



Our Journey Forward

One-Year Anniversary Edition!

March 4, 2026

One Year Strong. One Mission. One Prime Family.

One year ago, eight Illinois hospitals began a bright new chapter. Together, we set out to strengthen care, invest in our communities, and uphold our shared calling to serve. Today, we celebrate not just a milestone, but a full year of **Saving Hospitals, Saving Jobs, and Saving Lives.**

From Elgin to Kankakee, our hospitals remain essential anchors of their communities. In just twelve months, we have advanced behavioral health services, launched new Geri-Psych units and infusion centers, expanded cardiac and imaging capabilities, strengthened emergency care, and earned national recognition for quality, patient safety, and social responsibility.

More than **\$100 million** in clinical and infrastructure investments are already transforming care, with additional investments projected for significant digital and technology upgrades to support long-term excellence. Enhanced cybersecurity, telemedicine capabilities, a new Enterprise Resource Planning system, and the completion of Epic EMR rollout are some of the enhancements planned for the future.

These achievements are not simply statistics. They represent lives touched, families supported, and communities uplifted.

This first year reflects what is possible when mission meets commitment. Your compassion, professionalism, and unwavering dedication have made Illinois, and our Prime family, stronger.



A Year of Excellence

We also mark this occasion by celebrating the national awards earned by our Illinois hospitals that you have made possible in the past year. Here are highlights of your incredible achievements, reflecting the dedication, skill, and commitment that make our hospitals a trusted part of the community:

Mercy Medical Center – Aurora:

- Named to the *Gold Level Honor Roll* for Acute Care Antimicrobial Stewardship by the Illinois Department of Public Health
- Earned “A” grades on the Lown Institute Hospitals Index for *Social Responsibility, Clinical Outcomes, and Health Equity*
- Recognized by Healthgrades for *clinical excellence and quality care*

Resurrection Medical Center – Chicago:

- Named to *Forbes Top Hospitals* list
- Recognized with a *High Performing* distinction by U.S. News & World Report
- Recognized by Healthgrades for *clinical excellence and quality care*
- Achieved *GEDA distinction* from ACEP
- Earned “A” grades on the Lown Institute Hospitals Index for *Social Responsibility, Inclusivity, Clinical Outcomes, Patient Outcomes, Pay Equity, and Cost Efficiency*

Saint Francis Hospital – Evanston:

- Ranked *No. 1 in Illinois and the nation* for *Pay Equity* by the Lown Institute as well as earning other “A” grades for *Social Responsibility, Patient Safety, Health Equity, Community Benefit, and Inclusivity*

- Named to Becker’s Healthcare “100 Great Community Hospitals” list
- Achieved ANCC Magnet Recognition Program with Distinction

Saint Joseph Hospital – Elgin:

- Achieved high-performing distinctions in U.S. News & World Report *Best Hospitals*
- Earned “A” grades from the Lown Institute Hospitals Index for *Social Responsibility, Health Equity, Inclusivity, and Cost Efficiency*
- Achieved GEDA distinction from ACEP

Saint Joseph Medical Center – Joliet:

- Named *High Performing* by U.S. News & World Report
- Earned “A” grades on the Lown Institute Hospitals Index for *Pay Equity, Health Equity, and Inclusivity*
- Recognized by Healthgrades for *clinical excellence and quality care*
- Achieved GEDA distinction from ACEP

St. Mary’s Hospital – Kankakee:

- Named to Forbes *Top Hospitals* list
- Earned *four consecutive “A” grades* for patient safety by the Leapfrog Group
- Earned “A” grades on the Lown Institute Hospitals Index, including for *Pay Equity and Health Equity*
- Recognized by Healthgrades for *clinical excellence and quality care*

Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital – Chicago:

- Ranked *No. 1 in Illinois* for *Health Equity* by the Lown Institute
- Named *High Performing* by U.S. News & World Report
- Recognized by Healthgrades for *clinical excellence and quality care*

Holy Family Medical Center – Des Plaines:

- *First LTACH in Illinois* accredited by the Joint Commission for Disease-Specific Care in Respiratory Therapy
- Achieved *Silver-Level Honor Roll* for Acute Care Antimicrobial Stewardship by the Illinois Department of Public Health

Thank you for an incredible first year!

Our Continuing Investments

Resurrection Medical Center – Chicago

hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their lab’s recent installation of a Beckman Coulter DxA 5000 intelligent automation system. The DxA 5000 drives speed and accuracy for analyzing patient blood samples, eliminating up to 80% of the manual steps associated with processing patient samples. It delivers rapid and consistent turnaround times with the industry’s most comprehensive sample quality assessments. This investment reflects Resurrection’s continued commitment to innovation, efficiency, and delivering the highest quality care to every patient.



(Michael Mulay, CFO, Marivic Lingat, Laboratory Director, Kathleen Hartman, CNO, flanked by members of the lab staff)

Welcome to the Prime Family, Central Maine!

As we mark this historic milestone in Illinois, our Prime family continues to grow. On February 16, Central Maine Healthcare officially joined Prime Healthcare Foundation, extending our mission to new communities in Maine. Their addition reflects the same dedication to strengthening community hospitals, expanding access to compassionate care, and investing in long-term sustainability that defines our work in Illinois. As our national footprint grows to **54 hospitals in 15 states**, so does our collective impact and commitment to preserving healthcare for the communities that need it most.



In the News

Dr. Kavitha Bhatia, President and Chair of the **Prime Healthcare Foundation** and Chief Medical Officer of Strategy for **Prime Healthcare**, has been elected to the Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA) Board of Trustees, further strengthening Prime's voice and leadership presence across the state. Her appointment ensures that our hospitals and the communities we serve have a strong advocate at the table where critical healthcare policy, access, and funding decisions are shaped.



We are excited to welcome Dr. Bhatia to the IHA Board. Dr. Bhatia's distinguished career as a physician leader, strategist, and champion for education and community health will bring an important perspective to our work as we advance policies that strengthen healthcare across Illinois."

A.J. Wilhelmi, IHA, President & CEO

For our Illinois teams, this means greater visibility, stronger partnerships, and continued alignment with statewide initiatives that advance quality, equity, and sustainability, reinforcing Prime's position as a leading health system committed to uplifting communities and supporting the caregivers who serve them. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Bhatia on this well-deserved recognition and leadership achievement.

Congratulations to **Rosenda "Rosey" Barrera**, MSN, RN, Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Operating Officer of **Saint Francis Hospital – Evanston**, who was named to Becker's Healthcare's national Hospital CNOs to Know list. She joins nine other CNOs across the Prime Healthcare family who have earned this recognition. The honor highlights CNOs who lead with clinical expertise, strategic vision, and an unwavering commitment to quality, safety and nursing excellence. Becker's said Ms. Barrera "provid(es) oversight for more than 550 nurses and healthcare professionals across a wide range of clinical, operational and support services. Ms. Barrera leads with accountability, transparency, and a strong



mindset. Under her leadership, Saint Francis achieved a Leapfrog "A" safety grade, reflecting her focus on clinical excellence and patient experience. In addition, her leadership led Saint Francis Hospital to earn the Magnet with Distinction designation for excellence in nursing in October 2025."

Associate Recognition

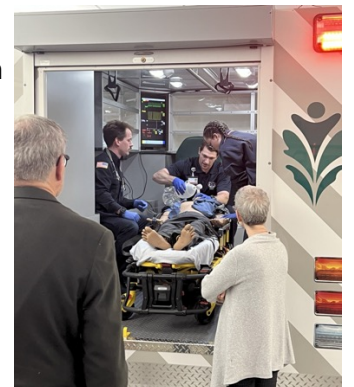
Pauline Kennethraj, RN, Telemetry Unit, embodies the extraordinary care delivered at **Holy Family Medical Center – Des Plaines** and was recently recognized with the DAISY Award.



The DAISY Award is an international program that rewards and celebrates the extraordinary clinical skills and compassionate care given by nurses every day. Among her nominations for the award, one person wrote, "Never have I come across a nurse with so much compassion towards a patient or family member." Another excerpt from her nominations said, "She gave me the peace of mind to be able to go to work during the day because I felt so sure that my son was safe in her care." Thank you, Pauline, for embodying the spirit of nursing excellence and making a difference in the lives of those you serve!

Community Corner

Saint Francis Hospital – Evanston has partnered with Oakton College to strengthen the local EMS pipeline by pairing hands-on clinical training with college credit. Saint Francis is one of only two partner sites working with Oakton to offer students academic credit for their paramedic training, helping them advance their education while building real-world skills. Through this collaboration, learners gain exposure to high-acuity care, simulation, and field experiences alongside experienced clinicians. The program was recently invited to present a demonstration of student learning to the Oakton College Board of Trustees, highlighting the quality and impact of the training. Together, the partners are preparing the next generation of paramedics.



Mercy Medical Center – Aurora welcomed 82 participants to its annual Wellness 12-Week Challenge in partnership with churches across the Fox Valley Network. The initiative helps address health disparities affecting African Americans in Kane County, who experience some of the highest mortality rates from heart disease. Coordinated by Mercy’s Faith Community Nurse, Faith Nyong, this chronic disease prevention initiative encourages congregations to engage in healthy lifestyle changes through friendly competition focused on weight loss, heart health, and overall wellness.

St. Mary’s Hospital – Kankakee’s new CEO Patrick Kerrwood recently welcomed local faith leaders to a Clergy Community Engagement Luncheon, bringing together 20 clergy representing congregations from across Kankakee County. The gathering was an opportunity for warm interfaith dialogue and clergy from the area’s three Catholic parishes joined in welcoming the hospital’s continued commitment to honoring its Catholic traditions. Kerrwood emphasized the importance of faith leaders and caregivers coming together as partners in care. Matthew Thibeau, Vice President of Mission Services for Region VII, highlighted St. Mary’s continued focus on caring for the whole person as part of Prime’s commitment to compassionate, community-centered care.



(Matt Thibeau, Vice President, Mission Services)

Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital – Chicago is making clinical research more accessible, offering patients in the community the chance to take part in studies that advance innovative care. A partnership with EmVenio Clinical Research brings a range of studies, such as cardiology, metabolic, and neurological therapies, directly into the communities served by Saint Mary of Nazareth. Local access to clinical research gives patients the opportunity to participate in innovative studies close to home, while clinicians engage in work that helps advance medical knowledge. This collaboration reflects

Prime’s commitment to supporting health equity, advancing care, and ensuring that opportunities to contribute to medical discoveries are available to the community it serves.

The **Saint Joseph Medical Center – Joliet’s** Auxiliary was honored late last year for its decades of dedicated service to patients, families, and community initiatives. The Auxiliary’s volunteer efforts enhance the patient experience through fundraising, supportive outreach, and hands-on engagement across hospital programs, embodying the spirit of service that lies at the heart of the medical center’s mission. This recognition shines a spotlight on the extraordinary contributions of community volunteers who help make compassionate care a lived experience for all who walk through the hospital doors.

At **Saint Joseph Hospital – Elgin**, talent acquisition, career growth and community care all come together. Each month, on select Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the hospital opens its doors for “Walk-In Wednesday” Hiring Events. These in-person events give prospective team members the chance to explore fulfilling career paths, connect directly with the hiring team, and get a firsthand look at life in a nationally recognized healthcare organization. Sometimes, offers are made and accepted on the same day. No appointment is needed; candidates can just walk in, start a conversation, and take the next step toward joining a team that has a tradition of being committed to high-quality, compassionate care.

Catch Up Anytime

Past issues of Our Journey Forward are available online at primehealthcare.com/welcome-to-the-prime-family/ or scan the QR code:

