

# GivingBack

A Newsletter for Donors & Friends of SIH

## Save the Date! SIH Giving Society Holiday Coffee

The SIH Giving Society will host the 2nd Annual Holiday Coffee on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> to recognize the outstanding commitment of donors who give \$1000 or more annually. It's not too late to add your name to our invitation list! Gifts that provide transformative care throughout our region can be made at [sih.net/foundation](https://sih.net/foundation)



## Welcome from the SIH Foundation Board Chair

Friends,

As the calendar changes to a new season, it's easy to rely on the predictable rhythms of autumn: the weather cools, the trees change colors, and fall festivals and sports take place. These events remind us of the values of community and thanksgiving for our family and friends.

Another predictable part of the season is Coach Kill Cancer Month at the SIH Foundation and the Salukis Blackout Cancer Game at SIU. These activities remind me of the way that we can care for those in Southern Illinois who are battling cancer and have needs that we can help fulfill. Our individual donations are pooled with those from others in the community and make a large impact!

This fall, I was really proud of the leadership of board member Jamie Green to bring a Tackle Cancer game to Murphysboro High School. With the administration and athletic staff, the MHS community raised over \$6800 for the Coach Kill Cancer Fund! They have pledged to host another game next year. Other high schools in Southern Illinois – Carbondale, Carterville and Herrin – have each agreed to host football or basketball games this year, and they will donate their proceeds to the SIH Foundation Coach Kill Cancer Fund. Wow! I am overwhelmed by the generosity of Southern Illinoisans and I'm proud to steward these gifts to SIH's programs and patients. After all, the more that we work together, the more everyone benefits, and we strengthen Southern Illinois.

Thank you for being an important part of this equation through your financial support of the SIH Foundation. Together, we will create access to excellent healthcare for patients in Southern Illinois!

Best,



George Sheffer  
SIH Foundation Board of Trustees, Chair



### OUR NEWSLETTER *Schedule and Distribution*

We publish a print newsletter in April and October (which is also provided in digital format via email) and an e-newsletter in February, June, August, and December. If you'd prefer to receive our newsletter by email instead of print, or if you'd like to be added to our print issue mailings, send us a note at [sihfoundation@sih.net](mailto:sihfoundation@sih.net) or give us a call at 618-457-5200 ext 67831.

## SIH Makes a Difference in Southern Illinois as a Not-for-Profit Hospital System

*Woody Thorne, Vice President of Community Affairs*

SIH's mission of service goes beyond doctors' offices and hospitals. We want to make a real difference in the communities we serve. After all, we're talking about our own families and friends. To that end, SIH remains committed to its status as a not-for-profit hospital system.

Simply put, not-for-profit hospitals commit to providing care for all, regardless of a person's ability to pay. In our SIH service area, an average of 16.7% of residents live in poverty, meaning that SIH plays a vitally important role in our region.

Any excess revenues over expenses are reinvested into the organization for operations or are put into the community rather than distributed to shareholders, as happens in the for-profit case. In fact, SIH does not have shareholders. We instead operate under the guidance of a board of directors made up of current and former local community leaders.

Not-for-profits are exempt from most state and federal taxes, but do pay other taxes, such as Social Security and Medicare. To receive this tax status, not-for-profit hospitals must provide specific community benefits as defined by the IRS. These benefits include providing care to those with an inability to pay for services, accepting Medicare/Medicaid, advancing medical training and research, and providing programs that improve community health through education and collaboration with partners. In Fiscal Year 2021, SIH provided \$132.5 million in unreimbursed services to patients with Medicare, Medicaid, or who qualify for our healthcare assistance program. Another \$7.3 million went to programs directly benefitting the region. Not-for-profit hospitals are also required to complete a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and implementation plan every three years.

SIH is proud of what our not-for-profit status means for community members in Southern Illinois, and we are committed to continuing to provide excellent care for all.



« Members of the Community Benefits team work with others throughout Southern Illinois on the CHNA.

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### Give Back



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## SIH's Mission in Action: Financial Navigators Link Patients to Helpful Resources

Jackie Austin, PI Supervisor, Breast and Cancer Care

The mission statement at SIH is a driver behind the patient care that is provided each day. More than nice words, each department at SIH strives to make this mission relevant to our patients. Whether an employee's work includes direct healthcare or not, all employees at SIH believe that our work contributes to a patient's overall wellness.

This is especially true for the Financial Navigators at the SIH Cancer Institute. Financial Navigators see patients as more than the diagnoses that are written in their patient charts; they are individuals with robust and varied interests, they have families with whom they enjoy special activities, and SIH wants to provide them the chance to feel equipped to manage the complexities of their treatment, especially when it comes to finances.

The office of Financial Navigation helps to eliminate the stress of financial burdens that patients with cancer face and that might typically stop them from wanting to start and/or continue their treatments. Financial Navigators look into MAP (Medication Assistance Programs) to help reduce or eliminate the cost of infusion services and oral chemotherapy treatments. Navigators also assist patients in understanding their current insurance coverages, find assistance for current

and on-going medical bills, transportation costs, everyday living costs, medication expenses, finding and enrolling options for additional and/or primary insurance coverage, and more. Each program has different requirements and are all based on income levels, diagnosis, and insurance coverage. Financial Navigators meet with patients to discuss options that work for their lives and empower them to feel in control of their financial needs throughout treatment. The SIH Foundation contributes to the tools that Navigators use by stewarding gifts made to the Coach Kill Cancer Fund to our patients. This important collaboration is one that our patients rely on and that we are proud to provide.

*We are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all the people in the communities we serve.*

# Ellie Gives to Kids at SIH Herrin Hospital



**Ellie Golden**, a Junior Girl Scout, brought boredom buster bags for kids who are at Herrin Hospital as patients or who are there with other family members. Ellie created these bags as part of her Bronze Award for Girl Scouts and filled them with fidget toys, coloring books, crayons, small games, and other activities to keep someone occupied and entertained during what could be a long ordeal. Ellie and her mom Jennifer sorted the bags for boys and girls into two age groups: preschool and young children. Haley Stewart, ER Supervisor, and Rodney Smith, Administrator of Herrin Hospital, enjoyed taking Ellie and her family around the hospital so that she could see where these bags would be used and stored. We are so grateful to projects like this that will make a positive impact on the hospital stay of someone in our community. Thanks to Ellie and her family for this great project! For information about ways to get involved like Ellie, please contact the SIH Foundation at [sihfoundation@sih.net](mailto:sihfoundation@sih.net).



Ellie shows off a boredom buster bag to Zack Radford, RN



Ellie with Haley Stewart and Rodney Smith



# Slice of Life

## Golf Tournament

The SIH Slice of Life Golf Tournament was held September 30th at Kokopelli Golf Club in Marion. For nearly 30 years, our generous sponsors have played to support critical healthcare needs in Southern Illinois. Gifts through the SIH Foundation help provide capital improvements, supply much-needed equipment and resources, and contribute to our Patient & Community Support Funds. These funds directly impact the lives of friends, family, and community members dealing with a financial crisis brought on by a medical diagnosis or need. Special events such as Slice of Life support the efforts of providing quality patient care throughout Southern Illinois. Visit [www.sihsliceoflife.com](http://www.sihsliceoflife.com) to learn more about the event and consider joining us next year!



# Camp BETA 2022:

## We're Back!

The fifth annual Camp BETA was held on September 10 & 11, 2022 and back in person at SIU Touch of Nature Environmental Center. The overnight camp was attended by 12 boys and girls ages 10 - 16 with Type 1 Diabetes. The kids enjoyed all kinds of activities during the camp including arts & crafts, board games, campfire songs, canoeing, climbing, gaga ball, team building activities, and volleyball.

Volunteers and Touch of Nature staff were excited to see several returning campers and a return to an in person camp. However, for some of these children, this was their first overnight camping experience. Even though they only stayed one night, it was clear that the campers had formed a bond with their counselors from the SIU-C Dietetic Internship Program.

The camp concluded with a closing ceremony led by the SIU-C Parks and Rec students. During this ceremony campers got to take part in one last song, and then they shared their favorite thing about camp by acting it out with a partner. After every group shared each camper was presented a camp completion certificate and a special beaded bracelet.

Camp BETA is a collaboration between Southern Illinois Healthcare, the Diabetes Today Resource Team and the SIU Touch of Nature Environmental Center with sponsorship from the Carbondale Lions, Carbondale Rotary Club, and many others. The camp's continued success can be attributed to the hard work of many community members, parents, students, nurses, dietitians and volunteers.



# SALUKIS

## Blackout Cancer

With the Saluki Football season underway, SIU is teaming up with the SIH Foundation on October 29th to host the Salukis Blackout Cancer football game. This benefit game is a way for fans throughout Southern Illinois and across the country to show their support by raising money for the Coach Kill Cancer Fund, which provides financial assistance to cancer patients in need. For more information, visit <https://salukisblackoutcancer.net>. And while jersey bidding has ended for this football season, check back in January to bid on jerseys from the Women's and Men's basketball teams.

