A Report on Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center’s

Minutes Matter Emergency Services Campaign
December 2021

Dear Friend,

What started as a vision to bring advanced emergency and urgent care services to Burbank, Toluca Lake and the communities of Glendale, Hollywood, Studio City, and the surrounding Valley is now close to becoming reality. From our humble beginnings more than 75 years ago to earning the distinguished honor of Best Regional Hospital by U.S. News & World Report for the third consecutive year, and now our new integral expansion — all of us at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center are immensely proud of what we have accomplished with your steadfast support. Our caregivers and community are eagerly anticipating the opening of the Jaromír Střížka Emergency Department and Cusumano Family Urgent Care facility in the summer of 2022. We are delighted to share our progress with you.

In the last few years, the Minutes Matter Emergency Services Campaign has grown exponentially from the generosity of donors like yourself. We have continuously been reminded of the engagement of our tremendous community. You have walked alongside us to help realize an improved health care experience for those who come to Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in their most urgent time of need. We could not have come so close to accomplishing our ambitious goal without your support. For this, we extend our deepest gratitude.

Exceptional care is always our highest priority. Our physicians and nurses have continued to bravely battle the pandemic’s effects on our community, providing the highest level of care with the greatest compassion. Our nearly 35,000 square foot Emergency Department will be almost triple the size of our current space - with 44 spacious treatment rooms, two critical procedure bays, up to eight behavioral health rooms, a 24/7 dedicated pharmacy, along with on-site x-ray, ultrasound, and CT scanning. These imaging services currently require caregivers and patients to travel to other areas of the campus and the new placement gives precious minutes back to patient care.

Emergency Department staff, Executive Director Debbie Buffham, RN; Medical Director Celina Barba-Simic, MD; and Nursing Manager Bailey Wojcik, RN.
The space has been designed with a flexible layout that allows caregivers to move patients in different directions and use rooms for multiple purposes, enabling a smooth and efficient workflow even at the busiest of times.

Emergency Department Nurse Manager Bailey Wojcik, RN shares the impact on care: “With our new Emergency Department (ED), we will be able to care more quickly for these patients. Having the CT scan in the ED will save precious moments that matter for stroke patients. We will also be able to provide more timely care and decrease the number of patients in the waiting room as we go from 24 beds currently to 44 in the new ED.”

We anticipate we will be able to treat more than 93,000 patients between the Jaromir Stržiška Emergency Department and Cusumano Family Urgent Care facility. This is approximately a 30 percent increase from our current capacity. All these advancements combined will provide for an improved patient experience that allows us to fulfill our promise of know me, care for me, ease my way.

We are pleased to share the following updates on the Minutes Matter Emergency Services Campaign. We hope this gives you a great sense of pride and eager anticipation as we count down to our projected opening in 2022. We look forward to honoring your contributions and the culmination of our community’s generosity by hosting a celebration to mark the significant impact of a state-of-the-art emergency medicine facility in your own backyard.
Despite the challenges we still face during the pandemic, construction has continued to meet specified targets and we anticipate staying on schedule for our summer of 2022 opening. When the pandemic reached our community while construction was already underway, we adjusted our plans to utilize the time we had to improve upon workflow. Emergency Department Medical Director, Celina Barba-Simic, M.D., states, “We used this incredible opportunity to review the construction plans through the lens of the current pandemic. We were able to increase the number of negative pressure rooms, review patient flow inside the ED and improve outside waiting areas.”

We have continued the Permitting Plan Review Phase in which the construction plans and blueprints are reviewed by HCAI (Department of Health Care Access and Information), and requisite permits and permissions are obtained from HCAI and other government agencies.

We are pleased to report that the Construction Phase is progressing well. The Jaromír Střížka Emergency Department and Cusumano Family Urgent Care facility exterior structures are now complete. This includes the underground drilling, foundation and the footings for both structures. Specific updates will continue at each location throughout the coming months. At the Cusumano Family Urgent Care facility, interior framing is also complete, and roofing has begun. The electrical room equipment has completed installation, along with telecom excavation and underground glazing installation. Drywells to control drainage will be installed shortly, along with overhead and in-wall mechanical, electrical, and plumbing.

Construction will soon begin on the interior spaces including nursing stations, head walls, and all building finishes. The oxygen yard work was finalized in November 2021 and the electronic voltage yard is currently in progress. We will begin commissioning lifesaving medical equipment in early 2022.

The progress we have made in the Construction Phase has been made possible by the generous support of our Minutes Matter campaign donors. Executive Director of Critical Care Services, Emergency and Sepsis, Debbie Buffham, RN, speaks to the construction process input and impact of your generous donations. “In every phase, we focused on caregiver satisfaction and the patient experience as much as we could with the footprint we were provided. We are so blessed to be part of this new ED, made possible by generous community philanthropy.”
More than 2,800 donors have contributed to the campaign and as of October 2021, we are thrilled to share that we have reached $72.5M of our $78M goal. With your valued support we have achieved 93% of our fundraising objective, and we are humbled by the generosity of all donors to the campaign.

The Minutes Matter Emergency Services Campaign has been realized through the unwavering support of each of you. The Providence Saint Joseph Board of Governors formed a Campaign Cabinet, made of ad-hoc committees of neighbors and friends in creating both the Toluca Lake and Burbank Committees. Beginning in 2016, the Cabinet and each committee worked tirelessly to raise funds from friends, families, and neighbors in their own communities. From hosting salon events at private homes to spreading awareness during Burbank’s beloved July 4th Starlight Bowl concert, the Cabinet and members of the Burbank and Toluca Lake committees have given generously and served as extraordinary ambassadors to Saint Joseph’s, raising more than $10 million thus far. We are grateful for the caring commitment and heartfelt dedication of the more than 30 active volunteers who have contributed to the campaign’s success.

Your continued support towards reaching 100% of our $78M goal is deeply appreciated!

Donate securely either online at: supportsaintjoseph.org/minutesmatter
Or scan the code at left to make your gift on a mobile device.
Thank You to the Minutes Matter Campaign Donors, as of October 2021

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For questions regarding recognition, please contact:
diana.saa@providence.org
In Closing:

We are proud to share what we have accomplished with your continued support and our hope is that you see the direct impact of your generosity.

Our executive leadership team has led Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center with great pride, and we have received much recognition for our amazing caregiver family. The medical center received Magnet® designation by the American Nurses Credential Center. There are 40 Magnet-designated hospitals in California and only 8% of hospitals nationwide receive this prestigious honor. This recognition demonstrates the positive and significant way in which leadership and clinicians collaborate to advance and improve clinical care. Additionally, in a competitive environment, we moved from being a Primary Stroke Center to a Certified Comprehensive Stroke Center, of which there are only 140 in the country recognized by The Joint Commission. There are only eight Certified Comprehensive Stroke Centers in Los Angeles County, demonstrating the advanced capabilities of the medical center and dedication of our team.

Our commitment to excellence has made us one of the premier health care centers in Los Angeles County. Whatever challenges may come, we intend to remain a haven of leading-edge medical care for all members of our community. We are now just months away from providing our advanced care in state-of-the-art facilities.

We deeply appreciate your continued support and partnership in achieving this goal. We are $5.5M away from our goal and know that with your continued support, we can reach 100% of our $78M goal together to continue providing the best care to our community. Thank you again for your commitment to the growth of Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center and helping create a better world for all people.

We send our best wishes to you and your loved ones for a very bright and healthy New Year. We look forward to celebrating with you in summer 2022 to the grand opening of the Jaromir Střížka Emergency Department and Cusumano Family Urgent Care facility.

Gratefully,

Tina Johann, MBA
Chief Philanthropy Officer
Providence Saint Joseph Foundation
Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center

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