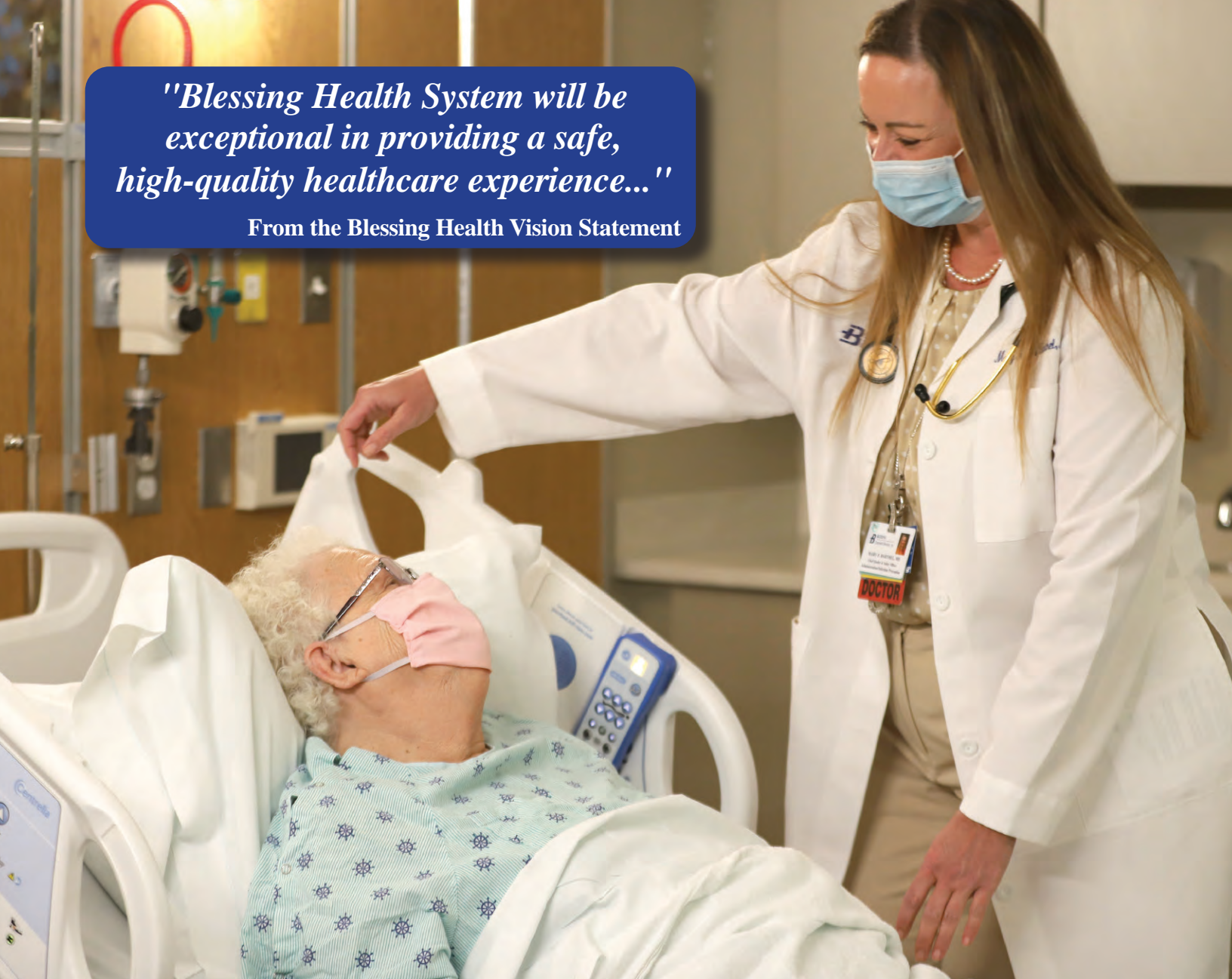


*"Blessing Health System will be exceptional in providing a safe, high-quality healthcare experience..."*

From the Blessing Health Vision Statement



**B** *BLESSING*  
Health System

**2022 Annual Report**  
(Oct. 1, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2022)

## The Blessing Difference

# Meet two special ladies connected at the heart

Mary Eustace and Sandee Marcinek didn't know each other for the first 70-plus years of their lives. The first time they met, however, they felt a connection.

"She hugged me and it's like I'd known her forever," said Sandee of Mary. "I think we're kind of alike."

"I see in her the same happy-go-lucky person that I feel I am," Mary said of Sandee. "I think we are going to be best friends."

Mary and Sandee are connected at the heart. In December 2019, Mary became the first Blessing Health patient to receive a new heart valve using a minimally invasive procedure called Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement or TAVR.

In June 2022, Sandee became the 100<sup>th</sup> TAVR patient.

The Blessing TAVR surgical team brought the two former patients together one day in 2022 to meet each other and celebrate their medical milestones. The ladies marked the occasion by donning t-shirts Sandee had specially made – TAVR #1 for Mary and TAVR #100 for herself.



### About TAVR

TAVR replaces faulty heart valves using a catheter and X-ray guidance and without open heart surgery.

Some people are not candidates for surgery due to other health conditions. That makes TAVR a life-changer and life-saver for some patients.

Blessing Health cardiologist Jeffrey Cook, MD, and cardiothoracic surgeons Drs. John Arnold and

Michael Hart, and nurse practitioner Amy Bates lead the TAVR program.

### How TAVR changed Mary and Sandee's lives

Mary is an avid volunteer and holds a statewide position with a volunteer organization. But when she was suffering aortic stenosis, Mary could not do all that she wanted. "I would get exhausted doing small chores. I went from an active person to one who had to rest often."

After TAVR, this 76-year-old is as busy as ever. "I've been kicking up my heels ever since."

Sandee is an exercise enthusiast. The 79-year-old was ready to get back in the gym less than a week after TAVR surgery, but waited awhile longer on the advice of her Blessing caregivers.

"I'm back up to doing 50 squats a day," Sandee said. "I do my hand weights. I do my stepper, a treadmill and a bike."

### Mission Statement

The Blessing Health System's mission is to improve the health of our communities.

### The Vision Statement

Blessing Health System will be exceptional

- in providing a safe, high-quality healthcare experience;
- in being the best place for providers to practice;
- in being a place where employees want to work and students want to learn; and
- in partnering with our communities.



Blessing Health System is a proud member of the



BJC HealthCare

COXHEALTH

Memorial Health System

Saint Luke's Health System



P.O. Box 7005 • Quincy, IL 62305-7005  
(217) 223-1200 • [blessinghealth.org](http://blessinghealth.org)

# BLESSING CORPORATE SERVICES

## What are you looking at?



**Maureen  
Kahn**  
President/CEO

It's been one of the most challenging years I've experienced as a healthcare leader. The situation brings to mind a quote from the late American self-help author and motivational speaker, Wayne Walter Dyer.

"If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at will change," Dyer said.

During 2022 focus nationwide was placed on devastating financial losses suffered by healthcare providers. Economic forces outside of and within the healthcare industry contributed heavily to the losses - forces not within providers' control.

We experienced those losses at Blessing Health. We could have looked to the future with anxiety, but chose not to make fear our focus.

Blessing Health made difficult but responsible decisions to address our financial challenge. We are committed to successfully carrying out our recovery plan because we are committed to the communities we serve.

While Blessing Health looks for savings opportunities, we pay equal attention to growth prospects to enhance our position as the Provider and Employer of Choice for the region we serve. As a result, we look to the future with positivity and excitement.

Change the way you look at things and the things you look at will change.

Blessing Health had much to celebrate during 2022. Our provider recruitment remained strong, we enhanced care processes, our care quality was recognized by a number of prestigious national organizations, we celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of improving the health of Pittsfield, Illinois, area communities - and our patients experienced "The Blessing Difference," expressed in the following observation from the mother of one of our patients.

"I thought to myself, 'Where else would we be able to experience this level of care? This demonstration of empathy and compassion? The answer is nowhere else but our hometown,'" said Jennifer Stickler, mother of injured high school football player Jordan Stickler, who received care from Blessing Health orthopedic surgeon Josue Acevedo, MD.

That's what 2022 – and every year at Blessing Health – is about, delivering the Blessing Difference.

You will read about the year's accomplishments on the following pages.

I end this message with a happy but heavy heart. I retire at the end of fiscal year 2023 after 22 years at Blessing, including the last eight years as President and Chief Executive Officer of the system. I have more than enjoyed the journey, the challenges, the relationships, the opportunities, and watching the growth of staff and the Health System.

I am proud of Blessing Health and confident in its future.

### Blessing Health 2023 focus areas

- Achieving top decile quality and safety
- Enhancing access to care
- Strengthening engagement with providers and staff

# PROVIDER PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

The following physicians joined Blessing Health during the fiscal year



Arthur Ankeney, MD  
Emergency Medicine



Misty Bowen, DO  
Family Medicine



Mohammad  
Choudhary, MD  
Surgery



Justo Gonzalez, MD  
Nephrology



Alborz  
Javadzadeh, MD  
Psychiatry



Maggie  
Lamborn, MD  
Psychiatry




Dakota Lammy, MD  
Family Medicine



Brett  
McGowan, MD  
OB/GYN



Milton  
Ochieng, MD  
Gastroenterology



Steven Ginos, MD, one of Blessing Health's first employed providers, retired May 13, 2022, after 16 years with Blessing Health System and 36 years as a family medicine physician.

"I had the opportunity to meet an incredible number of really good people," he said. "I enjoy every aspect of medicine."

"Blessing has been an outstanding employer; really good people to work for."

"I am looking forward to six Saturdays and a Sunday every week. We'll see what that's like," Dr. Ginos concluded.



Brittany  
Moore, PhD, LP  
Neuropsychology



Surya  
Polavarapu, MD  
Family Medicine



Christina  
Remmert, DO  
Internal Medicine



Richard  
Sowles, DPM  
Podiatry



Christopher  
Trammell, MD  
Psychiatry



Oleg Yurevich, MD  
Cardiology/  
Electrophysiology

## The following physicians, recruited during 2022, will begin their practices at a later date:

- Catherine Baker, MD, Family Medicine
- Sean Moroze, MD, Orthopedic Surgery

# PROVIDER PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

The following advanced practice providers joined Blessing Health during the fiscal year



Sara Brown, FNP-BC  
Center, MO  
Clinic



Emily Feenstra,  
APRN-FNP  
Illini Rural Health



Tara Huber, LCPC  
Behavioral Health  
Hannibal Clinic



Dani Miller, AGAC-NP  
Hospital Medicine  
Blessing Hospital



Allison Rodgers, FNP  
Monroe City, MO  
Clinic



John Sanchez,  
PMHNP  
Behavioral Health



Gwendolyn Scott,  
FNP-BC  
Family Medicine



Clay Thornburg,  
DNP, AGPC-NP  
Geriatric Care  
Hannibal Clinic

## Physicians bring new procedures to Blessing Health patients

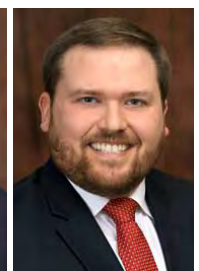
### ***Urology***

During 2022, urologists Drs. David Lieber and Brad Holland began offering a new treatment for urge incontinence called eCoin. The name reflects the nickel size of the device.

Placed underneath the skin of the ankle, eCoin sends an energy pulse through the tibial nerve twice a week. The stimulation helps improve bladder control, typically within 4-8 weeks of placement. Blessing is the only provider in the region offering this treatment option.



**Dr. Lieber**



**Dr. Holland**

### ***Pulmonology***

Dr. Umama Adil began offering Bronchoscopic Lung Volume Reduction (BLVR) in 2022, a minimally invasive option for severe COPD/emphysema. Through a bronchoscope, BLVR places one-way valves in the diseased parts of the lung to prevent air from being trapped, allowing the healthier parts of the lung to function better. Blessing Health is among the first providers in the country to offer this procedure.

Drs. Adil and Nanjappa Somanna offer robotic bronchoscopy to screen for lung cancer. A hand-held controller directs an endoscope through the lungs, guided by computer-assisted navigation based on 3-D models of the patient's lung anatomy, improving diagnostic capability compared to the non-robotic method.



**Dr. Adil**



**Dr. Somanna**

# QUALITY & SERVICE DATA

Blessing Health System is dedicated to providing high quality, accessible health care, showing compassion and respect to those we serve.

As part of that service we offer data about the quality of the services we provide to patients and customers. Our goals in providing this information include:

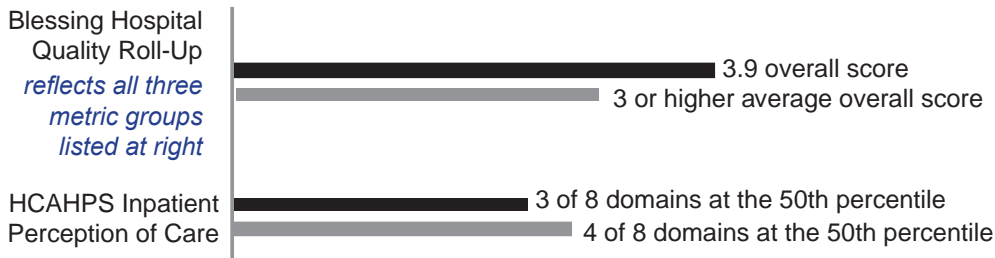
- Providing patients with good information to make informed decisions about their health and healthcare.
- Offering the public and patients accurate and honest data on the quality and prices of the services provided.
- Promoting the science of clinical practice and improvement of care quality within the health system.

In addition to listening to the voices of its customers, Blessing Health System regularly collects and reviews data, comparing it against national benchmarks, to achieve continuous quality improvement.

As opportunities are identified, teams of employees involved in the process or processes in question work with the Performance Excellence department to make improvements.

## Blessing Hospital

■ Result 2022 ■ Goal



## Illini Community Hospital



## Blessing Physician Services



## Denman Services, Inc.

**Overall Customer Satisfaction**  
**Result 96.27%**  
 The target was 90.10%

**Quality metrics**  
**Result 81.9%**  
 The target was 77.60%

**HAI (Hospital Acquired Infections)** include catheter-associated urinary tract infections; central line associated blood stream infections, C. difficile, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, and hand hygiene.

**Mortality** is the expected versus actual rate of death in cases of heart failure, pneumonia and for those who suffer heart attacks.

**Readmission** measures if a patient is readmitted within 30 days of being discharged from the hospital in cases of Acute Myocardial Infarction, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Heart Failure, Pneumonia, Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery or Elective Primary Total Hip Arthroplasty and/ or Total Knee Arthroplasty.

Goals are determined based on comparison with national benchmarks.

# OPERATING SUMMARY 2022

**Blessing Health 2022 employment:** 3,959

**Blessing Health 2022 volunteers:** 341 volunteers gave 48,122.75 hours of service

## BLESSING HOSPITAL

Admissions.....	14,202
Babies .....	973
Outpatients.....	373,176
<b>TOTAL PATIENT ENCOUNTERS</b> .....	388,351
Average Length of Stay .....	4.7
<b>TOTAL SURGERIES</b> .....	13,052
Including 152 open heart surgeries	
Lab tests .....	1,036,556
Cardiopulmonary procedures.....	49,365
Cardiology procedures.....	49,731
Radiology procedures.....	119,299
Physical Therapy & Rehab .....	134,679
<b>Emergency Center visits</b>	
Patient visits.....	35,361

## ILLINI COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Acute admissions .....	375
Acute Average Length of Stay .....	4.0
Worthington Square admissions.....	23
Worthington Square Length of Stay...7.7	
Swing bed admissions.....	45
Swing bed length of stay.....	8.9
Observation patients.....	192
Outpatient visits.....	83,722
Total surgeries .....	340
Emergency visits .....	6,398
Lab tests .....	75,750
Respiratory treatments .....	2,031
Radiology procedures.....	9,913
Rural Health Clinic & XPress visits....	16,548

## BLESSING PHYSICIAN SERVICES

Total patient visits .....	238,559
- Blessing Express Clinic visits .....	21,410
- Walk-In Clinic visits.....	24,031
- All other departments.....	193,118
Convenient Care clinics visits.....	724
<i>(Only one Convenient Care Clinic operated during 2022. It merged with the Blessing Express Clinic on 11/12/22)</i>	
Diagnostic tests.....	134,513

## HANNIBAL CLINIC

Total patient visits .....	136,513
- Walk-In Clinic.....	14,884
Diagnostic tests.....	86,468

## DENMAN SERVICES

Employees.....	172
Medical equipment divisions	
New patient orders.....	33,519
Recurring rentals.....	45,406
Linen division	
Pounds of linen processed.....	15,939,000
Biomedical division	
Pieces of Blessing equipment serviced.....	7,864

# BLESSING HOSPITAL



**Brian Canfield**  
Chief Operating  
Officer, Blessing  
Health and  
President, Blessing  
Hospital

## As healthcare industry faces challenges, Blessing Hospital staff remains focused on mission

**Quality:** Hospital staff delivers nation’s best nursing care, patient safety and stroke care

How is the nursing care at Blessing Hospital? Among the nation’s best. That is what the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) determined when it granted Blessing Hospital Magnet status in July 2022. Magnet recognition is the highest national honor awarded for nursing excellence.

ANCC evaluates applicants across a number of standards deemed essential to delivering superior patient care. These include the quality of nursing leadership and coordination and collaboration across specialties, as well as processes for measuring and improving the quality and delivery of care. The evaluation gauges an organization’s nursing excellence.

Research demonstrates that Magnet recognition provides specific benefits to health care organizations and the communities they serve, such as

- Higher patient satisfaction with nursing care received.
- Lower risk of 30-day mortality and better ability to rapidly identify and treat complications when they occur.
- Higher job satisfaction among nurses.
- Lower nurse reports of intentions to leave their positions.

Of the more than 63-hundred hospitals in the country, only 591 organizations, or 9.4%, hold Magnet recognition.



**Nurses celebrate earning Magnet status**



Blessing Hospital earned a grade ‘A’ for patient safety from the national Leapfrog Group for both survey periods during 2022. That made five straight survey periods for which the hospital earned an ‘A’.

The Leapfrog Group, founded by 2,000 large employers and other purchasers of healthcare, assigns a letter grade of A through F every six months to approximately 2,900 general hospitals across the country. Grades are based on over 30 performance measures reflecting errors, injuries, accidents, infections, and the systems hospitals have in place to prevent harm.

Typically, around one-third of hospitals surveyed receive a grade of ‘A.’ Blessing earned ‘A’ grades for both survey periods in 2022 and 2021, and for the 2020 fall survey.



# BLESSING HOSPITAL

U.S. News & World Report, known for its annual hospital rankings, named Blessing Hospital as a 2022-2023 High Performing hospital in the following care areas:

- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Colon cancer surgery
- Heart attack
- Heart failure
- Kidney failure
- Stroke



2022 marked the fourth consecutive year U.S. News & World Report recognized Blessing Hospital. It also was the second consecutive year the hospital was recognized in the same six care areas.

The recognition reflects the delivery of care determined to be significantly better than the national average, as measured by factors such as patient outcomes. Fewer than half of the 4,500 hospitals evaluated across 15 specialties and 20 procedures and conditions received any High Performing ratings.

The annual Procedures & Conditions ratings are designed to assist patients and their doctors in making informed decisions about where to receive care for challenging health conditions or elective procedures.



The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association confirmed Blessing Hospital delivers stroke care that meets or exceeds national standards by awarding it with Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke GOLD PLUS recognition for 2022, based on its delivery of stroke care over the previous 24-month period. This was the second consecutive year Blessing earned this recognition.

Additionally, Blessing was named to the *Target: Stroke Honor Roll* for meeting or exceeding national standards regarding the administration of blood clot-busting medication in appropriate stroke cases, and to the *Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll* for meeting or exceeding national standards of care to diabetes patients. Diabetes is a risk factor for stroke.

The compassionate work of the Blessing Hospital Life Team was nationally recognized in 2022 with the Platinum award from the federal Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) and Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network for “saving and healing lives by encouraging their employees and communities to register as organ, eye and tissue donors” through the National Hospital Organ Donation Campaign. This was the second consecutive year the team earned national Platinum recognition.

Blessing Hospital was one of 23 healthcare organizations in Gift of Hope’s service area to receive HRSA Platinum award recognition.



From left: Dr. Harry Wilkins, President & CEO, Gift of Hope and Blessing Hospital Life Team members.

# BLESSING HOSPITAL

## **Care enhancements: Blessing selected for national research project, opens retail pharmacy, and computerizes surveillance of fatal infection**

*Blessing Hospital from Home* was created in 2022 as a result of the hospital being selected to participate in a national research study to develop a process to deliver hospital-level care in the homes of rural residents. Blessing was one of two providers in the nation selected by Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Massachusetts from among 700 applicants.

As many as 60 million people – one in five Americans – live in rural areas. However, more than 140 rural hospitals have closed since 2010, making development of rural hospital from home programs vital to maintaining and improving the health of rural residents who are having to travel longer distances for care.

When a person is discharged from an inpatient stay, the last thing they want to do on the way home is stop to pick up a prescription. That’s one of the reasons Blessing began the retail pharmacy program in 2022. Convenience.

The service allows patients to fill a new prescription before leaving the hospital. Located between the main entrances to Blessing Hospital, the retail pharmacy also serves Blessing Emergency Center patients, and outpatients seen at the Blessing Health Center adjacent to the hospital.

Other goals of the service are to improve first-dose prescription medication compliance, and decrease hospital admissions and readmissions.

Sepsis is a difficult-to-diagnose and often fatal infection affecting the entire body. Blessing now uses a sophisticated computerized system to identify patients with sepsis earlier than was possible previously. The system is called *POC (Point of Care) Advisor*.

Unless identified and treated early, sepsis damages tissues and organs throughout the body and can be fatal in as little as 12 hours. POC Advisor uses artificial intelligence (AI)-based tools to continuously analyze electronic health record patient data to identify people with sepsis up to six hours earlier than previously possible with other monitoring procedures.

## **People: New president and praise for chaplains**

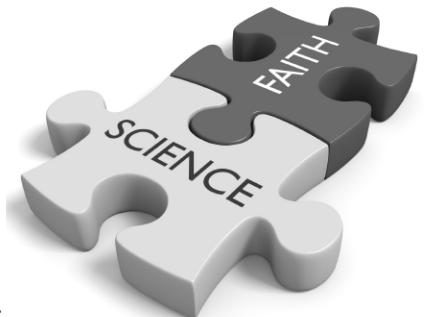
Brian Canfield, chief operating officer, Blessing Health, assumed the additional duties of Blessing Hospital president during 2022.

Blessing addresses patient health from the aspects of body, mind and spirit. Partnering with the hospital’s medical caregivers in that effort are area clergy, members of the nationally award-winning volunteer chaplaincy program, among the first of its kind in the country when it was started. The program celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary during 2022.

The Blessing chaplain staff has a wealth of resources and experience from which to draw as its members seek to meet the spiritual and religious needs of today’s increasingly diverse health care patients, and their Blessing caregivers.



**Patty Fearneyhough Cowick was among Blessing Hospital from Home's first patients. She called the program "a godsend".**



# ILLINI COMMUNITY HOSPITAL



**Kathy Hull**  
Chief of Small  
Rural Hospitals

## Improving access through new clinic and provider recruitment

Access to urgent care in the communities served by Illini Community Hospital will be enhanced with the relocation and redesign of Illini Xpress Clinic, a \$1.6 million project, including nearly \$900,000 in a federal grant, announced during 2022. This will move the clinic from the Pittsfield



square onto the Illini main campus, as well as create a space built specifically for this type of care, featuring both drive through and traditional clinic space. Relocating the clinic to the hospital campus will allow staff to more quickly and efficiently respond during times of high demand for care to assist clinic caregivers.

Illini Rural Health Clinic recruited two new physician providers in 2022; Drs. Alborz Javadzadeh, psychiatrist and Dakota Lammy, family medicine provider. Additionally, Emily Feenstra joined the clinic as a family nurse practitioner.

The Illini Child Care Center opened May 2. The facility serves both employee and community children. Its capacity is 45 children ranging from infants to pre-school. The center employs 16 people.

Difficult decisions had to be made during 2022. The Worthington Square acute geriatric psychiatric unit was closed. It was opened in 2015 as a compliment to the adult and pediatric inpatient psychiatric units at Blessing Hospital. The closure allowed Illini to focus its limited staffing resources on delivering acute medical care to the communities it serves.

Regarding Blessing Health's other small, rural hospital; Blessing Health Keokuk hospital closed on October 1, 2022. Demand for inpatient care did not support operation of a critical access facility and around-the-clock emergency room. Blessing Health continues to serve Keokuk and surrounding communities with outpatient care through Blessing Health Keokuk Clinic, providing occupational medicine, and primary and specialty physician services, and the Blessing Be Well at Work program for employers, their employees and covered dependents.

### Recognition of roots and focus on the future

Illini Community Hospital celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary on January 25, 2022 - 80 years to the day from the official dedication ceremony.

Kathy Hull, long-time leader of Illini Community Hospital, retired on December 31, 2022. At Illini for more than 23 years, the last 11 years as its leader, Kathy said she loves the community and organization, but it was time for her to do something different in her career.

"Illini has been blessed with 12 years of profitability, and very high quality and service. I think we positioned the organization well to move into the next generation of caregiving. I feel good about the organization," she said.

# BLESSING FOUNDATION

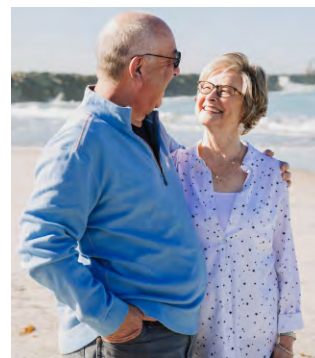


**Pat Gerveler**  
President

## Honoring the vision of two amazing women and their families

Late Quincy resident Teresa Adams was a role model to many for her exceptional hospitality and warm and welcoming personality, and the courageous way she lived with cancer for 12 years. The experience gave her a unique perspective regarding the importance of “home” and “comfort” in the process of receiving healthcare.

When plans formed in 2020 to replace the 70-year-old Quincy Hospitality House, which offers discounted daytime and overnight accommodations for patients and their families seeking healthcare in the Quincy area from any provider, Teresa’s family generously lent her name to the project. The Blessing Foundation



**Kent & Teresa Adams**

lent its expertise to managing the \$2.3 million in donations received for the project. The Teresa Adams House opened in January 2023.

“While Teresa’s name adorns this beautiful facility, it must be known that it is in the spirit of giving that this building exists,” said her husband, Kent Adams. “And the name Teresa Adams is the embodiment of all the wonderful souls in this community who likewise, in their daily comings and goings, do good for others. Teresa Adams did not leave things for people after her passing, she left the love of giving in people.”



### One family’s grief leads to support for others

When Levi and Bridget Kennington’s son, Karter, was stillborn on August 16, 2021, the family searched for a release for their grief. The result was the Karter K Fund, managed by the Blessing Foundation, to assist families who experience stillbirth at Blessing Hospital with any related costs they may face.

In a few short months donations totaled more than \$15,000, with annual fundraisers to be held to support the fund’s mission.

“Helping other families will help fill my heart,” Bridget said.

### Other Blessing Foundation accomplishments

The Foundation received total cash donations equaling \$2,735,277 from 20,464 gifts. Those gifts supported 47 funds during Fiscal Year 2022, used for a variety of purposes including support and enhancement of care, health careers education and unmet patient needs, including:

- Providing \$1.85 million to Blessing Health affiliates for programs and services vital to improving the health of our communities, but unable to financially support themselves.
- Forty-nine scholarships at Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences. Scholarships and grants totaled \$1,200,000 in Fiscal Year 2022.
- Caring Club donations are restricted and utilized for many Health System requests, including assisting patients in financial need with their medical necessities of durable medical equipment, medications or gas/transportation costs. In fiscal year 2022, Blessing Health System employees donated \$85,979 to the Caring Club. The community campaign raised an additional \$22,029.

### At year end

The Foundation’s total assets at year-end was \$76,972,977. Investments under management had a market value of \$37,826,293. Cash and other assets totaled \$1,555,178.

Go to [blessingfoundationconnects.com](https://blessingfoundationconnects.com) for more information on our donors and the lives they change.

# BLESSING-RIEMAN COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES



**Brenda  
Beshears**  
President/Chief  
Executive Officer

## Thriving, not just surviving

Even though nursing graduates from December 2021 and May 2022 spent half of their sophomore year and the majority of their junior year enduring a pandemic, they thrived. December graduates achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the National Council of Licensure Examination (NCLEX), 16 points above the national and state averages. The May graduates achieved a pass rate of 92.9%, also exceeding the national and state average.

Of the 47 pre-licensure graduates in the December and May classes, 51.1% remained to work for Blessing Health. An additional 4.3% remained in the region for employment. The graduates are heavily recruited for a solid year prior to their graduation. The investment made in these students becomes a significant return on investment when they choose to remain at Blessing when they graduate.

The Medical Laboratory Technology program graduated five students with three choosing to remain at Blessing and two remained in the region. They delivered a 100% first-time pass rate on the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification exam.

## New year, new programs

The 2021-2022 academic year included the first sophomore class in Blessing-Rieman's Bachelor of Science in Radiology and Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care. The Radiology program had been offered as a certificate since the 1950s and the Respiratory Care program transitioned from an Associate's Degree. The College implemented advanced program curriculum which had been under development for months. The programs added an additional 17 students with plans to almost double the enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year based on the level of interest in the health sciences majors.

### 2023 areas of focus

- Growing enrollment with a variety of new recruitment initiatives
- Implementing a new Dual Enrollment program for area high school students
- Preparation for new NCLEX testing method – NextGen to be implemented in April, 2023

## *The Blessing Box: Feeding body, mind and soul and educating students*

Blessing-Rieman students have access to exceptional technology to develop and sharpen their skills.



A 2022 addition to the college teaching tool belt is anything but high-tech. It's a box of wood and glass sitting on top of a painted, steel pole, anchored in a cement foundation. It stands in front of a mobile home park at 36th and Maine streets on Quincy's east side. Its purpose is as important to the education of students as

lessons learned in the state-of-the-art Simulation Lab.

It's called the Blessing Box - a community food donation and distribution site - a place where people facing hunger find donated non-perishable food items.

During the pandemic, Blessing-Rieman's Community Health Nursing class students identified a lack of food-related assistance on Quincy's east side. Together students, faculty and staff developed a remedy for the situation - the Blessing Box. Students, with the support of community donations, maintain the box. It has seen steady use.

Erika Knuffman, MSN, RN, CNE, instructor, says the experience of being responsible for the Box will shape the way Blessing-Rieman educated nurses see those for whom they care for the rest of their careers.

"Every person has a story," said Erika. "Once you hear that story and try to understand, it lets a wall down and you see the other person as a human. It's part of building empathy and understanding, respect and dignity when you try to understand another person's story."

# DENMAN SERVICES, INC.



**Susan Long**  
Chief  
Operating  
Officer

## Meeting community needs takes on a new dimension at Denman

Denman specializes in high-tech; from offering processes to clean and sanitize hundreds of thousands of pounds of linen used in healthcare settings to maintaining sophisticated hospital and clinic imaging and diagnostic equipment; from marketing specialized mobility devices to being a trusted source of life-giving oxygen and other vital home medical equipment.

Denman added a priority this year. It's not high-tech, but important to improving the health of the communities served. Denman Services joined the fight against hunger.



Each of our retail locations across the region has adopted and is a collection site for donations to a local food pantry. Denman employees chose this cause as another way to support the Blessing Mission of improving the health of our communities.

Following are the accomplishments of the divisions of Denman Services, Inc., during fiscal year 2022:

**Medical Equipment Divisions** (Denman Medical/Hannibal Medical/Illini Health Services/Macomb Medical/Adaptive Mobility Systems/Keokuk Area Medical)

- All locations earned reaccreditation from the Accreditation Commission on HealthCare (ACHC).
- Each division affiliate applied for the HME Provider of the Year award, a national recognition program sponsored by HME News Magazine and advanced to the finalist round. While Denman did not win, this is a great accomplishment for the team.
- Keokuk (Iowa) Area Medical Equipment will join the Denman family after working through tasks required to complete the merger, relative to licenses, Medicare, payer contracts, etc. The Keokuk location will expand the division's reach in the market area.
- Hannibal (Missouri) Medical Supplies relocated to the hub of healthcare activity in Hannibal for customer convenience.

**Denman Biomedical Services** worked with Blessing Information Technology Security to address the heightened security risk that comes with the ever-expanding medical technology enhancements. New software, Medigate, helps identify the vulnerabilities within Blessing.

**Denman Linen Services** was reaccredited by the Healthcare Linen Accreditation Council (HLAC). New contracts were secured with the Great River Health System – Burlington and Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital – Mattoon. Began using new software that provides real time production and order fulfillment updates.

**Denman Corporate Services** reached 120 consecutive days companywide without a lost time accident.

### 2023 areas of focus

- Customer communication – ability to text patients.
- Process review from intake through delivery to meet order demand and supply chain obstacles.
- Continued focus on productivity enhancements at linen.

# 2022 Annual Report

## AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The role of the Audit and Compliance Committee is to assist the Blessing Corporate Services (BCS) Board of Trustees in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities regarding the integrity of financial statements, internal controls, compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, external audit performance and risk management. Among the Committee's responsibilities are:

- Review of all financial statements;
- Insure the integrity of Internal Audit Department;
- Recommend the appointment and provide oversight of the work of registered public accounting firms employed by the system;
- Resolve disagreements between management and auditors regarding financial reporting;
- Seek information whenever needed from employees and/or external parties;
- Retain independent counsel, accountants or others to advise the Committee or assist in the conduct of an investigation, with Board approval.
- Review the Annual Workplan/Risk Assessment for the organization.
- Complete a review of "Board Independence" for the System Boards.

### Financial Statements/Bond Covenants

The Committee reviewed reports from the Chief Financial Officer each quarter and year-end financials. In addition to the financials, the CFO presented the compliance report bond covenant requirements for Blessing Hospital.

### Audit of Accounts

Gray Hunter Stenn presented the 2021 audit at the first meeting of the 2022 calendar year. In addition to the Audit Committee, all BCS Presidents and Board Presidents/Chairs were invited to hear the report. Following the report, the Audit Committee met alone with the External Auditors to discuss any business.

### Internal Audit

The Audit Committee approved the 2022 work plan for the Audit/Compliance department. Each quarter the staff presented audits, findings, and plans of correction for discussion.

### Education Services

The Audit Committee members received six education presentations for discussion during the year:

1. Revenue Cycle and No Surprise Billing Act Update – Julie Duke
2. Info Security/Cybersecurity Report Update – Todd Haverstock

3. Enterprise Risk Management Update – Carolyn Bailey
4. Compliance Effectiveness Report – Pamela Stuart
5. Financial Statements – Tim Moore
6. Contractual Allowances vs. Actual Payments – Justin Hale

### Assessment of the Committee Charter

The Audit Committee reviewed and assessed the adequacy of the Committee Charter as well as confirmed that all responsibilities outlined in the Charter had been completed.

### Independence

The Audit Committee has the responsibility for assessing the independence of all BHS boards and reporting to the BCS Board their findings. All Boards were determined to have a majority of independent members for 2022.

### General

The Audit Committee meets as often as needed, at least four times a year. Five members make up the Committee. Three are BCS Board members, and two are non-Board members. Committee members must be independent, meaning they have not been employed by the Blessing Health System in an executive capacity within the last five years and are not affiliated with a company that advises or consults Blessing.

Audit Committee members must also be "financially literate," meaning having past employment experience in accounting or finance, professional certification in accounting or comparable experience or background, including having been a chief executive officer, chief financial officer or other senior officer with financial oversight.

BCS Audit Committee Members were:

Lynn House, Chair	John Obert
Vicky Eidson, D.Mgt.	Chris Niemann
Gary Gillespie	

Maureen Kahn, President/Chief Executive Officer, Blessing Corporate Services and Blessing Hospital, is an ex-officio member of the Audit Committee.

The following BCS staff assisted the Audit Committee in fulfilling its duties:

Pamela L. Stuart, BCS Chief Compliance Officer  
Patrick M. Gerveler, BCS Chief Financial Officer  
Danielle Graham, Senior Internal Auditor  
Nancy Barry, Senior Internal Auditor  
Krystina Logsdon, Internal Auditor  
Tim Moore, Chief Accounting Officer, Blessing Hospital

# BOARDS OF TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

## **Blessing Corporate Services, Inc.**

Timothy D. Koontz, *Chair*  
Christopher J. Niemann, *Vice Chair*  
Sayeed Ali  
Julie A. Brink  
Gary Gillespie (*term began 1/22*)  
Robert J. Hofmeister (*term ended 1/22*)  
Lynn House  
William Metzinger (*term began 1/22*)  
Jerry D. Kennett, MD  
Jack R. Sharkey  
Maureen A. Kahn (*President/CEO*)

## **Blessing Physician Services**

Jack R. Sharkey, *Chair*  
Harsha Polavarapu, MD, *Physician Chair*  
Steven W. Krause, DO,  
*Physician Vice Chair*  
Timothi Beth, DO  
Duane Hanzel, DPM  
Maureen A. Kahn  
Daniel Moore, MD  
Ashley Akhtar, NP  
Abby M. Reich, MD  
Salvador Sanchez, MD  
Nanjappa Somanna, MD  
Charone Tolbert, MD  
Jonathan Wilford, DO (*term ended 12/22*)  
Christopher Solaro, MD, PhD, CPE  
(*Chief Medical Officer*)

## **Blessing Hospital**

Julie A. Brink, *Chair*  
Sayeed Ali, *Vice Chair*  
Timothi Beth, DO (*term began 2/22*)  
Nancy A. Bluhm  
David Boster  
Dennis E. Go, MD (*term ended 1/22*)  
Austin Hake, MD (*term ended 1/22*)  
John Hammock, MD (*term began 2/22*)  
Timothy D. Koontz  
Thomas H. Miller, MD  
Christopher J. Niemann  
Harsha Polavarapu, MD  
Abby M. Reich, MD  
Ben Van Ness (*term began 2/22*)  
Maureen A. Kahn (*President/CEO*)

## **Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences**

William D. Daniels, *Chair*  
Cathy S. Meckes, *Vice Chair*  
Nancy Bluhm (*term began 8/22*)  
David Boster (*term ended 1/22*)  
Nikki Cain  
Thomas C. Dickerson  
Maureen A. Kahn  
Richard Saalborn, DO  
Chuck Scholz

Kenton Snyder  
Julie Stratman  
Celeste G. Taylor  
Brenda Beshears, PhD, RN  
(*President/CEO*)

## **Illini Community Hospital**

K. Jeanne Goodman, *Chair*  
Laura Kent Donahue (*term ended 8/22*)  
Daman Emrick  
Patrick M. Gerveler  
Maureen A. Kahn  
Jason R. Stratton  
Darin Thomas, MD  
Amy Ruebush  
Kathy Hull (*Administrator*)

## **The Blessing Foundation, Inc.**

Cynthia A. Meyer, *Chair*  
Jason R. Stratton, *Vice Chair*  
Laura Gerdes Ehrhart  
John J. Flynn, Jr.  
Phyllis J. Hofmeister  
Maureen A. Kahn  
Harold W. Knapheide, IV  
Jason Kvitile, OD  
Harold B. Oakley  
James A. Rinella  
Scott T. Ruff (*term ended 12/22*)  
William Spear  
Patrick M. Gerveler (*President*)

## **Hannibal Clinic, Inc.**

Patrick M. Gerveler  
R. Scott Koelliker (*term ended 10/22*)  
Maureen A. Kahn, (*President/CEO*)

## **Hannibal Clinic Advisory Board**

Roderick M. Bartlett, MD  
(*term ended 1/22*)  
Jeffrey T. Evans  
Aphrodite M. Henderson, MD  
Patricia L. Hirner, MD  
Zach Johnson, DO  
Bhagirath H. Katbamna, MD  
Erik J. Meidl, MD  
Susan M. Meidl, MD  
Prashanth Podaralla, MD  
Karen Powers, NP (*term began 1/22*)  
Rodney Yager, DO  
Maureen A. Kahn (*President/CEO*)

## **Blessing Health Keokuk**

(*all terms ended 9/22*)  
Michael Maher, *Chair*  
Kyle Keck  
Kiran Khanolkar, MD  
Michael Klauser, DVM  
Barb Smidt  
Donza Worden, MD

## **Blessing Health Keokuk Foundation**

(*all terms ended 9/22*)  
Michael Klauser, DVM, *President*  
Sarah J. Vigen, *Vice President*  
Ed Bazow  
Robert Woodburn  
Michael Dunn  
Gerald Schleier, DDS

## **Denman Services, Inc.**

Jack R. Sharkey, *Chair*  
Will Duryea, *Vice Chair*  
Humam Farah, MD  
Gary Gillespie  
Maureen A. Kahn  
William M. McCleery, Jr.  
Susan Long (*Chief Operating Officer*)

## **Current Health Solutions**

Patrick M. Gerveler  
Timothy A. Moore  
Maureen A. Kahn (*President/CEO*)

## **Crossriver Quality Health Partners, LLC**

Michael J. Bukstein, MD, *Chair*  
Andrew Dunn, DO  
Jeffrey T. Evans, MD  
Maureen A. Kahn  
Paula Mackrides, DO  
Sara Martin, NP (*term began 1/22*)  
Erik Meidl, MD  
Randy Tobler, MD (*term ended 8/22*)  
Christopher Solaro, MD, PhD, CPE  
(*Executive Director*)

## **Blessing Walk-In Clinic, LLC**

Patrick M. Gerveler  
R. Scott Koelliker (*term ended 10/22*)  
Timothy A. Moore  
Maureen A. Kahn (*President/CEO*)

## **Blessing Assurance Company**

Timothy D. Koontz, *Chair*  
Julie A. Brink  
Patrick M. Gerveler  
Maureen A. Kahn  
Timothy A. Moore  
Christopher J. Niemann  
Harold B. Oakley