

Our Journey Forward

March 30, 2026

Committed to Care, United in Purpose

As we enter the spring season, we do so with a deep sense of gratitude and pride for your exceptional dedication to our patients and communities, especially as the devastation of recent storms remains fresh and many continue to rebuild. In moments of both challenge and celebration, what defines us is how we come together to support one another, care for our patients, and continue our shared commitment to compassionate, high-quality care.

Celebrating Our Physicians Today and Every Day

On Doctors' Day, we extend our deepest gratitude to the physicians whose skill, compassion, and unwavering dedication make a difference in the lives of patients and families every day. Please see this special Doctors' Day message from Dr. Prem Reddy, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Prime Healthcare, as he shares his gratitude and appreciation for your service.

Today, we pause to honor the physicians whose skill, compassion, and unwavering commitment make healing possible every day.

At Prime Healthcare, we are proud to be a physician-founded and physician-led organization, one built on the belief that medicine is not just a profession, but a calling. The care you provide extends far beyond diagnosis and treatment. You bring comfort in moments of uncertainty, strength in times of vulnerability, and hope to patients and families when they need it most.

This past year, as our organization has grown and expanded into new communities, it is your leadership and dedication that have ensured every patient continues to receive safe,

high-quality, compassionate care. You are the foundation of the trust our communities place in us and the driving force behind the excellence we strive to achieve.

Your work changes lives. Not only in the moments of care you deliver, but in the lasting impact you have on the health and well-being of entire communities.

On this Doctors' Day, we extend our deepest gratitude for your service, your sacrifice, and your extraordinary commitment to healing.

Thank you for all that you do, and for the difference you make each and every day.



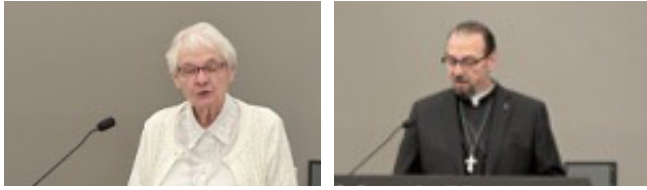
With appreciation,

**Prem Reddy,
MD, FACC, FCCP**
Founder, Chairman & CEO

Caring for Our Community in a Time of Need

Following the devastating tornado that impacted Kankakee County on March 10, **St. Mary's Hospital - Kankakee** was honored to care for community members who came through the Emergency Department during and after the storm. Our thoughts remain with the families who lost loved ones and with all those whose lives were affected.

In the days that followed, St. Mary's Hospital responded to the community's needs, delivering meals to first responders and hosting an interfaith prayer vigil, bringing together community members and local clergy to support one another and reflect on the path forward.



To further support recovery efforts, the **Prime Healthcare Foundation contributed \$50,000 to the United Way of Kankakee's Emergency Relief Fund** to help families begin rebuilding. St. Mary's remains committed to standing with the community during this time and continuing to provide care and support in the weeks and months ahead.



THESENTINEL

National Recognitions for Prime Illinois Hospitals

We are proud to share that Prime Healthcare hospitals received more than 150 recognitions for clinical excellence from **Healthgrades**. Among these honors, 16 hospitals earned the 2026 Patient Safety Excellence Award™, including **Saint Francis Hospital - Evanston, Mercy Medical Center - Aurora, and St. Mary's Hospital - Kankakee**. Of those recognized, 10 hospitals ranked among the top 5% in the nation for patient safety, with six placing in the top 10%. Congratulations to the following Prime Illinois hospitals for their achievements in clinical excellence and quality care:



- **Mercy Medical Center - Aurora**
- **Resurrection Medical Center - Chicago**
- **Saint Francis Hospital - Evanston**
- **St. Mary's Hospital - Kankakee**

Congratulations to our Prime Healthcare hospitals on being honored with the 2026 **PRC Excellence in Healthcare Awards**, with 22 hospitals across



the system recognized for their commitment to exceptional patient care and service. We are especially proud to highlight **Saint Joseph Hospital - Elgin, and St. Mary's Hospital - Kankakee**, for their outstanding achievements. Each earned a 4-Star Award, placing them in the top 25 percent nationally in the Emergency Department patient experience category. This recognition reflects the compassion, teamwork, and attentiveness that define the care experience we deliver every day.

Prime Healthcare's **PrimE-Academy** has been recognized by Becker's Healthcare as one of the nation's top simulation and education programs, emphasizing our innovative approach to advancing clinical learning across the system. This scalable, systemwide platform expands access to high-quality education through live, on-demand, and hybrid learning, supporting real-time skill development while allowing hospitals to tailor training to local needs. Congratulations to the team on this well-deserved recognition.



In The News

A recent [Shaw Local \(Daily Journal\)](#) article spotlights **St. Mary's Hospital - Kankakee** for its \$50,000 donation to the Emergency Response Fund of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties to support those affected by the recent tornado, noting the gift "reflects St. Mary's commitment to community care and the values of the Prime Healthcare Foundation, especially during times of hardship."

Saint Joseph Hospital - Elgin earned coverage in the [Chicago Tribune/Elgin Courier-News](#) for receiving Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA) from the American College of Emergency Physicians, with Chief Nursing Officer Maria Suvacarov stating the hospital's teams "are committed to building on this foundation to continue raising the bar for excellence in all care we provide."

In coverage by [Evanston Patch](#), **Saint Francis Hospital - Evanston** was recognized for being ranked among the top 10% of hospitals nationwide for patient safety, with the article's headline highlighting that the distinction places Saint Francis "Among Top 10% In U.S. For Patient Safety."

Recognizing Our Associates

Resurrection Medical Center - Chicago's

Laboratory has achieved accreditation from the College of American Pathologists (CAP) following a recent inspection with no deficiencies. This recognition highlights the team's commitment to the highest standards of quality, safety, and clinical excellence. Congratulations to the laboratory team and their clinical partners on this outstanding accomplishment.



Marjona Afolayan, BSN, RN, CCRN, of the Intensive Care Unit at Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital - Chicago, was recently recognized with the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses, an honor that reflects both clinical excellence and compassionate care.



Those who nominated Marjona described her as a trusted resource in her unit, particularly in central line maintenance and care, where her attention to detail and commitment to best practices help ensure the highest standards of patient safety. She is known for consistently going above and beyond — as one colleague shared, "It's an honor to work alongside Marjona." Thank you, Marjona, for exemplifying the values that guide our work every day.

Dr. Edward Piatt, an adjunct professor at Olivet Nazarene University and longtime Kankakee resident, spent years managing persistent hip pain that gradually began limiting the active lifestyle he enjoyed. After being diagnosed with bone spurs, Dr. Piatt turned to **St. Mary's Hospital - Kankakee**, where orthopedic surgeon

Dr. Rajeev Puri and preoperative nurse **Tonya Woods** helped guide him through his treatment. Their clear communication and support helped him feel confident and prepared for surgery. Following a total hip replacement and physical therapy, Dr. Piatt is now back to walking two miles a day and continuing his recovery. Reflecting on his experience, he shared, "You can teach medical procedures, but you cannot teach excellence and the care for others."



Inspiration and hope are vital to the progress of rehabilitation patients, and **Myrna Sobrepena**, a nurse at the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center at **Saint Joseph Hospital - Elgin**, was honored for providing both to her patients. The Saint Joseph Rehabilitation Center is a vital part of the Elgin community, supporting recovery of function and independence after strokes, neurological injuries, orthopedic procedures, serious accidents and illness, and cardiovascular events. Myrna was honored with the DAISY Award for her warmth, positive energy (and even a little dancing) that lifted patient spirits during vulnerable times. As one person at Saint Joseph's said, "This is what patient-centered care looks like. At Prime Healthcare, we are proud to work alongside nurses like Myrna who embody both clinical excellence and heartfelt compassion every single day."



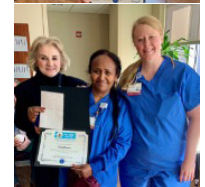
"She's the reason I come back every year..."
At **Mercy Medical Center - Aurora**, a patient recently

shared those words after her experience with **Joanna Olsen**, a Mammography Technologist who helped her feel at ease from the moment she arrived, walking with her to her screening and ensuring she felt comfortable and cared for throughout. The moment was witnessed by Sharon Cason, Imaging Manager at Mercy, who had paused to speak with the patient in the waiting area and received an embrace of gratitude in return. "It was a small gesture," Sharon shared, "but it spoke volumes about how comfortable and cared for she feels here." Experiences like this show the power of trust and the meaningful difference our teams make for patients every day.



Fredy Hernandez Lopez and **Tsige Degefa** are the quiet forces who make every day smoother, calmer, and more human at **Saint Joseph Hospital - Elgin**.

Fredy, a medical transporter, moves through the hospital noticing where help is needed, assisting nurses, bringing charts directly to them, and helping patients whenever extra support

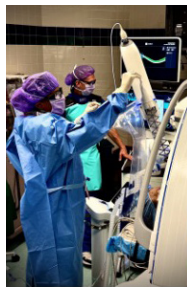


is needed. Meanwhile, at the unit desk in Ambulatory Surgery, Tsige brings warmth and attentiveness to every visitor and patient. That is why they were named BEE Award honorees, which recognizes non-nursing staff who go above and beyond. One visitor shared, "I've been to places where patients or visitors are just another number, but not here at Saint Joseph Hospital. [Tsige] brings warmth and humanity to the department and reflects so well on Saint Joseph Hospital." It is a reminder that every moment, big or small, helps make Prime hospitals a place where patients feel seen, valued, and supported.

Tammy Natschke, a nurse in the ICU at **Holy Family Medical Center - Des Plaines**, was recently honored with a Good Catch Award because she noticed an electrical anomaly and took immediate steps to ensure it was properly resolved. Engineering responded to her alert right away, and after addressing the immediate concern, updated processes to ensure safety going forward. Tammy's attentiveness and quick action are a wonderful reminder of the importance of speaking up. Her dedication and thoughtfulness make a real difference for patients and colleagues alike. Thank you, Tammy, for showing that great care is more than at the bedside!



Dr. Anita Shaw recently completed her 200th robotic bronchoscopy procedure at **Resurrection Medical Center - Chicago**, a milestone celebrating her expertise and dedication. This achievement comes within the context of a well-established, advanced lung diagnostics program, providing the community with access to cutting-edge, minimally invasive evaluation of potential lung cancer. Dr. Shaw's accomplishment reflects Prime Healthcare's commitment to using advanced technology in service of our patients and communities.



Community Corner

A powerful sense of connection filled **Saint Francis Hospital - Evanston's** observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and



World Social Justice Day, linking community, history, and a shared sense of purpose to carry forward Dr. King's vision of equality, justice, and the courage to challenge violence with peace. That spirit came through in the words of Rev. Dr. Eddie Journey of Second Baptist Church and the music of Evanston's Keanon Kyles for the more than 60 associates and community members gathered, as well as many more joining via livestream across all the Prime Illinois locations. Those who would like to see the event can see it online at: <https://youtu.be/TTRxDq4xrPU>.

Saint Joseph Medical Center - Joliet and **Saint Joseph Hospital - Elgin** each marked Saint Joseph's Day on March 19, welcoming honored guests from the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, the founding Order behind both hospitals. Their presence offered



a powerful connection to a legacy that has shaped care in Joliet since 1882 and in Elgin since 1902. During the celebrations, the Sisters shared their gratitude for Prime Healthcare's continued commitment to their mission, identity, and faith tradition. They recognized the leadership at both hospitals for sustaining a strong focus on compassionate patient care and the well-being of staff. The Sisters also spoke of a deep sense of peace and confidence, affirming that the legacy they began continues to thrive, carried forward with integrity, compassion, and purpose.

Resurrection Medical Center - Chicago staff joined neighbors at Queen of Peace and Holy Virgin Martyrs Parishes to provide CPR and AED training, giving people the confidence and skills to act in emergencies. With guidance from CPR instructor **Mariana Wrzosek** and Faith Community Nurses **Terri Kaisling** and **Anne (Nancy) Ryan**, participants left feeling ready to respond with skill and calm. Through gatherings like this, Resurrection Medical Center is not just teaching lifesaving techniques; it is helping build a community empowered to care for one another.

