



# MISSION MATTERS

— SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER —



Ascension St. Vincent's  
Foundation



# Letter from the Foundation President

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

I believe it is how we respond in times of adversity that reveals our humanity. On behalf of all of us at the Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation, we are forever grateful for your support and willingness to answer the call when our healthcare heroes and community's vulnerable need you most.

Since mid-March, our Mission PLUS(+) Fund – created specifically in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for Ascension St. Vincent's – has provided:

- **economic support for healthcare heroes, including housing, utility costs and groceries**
- **fresh meals and snacks for our caregivers**
- **much-needed personal protective equipment (PPE) for the hospitals**
- **continuation of our Mobile Health Outreach ministry**

Not only has our collective movement made a significant impact for those on the frontlines, I would be remiss if I didn't call out a few exceptional board members who have personally contributed to the cause in creative ways.

Dr. Saumil Oza, chief of cardiology at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside, launched #Masks4Jax to help curb the spread of the coronavirus. In less than one week, Dr. Oza not only coordinated donors and 50 restaurants to participate, but he also acquired 350,000 cloth masks to distribute free to the community.

Pet Paradise Vice Chairman Kevin English is another board member who stepped up during the pandemic. Along with former Foundation board member Fernando Acosta-Rua, they offered 50 percent off of Pet Paradise's boarding and day camp services to all healthcare professionals.

In this newsletter, you will find accounts of compassion and care from across our community – from volunteers serving breakfast to our healthcare heroes to donors funding critical community outreach efforts for those at high-risk of severe complications from the virus.

These acts of kindness have been overwhelming – and while we're encouraged by the progress our community has made in fighting the virus, there is still work to be done.

I am humbly asking you to consider contributing to our Mission PLUS(+) Fund if you are in a healthy financial position. If you are not able to give during this time, we're asking everyone to update their information for our records via the enclosed remittance envelope. We want to ensure that you're getting the most updated communications from The Foundation.

I pray that you and your families remain healthy during the pandemic and encourage you to reach out to our team if you need any support.

Blessings,



*Virginia Hall*

**Virginia Hall**  
President  
Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation



*Dr. Saumil Oza, pictured with his family, launched the #Masks4Jax initiative in response to the pandemic.*

**Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.**

**-Isaiah 41:10**

# Event Round Up

Nothing is more important to the Foundation than the safety of our generous supporters, fellow community members and our associates. With guidance from the CDC and government officials, we made the difficult decision to cancel the following events due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19): the Physician's Golf Tournament, The Mary Awards, and Corks & Forks.

Although disappointed in this necessary action, our team is enthusiastically planning for future fundraisers that will benefit our Mission PLUS(+) Fund. We are integrating essential safety measures for all in-person events and also providing virtual components to do our part in bolstering public health.

**Please save the date for our reimagined Delicious Destinations "Dine In Edition" on September 12.** Our signature fall event will be hosted in a virtual format that brings our area's top chefs straight to your kitchen. This dynamic cooking show will be free to the public and feature an online silent auction. Sponsor packages come with select wine and all the recipe items you'll need to follow along with the chefs from home.

As the pandemic continues to evolve, we will keep you informed of any changes that may impact Foundation events. Please look for regular updates via email, social media and our dedicated landing page at [GiveStVincents.org/COVID19](https://GiveStVincents.org/COVID19).

# Prayer Requests

All of us have been affected by the pandemic in many ways. Some of you may be battling coronavirus yourself or caring for infected loved ones. Others may be working diligently to protect isolated, at-risk family members who are elderly or immunocompromised. Maybe you're facing economic difficulties and struggling with the fear and unknown that accompany this crisis.

Without a doubt, many of us are feeling anxious – and our team is feeling it, too. Let us pray for you and your loved ones. Please email [thefoundation@ascension.org](mailto:thefoundation@ascension.org) to send us your prayer requests. Your prayers will be prayed for by our team of chaplains on a weekly basis.

If there is anything we can do for you and your family during this time, don't hesitate to reach out. Please join us in praying for healing and peace in each other's lives and the strength to find courage during difficult times like these.



# Connect with the Foundation

Earlier this year, we launched Facebook and Instagram profiles for The Foundation to help spread the word about the many ways our team is providing compassionate healthcare to those most in need right here in Northeast Florida. Please connect with us by searching **@GiveStVincents** on these channels. Your likes, comments and shares make a huge difference in our visibility in the community – so we encourage you to invite your friends, families and colleagues to follow us as well!

We are also excited to announce the launch of our new website: **GiveStVincents.org**. This will serve as your new hub for information about The Foundation, including event updates, latest news, and community outreach efforts. Please bookmark this page and sign up for our e-newsletter on the site.

# On the Frontlines of a Global Pandemic



## Protective Shields for Caregivers

Drummond Press created protective shields for our caregivers to help keep them protected when intubating a patient with COVID-19 in case anything is aerosolized during the process. This equipment was donated to our associates and has made a significant impact in fortifying our safety measures for our associates.



## Supplemental Masks for Associates

We worked with Rethreaded to create extra masks should our associates need them during the pandemic. The high-quality material we provided them is typically used to keep instruments sterile before surgeries and procedures and would otherwise be discarded after its initial use. It has been shown to keep out water, bacteria and about 99.9 percent of particulates. Thank you to VyStar Credit Union, Community First Credit Union, 121 Financial Credit Union and Jax Federal Credit Union for covering labor costs on this important project!

At the Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation, our response to the COVID-19 crisis has been focused on three fronts: recognizing healthcare workers for their enormous contributions, ensuring they have the tools they need to treat patients and protect against the virus, and keeping our outreach ministries thriving, providing critical healthcare to our high-risk neighbors. These are just a few of the many ways our valued partners and donors have made this response possible.



## Breakfast for Our Healthcare Heroes

Our Foundation team had the privilege of serving breakfast to our healthcare heroes at Ascension St. Vincent's in April. The delivery to our Clay County associates was made possible by Daily's and Daily's Dash. The breakfast for our Riverside team was donated and served by Hilton Garden Inn Ponte Vedra and THE PLAYERS Championship. The hotel's restaurant prepared 300 breakfast items to thank the hospital team!



## Support for At-Risk Clients

George\* is a 38-year-old patient of ours who is dependent on insulin to manage his diabetes. He was planning on evacuating to North Carolina to stay with family during the pandemic, but he was concerned that he would run out of insulin while there. He turned to our Mobile Health Outreach Ministry for support. Our team sprang into action and made arrangements to meet up with his sister in order to provide him with a four months' supply of insulin and syringes. George is now able to safely shelter with his family during the COVID-19 crisis.

*\*Name changed for privacy.*



# You Can Help By Making a Donation to the Mission PLUS(+) Fund



Our Mission has always called us to serve the poor and vulnerable – but now the need is more urgent than ever before, with a staggering number of people losing their jobs, insurance, and hope.

Not only are we called to serve our community, but we are also called to support our caregivers as the fight against the novel coronavirus has placed an incredible strain on our clinical teams.

In a response to the requests to help from our supporters and community, the Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation established a new Mission PLUS(+) Fund to meet this unprecedented challenge.

Through this fund, your gift will support Ascension St. Vincent's efforts and community by:



Continuing to help the poor and vulnerable patients through our outreach ministries



Helping cover our hospital's supply, equipment or program needs related to COVID-19



Supporting and recognizing caregivers during the pandemic

This fund allows Ascension St. Vincent's hospital leadership to respond to challenges as they arise and continue providing critical support through initiatives like those you have read about in this newsletter.

If you are able to contribute, please visit [GiveStVincents.org/donate](https://www.givestvincents.org/donate) or enclose your gift in the remittance envelope included here. If you are not in a position to give, we are asking everyone to update their information for our records via the remittance envelope. Thank you for making our Mission your Mission.



## Help Your Kids Show Their Support

We are asking kids in our area to color custom thank you art and display it on their windows or doors to recognize our healthcare heroes. Visit [healthcare.ascension.org/COVID-19/Donate](https://www.healthcare.ascension.org/COVID-19/Donate) for the link to download activity and coloring pages for your family. We encourage you to share their artwork on Facebook and Instagram – and make sure to tag [@GiveStVincents](https://www.instagram.com/givestvincents) so we can showcase their drawings with the community!

# Thank You to Our Mission PLUS(+) Fund Supporters

We are thrilled to have raised more than \$223,000 for the Mission PLUS(+) Fund thus far, including contributions from the following stellar supporters:

- More than \$118,000 has been spent to help our Ascension St. Vincent's associates affected by the pandemic. These valued contributions have helped our healthcare heroes with rent and mortgage payments, utility bills, groceries and car payments. We were also able to provide more than \$66,000 in personal protective equipment (PPE) for the hospital and more than \$40,000 for our Mobile Health Outreach Ministry.
- The Jim Moran Foundation contributed \$50,000 to aid our medical staff and senior clients affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This generous gift will help us provide support for hunger relief, medical care, housing and loss of income related to the coronavirus.
- Wells Fargo awarded the Foundation with a \$15,000 grant to support the Mission PLUS(+) Fund to ensure our caregivers on the frontlines are supported during this unprecedented time.
- Florida's First Coast Relief Fund (FFCRF) recently donated \$50,000 with support from the following partners: The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, Jessie Ball duPont Fund, Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida, United Way of Northeast Florida, and United Way of St. Johns County.
- The Jessie Ball duPont Fund allowed us to reallocate a \$68,000 grant originally designated for our canceled Medical Mission at Home event to support the Mission PLUS(+) Fund.
- Ava Chung is a 12-year-old baker who recently competed in the virtual Clay County Fair. When she won the Fan Favorite Blue Ribbon, she donated her \$25 Amazon gift card to Ascension St. Vincent's Clay County to purchase medical supplies and resources to help during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ava said she wanted to give back to the people working so hard on the frontlines. Thank you to Ava's parents for inspiring the next generation of philanthropists.



*Our healthcare heroes grabbed their capes as we celebrated them on National Nurse's Day.*



*Ava Chung donated her winnings at the virtual Clay County Fair to support healthcare workers during the pandemic.*



*The Foundation provided more than \$66,000 in PPE for our Ascension St. Vincent's associates in response to the pandemic.*



**Ascension St. Vincent's  
Foundation**

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