

# Care *for* Tomorrow

The Campaign for the  
Women and Children's Tower  
at Ascension St. Vincent



**Ascension  
St. Vincent  
Foundation**



“Ashley and I are honored to be part of this amazing project that will result in an important expansion of the reach and impact of Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital at Ascension St. Vincent.

Providing world-class, compassionate care for women, infants and children in a single location will further enhance the position of Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital as a leading destination for quality healthcare in Indiana and beyond. We are excited to see how this wonderful new facility will help so many families in the years to come.”

— Peyton Manning  
Campaign Chair

## A vision rooted in compassion

Ascension St. Vincent is dedicated to spiritually centered, holistic care that sustains and improves the health of individuals and our communities and advocates for a more compassionate and just society.

For 141 years, Ascension St. Vincent’s talented physicians, nurses and professionals have been providing exceptional care for body, mind and spirit – not just for the whole patient, but for the whole family. We are committed to expanding access to best-in-class care for children and families across Indiana.

But too many mothers and infants in Indiana are at risk and we are called to do more. Our vision is to offer the highest level of multidisciplinary health care for both populations in a new, combined facility that will allow families to be together as they receive treatment and heal.

This combined facility, the Women and Children’s Tower, will relocate Ascension St. Vincent Women’s Hospital

and link it to Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital at Ascension St. Vincent. The tower will match our highly talented, trained and compassionate medical professionals with a state-of-the-art facility so they can best help patients.

As a community, we are all looking for a brighter future, for our families, friends, neighbors and loved ones. We believe tomorrow is full of potential for better health, deeper caring and more fulfilled lives. And we are mindful that our vision for tomorrow depends on our actions today.

We at Ascension St. Vincent and Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital are working hard to create this better future for everyone. We invite you to learn more about our campaign, Care for Tomorrow, and the role you can play.



Indiana has the country's third-highest maternal mortality rate.

In 2019, Indiana suffered 60 pregnancy-associated deaths either during or within a year of the end of pregnancy.

In Indiana, nearly 1 of every 3 mothers does not or cannot receive prenatal care during their first trimester.

## Our mothers are at risk

Indiana has a startlingly high maternal mortality rate — the country's third highest. In 2019, Indiana suffered 60 pregnancy-associated deaths either during pregnancy or within a year of the end of pregnancy. According to the Indiana Maternal Mortality Review Committee, most were preventable.

For some women of Indiana, the first time they seek healthcare is when they learn they are pregnant. They may have other untreated medical conditions such as hypertension, obesity or drug use that cause their pregnancies to be high risk, putting both the mother and her baby in danger.

These awful facts tell us there is more to be done for the women of Indiana. We may not be able to prevent all losses, but we at Ascension St. Vincent are dedicated to keeping mothers and their babies healthy and safe.

We must be able to offer the highest level of perinatal care, meaning multi-disciplinary care that includes trauma and emergency response, intensive care, cardiovascular interventions and more so we can respond accordingly in a single facility when time is of the essence.

Beyond complex interventions, new mothers need time with their newborns, regardless of whether one or the other is undergoing treatment. They need time to bond, time to adjust and time to create a connection between the two that will last a lifetime. Keeping mothers and babies together promotes maternal-infant attachment and stability. For some at-risk mothers, the time together immediately after birth is vital to keeping her engaged with her baby.

Indiana's maternal mortality rate is among the gravest in the nation. As a healthcare community that cares for all, we know that women need closer personal attention, expanded services and more resources.

*The call is urgent.*



Misty and Chase Monson

## Navigating Complications

August 21, 2021, was like any Saturday for the busy Monson family. Misty Monson, who was about 27 weeks pregnant, drove her 9-year-old daughter to softball, then watched her 7-year-old son's soccer game. But that day she developed a cough and by Monday tested positive for COVID-19. She quarantined herself and rested. By Wednesday, she was having trouble breathing. "I couldn't catch my breath," Misty said.

AFTER BEING ADMITTED to a nearby hospital, Misty's doctor sent her to Ascension St. Vincent Women's Hospital because of the complication of treating an expectant mother for COVID-19. Initially doctors at the Women's Hospital tried to treat her with oxygen, but that did not work. She needed to go on a ventilator and was transferred to the adult hospital on the 86th Street main campus. Misty begged the doctors to slow down the procedure so she could first say goodbye to her husband, David. She didn't know if she would wake up.

MISTY WENT ON A VENTILATOR, but needed even more intervention, so was put on a life-saving ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) machine, which acts as both the heart and lungs for extremely

**"I was so thankful I ended up here and so thankful to be alive."**

— **Misty Monson**  
*Grateful patient and mom*

ill patients. She was the first pregnant woman treated for COVID-19 at Ascension St. Vincent who went on ECMO. Her condition worsened, and to save both Misty and her baby, the doctors performed a Cesarean section to deliver baby Chase at 31 weeks the morning of September 9.

AS A PREMATURE NEWBORN, Chase was transferred to the NICU (newborn intensive care unit) several blocks away, where he stayed for about three months. Misty remained at the main campus to recover and anxiously waited to meet her newborn son for the next six days. Having family members in separate buildings was also hard on David, Misty said, because he had to split his visiting time. "It would have been so great to have Chase right there in my room," she said, referring to couplet rooms, where a mother and her baby can recover together.

WHILE MISTY DOESN'T REMEMBER her time on the ventilator or ECMO machine, she does remember the acts of care and kindness health care providers showed her. She remembers the nurses who washed and braided her hair, health providers checking on her mental state and a visit from a chaplain. These made an enormous difference to Misty.

"The staff was there for me," she said. "They understood and validated my feelings."

## Collaboration is Vital

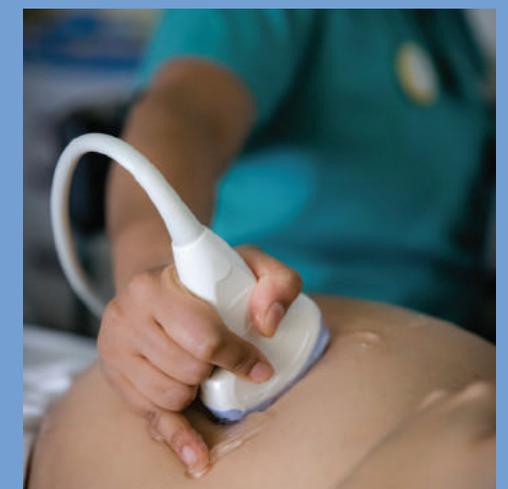
Tovah Ann Buikema, DO, is director of Maternal Fetal Medicine with a focus on high-risk pregnancies and fetal concerns. She is looking forward to being able to treat adults and children in the same facility.

"Now we have situations where the mom delivers by cesarean in an operating room and the newborn has to be transported to the NICU for care," she said. "It can be two to 10 days for the mom to recover," and for the two to be reunited.

Dr. Buikema sees an opportunity for more collaboration within teams working in the same facility. Having a subspecialist consult on a patient located elsewhere on campus can delay care. But if that person is just down a hallway, an urgent consult can happen quickly.

"This tower is a huge commitment to take care of moms and improve maternal outcomes," Dr. Buikema said.

Ascension St. Vincent, a Level IV regional perinatal health care center, has the medical skill and experience to care for the most complex, high-risk obstetrical conditions. Now it needs the facility to match.



**“As we move forward and look at the future of care for women and infants, we remain committed to improving infant and maternal mortality rates.”**

— Dr. Taha Ben Saad  
Director Clinical Medicine, Neonatology  
Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital  
Ascension St. Vincent Women’s Hospital



## Our youngest are our future

Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital at Ascension St. Vincent is home to Indiana’s largest Level IV NICU, providing the highest level of specialty care to the state’s youngest patients.

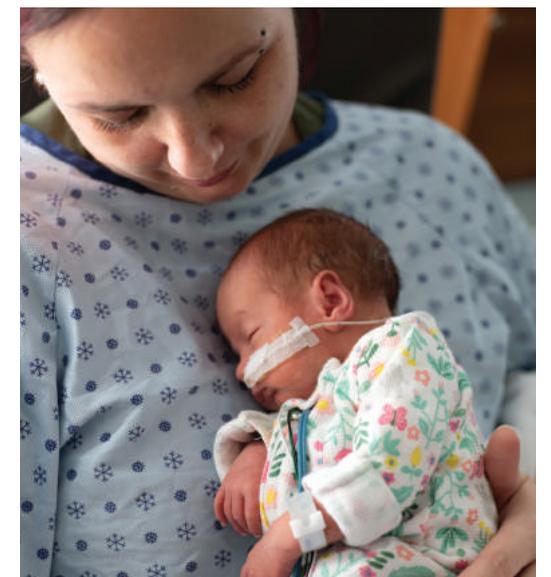
It includes a dedicated pediatric emergency department and a comprehensive system of outpatient specialty practices because we know the need for care doesn’t always end with a patient leaving our facility.

As a full-service pediatric care network, Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital provides primary care for routine health and wellness and specialty care for acute or complex conditions. We treat patients from all over the state and beyond, providing critical care transport by ambulance and air.

But there is more to do in response to the high infant mortality rate in the state, which is among the country’s highest. From 2016-2020, Indiana experienced more than 2,800 infant deaths, nearly half of which were perinatal in nature, meaning they were the result of conditions developed during pregnancy, during birth or right after birth. If

Indiana cuts its infant mortality rate to the national average, one baby would be saved every five days.

Because of these conditions and more, the need for providing greater critical care for our youngest is essential.





“If he had been born at any other hospital, he would not have survived.”

— Lyndsey Abshire  
*Grateful patient and mom*

Cole Abshire undergoing life-saving ECMO therapy, where a machine acted as his heart and lungs, giving those vital organs a rest.

## Separated at Birth

“He was supposed to be a healthy baby,” recalls Lyndsey Abshire of her full-term, eight-pound newborn. Cole was born via scheduled Caesarean section and Lyndsey thought she knew what to expect. Unfortunately, Cole had a severe complication. From the moment he was born, he was unable to breathe due to previously undiagnosed congenital pneumonia.

FOR TWO DAYS doctors used a series of advanced devices to pump air in and out of Cole’s lungs; but his blood still wasn’t getting enough oxygen. That’s when doctors moved him from the NICU at Ascension St. Vincent Women’s Hospital to Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital, where he received lifesaving ECMO therapy.

LYNDSEY, BACK at the Women’s Hospital recovering from the C-section, was desperate to be with her newborn son. She said the bumpy three-block ride from the Women’s Hospital to his bedside “felt like four hours.”

WHEN LYNDSEY REUNITED with her son, Cole was lying on a bed surrounded by tubes, monitors, screens and a pump that were acting as his heart and lungs to give those vital organs much-needed rest.

AFTER FOUR LONG DAYS, his tiny body responded and Cole came off the ECMO machine with an ability to maintain a healthy blood oxygen level on his own. Nearly one month after receiving the ECMO therapy, Cole went home and finally met his older brother, Gage. He never gave up then, and has that same spirit today, Lyndsey said.

LOOKING BACK, Lyndsey said the Women’s Hospital where she was recovering “might as well had been on the other side of the world” from Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital. That’s why she is especially appreciative of plans to build the Women and Children’s Tower and co-locate the facilities.

## Nurse Navigation Guides Follow-up Care

Nurse navigators, professionals who guide patients who need complex post-hospital treatment, ensure that patients have the best possible chance for a full and complete recovery, whatever that may be.

Some patients, like Cole Abshire, need years of different types of interventions and therapies to become their healthiest. Cole’s mother Lyndsey credits Brenda Zachmann, RRT, ECMO Coordinator for Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital, with helping her learn how to properly care for Cole and become an advocate for him after his release from the NICU.

Although Brenda was not a nurse navigator, she believes that role of guiding patient families during follow-up care is vital. In Cole’s case, he needed feeding therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy and more.

“I’m pretty passionate about it,” said Brenda. “For patients treated with ECMO, their journey doesn’t end there. Some kids go home on ventilators and feeding tubes. These children need multidisciplinary support. With a nurse navigator, parents have one point person to contact and to help them with setting up appointments. If they have a problem, they know who to contact.”

The ‘Care for Tomorrow’ campaign will expand the nurse navigator program to allow more patients to leave Ascension St. Vincent and Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital with the comfort of knowing where to go for the next step in their health journey.



## Where families can heal and thrive

At Ascension St. Vincent and Peyton Manning Children's Hospital, we envision a future where mothers and infants are cared for holistically with compassion in a setting that allows families to heal and thrive. With this intention as our guide, we will Care for Tomorrow.

Care for Tomorrow is the largest fundraising campaign in the history of the Ascension St. Vincent Foundation and provides you with the opportunity to serve Hoosier mothers, infants and families through the power of your philanthropy.

This \$20 million campaign was created to respond to maternal and infant health challenges we must address to forge the tomorrow we seek for our families and our communities.

The campaign has three areas of funding priorities. First, to create a continuum of care by supporting Indiana's largest Level IV NICU and bringing adult and pediatric care under one roof through the tower. Second, to support programs including nurse navigation and other patient and family support services. And third, to invest in the future by funding the most promising medical research.

**"By keeping families together, we can provide seamless and highly personalized care from all of our adult and pediatric specialists under one roof."**

— Jonathan S. Nalli  
Senior Vice President, Ascension  
Ministry Market Executive, Ascension St. Vincent





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The Women and Children's Tower will be home to our highest level of specialty care. Inside, multidisciplinary medical teams will collaborate routinely and be able to intervene at a moment's notice for women with high-risk pregnancies and deliveries as well as uncomplicated pregnancies.

An integrated intensive care unit in the tower will allow us to care for newborns, children and pediatric cardiovascular patients, and will allow for closer coordination among medical teams and greater flexibility in caring for the most compromised neonatal, pediatric and cardiovascular patients.

Our NICU — certified at Level IV, the highest level of newborn care — will be the largest in the state, with more than 100 private beds. Several of these rooms will be designed as central Indiana's first 'couplet' rooms, allowing both moms and their babies to receive care together, even if the baby needs NICU support.

'Angel Eye' Cameras will be available in NICU rooms so that families can see their infants when they cannot be at the hospital. The use of the secure web camera system will help keep families informed and help facilitate bonding with their infants as well as provide the opportunity for educational services and more.

One of the state's largest pediatric emergency departments will be located within the tower. When our youngest need emergency medical treatment, we must have the beds, equipment and people ready to care for them in a comforting pediatric setting. The tower creates the space for us to make this a reality.

Additional programs and services will help provide more families with more support, both during their hospital stay and after they leave.

Dedicated nurse navigators who will be a single point of contact for families who need help navigating the healthcare system, especially for children who face chronic, complex conditions.

Expanded patient and family support services to ensure kids and their patients have access to highly trained therapists and experts in child life, healing arts, the school program and more to help them heal and thrive.

Research support for Ascension St. Vincent's renowned physicians who are seeking new therapies and hope for children suffering from illness.



## The Tower At-a-Glance

- Offering family-centered healthcare through combined adult and pediatric services to the state of Indiana.
- Level IV Perinatal Healthcare Center (highest care level), providing comprehensive care to the most acutely ill and medically complex mothers and infants.
- One of the state's largest pediatric emergency departments.
- Central Indiana's first 'couplet' rooms serving moms and infants in the same room.
- 109 private NICU rooms with 'Angel Eye' cameras in each room.
- Integrated intensive care unit.
- Two direct-access helipads with immediate access to top level specialists and critical care teams as a Level I Trauma Center (highest care level).

A. The reception area of the tower's pediatric emergency department, one of the largest in the state.

B. One of the 109 private newborn intensive care rooms.

C. A pediatric intensive care room.

D. An exam room for pregnant patients.

E. An exam room in the pediatric emergency department.

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## How you can Care for Tomorrow

At Ascension St. Vincent, we are investing passion, expertise and resources into the Women and Children’s Tower because we understand how vital this project is to the health of our community. It is our steadfast commitment to enhancing care by expanding and connecting our services to women and children under one roof.

The tower is far more than a building. It means better care and improved outcomes for all Ascension St. Vincent serves. It holds the potential for saved lives and complete recoveries that families of Indiana so desperately need.

But we cannot do it alone. We rely on your philanthropic support to turn our visions into reality. Please consider making a meaningful gift that can make a difference for generations to come.

With your support, the tower will give our state a key resource for lowering our high maternal and infant mortality rates. The tower will enable Ascension St. Vincent to provide an optimal patient experience that focuses on compassionate, family-centered care.

### *Help us Care for Tomorrow.*

#### **Giving to the Campaign**

To reach our goal of \$20 million of philanthropic support, we are seeking gifts of all types.

**Gifts of Cash:** Cash gifts may be made as a one-time gift or divided into pledge payments. Pledge payments will be arranged to best meet your wishes.

**Planned Gifts:** Planned and deferred gifts will be honored for recognition purposes. Gifts of bequests, retirement funds, charitable gift annuities, real estate, retirement funds or life insurance policies, for which the Foundation is named the owner and beneficiary, can be facilitated with the assistance of the Foundation working with your estate or financial planner.

**Gifts of Stock:** Gifts of securities can be electronically transferred to the Foundation and you will receive credit for the fair market value for the gift on the day of transfer. Additional tax advantages may be available. Contact the Foundation for specific delivery instructions.

#### **Ascension St. Vincent Associates Payroll**

**Deduction:** Associates and physicians employed by Ascension St. Vincent may make a payroll deduction gift or multi-year pledge.

For more information or to participate, contact the Ascension St. Vincent Foundation at 317-338-2338 or email us at [foundation@stvincent.org](mailto:foundation@stvincent.org).

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**"We have set ourselves an ambitious philanthropic goal with this campaign. Even more importantly, we are setting a visionary goal for the health of our communities."**

— Peyton Manning  
Campaign Chair





# Ascension St. Vincent Foundation

Ascension St. Vincent Foundation  
250 West 96th Street, Suite 470  
Indianapolis, IN 46260

317-338-2338

[give.stvincent.org](http://give.stvincent.org)