning for the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service in Washington, D.C.

A graduate of Chase High School in Forest City, Price returned and now volunteers with Thermal Belt Outreach Ministries, the Foothills Housing Partnership and Tryon First Baptist Church.

Joan E. Newman has worked in administration, finance and human resources for Cooper-Riis, Hospice of the Carolina Foothills and most recently for Pea Ridge Baptist Church. Since retiring, in addition to volunteering with St. Luke's Hospital, she has worked for Manna Food Bank, hospice, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and various local garden clubs.

"We are thrilled these outstanding local citizens are joining our mission," said Ben Ellington, chairman of the Foundation.

## Grant Received for New Cardiology Program

**St. Luke's Hospital has been awarded a grant for \$41,690 from Gateway Wellness Foundation to help create access to cardiology services in Polk County.**

This funding will be used to purchase stress echocardiogram testing equipment. By having this equipment and a cardiologist, St. Luke's will be able to provide quality cardiac testing closer to home. Currently,

patients are referred out to other hospital systems. An echocardiogram is a test that uses ultrasound images to assess the heart's function and structures. A stress echocardiogram examines how the heart works when experiencing added workload or with the "stress" of exercise. Providers typically order this test when patients have new symptoms of chest pain, worsening chest pain, have had a recent heart attack, for surgical clearance if the patient is at

risk for heart disease, or for any heart valve problems.

A stress echo can be done one of two ways; either via the patient walking on a treadmill or medicine can be injected for those unable to walk on the treadmill to increase the heart rate. Vital signs are monitored continuously throughout the entire exam. Images are then taken of the heart to determine how well the heart muscle is working when stressed. These images could show that the heart is not getting enough blood or oxygen due to blocked or narrowed arteries. This allows the cardiologist to determine the most beneficial cardiac treatment plan for the patient.

By having this equipment at St. Luke's, lives could be potentially saved as heart-related conditions are identified and treated. Thank you Gateway Wellness Foundation for supporting our efforts to provide cardiac care to our community!



# ST LUKE'S MEN'S HEALTH TUNE-UP

## and Car, Truck, & Bike Show



**Saturday, June 11th**  
9 AM – 1 PM at Harmon Field

To pre-register cars, trucks & bikes: Email [Amanda.Thompson@slhnc.org](mailto:Amanda.Thompson@slhnc.org) or call her at 828-894-2693.

There will be People's Choice Awards for each car show category, health fair door prizes, healthy snacks, and T-shirts! All at no cost to you!

Made Possible by the Ann Jacob Toms Fund at  
Polk County Community Foundation.

 **St. Luke's**  
HOSPITAL

*The* **Foundation**  
for St. Luke's Hospital™

**(828) 894-2693**  
[StLukesNC.org](http://StLukesNC.org)

117 Harmon Field Rd  
Tryon, NC 28782

## The Heritage Society

The Heritage Society was formed to acknowledge those who have made portions of their estates available either through bequests in their wills or through irrevocable gift arrangements that will ultimately benefit the hospital.

By letting us know your plans, The Foundation for St. Luke's Hospital can honor you and your values of community support. The disclosure of your gift influences others to think more seriously about philanthropy and planned giving opportunities. Heritage Society members are recognized in the Annual Report of the Foundation (unless anonymity requested) and will be honored at an annual meal.

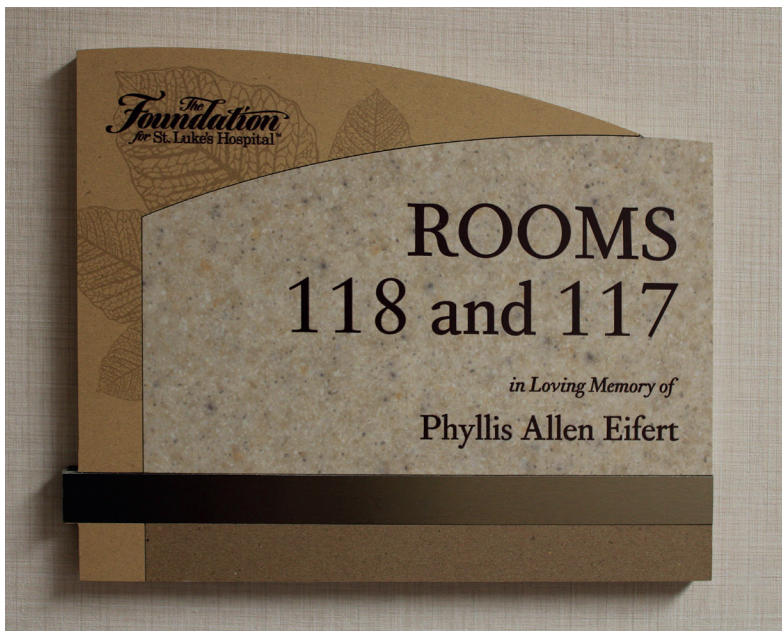
Please let us know if you are a member of this distinguished group by calling our office at **828.894.2693** or emailing [Kristie.Garrett@slhnc.org](mailto:Kristie.Garrett@slhnc.org).

**Thank you for supporting  
St. Luke's Hospital!**



# 100-Hall Donor Recognition

The 100-Hall patient room renovation project is getting closer to completion! There have been delays due to the pandemic with supply chain shortages and an increased patient census where rooms could not be closed for renovation. Currently, 16 of the 18 patient rooms have been renovated with two isolation rooms remaining. Door wraps have also now been installed and what a difference this has made to the appearance of this unit!



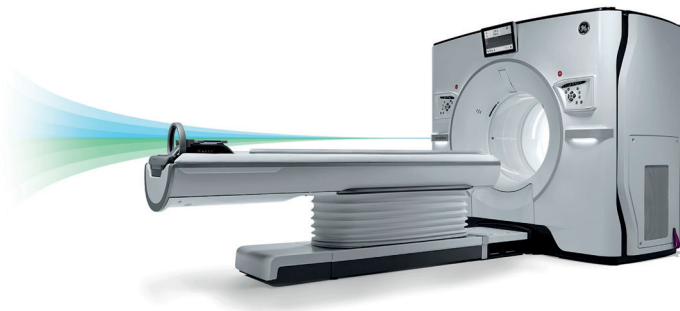
More great news – the major donor recognition plaques have been installed! We thank everyone that gave to this important project. The new plaques also make it easier for visitors to find their loved one's room and show our staff, patients, and visitors how our community supports St. Luke's Hospital!



# BRINGING WORLD-CLASS CT to Rural Polk County

World-class imaging for  
cardiology,  
orthopedic,  
oncology,  
urology,  
...

**IN WORLD-CLASS TIME**



## **RAISING FUNDS FOR:**

The GE Revolution APEX CT Scanner

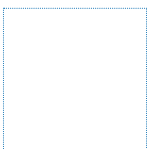
World-class benchmark image quality  
Best detection of coronary artery disease  
Complete heart scan in one beat at any rate  
Acute stroke rule-out in less than five minutes  
Ultrafast scanning for trauma in all body types  
Decreased breath hold time for COVID-19 patients  
Uncompromised image quality for morbidly obese  
Low-dose CT screening for early lung cancer detection

**(828) 894-2693**  
**FoundationSLH.org**

89 W. Mills St., Suite B  
Columbus, NC 28722

*The*  
**Foundation**  
*for St. Luke's Hospital™*

**Support your  
100% locally  
owned and  
5-star hospital  
by giving to  
The Foundation  
for St. Luke's  
Hospital!**



89 West Mills Street, Suite B  
Columbus, NC 28722

*The*  
**Foundation**  
*for St. Luke's Hospital™*