



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Art Van Elslander Gift to Create Endowed Chair of Cardiovascular Services at Providence

Warren – A donation by the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation will support the creation of an endowment called the Shukri W. David, M.D. Art Van Elslander Endowed Chair for Cardiovascular Services for Providence Hospitals. The amount of the donation will not be disclosed. The endowment gift came through the St. John Providence Foundations, which coordinates fundraising for St. John Providence, its hospitals, entities and programs.

Annual interest income from the endowment will be used to advance cardiovascular services at Providence-Providence Park Hospital in Southfield and Novi. Under the leadership of the endowed chair, funds will be used to invest in programs, facilities, equipment, research, staff recruitment and retention.

“It is truly rare to encounter a physician the caliber of Dr. Shukri David. His talent, compassion and commitment are without equal, and I am honored to call him not only my doctor, but also one of my closest friends. I can think of no one more deserving of this legacy than Dr. David,” says Mr. Van Elslander.

“I feel very fortunate to have a friend as caring and compassionate as Mr. Van Elslander,” says Dr. David. “His generosity has had a positive and lasting impact on our health system and our community. Creating this endowment will strengthen our position as one of the leading providers of heart and vascular care in Michigan.”

Dr. David is the chief of cardiology at Providence and the system chair of the Heart and Vascular Center of Excellence for St. John Providence.

(more)

Through personal and foundation gifts, Mr. Van Elslander is St. John Providence's largest donor, with gifts totaling over \$21 million. A donation to the St. John Hospital & Medical Center expansion campaign helped build the Van Elslander Pavilion patient tower, which added 144 private patient rooms, a new Heart & Circulatory Center and Diagnostic Imaging Center. Those gifts have also led to the creation of the Van Elslander Neuroscience Center of Excellence at St. John Providence; the Van Elslander Surgical Innovation Center, located at Providence-Providence Park Hospital, Novi; the Van Elslander Cancer Center at SJH&MC and the Mary Ann Van Elslander Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Special Care Nursery at SJH&MC.

"Through his generous support, Art Van Elslander has shown his commitment to our health system for decades, and this gift is yet another example of that commitment," says Jean Meyer, president and CEO of St. John Providence. "His generosity has helped to transform our health system, allowing us to create vital programs and services that enhance our ability to provide our patients with the highest quality care."

About the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation

The A.A. Van Elslander Foundation was formed by Art Van Elslander, founder of Art Van Furniture, and provides support within its home community of the state of Michigan in the areas of health, children and human services.

About Ascension Michigan

In Michigan, Ascension operates 15 hospitals and hundreds of related healthcare facilities that together employ more than 27,000 associates. Across the state, Ascension provided more than \$250 million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty in fiscal year 2016. Serving Michigan for over 170 years, Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. Ascension is the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system, operating 2,500 sites of care – including 141 hospitals and more than 30 senior living facilities – in 24 states and the District of Columbia. Visit www.ascension.org/michigan.

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