



Patient Maila Cadd's account of

# Lifesaving care at St. John

## Foundation

St. John Medical  
Center Foundation

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The St. John Medical Foundation has the opportunity to talk to individuals whose lives have been changed in our Critical Care Unit (CCU) and Emergency Department (ED). Again and again we hear the same thing: “They care.” “They saved my life!” Many of these stories are filled with tears and laughter. Many reflect gratitude that we have state-of-the-art care right here in our community.

As part of the hospital’s renovation project, the number and size of rooms in the CCU will increase and allow for expansion of future services. The ED, one of the busiest in the state, will grow by 14,500 square feet in order to accommodate the hundreds of patients who pass through. This growth will allow us to make a difference in even more people’s lives, such as Maila Cadd, who shares her story below.

**When I needed care, St. John was there** For many years the words “St. John” brought to mind happy memories, since our son and two granddaughters were born there. That changed in February 2003. Now the words “St. John” bring to mind memories of a crucial time, and, thankfully, memories I am alive to share.

Shortly after I returned home to recover from a successful rotator-cuff repair, I collapsed on the floor, unconscious. I awoke to labored breathing and pain, so the decision to get me to the hospital quickly was critical. Upon my arrival in the Emergency Department, the staff recognized I was acutely ill and immediately put me into a room and placed me on a cardiac monitor and oxygen. The medical staff worked quickly and gently, taking blood, using a portable chest x-ray, EKG (electrocardiogram), and CT (computerized tomography) scan before I was admitted to the CCU.

I spent five days in the CCU, being monitored closely in a cramped cubical crowded with machines. The team of caregivers was compassionate and efficient. To help ensure every area of concern was explored, the hospital staff ordered more tests that used state-of-the-art technology.

The physicians consulted each other and reviewed the results: I had acute bilateral pulmonary emboli, blood clots in both lungs. Later I learned this is fatal in 60 percent of the cases when it is not caught early.

I am thankful to have received life-giving and high-quality care...in a safe environment. This is a belated “thank you” to the dedicated staff (aides, nurses, technicians, respiratory therapists, physicians, cafeteria staff, and other personnel) who happened to touch my life during my 10-day hospital stay. You are angels. I have been blessed.

## You can help

Your hospital is transforming into a hospital that we will all be more proud of. If you are interested in making a gift to help us improve the Critical Care Unit or the Emergency Department, you can do so by making a memorial gift, honorary gift, or outright gift to St. John Foundation. Please enclose your gift and complete the envelope provided or contact the Foundation directly at **(360) 414-7900**.