



MAY 2021

Look How Far We've Come

True character is often revealed in the face of adversity. A year ago, it felt like we would never see "normal" again—yet here we are in May 2021, stronger and wiser than ever before.

Isn't it amazing how far we've come and how much we have learned?

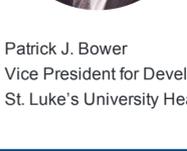
Working together, we met each new challenge and cared for thousands impacted by COVID-19, all while meeting the ongoing healthcare needs of our thriving community.

Your support has been so helpful, and I am excited to share some positive news with you.

Below, you'll meet Sofia—a dynamic 12-year-old who was one of the first in her age group to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. You'll also learn about efforts to help people impacted by substance use disorders.

Thank you for all you've done and all you continue to do to help our community flourish.

In good health,



Patrick J. Bower
Vice President for Development and External Affairs
St. Luke's University Health Network



A New Milestone in the Fight Against COVID-19

12-year-old Sofia Pandey is eager for the day she can start dancing without a mask and spending more time with her friends. For kids like Sofia, that day may not be too far off. Beginning earlier this month, St. Luke's began offering the safe and effective Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to young adolescents, ages 12 to 15. The virus has impacted nearly four million children across the country, and this important advancement will bring us one step closer to normalcy.

[The Next Step Forward](#)



Meeting a Critical Need

"We asked our neighbors how St. Luke's Sacred Heart could help the community—and we listened," said Frank Ford, St. Luke's Sacred Heart Campus President, speaking about the new medical detoxification unit that opened at the campus earlier this spring.

At a time when serious drug use and overdoses in the area are alarmingly high, this Level IV facility—the only one in the greater Lehigh Valley—will provide 24-hour medical supervision to people ages 18 and older withdrawing from alcohol or other drugs.

[Watch the Virtual Ribbon Cutting](#)



Cheers to 100 Years

Celebrating a 100th anniversary is pretty rare, which is why residents of the greater Phillipsburg area and Warren County, New Jersey are so excited. St. Luke's Warren Campus has always been a hospital *for the community*—even in its earliest days. Step back in time and see what the campus looked like (in black and white, of course!) and read about how far we have come.

[A Hospital for the Community](#)



A Ride to Remember

The annual St. Luke's Hospice Bike Ride is less than two weeks away on Saturday, June 5, starting and finishing on the D&L National Heritage Trail in Lehigh. This year, for the first time, you can [launch your own fundraiser](#) to share the story of why you ride for hospice. Build your own fundraising page and easily share it with your family and friends, who can make a gift to support your cause!

[About the Ride](#)



Caring for Kids

If you pass a group of motorcyclists in Whitehall on Sunday, June 27, be sure to give them a wave! They will be out riding to support St. Luke's Pediatrics, and you're invited to join them. After the ride to Springtown, hall of fame pitcher Steve Carlton will make a special appearance—and attendees will enjoy live entertainment, refreshments, a 50/50 raffle, and more at Silver Creek Athletic Association.

[Register to Ride](#)



Love of Community, Legacy of Giving Back

When Frank Vassa thought about the best way to honor the memory of his late wife, Heather, one thing immediately came to mind: community support. Heather dedicated her life to her community to make it better for those around her—and one of her greatest passions was healthcare.

For Frank, giving back is his way of feeling close to Heather. He admits: "I'm not a wealthy person by any means. Heather loved her community, and I consider it an honor to support the organizations she loved." Hear Frank's story and learn about how your legacy can make a difference at St. Luke's.

[Make a Difference](#)

COVID-19 Resources and Vaccine Updates

Our hospital-based vaccine locations are pleased to offer walk-in appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine. We are now vaccinating individuals 12 and older.

If you would prefer a vaccination appointment scheduled in advance, our helpful resource center will provide details for how you can secure your time slot. We encourage you to bookmark our resource center and reference it with any of your questions about the virus or the availability of the vaccine.

[Find Resources](#)

[Make a Gift to St. Luke's](#)

